

Lexington & Blue
United Methodist
Churches

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The Voice

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The Voice

Lexington & Blue United Methodist Churches

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

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Scriptures for June:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:19-20

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

"He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."
Mark 16:15

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."
1 Chronicles 16:24

"Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had completed. When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them..." - Acts 14:24-27a

Dear Church Family,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

June is now upon us, which means that the Peschkes are in their last few weeks with Blue UMC and Lexington UMC. When we came here 2-1/2 years ago we were welcomed with wide-open arms and we were cared for in extravagant ways by many different people. During our time here we have seen tremendous growth in positive ways at both churches and we have gone through times of pain and loss as we said goodbye to dear saints along the way. Lexington UMC is now on the cusp of having a new Family Life Center to strengthen and expand the many ministries to the community which are bringing blessed transformation to people who are in need. Blue UMC is trying out new technologies for worship and has dreams for projects that will carry the congregation forward far into the future. Through it all these two churches have continued to be THE CHURCH - the Body of Christ present in a community that needs to experience Christ more than ever before. And as the Peschkes prepare to say goodbye and as you welcome a new pastoral family into your midst you will continue to be THE CHURCH in this time of transition.

I decided that for this newsletter article I would talk a little about how the process of moving pastors around came into being and why it is a vital part of what makes The United Methodist Church a growing agent of change in the world today. As you can see by reading the passage from Acts that I highlighted above the pastoral ministers of the church have always been a people on the move. The Apostle Paul and his cohorts traveled all over the known world spreading the Gospel and the love of God wherever the Holy Spirit guided them. Flash forward about 1,700 years and you get to the time of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement. Mr. Wesley preached somewhere around 40,000 sermons as he traveled from town-to-town in England as an "itinerant" pastor. He would setup Methodist societies in these communities and then move onward to continue the movement of the Gospel wherever it was needed most. Mr. Wesley then setup circuits (groups of Methodist societies) for his assistants to travel as itinerant pastors where they would visit their appointed communities on a monthly basis to make sure that progress was being made in the lives of their Methodist parishioners. Each year their appointments would change depending on the circumstances of the pastor and of the societies in their appointment. John Wesley stated that, "We have found by long and consistent experience that a frequent exchange of preachers is best. This preacher has one talent, that another; no one whom I ever yet knew has all the talents which are needful for beginning, continuing, and perfecting the work of grace in a whole congregation." As the Methodist Episcopal Church formed in the newly created United States of America in the late 1700's this system of itinerant pastors was supplied by circuit riders who literally rode on horseback from appointment to appointment (a circuit) across their assigned part of the new nation. For a year the circuit rider rode around the two, four, or six-week circuit from one preaching appointment to another, meeting classes and staying in homes as he went. This system enabled Methodist preachers to reach new settlements quickly. The rapid growth of Methodism throughout the 18th and 19th centuries in America can be partly attributed to this form of organization.

(Continued on Page 8)

Farewell to Pastor Michael and Family

Join us in celebrating our time with Pastor Michael, Kay, Kathryn and Gloria and to wish them well on their new endeavor.



Sunday, June 12th
Noon (following service)
LUMC Fellowship Hall

Please bring a side or dessert





But He said, "Yes, but those who hear the Word of God and obey it are happy." Luke 11:28



UPCOMING UMW EVENTS

Come and join us for fun & fellowship!

- June
- 29-June 1 Texas Annual Conference
- 14-UMW Program



UMW COLLECTION

We are always collecting the following items:

- Used eye glasses**
- Pull tabs**
- Used batteries**

Collection bins are located on the UMW table in the Fellowship Hall



BLUE & LEXINGTON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Growing in Blessedness, Extending Grace to All

June's Program: Joyful Hunger Pangs

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matthew 5:6

This month, we will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations for the Tanglewood Food Pantry. Our meeting will be Tuesday, June 14 at 2 p.m. We also invite everyone to join us Thursday, June 2nd at 10:30 a.m. behind the Chamber of Commerce office to help hand out food with the Lexington Mobile Food Pantry.

Thank you to those that attended our May Program where we heard from Diane Bouchard with **drops of grace!** We have agreed to partner with them in making "cutie dolls" and working on their "pad project". If you are interested in helping, and can either crochet or sew, please contact the church office for more information.

July's Program: Deeper into Mission

Preparing Layette Kits

Many women do not have swaddling clothes with which to welcome their child into the world. Layette kits provide basic supplies for their baby's needs. We will be asking for donations towards these (monetary and supplies). Here is what they include:

- 6 cloth diapers (Prefolded or plain diapers only; No disposable diapers)
- 2 shirts (Undershirts or onsies)
- 2 washcloths (Infant size only; No adult washcloths)
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 2 diaper pins (Must have protective plastic closures; No regular safety pins)
- 1 sweater or jacket (Must open from the front; May be hand knitted, crocheted, or sewn; Hooded sweatshirts are acceptable)
- 2 receiving blankets (Sizes may range from 28x28 inches to 32x32 inches; No crib blankets please)

Items can be brought to the churches before service or the office anytime during the week through July 12th. If you prefer, each kit is \$45 and monetary donations are accepted as well.

JUNE 2016							Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
29	30 Memorial Day	31		1 11 a.m. Blue Prayer Group	2 6:30 p.m. Lion's Club	3	4	5 3 p.m. Praise & Sign 4 p.m. Final Disciple Class	6 7:30 p.m. BVFD (BUMC)	7 10 a.m. Lex Prayer Group	8 11 a.m. Blue Prayer Group	9 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg	10 11	11 18
12 BUMC Homecoming 11 a.m. Praise & Sign Perform	13 7 p.m. Texas Stars (BUMC)	14 2 p.m. UMW Mtg	15 7 p.m. Admin Council Mtg	16 6:30 p.m. Lion's Club	17	18	19 Father's Day 7:45 a.m. Father Day Breakfast (BUMC)	20	21 9 a.m. Min Alliance Mtg 10 a.m. Lex Prayer Group	22 11 a.m. Blue Prayer Group	23	24	25	FH Reserved (Butler)
26 BUMC Campout	27	28 10 a.m. Lex Prayer Group	29 11 a.m. Blue Prayer Group	30	30	30								

UM ARMY

LEXINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL TREASURER'S REPORT

<i>All Funds Balance as of May 29</i>		Date:	Offering	Worship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance (All Classes)	
General Fund	\$43,605.16	May				
Early Chapel CD	\$18,716.13		1	\$6,368.00	59	19
RTSB CD #1	\$41,618.80		8	\$3,855.99	79	15
RTSB CD #4	\$10,340.78		15	\$1,682.61	61	13
DESIGNATED FUNDS in GENERAL:			22	\$5,532.87	128	16
Pledge Fund Acct. Balance	\$32,522.59		29	\$2,137.00	90	-
Early Chapel Cemetery Fund	\$-138.43	Annual Church Budget for 2016				\$186,674.00
Journey Sunday School	\$225.23	Offerings thru May 29, 2016				\$93,845.03
Memorial Fund	\$2,000.90					
Methodist Men	\$535.77					
Quintet	\$1,559.34					
Backpack Buddies	\$7,190.12					

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

Church Office Hours Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	St. Stephen's Fund \$4,668.13 <small>Money for this fund is given by placing it on the communion rail during communion or by giving a check in the offering plate and putting "St. Stephen's Fund" in the memo.</small>
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OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS: lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com

NewsLetter DEADLINE	Newsletter deadline for July edition is June 22 Articles and photos are always needed. Please submit yours to Pastor Michael or Stephanie.
	Pastor Michael Peschke & Stephanie Kellenberger Editors of <i>The Voice</i>

BLUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Thank you Neta Callahan for sharing these photos from Pastor's Farewell Party!

SAVE THE DATE:
Church Campout
June 24-26, 2016
At Lockhart

The is the 27th year to have our annual Church Campout. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. We will have Washers and Horseshoe Tournaments, crafts, and best homemade ice cream contest! Please contact Carolyn Hutson for more information. See you there!

Blue UMC St. Stephen's Fund
\$708.00

On Communion Sunday's (the first Sunday of the month), we take a special offering at the rail for the **St. Stephen's Fund**. This money is used to help those in need in our community. With this fund, we help people in emergency situations and those that may need some help with their utilities.

Blue UMC Worship Attendance		
May	1	32
	8	37
	15	45
	22	34
	29	

June Birthdays

- 5-Steven Kell
- 15-Amy Drosche



UPCOMING BLUE EVENTS

- Sunday Mornings**
9 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- Wednesday Mornings**
11 a.m. Prayer Group

JUNE

- 6-BVFD
- 13-Texas Stars
- 19-Father's Day Breakfast
- 24-26 Campout



YOUTH PROGRAMS

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

Every Sunday
Sunday School
9:45-10:45A
(6-12th grade)

UM ARMY Brown Bag food & Supply Drive

The UM ARMY needs you! We're on a mission of providing for a small army of teens and adults (30) with three meals and a snack each day during our mission week in Teague June 26 through July 2. That sounds easy enough. If you can purchase non-perishable food and / or supplies, UM ARMY can buy more building materials. By filling up our brown bags, you too become part of the UM ARMY mission team. The brown bags will be labeled and available for pickup after services on Sunday, May 29th and Sunday, June 5th. Please fill and return on Sunday, June 12th or Sunday, June 19th.

If you have any questions, please call, text, e-mail. Thanks so much!!!

Jan Lynn

979.540.8922

janlynn54@gmail.com

SAVE THESE SUMMER DATES!

June 13-17 District Camp

(Entering 4th-12th grade)

June 26-July 2 UM ARMY

(High School)

July 21-24 BIG HOUSE

(Middle School)

We will also need adult volunteers for these trips. If you are interested, please let the office know. Thank you!



Congratulations to our newest members!



Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested. 1 Chronicles 4:10

Family Life Center Update



- * The Building Committee has a bid for the project that will total around \$650,000 for the building and kitchen equipment.
- * We have \$184,000 pledged and we have received \$58,020 in pledges and \$25,380 in other gifts and donations towards the FLC as of 5/15/16. A check for \$100,000 was sent to the Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF) on March 14th to set aside funds for the start of the project. We also have \$51,000 in CD's reserved for the Family Life Center.
- * The Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF) has approved our loan request for the project and we are currently working on paperwork to finalize the loan.
- * The West District Committee on Building and Location has approved our Family Life Center project.
- * At our called Church Conference on May 3rd the congregation overwhelmingly approved the project and the loan. With this, we have full approval to move forward with construction.
- * The playground has been removed and will be stored offsite until we are ready to reinstall it later this summer. The trees will be removed at the beginning of June.
- * Construction will begin in June after the loan paperwork is complete.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support in growing God's Kingdom.

With Gratitude

Thank you to the Lexington Ministerial Alliance for the Baccalaureate Ceremony for the Lexington High School Class of 2016!
~Senior Class Parents & Grandparents

Thank you to all of those that helped remove the playground fencing and equipment preparing for the Family Life Center. Your help is greatly appreciated!
~Lexington UMC Trustees



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Lexington United Methodist Church on 7/28/2016. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone

density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.**

(Continued from Page 1)

Now, flash forward to The United Methodist Church of today which still uses this system of “itinerancy” for churches and pastors. We may not ride on horses anymore, and our circuits may be just one church for many pastors (although we still have two churches on our appointment), but the system of pastors moving from church to church as they are needed is still the norm for Methodism in the 21st century. Every United Methodist pastor has made the commitment to go and serve wherever their bishops send them. Before I was licensed as a local pastor in 2009 I made the commitment to be appointed where the bishop felt I was needed. Then, when I was commissioned as provisional elder in 2012 I made that same commitment to be appointed in the mission field that was right for me at the time. Again, in 2014 when I was ordained as a full elder I again made that commitment to be an itinerant pastor – a commitment that I will keep for as long as I am a United Methodist pastor.

Pastors in the United Methodist Church serve their appointments for one year at a time. Each year, beginning at the end of winter, the bishop and her cabinet (district superintendents and other conference leaders) gather together for prayer and conferencing to review all the mission fields (like Lexington and Blue) along with all the pastors who serve in those mission fields. The goal is to match the gifts and graces of the particular pastor with the ministry needs of a particular mission field. If a mission field is in need of a pastor with different gifts and graces then that pastor is sought out by the bishop and her cabinet. If a pastor’s gifts and graces no longer match their mission field then a new pastor is sought out for that mission field by the bishop and her cabinet. Of course, if the pastor and their current mission field still line up, and if that pastor is not needed elsewhere, then the appointment is left alone for another year. In our situation this year the pastor where I am moving (Port Neches) is retiring and the bishop and her cabinet felt that my gifts and graces were the right fit for their congregation. With my departure the bishop and her cabinet looked for another pastor to serve Lexington and Blue with the gifts and graces that are necessary for this particular appointment – and that is how Trey Comstock was selected as your next pastor. In our “serial leadership” arrangement of consecutive pastors in the UMC we find that no two pastors are alike and over time the combination of skills blends to form a broad base of developed ministers across the conference and within the local mission field.

Now, in case you are wondering just how far we Methodist pastors might travel from appointment to appointment then here’s the basic breakdown of how itinerancy works for us. Elders are considered members of their particular annual conference, which for me is the Texas Annual Conference. This membership is similar to how you are members of your particular church. The Texas Annual Conference is geographically set primarily in southeast and east Texas and includes areas like Houston, Bryan/College Station, Beaumont, Tyler, Longview, and Texarkana. Pastors in our conference therefore can generally be appointed anywhere within those geographic boundaries. However, we are truly an open itinerant system and so it is possible for us to move from conference to conference and even globally as they need arises. Such moves though are generally requested by clergy for particular reasons that meet their personal needs. Often the needs and desires of clergy are considered when making appointments, but the mission of the church always comes first. That means you, the Church, always comes first...even when you do not realize it.

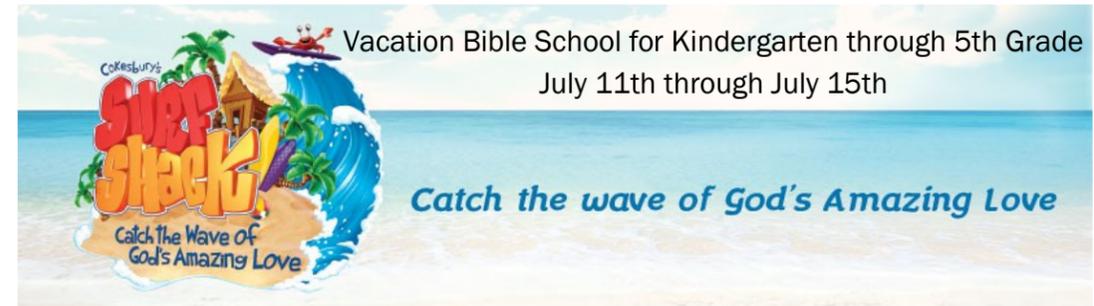
The great thing about the United Methodist Church is that the local church will never be without a pastor. Just ask around other congregations in our area and you’ll see that some of them have gone years at a time without a pastor. And the other great thing about the UMC is that our system makes sure that the local church is never dependent upon one person (pastor). The local church is meant to be made up fully of the people of the church and should be run by the people of the church with Christ at the head of it all. A church that is latched onto one pastor starts to become too much like that pastor and not enough like the Body of Christ that it was created to be. For pastors, the great thing about the UMC is that we truly have to place ourselves in the hands of God and God’s Church. We have to trust that the Holy Spirit is present in the appointment process and that God is actively working all things together for good. We pastors are not in control...God is in control.

I want to close this letter by letting you know that there are over 90 other appointments in the Texas Annual Conference right now that are going through the same changes that you are experiencing. Multiply that across the entire denomination and you find thousands of appointments that are depending on the movement of the Spirit to guide them in the right direction. You, my friends, are not alone. You are part of a huge system that is meant to do great things for the glory of God. The next chapter for me, my family, and you, the church, is upon us. My call to you is continue to be the CHURCH that God has made you to be.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways,

Pastor Michael

METHODIST CHILDREN PROGRAMS



VBS Volunteers Needed!

Last year we had over 70 kids our first day of VBS. We want to be prepared for them! Please let Jan Alexander or the church office know if you can help with Vacation Bible School this year. There are several opportunities still available.

Sunday School



Sunday School teachers include Jan Alexander, Jan Lynn, Jennifer Marek, & Trudy Doerfler.

The children's Sunday school curriculum comes from the series, Deep Blue. Children will hear the Bible story, apply the Bible message and then live out

the message in their lives.

Each session is divided into three sections. The 1st section is a large group where the children will meet in Room 2. Children will be introduced to a Bible story and Bible verse. Then the children will be divided into two age groups. One group will explore the lesson deeper and do a craft activity and the other age group will have a snack, play games related to the Bible story and practice Bible verses. Then the two groups switch.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14



Children’s Church is a special worship experience for children who wish to participate. After the Children’s Sermon, the Children’s Church leaders lead children into a Sunday School room where they learn a lesson, make a craft, & sing songs. **Adult volunteers are needed** to help lead the children of Sunday’s. All the materials you need will be supplied to you—we just need you to lead the children through the lesson. Please let the church office know if you can help.



SUMMER FISH FRY

July 10 @ 11am
\$9.00 per plate
 Includes Drink, Fish, FF,
 Hushpuppies, Beans & Cole
 slaw.

Drive thru available

Can you help?
 Saturday 7/9 @ 8:00 a.m. - prep in
 Fellowship Hall
 Sunday 7/10 @ 11:00 a.m. begin Fish Fry

We will need servers, fish fryers and will need a clean
 up crew when it's all sold out!
 If you can help in any way, please
 contact Jan Lynn, 979.540.8922



Lexington Backpack Buddies Update

We have had a wonderful year of Backpack Buddies. Thank you to everyone who has and continues to support the program!

What we did this year:

- ◆ Served 70 students in the elementary and middle school
- ◆ Raised \$6,858
- ◆ Had over 50 adults and children volunteer for "Power Hours"
- ◆ Had 5 ladies dedicate their Friday afternoons to distributing food to our elementary school kids.
- ◆ Had numerous community members volunteer and support our Soup & Bread lunch in January
- ◆ Served lunch to our elementary teachers as a fundraiser raising nearly \$700

This summer we are:

- ◆ Able to provide food for any child on the program that comes / contacts the church for assistance.
- ◆ Beginning to shop for the upcoming school year, looking for any deals we may get during the summer.
- ◆ Pre-planning our next fundraisers
- ◆ Continuing to spread the word to the community about the program
- ◆ Applying for grants to help fund the program

What we expect this school year:

- ◆ The counselors will re-identify the children in need at the beginning of the year.
- ◆ We have budgeted for 70 children again next year.



A Gift was given to Lexington UMC

New Building Fund

In Memory of ...Rev. Ted Steenblock
 by... Judy & Bob Belyeu

In Memory of ...Joe Boyd Reynolds
 by... Judy & Bob Belyeu

In Memory of ...Joe Boyd Reynolds
 by... Cherry Stover

In Memory of ...Frances Schneider
 by... Willis & Jeannine Brewer

In Memory of ...Neil Ahrendt
 by... Pat Ahrendt

In Memory of ...Floydene Lenamond
 by... Henrietta Thompson

Memorial Fund

In Memory of ...Rev. Ted Steenblock
 by... Children's Sunday School Class

In Memory of ...Joe Boyd Reynolds
 by... Lorene Hall

In Memory of ...Muriel Davis
 by... Robert & Priscilla Brister

To make a memorial place
 "memorial" in the subject line of
 your check & place it in the offering
 plate or mail it to the church office.

... I thank God for you—the God I
 serve with a clear conscience, just
 as my ancestors did. Night and day
 I constantly remember you in my
 prayers. ~2 Timothy 1:3



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1-Billie Biehle
- 5-Eriq Mitchell
- 8-Jule Frankeny
- 10-Charlotte Woodward
- 11-Carrie Braly
- 11-Jesse Taizan
- 12-Cory Robertson
- 13-Sophia Newton
- 21-Nancy Organ
- 21-Louise Woodward
- 22-Casey Butler
- 24-Myrt Locklin
- 26-Peggy Borgfeld
- 29-Sтивен Kellenberger
- 30-Courtney Jackson

Summer Women's Bible Study



The Gospel of Mark - Bible Study Book
 The Jesus We're Aching For
 By Lisa Harper
 Lead by Cinda Lewis

Immediately. Let's go. Right away. Now. Get up. Then ... Mark's narrative moves quickly and you sense the action in the story of Jesus' life. It's teaching presented as the gospel – good news powerfully announced in a world of bad news. This gospel emphasizes not only that Jesus is "the Son of God" (1:1; 15:39) but also that this fact demands a response. The Gospel of Mark highlights Jesus' unparalleled spiritual power and authority, leading us to consider for ourselves the question, "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29) The Gospel of Mark: the Jesus we're aching for partners the compassion of Jesus with the passion of Christ. We see how the heart of God is moved by the heart of humanity and His response to our loud cry for help. We discover the world-changing result of being recipients of His compassion and the reason for His passion, all the way to the cross. Ultimately, Mark intends for the action-packed presentation of who Jesus is to lead us to acknowledge Jesus, find salvation in Him, and follow Him.

Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning

Sunday School
 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Journey Class for Adults

Meet in the Church Library with leader, Cinda Lewis

Men's Gathering

Meet in the Fellowship Hall with leader, John Gibbs

Coffee House

10:45 a.m.
 LUMC Fellowship Hall
 enjoy complimentary
 coffee & pastries

