

T O W E R

Chimes

Broadway United Methodist Church

August 2008

Keep tellin' the Story...

Christian? Better?

It seems entirely naive in this day and age to suggest that being Christian makes the world (or its people) better. Christianity has been relegated to a sniping off-stage role. We Christians are the grumpy old men, the party poopers, the moral finger wavers, and the gang who can't shoot straight. Whatever happened to the joyous, joyful, healing, wall-busting movement that Jesus founded? Whatever happened to the innovative, broad minded, socially just reform movement that John Wesley started and became the Methodist Church?

It seems to have died at the altar of television evangelists and mega-church malls. What we are left with is the remnant of a movement that started as a place where tax collectors and sinners gathered around a table and ended up in the boardrooms, the shopping centers, and the presidential palaces of this



country and the world. This movement could use...well...a movement.

And that is exactly what I see in the life of the congregation at Broadway. Not perfect, certainly from the pastors, but impressive nonetheless. Broadway folk have been and are influencing and giving witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our homes, in our communities, in our courtrooms, in our schools, in business, in government, in the not-for-profit world, and in our streets. Yesterday morning, I had breakfast with a member of Broadway who has made things so much better for low income families in this state -- and yet no one knows it. But God does.

I think that what we do around Broadway Church is remarkable -- but what happens in the places where Broadway folk meet the world is much more impressive (and much more hidden).

Broadway folk do it by being innovative -- by stepping out in faith, by caring for one another, by having conversations, by listening to each other and to the world around us, and then by living out that faith in our life in the world. It means taking risks -- and Broadway folk do that.

Around Broadway itself, we will continue to push to ask not the usual questions -- but to try and find our way to the right questions. Sometimes we will get them wrong. But asking different questions will finally help us see things in the light of the gospel -- not in the light of the world. And that will make things better.

Keep tellin' the Story,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike".

Rev. Mike



All Good Gifts: Conversations

Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service... AND CONVERSATIONS!

As you read in the July Tower Chimes, over the next few months we'll be exploring what God's gifts mean to us and how we can share them with each other and the world. Last month, we focused on Gifts of Presence. Next, we'll focus on the other aspects of Stewardship:

August – Gifts of Conversations
September – Gifts of Service
October – Financial Gifts
November – Gifts of Prayer

If you've been around the United Methodist Church for a while, you'll have noticed that we snuck in an additional aspect of stewardship. The "Big Four" we pledge when uniting with a UMC congregation are Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service. So how does Conversation fit in?

At Broadway, the Conversation is the basic unit of everything that happens -- almost nothing takes place here without one. And we can trace all the great things within and among us back to a conversation -- a single interaction between two people that, over time, grows into a shared experience in our life together. Simply put, your Gift of Conversation is just as important as your Gifts of Prayers, Gifts of Presence, Financial Gifts, and Gifts of Service.

The thing about conversations is that we don't always see immediate results. For example, Tom's conversation with Kyla's aunt didn't immediately result in the creation of Broadway's hip-hop dance group.

But we know that if the conversation hadn't happened, a whole chain of conversations (from Tom to Kyla's Aunt to Kyla to Duane to a number of youth interested in the group to Ayanna and beyond) might not have happened, and we might have missed out on the great contribution this group has made to our lives in worship and in fellowship. So, we continue to have good conversations and watch for opportunities to build on them.

Once you've had a conversation, the next step is to discover connections and add to our ever-growing network of gifts and talents. When we share in the Gift of Conversation, we often learn all kinds of new things; our job is to share with each other the things we learn. Passing along what we learn about each other's gifts -- that Julie plays French horn, or that Kathi teaches kick-boxing, or that Jeff loved to fish when he was growing up -- allows God's spirit to breathe among us, uncovering opportunities for those gifts to be expressed and enjoyed out in the open!

Conversations are so important that, even though we're diverging a bit from the United Methodist practice (the "Big Four"), we have elevated Conversation to an official aspect of stewardship here at Broadway. Later this month, you'll have an opportunity to make a Conversation Pledge -- start thinking now about ways that you can pledge to be more intentional about the conversations you have and the connections you can make.

And let's talk about it!

~ Scott Semester

Worship & Conversation – A Holiday Weekend Experience in Sharing

Sunday, August 31st at both worship services

The "All Good Gifts" Stewardship Committee invites you to join us for a different kind of worship on Sunday, August 31st! That morning, worship in the Chapel and Sanctuary will be shortened so that we can enjoy time together sharing brunch and conversation.

Each worship service that day will include music, prayer, Scripture, a sermon, and an offering -- just like always -- but it will be on a slightly abbreviated schedule so that we can then move to the Parlor (for the early service) or the Community Room (for the later service) to enjoy fascinating food and delicious conversation (and vice versa). Then, we'll end -- hopefully on time -- with music and prayer, so folks may head to Sunday School or whatever else they have planned for the rest of their day.

Conversations are the basic unit of anything that happens in or around Broadway, and we believe Conversation is a gift important enough to elevate to Stewardship Gift status! So we're making time in worship to have fun, meaningful conversations together. We'll encourage you to enjoy brunch with folks that you don't know as well, so you'll have the opportunity to connect and share the Gift of Conversation with both new friends and old friends.

If you have questions about what's happening on August 31st, please contact Scott Semester or Ellie Gramer for additional information!

T O W E R

Our Pledges of Presence

In worship on Sunday, July 20th, we were invited to make a commitment of Presence, in the same way we make a commitment of our financial gifts in October of each year -- with pledge cards and everything!

Our pledges of Presence took many forms. Some responses are below:

- I will continue to be present as a caregiver for my brother.
- I commit to arrange a date night with my partner at least once a month.
- I will try to be present for my family (spouse, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren), always lovingly.
- I commit to listen to God and follow his guidance to join in fellowship with church family and other loved ones.
- I will attend Broadway Presents and First Fridays.



- I commit to learning more names in the congregation.
- I will be present for our homebound members through the Senior Outreach team.
- I will try to be open to where my passion fits at Broadway.
- I commit to spend time with the children at church through Sunday School, family nights, and other events.
- I will be present for my Broadway friends.
- I will attend at least three out of four services per month with my children.
- I commit to leave work "on time" at least three times a week so I'll be free to be present to my family and others.
- I will be present with my heart, soul, and body when called by God or others to help or enjoy time together.

Godspell Cast Set

Yeah! A *Godspell* cast is now in place, and rehearsals will begin. Congratulations to the following church family members and friends who will be "preparing the way of the Lord" through song, dance, and acting:

Jesus -- Jonah James Ferguson

John the Baptist/Judas -- Tim Herd

Chorus Members -- Allyson Clarkson, Sierra Clarkson, Pam Mount, Jenni White, Martha Wright, Eric Espinosa, DeAmon Harges, and McKeith Pearson

This community of Christian disciples, under the musical direction of Chris Schroeder and artistic direction of Carol Wharton, feels this will be a ministry of blessings to both performers and audience. Dates for the production are Friday and Saturday evenings, October 10th & 11th, at 7:30 p.m., and a matinee performance, Sunday, October 12th, at 2:30 p.m., with a luncheon preceding "curtain call"! Performances will be in a very festive environment in the Community Room. Don't miss the blessings!

~ Carol Wharton

Church Finance Update as of June 30, 2008

The table below reflects budgeted and actual income and expenses as of June 30, 2008.

	BUDGETED	ACTUAL
INCOME	\$255,724.98	\$238,167.57
EXPENSE	<u>\$271,857.54</u>	<u>\$253,398.29</u>
DEFICIT	(\$16,132.56)	(\$15,230.72)
	PROJECTED	ACTUAL

BROADWAY FOUNDATION RETURN ON INVESTMENTS TO JUNE 30, 2008

BROADWAY FOUND. -7.56%		
DJIA	S/P 500	NASDAQ
-14.44%	-12.62%	-13.55%

For additional information, please contact Treasurer Mike Nix (michaelpnix@aol.com) or Finance Chair Roger Sell (sellroger@hotmail.com).

Making Poverty History: Pearl

As we continue our discussion about making poverty history, I have been reminded of my extraordinary mother-in-law, Pearl Metheny, an uneducated coal-miner's wife with a backwoods twang and idioms to match. The first time I met her after Harold and I started dating, I immediately classified her as "really poor" and said to myself, "Wow, what am I getting myself into!" To fully understand this reaction, you have to understand that I considered myself to be poor also. My widowed mother took in washing and ironing to supplement social security and a pittance of a coal-miner pension. But we did own our modest home and had running water and a coal furnace. Pearl, on the other hand, along with her husband and youngest child (Harold) rented a drafty house for \$10 a month (I used to jokingly say that was \$7.50 too much!) It was sided with simulated brick tar paper, heated in winter by a coal-burning stove in the middle of the living room. Harold swears the kitchen floor slanted so much that he had to tilt his soup bowl to keep the soup from spilling. There was no running water in the house; a dilapidated outhouse stood at the back of the property; furniture was sparse and well-worn. By anyone's standards, even in the 50s, this was a poor woman, a woman who lived well below the poverty level. Yet as I became acquainted with her, I realized that she didn't consider herself "poor." She would have been shocked at my early naive assessment of her and her life.

I'm ashamed to admit that it took me several years to realize how wrong I was in my initial reaction to this

remarkable woman. I gradually came to understand that she felt that she was rich in the two things that counted most, a loving family and a deep faith in a benevolent God. The rest was unimportant to her and did not define her as a person. She had a roof over her head; she had reasonably good health; she had a supportive husband; she was surrounded by a large affectionate family; she had food on her table (mostly grown in her garden and canned for the winter months); she had clothes on her back. What more could she possibly need or want? In her mind she certainly wasn't poor.

Pearl was much like the women Mike mentioned a couple of weeks ago in his sermon on ending poverty; she was a woman of many gifts. She was gregarious and had an unfailingly cheerful attitude; she was kind to everyone she met; she was hospitable, inviting everyone to her table, even when it meant she had to water down the soup.

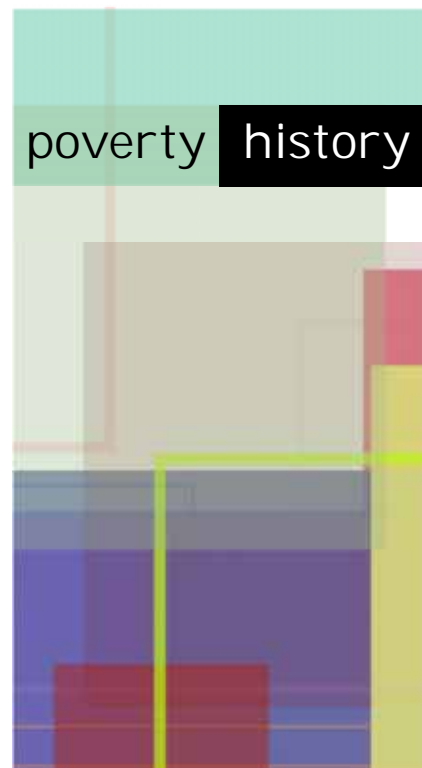
She was supportive of every member of her family, never judging them (although she did tell any drinkers in the family that the "scratch-cat" would get them and that there was a "devil" in the bottom of every liquor bottle). Although she suffered the losses and heartbreaks of any family, she never complained about her state in life. She believed that life was good and that God had blessed her in ways too numerous to mention.

Pearl Metheny would have loved Broadway. She would have loved the music, the sermons (particularly those given by her granddaughter), the camaraderie of the members, the

diversity, the children, the pitch-ins, the parties She would have marveled at the size and beauty of the place, but she would have felt right at home. She would have invited you to her modest table and enjoyed every minute at yours. I was blessed to have Pearl as my mother-in-law. This uneducated woman with the backwoods twang, whom I had misjudged so completely the first time we met, showed me how to live life fully, to love unconditionally, and to appreciate the gifts of others. I'm sorry that each of you didn't have the privilege of knowing her.

~ Diane Metheny

making poverty history



Life Together: Meals & Surveys

As part of our life together process, we want to focus on what we do well (our assets) and find ways to build upon that good work. We also want to see where the spirit of God is already at work in the lives of people around Broadway (good "hot spots") and support and invest in that work. To that end, we had "dinner and conversations" in people's homes over the last two months to listen to one another. We asked you to talk about your memorable and meaningful moments at Broadway and in worship. We asked you where you thought there was energy at Broadway. We asked how our life at Broadway makes you a better follower of Christ. And if money were not an issue, we wanted to know your wishes for the world that you care enough to act upon. At this point we would like share some of the themes we discerned from our gatherings:

- Music is high-quality and diverse
- People value out-of-church activities or social gatherings in people's homes
- Many stories about the importance of people and relationships at Broadway
- Value of Communion -- some asked to have it offered every week
- Our diversity and our mission (seeks, welcomes, and values all people) has helped people be more open and accepting
- Value the children and youth
- Worship is creative and innovative (and there is good worship flow)
- Our focus on gifts and talents
- Value the passing of the peace, singing of the Lord's Prayer, and the Lesson from the Contemporary Church
- Meaningful worship services included Homecoming, Christmas Eve, Holy Week services, Palm Sunday (with the drums), and the Sunday in which we had a Jazz band
- Need a strong PR program to tell our story
- Work on issues of accessibility

Also, you may be one of the 126 people who responded to the Life Together survey back in the spring. Many comments offered to the survey prompts echo the ideas shared at the "dinner and conversation" gatherings. Survey responses indicate that Broadway folks enjoy a variety of musical styles, but prefer traditional hymns, adult choir vocals, and classical organ instrumentals, followed by handbells, contemporary hymns, and classical instrumental and vocals other than organ and adult choir. The vast majority -- 90%!! -- of respondents indicated that ideas shared in worship "help in everyday life," either "Some" or "To a Great Extent." Many comments about what it means to be "spiritual" underscore our commitment to God and our connectedness with the Holy Spirit. Other people mentioned that being "spiritual" means commitment to living in Christ-like ways as we focus on seeking, welcoming, and valuing all people in our everyday lives.

These thoughts are only a sample of the responses from the Life Together survey. We will make the entire survey report available in printed and electronic formats and will share additional insights in future issues of the Tower Chimes.

~ Rachel Metheny & Mary Mickelson

Opportunities to Lend a Hand

Lois Palmer Is Turning 95!

Long-time Broadway member Lois Palmer will turn 95 years of age on August 16th. A birthday celebration is being planned in her honor at Hoosier Village (date and time to be determined). If you would like to attend the event or participate in the planning, please contact Roger Sell at sellroger@hotmail.com or (317) 585-9818. Cards and letters also may be sent to Lois at Hoosier Village, 5300 West 96th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Contribute to the Tower Chimes

Enjoy writing? Want your very own column in the Tower Chimes? Let's Talk! As the TC continues to evolve, we would like to include more articles and interviews that speak to the conversations that take place both inside and outside of the church walls. Who better to contribute those stories than the folks who are having those conversations... YOU! ***The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month for the following month's newsletter. Items received after the 15th will be held until the next month's newsletter.*** Please contact Karen McAleavey at kmcaleavey@broadwayumc.org or (317) 924-4207 for more details or to submit information.



Broadway on the Move

Twenty people from Broadway Church met in the parking lot on Tuesday morning, June 24th, to form car pools and travel to the Gaither Family Center in Alexandria, Indiana. Once they arrived at the facility, they were met by our own Lonnie Jones who was their most gracious host for the day. He had chosen that particular day because Sandi Patty was the star attraction.

The group found that tables had been reserved for them in the special dining room so they were right up front for the personal interview conducted by Gloria Gaither. Sandi shared a lot of interesting things about her personal and professional life, finishing by singing a cappella. Everyone was impressed and in awe. We were able to purchase her latest CD and book and have them autographed. There was a period of questions and answers which provided even more information.

After a delicious buffet luncheon, Lonnie conducted an in-depth tour of the recording studios, sound rooms, mail room, and offices -- including Bill Gaither's personal office. The visit ended with more shopping!

Everyone agreed that this was an enlightening, fun experience. And it provided another opportunity for conversations!

~ Ellie Gramer

When Mahalia Sings

By Quandra Prettyman

We used to gather in the high window of the holiness church and, tip-toe, look in and laugh at the dresses, too small on the ladies, and how wretched they all looked--an old garage for a church, for pews, old wooden chairs. It seemed a lame excuse for a church. Not solemn or grand, with no real robed choir, but a loose jazz band, or so it sounded to our mocking ears. So we responded to their hymns with jeers.

Sometimes those holiness people would dance, and this we knew sprang from deep ignorance of how to rightly worship God, who after all was pleased not by such foolish laughter but by the stiffly still hands in our church where we saw no one jump or shout or lurch or weep. We laughed to hear those holiness rhythms making a church a song fest: we heard this music as the road to sin, down which they traveled toward that end.

I, since then, have heard the gospel singing of one who says I worship with clapping hands and my whole body, God, whom we must thank for all this richness raised from dust. Seeing her high-thrown head reminded me of those holiness high-spirited, who like angels, like saints, worshiped as whole men with rhythm, with dance, with singing soul. Since then, I've learned of my familiar God— He finds no worship alien or odd.

Quandra Prettyman is an associate professor of English at Barnard College. She is affiliated with the Women's Studies program at Barnard and has taught courses dealing with African-American history, literature, and culture. Her poem, "When Mahalia Sings," was included in the landmark book *I Am the Darker Brother* published in 1968.

Doug and I heard this poem in a worship service one Sunday in Minneapolis while attending the American Guild of Organists national convention. We both thought of Broadway immediately when hearing it. As we, within our Broadway parish, continue to share our varied and wonderful gifts and talents, let us remember that God "finds no worship alien or odd" and that we are blessed in knowing more about ourselves and each other.

~ Chris Schroeder

T O W E R

Notes from the Green Environment Coordinator: Randy Ficklin

*Ideas that can help you go green
and keep more green in your wallet**

\$40/year: Get rid of the poison. Take a look underneath your kitchen cabinet and remove all toxic products. Items labeled "poison" or "danger" should be removed from the home. Replace hazardous products with safer cleaning products. Or make your own cleaner out of vinegar, baking soda, and borax for about \$6, much cheaper than chemicals that cost \$20 and more. **PLUS, you'll make your home safer for children.**

\$730/year: Stop using bottled water. Did you know that a convenient bottle of designer water can be as much as 1,000 times more expensive than water from your tap? And most people don't realize that tap water is often cleaner and safer than bottled water, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. If you drink an average of two bottles of water a day, at \$1 a bottle, you could save more than \$700/year. So instead, buy a \$2 reusable water bottle, fill it up at the faucet, and take it with you. **PLUS, help to save the approximately 1.5 million barrels of oil it takes to make all of the water bottles that we use each year.**

\$87/year: Say goodbye to plastic bags. Because they clog the ecosystem, some cities such as San Francisco have banned them. You can purchase a cloth bag that can be reused for \$6 that will carry 20 pounds of groceries and last at least 10 years, a savings of \$87 a year to retailers (who pass those costs onto...guess who?). **PLUS, have fewer of those bags clogging your cupboards and landfills.**

\$120/year: Slow down and follow the speed limit. As a general rule of

thumb, every 5 miles per hour that you drive over 60 miles per hour is equivalent to paying an extra \$0.20 per gallon of gas. With gas hitting \$4/gallon and the average driver putting 15,000 miles a year on his car, it could add up fast. **PLUS, produce less pollution and be safer on the road.**

\$130/year: Take a shorter shower and don't run water when you brush your teeth. If you were to shorten your shower each day by just one minute you could save almost 1,000 gallons of water each year. Shut the water off and save 10 gallons of water a day (or 3,650 gallons of water per year). Also, by installing a \$6 faucet aerator on bathroom or kitchen faucets and low-flow showerheads in your bathroom, you can reduce your water bill by as much as 35 percent. **PLUS, save on your water heating bill.**

\$150/year: Buy a \$40 programmable thermostat. You can program the exact time that you want the heat or air to be turned on and off and save yourself \$150/year. **PLUS, you don't have to keep getting up to adjust the thermostat.**

\$45/year: Change lightbulbs and turn off the computer. Go through your entire home and install energy-efficient lightbulbs. Compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs last 10,000 hours and can save approximately \$45/year. And shut down that computer for the evening. Leaving it on continues to draw power and can slowly empty your wallet. **PLUS, CFLs can appear brighter than their incandescent counterparts.**

\$80/year: Sweep instead of splash. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways. Doing so will save about 150 gallons of water each time. If you usually clean up once a week, the savings could be as much as \$80/year. **PLUS, using a broom will give your arms an extra workout.**

\$1 million/year: Don't throw it out, recycle. We know that recycling your Sunday newspaper can help save more than 500,000 trees each week. But, for companies, the savings can be huge. For instance, Apple Computer says it saves more than \$1 Million each year by recycling. **PLUS, more trees equal cleaner air!**

* Source: *Ebony*, July 2008, pp. 104-108

Reminders

First Fridays

First Fridays will meet on Friday, August 1st at Just Judy's, located at 2210 East 54th Street (just west of 54th & Keystone). See you there!

Broadway Calendar

Broadway's monthly event calendar is currently available on the church's website under the "Events" heading. You may also call or drop by the church office for a copy.

And a Special Thanks Goes to...

Dear Broadway Staff, Sunday was a beautiful day -- well planned, executed, and enjoyable. Thank you so very much. Love & God's Blessings,

~ Jan Michael
(regarding Broadway Presents
activities on 7/6/08)

We want to extend a very special thank you from our family to the congregation -- for their prayers, their presence, their conversations, their gifts (of food and other things), and of service during this time of Conor's surgery and in the wake of it. We are so grateful.

~ Mike, Kathy, Conor & Jordan
Mather-Licht

As followers of Jesus Christ, responding to God's love, our mission as the people of Broadway Church is to be a multicultural, Christian community that in its ministry seeks, welcomes and values all people.

TOWER
Chimes

English Language Service - 8:30 a.m., Chapel; 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary
Korean Language Service - 10:45 a.m., Chapel
Children's Worship - 10:45 a.m., after Children's Sermon
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m., Broadway Workers - Rm 101;
Searchers Class - Rm 104; Korean Bible Study - Rm B-2;
New Connections - Rm 103 (9:35 a.m.)
Youth/Children Sunday School - 9:30 a.m., Nursery - Rm 203;
Age Five - 5th Grade - Rm 202 at 9:30 a.m.
6th Grade - 12th Grade - Dome Room

Sunday Worship Schedule at Broadway UMC

Broadway's Staff

Pastoral: Mike Mather, Rachel Metheny, and Suhyoung Baik

Program: Duane Carlisle, Children/Youth Minister

DeAmon Harges, Roving Listener

Chris Schroeder, Minister of Music/Organist

Scott Semester, Director of Development

Office: Mary Kondrath, Business Administrator

Karen McAleavey, Administrative Assistant

Jeffery Perkins, Administrative Assistant

Maintenance/Housekeeping Staff:

Tom Weesner, Facility Manager

Jon Barnhart and Randy Ficklin

Ministry of Light and Sound: Jim Fore

Security: Jim Martin and Eugene Smith

Staff e-mail addresses are first letter of first name followed by last name@broadwayumc.org. (For example: jperkins@broadwayumc.org.)

Broadway United Methodist Church
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