



Feature Article

By Pastor Doug

EXTRAVAGANZA

VALENTINE DINNER

Saturday
February 11th
6 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Dinner Buffet
\$15

Featuring the:
UMMen Players

Reservation
signup sheet on
UMMen
bulletin board



MISSION ADVISORY TEAM NOW FORMING

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. Proverbs 15:22

If someone you loved gave you \$100 and asked you to give it away to bless someone in the name of Jesus, how would you spend it? Would you give all \$100 to one cause? Would you give \$1 to one hundred causes? Would you give to eliminate human suffering? Would you give to lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ? Would you give to needs in the suffering Third World, the United States, St. Mary's County, within a one-mile radius of our church, or to those far away?

Because there are so many genuine needs in our world, nation, and neighborhood, these questions are hard to answer. Yet, we as a church face these questions every day. Our church is constantly receiving requests for help from organizations and individuals that are doing vital work in the name of Jesus. These range from *Youth for Christ* to *CareNet Pregnancy Center* to *World Vision International*, as well as requests from missionaries and young adults embarking on mission trips. How can we decide which ones we can aid and which are beyond our ability to help at this time?

The Scripture says, "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." **This article is an invitation to interested LPUMC members to join our new "Missions Advisory Team" which will meet to develop criteria and a system for discerning what organizations and individuals we will support as a church.**

The Team will meet as a part of our Outreach & Mission Ministry which is chaired by Joy McBride in 2012. The Pastors will take an active part in this Team, but **we need the wisdom of many advisers.** Please pray and ask God if He might be calling you to this important ministry. If you have any questions or interest in the Missions Advisory Team, please speak with me, Lori, or Joy McBride at 301-737-0245 or joys605@yahoo.com. We welcome your questions and your counsel.

Your Pastor,
Doug

P.S. Meeting times will be at the convenience of the Missions Advisory Team members.

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Thank You from Your Pastors

We thank you for your very generous Christmas gifts to us. We realize that the gift from the church represented many individuals and families, and we were touched and blessed by that. Likewise, we greatly appreciated the individual gifts, cards, and other surprises we received.

In His Love,
Doug & Lori

Staff & Resource Area Leaders

Senior Pastor: Doug Hays
301-863-8500 (church) 443-465-8128 (cell)
pastordoug@md.metrocast.net

Associate Pastor: Lori Hoffman Hays
301-863-8500 (church) 443-465-7954 (cell)
loho2@juno.com

Office Administrator: Sara Martin
301-863-8500 ~ sara@md.metrocast.net

Financial Secretary: Sandi Hauenstein
301-994-3363 ~ sandi@hauenstein.com

Director of Public Worship: Joey Hoopengardner
301-373-5184 ~ joeyhoop@md.metrocast.net

Kid's Day Out Director: Pat Pinnell
301-863-3900 (KDO) ~ 301-994-9327 (home)
bnppinnell@md.metrocast.net

Church Council: John Ward
301-994-3889 ~ wardja2u@aol.com

Lay Leader: Janet Goodwin
301-737-4070 janet.goodwin1@gmail.com

Finance: Garry Wolfrum
301-737-0739 ~ cwolfrum@md.metrocast.net

Staff Parish Relations: Tom Frey
301-862-2815 ~ tfrey46@aol.com

Trustees: Terry Wilt
301-863-6367 ~ twilt@md.metrocast.net

Prayer Requests

Please notify Pastor Lori with all prayer requests and updates. Unless otherwise requested, all prayer requests will remain on the Prayer List for one month.

Bulletin Announcements

The deadline for the Sunday worship bulletin announcements is noon on Wednesdays. Send articles to Pastor Lori.

Newsletter Articles

If you would like something to appear in the March Newsletter, please send your article (In a MS Word document) to Sara in the church office by February 21st.

Important Church Policy

Please do not give money to anyone you do not know while you are on church property. You may refer people who ask for money to the church office during working hours. Please remember to report any incidence of pan-handling to the church office.



***Proceeds to benefit the Middle School MYF
Saturday February 4th 2012 ~ 9:00 a.m.***

Do you have books that are just gathering dust? Do you love to read and love buying books at bargain prices? Well everyone, the annual book sale will be held the first Saturday of February at 9:00 a.m. Old gently used books are what we need and we promise you will just love the bargains at the sale!

For those books that are gathering dust bring them to the church Fellowship Hall beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3rd. For the book bargain hunters, mark Saturday, February 4th on your calendar. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the Middle School youth group.

Like all worthy endeavors, volunteers to set up and help with the sale are needed too! Your participation and assistance in this worthwhile cause would be really appreciated. If you are interested in helping out with set up and/or the book sale please contact Kelly Imhof at 301-481-6349 or themhofs@verizon.net.

A Word From Our Associate Pastor**Lori Hays**

Some of you might be able to identify with me when I say I got “swept into the new year” by unexpected events. In my case, these unexpected events were my Mom’s illness and passing during Christmas week. I sort of feel like I got caught up in a big wave, and a few weeks later landed on the shore wondering what happened and what to do next. Many of you who have suffered a traumatic event know this feeling of being disoriented – physically disoriented as our trusty routines get shuffled around, and emotionally disoriented as we find our trusty emotions shuffled around!

So now that I’ve landed on the shore of this new year, I still feel a little dazed and disoriented as I deal with the question, “What now?” Well, the first and most obvious thing to do now is to say THANK YOU to so many of you who helped keep me afloat as that big wave spun me around for several weeks. Many of you did a wonderful job of helping keep me afloat, and you did it in many small ways that really meant a lot. Through your actions and words, I received the kind of support that really does help a person through the valley of sadness and grief.

I thank each of you who wrote me an e-mail to express your care. I thank you for each beautiful card with messages that always seemed to have special meaning as I read them. I thank you for simple words of sympathy– it’s amazing how much it means to have someone simply say, “I’m so sorry about your Mom’s passing.” It feels like somebody cares and understands that you’re hurting! Hugs without words mean an awful lot too! And phone calls with a voice saying, “I’m sorry. Are you OK? Can I do anything for you?” A little bunch of surprise flowers; a child’s homemade card; a pot of soup or a bucket of chicken. A church task done for me without even asking. Different people responded in different ways, but every single one was important and truly helped me. I THANK YOU.

Having come through this time, I will never again underestimate how much it means to speak a word or to send a note to someone who is being whirled around by a “wave” in their lives. We may think they’re doing OK, or that someone else is helping them out. But what I learned through you this last month is that every single word, and every single act of care, really is used by God to help make His love real and tangible to the person who is hurting.

May that be one of the ways we excel as a church in this new year – in helping to make God’s love real and tangible for those who are hurting.

In His Love, Pastor Lori

Scholarship Fund

All in God's Time!

Twelve years ago, LPUMC received a \$10,000 donation to be used for education. The Trustee's tasked a committee last year to explore various options for this money and in September of 2011, the Scholarship Fund Guidelines were adopted by the Trustees.

Our Mission:

The committee seeks to award scholarships to members of the congregation and/or active attendees who are good scholars, active Christians, leaders, and good citizens of the community.

Scholarship applications are due to the church office by **May 15, 2012**. Winner(s) will be announced during services in June when we recognize our graduates.

If you or someone you knows meets the criteria and is interested in learning more about this "free money", please pick up a packet in the church office or visit the church website at:

<http://www.lpumchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Scholarship-Fund-Guidelines-2011.pdf>

Prayer Corner

by Mary Lou Singletary



I always seek God's direction before I write each month. I have been hearing in my spirit the word "seasons", and it brought to mind Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. Then this scripture popped into my head, "For I am the Lord, I do not change." (Malachi 3:6a) While reading in the book of Daniel, I came across this verse, "He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives

wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning." (Daniel 2:21)

God does not change but He moves in times and seasons. When God moves, we must move with Him or be left behind. Moving with God means we have to change and none of us get excited about that aspect as change makes us uncomfortable.

I think this is where we are at Lexington Park. I believe God wants to change times and seasons in our church if we are willing. Our lives and church

are in need of prayer. We cannot continue to direct our lives or our church without the covering of prayer; otherwise we end up asking God to bless our mess!

This is a call to prayer. I ask you to pray for God's direction, wisdom, unity, honesty, kindness, Christian love and self-control. We need to stop letting the devil do his work through us.

Everything I have written was done in love and whether you agree or not, I'll love you anyway. See you in church.

Snow Policy

WEEKDAYS: *The church office & building will typically be open as usual, as most snow events do not require closure. If there is a church-wide activity that is affected by weather, a congregational e-mail will be sent out, and the church phone will carry an announcement about it. Cancellation of individual groups or activities will be determined by the group leader, so please contact your group leader for that information.*

SUNDAY MORNINGS: *Sunday morning weather decisions will be made by 7AM. A congregational e-mail will be sent soon after 7AM, and the church phone announcement will indicate any changes to the regular schedule.*

A Special Note of Thanks!!

During the months of December and January, we have been receiving so much love, prayers, phone calls, hugs, food and gifts. We would like to thank everyone for all your love and generosity! It means so much to us that our church family loves us that much!! But don't let the prayers stop...we still need them!!

Your Sister and Brother in Christ,
Phyllis and Bob Herbig

Women's Retreat Update

The 2012 Women's Retreat has been cancelled. To receive a refund, please contact Jackie Rice at 240-237-8868 or j.rice@md.metrocast.net.

Furniture Ministry

Jeannie Miller is no longer accepting/providing furniture to people in the community. However, she will continue to accept donations of mattress sets/bed frames. Call Jeannie at 301-373-3493.

Worship

by Joey Hoopengardner



It is February – a month with traditionally cold temperatures, significant snowfalls, and howling winds – but also a month with the warmth of Valentine’s Day in it. And, this year, we get an extra day in February since this is a leap year. February also marks the beginning of Lent which leads us to Easter Sunday. It is time of introspection and drawing closer to Christ. We will have an Ash Wednesday service on February 22 at 7 pm during which time you may choose to have ashes imposed upon your forehead.

As I was thinking about the upcoming Lenten season, I have thought a lot about the elimination of church choirs in our churches across the country. Singing is such a joy for me, but for many adults it is a difficult concept to grasp. These adults, starting around middle school in the mid-80’s, and mostly boys, got that joy of singing in a choir taken away from them either by culture or peer pressure or by passive pursuits like watching TV, playing video games and texting. Now that generation is in their 30’s and many of them are pastors.

Why does that matter? Because singing in a choir has been under attack across the US for a long time and many times that attack has come from the pastoral office. Some of the issues have been: “choirs are not relevant anymore”, “choirs are old fashioned”, “choirs sing boring

music”, “choirs are made up of old people”, “choirs are too expensive to fund”. One new member at our church heard the choirs present the Christmas cantata last December. They told me later that was the first time they had ever heard a cantata sung by a choir and it made their Christmas very special.

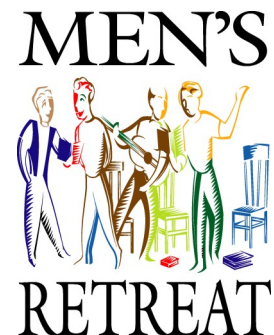
I attended an anniversary party last Saturday. There were several pastors there that represented several denominations and several different states. As we were talking the conversation naturally turned to “church-talk”. When I said we had a choir program here at LPUMC they were all amazed. One of the pastors said, “I don’t know of any churches around where I pastor that still has a choir.”

But I have good news. Choirs are not dead! In the last year or so on TV there have been shows like “Glee” and “Sing Off” that feature choir singing. The internet features many choir oriented flash mobs on YouTube. Just recently the movie “Joyful Noise” was released. The movie highlights a small town church choir. There are an estimated 32.5 million choir members in the US. That’s roughly equivalent to the population of the state of California. These singers show up every week and combine their voices to make a joyful noise. You are cordially invited to add your voice to those in our choirs here at LPUMC. No audition is required. In the Bible we read, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

Who knew a Men’s Retreat could be like this.....

Over-the-top fun while getting to know our “Awesome God”, our brothers in Christ, and ourselves!!

Dates: March 9th – March 11th, 2012
 Sign-Up Deadline: February 19, 2012
 Cost: \$110.00 (Includes lodging and all meals)
 Payment: Due by February 19, 2012
 Contact: Rich Roediger (240)394-0980 or rroediger@hotmail.com
 Guest Speaker: Hudson “Chip” Studer



See the United Methodist Men’s bulletin board for more information!

Finance News

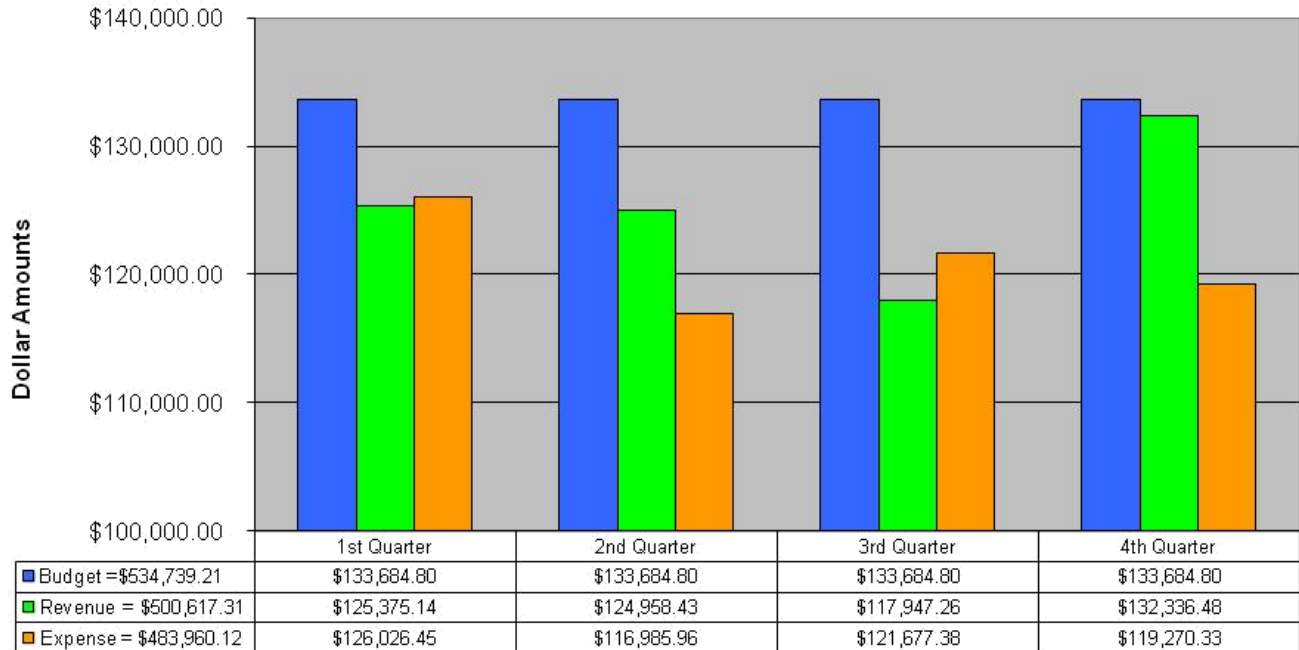
Finance Chair, Garry Wolfrum



Record level contributions in every quarter of 2011 enabled us to meet 100% of our expenses and erase the 2010 \$16K carryover deficit by the end of 2011. We are off to a great start in 2012 based on the first two weeks of January! Thank you for your commitment and all that you give!

The graph below shows how our budget, income, and expenses compared during 2011.

LPUMC Budget - Expenditures - Revenue By Quarter 2011



Our expenses remained below the budget with income exceeding expenses dramatically in the 2nd and 4th quarters. By year end, our operating fund was restored to a sound financial condition.

In Summary:

- 2011 ended with a \$522 operating fund surplus; even though it began with a \$16,134 deficit
- Income significantly exceeded expenses during 6 months; those with 5 weeks along with April and December.
- During 3 months, expenses significantly exceeded income: March, June, & August (Hurricane)
- The Capital Expenditure Fund (installed our new generator in 2011) has a current balance of \$28K and has been fully repaid by the operating fund.

Finance Goals for 2012:

- Ensure funds are in place for required maintenance
- Accelerate mortgage payments, as feasible (about 11 years left – 30 April 2023)
- Conclude 2012 with \$15K (3%) operating reserve

Garry Wolfrum
Financial Chairman

A WARM Opportunity

(Wrapping Arms “Round” Many)

The second host week for the WARM guests is quickly approaching at LPUMC! Mark your calendar for the week of **Sunday, February 26th – Sunday, March 4th**. There are several volunteer opportunities available. Please check which opportunities below you might be interested in and drop this by the main office or in the offering basket. Feel free to contact Maria Scott directly at mariascott@md.metrocast.net or (301) 737-4057.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

_____	Sunday 2/26	Approx. 1-3pm	Set up Fellowship Hall (many hands needed)
_____	Site Monitor	5:30pm-12:30am 12:00am – 7:00am	(Training or previous experience is required)
_____	Meal Preparers	Breakfast Dinner	Circle breakfast or dinner preference
_____	Wed. 2/29	7:00am – 8:30am	Prepare Fellowship Hall for JOY
_____	Sunday 3/4	7:00am – 8:30am	Prepare for Worship (many hands needed)
_____	Sunday 3/4	TBD (early afternoon)	Transport cots and gear to next site (this usually takes an hour total)
_____	Week of 3/4 – 3/11		Launder WARM linens (many hands needed)

Lexington Park United
Methodist Church
21760 Great Mills Road
Lexington Park, MD 20653

Address Service Requested

February 2012

Phone: 301-863-8500
Fax: 301-863-7163
Email: lpumc@md.metrocast.net

www.lpumchurch.org



Our Purpose and Mission

“Our purpose is to create a caring and Christ-centered community of believers who stand as witnesses to God’s grace in the world and make faithful disciples who are empowered to serve Jesus Christ.”

We will fulfill our purpose as we faithfully:

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ ~ Teach the Word

Equip people for ministry

Help those in need ~ Minister through music ~ Practice prayer

Bond through fellowship

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.