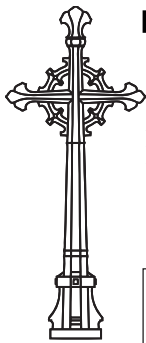




Table of Contents

Thy Kingdom Come	2
Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish	3
Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish (cont.)	4
Staff Spotlight: Betsy White	4
Reconciling Ministries Update	5
“Incompatible with Christian Teaching” Premier	5
Service and Advocacy	7
Volunteers in Mission	7
Season of Advent - Save The Date	8
United Methodist Women	9
Seniors Ministries	9
Study Opportunities	10
Advent Sermon Series	11
Campus Ministries	11
Youth Ministries	11
Children’s Ministries	12



THE MESSENGER

For the congregation of the Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish
Metropolitan Memorial, St. Luke's, and Wesley United Methodist Churches

November 13, 2009

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Thy Kingdom Come

In his Explanatory Notes on the New Testament, Methodism's founder, John Wesley, tells us that the early church's practice of selling all they had (Acts 2:42 – 3:10) and sharing the resources with the entire community was, "the natural fruit of love wherewith each member of the community loved each other as his own soul. And if the whole Christian Church had continued in this spirit, this usage must have continued through all ages." From Wesley's perspective, when we have experienced the outpouring of God's gracious Spirit, the only way to respond is by sharing God's gifts with the people around us, for the upbuilding of the community, the coming of the Kingdom.

For Wesley, the fact that we aren't able to share in this spirit of generosity was a profound sign that we're not living out of a sense of God's presence with us. We clutch at what we have, because we don't really trust that God will provide for us. That expectation, in turn, becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy; because when we clutch at what we have, we close ourselves off from the grace that God is always offering us. In his journals, Wesley notes that one of his most significant disappointments was that his Methodist revival was not more generous. He was concerned that many Methodists were *merely* tithers, when he felt that the Gospel called for so much more of a response.

In his commentary on Peter's healing of the lame beggar, at the beginning of the Acts 3, F.F. Bruce tells a story from the life of Thomas Aquinas when the saint met with Pope Innocent II. As Aquinas walked into the elaborately decorated chamber, the pope said, "You see, Thomas, the church need no longer say, 'Silver and gold I have none.'" "True, Holy Father," Thomas replied, "but neither can she say, 'Rise up and walk.'"

Building the church is not about the magnificence of our church building; it is about responding to God's call to help create a society where justice reigns and everyone has enough to live with dignity. God invites us to be part of this great work by helping to create a community that calls people into a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, which in turn, turns them into agents of transformation in the world.

Our giving is not an obligation that God lays on us, it is a gift. It is not about raising the budget of the church, it is one of the most powerful ways we have to open our lives to the movement of the Holy Spirit. God has blessed us, as a parish, with a breathtaking array of gifts, in both leadership and finances. In our new cooperative parish, we are being called - and challenged - to explore a new model of ministry, that could revitalize our denomination. As we live into this call, we have the chance to say to our beloved Methodist church, "rise up and walk."

To view a stewardship video by Dr. Parker go to http://www.bwcumc.org/files/video/DS_30_VIDEO.htm.

Celebrate With Us!

- Please join us in the Great Hall as Metropolitan, St. Luke's and Wesley jointly celebrate our commitments to God's Kingdom and to one another.
- Our Commitment Brunch will follow the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, November 22, 2009. All are invited, and there is no charge for the brunch.

Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish

Charge Conference

Monday, November 23, Great Hall

A special Charge Conference to vote on clergy compensation will be held following the 7 p.m. Church Council meeting. All are invited to attend.

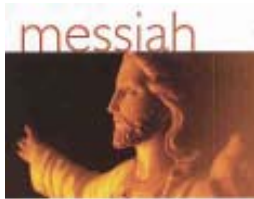
Young Professional Meet and Eats!

Because everyone needs to eat, and food tastes way better with other people to share it with, the Young Professional Meet and Eats group invites everyone age 22 - 35 to join them every first Sunday of the month for food and fellowship! For more information contact Rev. Kate Murphey at kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org or 202.363.4900 ext. 21.



Crossroads: A Worship Experience **Saturdays, 5 p.m.** **St. Luke's UMC**

Crossroads is a community that seeks to connect individuals with each other and God. At the worship experience, you will find inspiring music, space to be in God's presence, and creative ways to connect life and faith using various multimedia and art forms. We also celebrate Holy Communion at each gathering. You are invited to join us around Christ's table as we seek to live in peace and reconciliation. Childcare is provided. Questions? Contact Jimmy Sherrod, 202.363.4900, ext. 24 or jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org and check out our blog at www.xroadsdc.blogspot.com.



The Advent 2009 Choral Offering **MESSIAH**

Sunday, December 6, 11:15 a.m.

The Metropolitan Oratorio Choir offers the Christmas portion of Handel's beloved oratorio, MESSIAH, on Sunday, December 6 during the 11:15 a.m. worship service. MESSIAH will be performed with choir, soprano, alto, tenor, and bass soloists, 11-piece baroque orchestra, and organ. The service will conclude with the glorious Hallelujah Chorus from the end of Part II of the oratorio.

Everyone who desires to be a part of the choir is invited to Thursday evening rehearsals from 8p.m. - 8:45 p.m. in the choir room. All voice parts will be needed: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. There will be a rehearsal with the orchestra on Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m. until noon. If you have any questions or need to arrange for childcare, contact Bruce Caviness, Organist/Choirmaster, 202.363.4900, ext. 15 or bcaviness@mmumc-dc.org.

World Aids Day Celebration

Sunday, December 6, 11 a.m., Wesley UMC
(5312 Conn. Ave NW)

Wesley UMC will be celebrating World AIDS Day Sunday, December 6 at the 11 a.m. worship service. Gather to listen to and share stories of how HIV/AIDS has affected our families, community, city, and world. In prayer, song, and communion, we will gather in the expectancy of Advent, awaiting the coming of Christ and the hope, healing, and justice He brings.



Worship at St. Luke's
Led by Rev. Sandy Rector
(3655 Calvert St. N.W.)
Sunday Worship
11:30 a.m.

Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got. Taking a break from all your worries, sure would help a lot. Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came. We've got just the place, and no, it's not a new neighborhood pub called Cheers, it's St. Luke's on Sunday mornings at 11:30. Join us for a worship experience that's both traditional, yet casual, that's small, warm and welcoming, a place where community quickly becomes family, and we walk together discovering God's place in our hearts and call in our lives.

Worship at Wesley UMC
(5312 Conn. Ave NW)
Led by Rev. Kate Murphey
Sunday Mornings - 11 a.m.



Nursery School Open Houses **Come Check out**

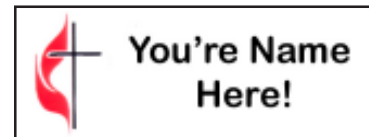
Metropolitan's Nursery School

Please join us for Metropolitan Nursery School's Admissions Open Houses for the fall of 2010 on December 10 and January 7 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall. We will discuss our program, tour the school, and answer questions about the admissions process. Members of Metropolitan's congregation receive first priority for admission. Questions? Contact Linda Smith, director of the nursery school, at lsmith@mmumc-dc.org.

Life Changes

Have You Kept Us Up-To-Date?

Have you moved or changed your contact information? Let us know your new information. Contact Jeff Clouser at jclouser@mmumc-dc.org or 202.363.4900, ext. 23.



Order Your Nametag!

Nametags are a great way to get to know one another and make our visitors feel more at home. Permanent magnetic nametags are available for \$5 each in the church office. Please note that for those who have pacemakers, we will need to order you a tag with a pin backing. If you would like to request yours contact the church office at 202.363.4900!

Our Sincerest Thanks

† John, Trisha, Caroline and Joshua Carr would like to express their appreciation to all Church members for all the prayers and support offered for Josh and his family during Josh's recent bout with swine flu and the ensuing acute respiratory distress syndrome. Your prayers allowed Josh to have a miraculous recovery against great odds.

Having seen the insidious nature of swine flu firsthand, they also would encourage each of you to take the potential effects of swine flu very seriously and to take all recommended steps to minimize the chances of you or anyone in your family contracting this influenza.

† Gloria Morrison and Maura Porcelli, mother and daughter of Suzanne Forsyth wish to thank the congregation for all the love, support, prayers, and concern given to them during a long bout of illnesses. During four months of difficulties they never felt alone in their situations thanks to the kindness and generosity of the Metropolitan Family.

† Charles and Alma Stewart and Louise Stewart are grateful for the sympathy and support given them by the congregation and staff of Metropolitan following the death of their beloved son and brother, Mark.



Celebrations!

† We congratulate Robin and Mike Emery on the birth of their grandson, Jack William Emery who was born to Brian and Mellissa Emery on October 20 in Westbury, New York.

† We congratulate Carol and Jay Hulme on the birth of their son James Hulme, Jr. who was born on November 3.

† Marie Meredith celebrated her 100th Birthday on October 29! Happy Birthday Marie!!



James Hulme Jr.



Our prayers go out to the family and friends of Nien Cheng who died on November 2.

New Church Picture Directory!

We are excited to announce that work will soon begin on our new church picture directory. Look for the sign-up display in the lobby at the end of this month!



Staff Spotlight: Betsy White

From Nashville to DC, From Politics to Physics Staff

by Barry Wood

Cherub Choir director and American University junior Betsy White made a big decision last summer. She decided to change her college major from political science to physics. It happened while she was a member of Nashville's Calvary United Methodist Church mission trip to Estonia in northeast Europe. "I think God nudged me to make this change," she says. Reflecting on her first two years of seeing national politics up close in Washington, Betsy says she grew dismayed with the rancorous partisanship and personal attacks of political debate.

Then 18-year-old Betsy first came to Metropolitan in the fall of 2007, quickly joining the bell choir, bringing the skills with the small bells in the upper octaves that she had perfected at Calvary back in Nashville. This fall Susan Staines persuaded Betsy to take charge of the Cherub Choir, which currently comprises more than a dozen four to seven year olds, under the overall direction of Pam Settlege. The Cherubs are singing "This is My Father's World" at the early service on November 22. Immediately thereafter they'll begin work on Christmas music.

Having already taught pre-school, Betsy enjoys the challenge of working with young children. She packs a lot into the 9:15 to 10 am Sunday practices, aware that she is dealing with short atten-

tion spans. An accomplished pianist and alto vocalist, Betsy likes the discipline of the Sunday morning practices, which she admits, is a useful way of getting her up and to church on a regular basis.

Betsy White is a high achiever. She graduated from her high school's International Baccalaureate program. She maintains a 3.6 grade point average at American,

where she will be taking Calculus 3 and Differential Equations this coming summer as she catches up in the physics program. Coming from a family of teachers, Betsy initially thought that after graduation she would teach at the high school level. But now she finds herself thinking of grad school in the tough, male dominated field of physics. Satisfied with her big 2009 decision to change majors, Betsy, with unbridled enthusiasm says about physics, "I love it."



Reconciling Ministries Update

100,000 March for LGBT Equality

On October 11, over 100,000 people joined the National Equality March in Washington, D.C. to demand full equality under the law for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people nationwide.

Clergy and lay members from Metropolitan Memorial, Dumbarton, Foundry, Wesley, and Capitol Hill United Methodist churches, as well as Glide UMC from San Francisco, marched together in support of LGBT equality.

Capitol Hill UMC and Asbury UMC Hold LGBT Equality Services

On Oct. 10, **Capitol Hill UMC**'s "Let Justice Roll Down" worship service gave United Methodists from DC and around the country the opportunity to gather for prayer, encouragement, and community building. It was a great night!

On Oct. 29, **Asbury UMC in DC** hosted "Soulful Voices for Marriage Equality: A Faith Celebration." The event, which was sponsored by **DC Clergy United for Marriage Equality**, celebrated through music, dance, testimonies, and spiritual sustenance as they work together for marriage equality in the District of Columbia.

DC Clergy United for Marriage Equality are District of Columbia clergy and religious leaders of many faiths, races, ethnicities, and sexual orientations, representing religious institutions in every ward in the District. All four of Metropolitan's clergy have signed the DC Clergy United declaration, which states:

"Our faith calls us to affirm marriage equality for loving same-sex couples. Our religious traditions and scriptures teach us that wherever love is present, God is also present. One of God's greatest gifts to us is our human capacity to love one another. The ability of two people to enter into relationships and form families of love and care is one expression of this gift. It is holy and good. We therefore affirm the right of loving same-gender couples to enter into such relationships on an equal basis with loving heterosexual couples."

Matthew Shepard & James Byrd Jr. Hate Prevention Act

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, President Barack Obama signed into law the Matthew Shepard & James Byrd Jr. Hate Prevention Act. The legislation expands the definition of federal hate crimes to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

The bill defines hate crimes as those motivated by prejudice against race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability. It allows the Attorney General to assist cities and states in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

The Act is named after Matthew Shepard, the 21 year old University of Wyoming student, who was brutally murdered in a homophobic attack in Laramie in 1998.

In Celebration

Congratulations to Mt. Vernon UMC in Washington, DC. on becoming a reconciling church on Oct. 31!



Documentary Film Screening

"Incompatible with Christian Teaching" Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.

In January 2008, Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church embarked on a journey toward becoming a reconciled church. Our 6-month discernment process concluded with a vote on June 1, to become a reconciling congregation!

During Metropolitan's discernment process there was one question that I kept hearing, "Why do we have to say we are reconciled? We already are welcoming!"

The question of "why" is not unique to Metropolitan, this is the question every congregation wrestles with during discernment. So it was out of this question that I decided to make my film, "Incompatible with Christian Teaching." For me, the answer to "why reconcile" is answered with the statement in the Book of Discipline, "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." The focus of my film was to capture the effect this statement has on individuals.

I made my film because I believe minds are only changed when hearts are changed. The film details the personal stories of clergy and laity, and LGBT and straight allies. Some have been arrested while others have been tried by the Judicial Council. Each has demanded that the church live into the true meaning of the Gospel.

"Incompatible with Christian Teaching" premiered at the Reconciling Ministries Network's convocation in Estes Park, CO in September. Since the film's premiere, I have received invitations from United Methodist churches all over the country asking me to screen and discuss the film. Reconciled churches are interested in hosting a screening in hopes of encouraging other UM churches in their conference to reconcile. UM churches that are not reconciled are interested in hosting a screening for their own congregation in hopes of beginning the reconciling conversation.

Metropolitan's Advocacy ministry team will be hosting a screening of my film on Sunday, December 6 at 4 p.m. in the Great Hall.

I look forward to sharing the film with all of you.

The screening is free and ALL ARE WELCOME. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to attend. However, the film is not recommended for children under 13.

Yours in Christ, Anne P. Brown

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne P. Brown".

“Incompatible with Christian Teaching,” Premieres at Metropolitan Memorial **by Lesli Bales-Sherrod**

A film birthed from the reconciling process at Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church in 2008 will take filmmaker Anne P. Brown to congregations across the United States in 2010.

Metropolitan will kick off the tour with a screening of Anne’s film “Incompatible with Christian Teaching” at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in the Great Hall. All are welcome.

The 45-minute documentary details personal stories of those affected by discriminatory language in the Book of Discipline and subsequent laws forbidding the ordaining of “self avowed practicing” homosexuals, the officiating of same-sex unions and the holding of those ceremonies in local United Methodist churches.



*General Conference 2000,
Cleveland, OH.*

Delegates are arrested after protesting the discriminatory language in the Discipline.

“When people hear the personal stories, it becomes real to them,” said Anne, who has been a member of Metropolitan for 14 years.

But even Anne wasn’t prepared for the impact the film would have. Started in March 2008 and completed at the end of July 2009, the film debuted at the Reconciling Ministries Network’s convocation in Colorado in September. When 54 people packed the room, Anne added a second screening, but 78 turned out for that one.

“I handed out hundreds of business cards, and ever since I got back, I’ve been getting requests from all over the United States to screen this film,” Anne explained. “I got invites to 16 states, and they’re still coming in. Now I’m just figuring out who to say yes to.”

At first Anne decided she would go only to churches that are not reconciled because they are the ones that need help, but then it became apparent to Anne that those churches need help from reconciling congregations to start the process. She already has agreed to screenings in California, Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas, as well as at the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference next year. She is booked through June 2010.

“I’ve been impressed, too, by word of mouth,” Anne noted. “Folks are talking to each other, and I’m getting e-mails from people who weren’t at Convocation.”

One example is the Holston Reconcilers. Though the Holston Conference – which comprises Southeast Virginia, East Tennessee and North Georgia – does not have a single reconciling congregation among its 904 communities of faith, Anne was contacted by this new group that just joined the Reconciling Ministries Network in March.

It’s requests like these that Anne finds “so exciting.”

“We only need four more churches to reconcile this year to have the most reconciling churches in a year since they started (the Reconciling Ministries Network) 20 years ago,” she said in an interview Oct. 25. (Mount Vernon Place UMC in D.C. has become a reconciling congregation since then.) “It’s a very excit-

ing time.”

But it’s also a nerve-wracking time, Anne added, as “so many people have their hopes pinned on the 2012 General Conference in Florida, when they think they’re going to finally change the language (in the Book of Discipline).”

It’s the three years in between General Conferences that are the hard years, she said somberly.

“Each day that we don’t have this language eliminated, there’s a kid in Mississippi who’s thinking of killing himself,” Anne said, referencing a story relayed in her film. “We can’t wait till the next General Conference. What about these youth? It keeps me up at night. I think about these people everyday.”

So Anne will budget her limited time off from her full-time job and travel to screen the film as far and wide as she can. Though she envisions that one day the film will be available on DVD, right now Anne feels it is important that she be there for the screenings to encourage dialogue after the film ends, as people are “very emotional” after they see it.

“We can’t say we’re welcoming and our doors are open while we’re saying that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching,” she said. “You can say, ‘That was (added) back in 1972,’ but it doesn’t matter. It’s still in there! There are so many things I love about the United Methodist Church that this is worth fighting for.”

“This is so not about me,” Anne added. “I’m not even gay. This is about being an advocate for equality.”

And in that spirit, Anne believes that becoming a reconciling congregation is the best outreach tool to all people, not just those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered.

“Once you say you are accepting of GLBT folks, it doesn’t matter if you’re divorced, if you’re single, if you’re adopted – reconciling says that every single person is welcome here, and that is so liberating,” Anne said. “The film has done everything I wanted it to do: people have stopped and listened.”

For more information or to see a trailer of the film, visit www.annepbrown.com/Site/Films.html.



An invitation to “Incompatible with Christian Teaching”

Service and Advocacy

Ann Michel Receives Advocacy Award for Service to the Homeless

By Lesli Bales-Sherrod



On October 22, Metropolitan House at Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church opened its doors for the 17th year, providing a warm, safe place for four men to live this winter. On October 26, a Metropolitan member who helped start the shelter ministry was recognized for her years of service to the homeless.

Ann Michel received the Advocacy Award from the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place at the organization's 12th Annual Benjamin E. Cooper Awards at the Washington National Cathedral.

"I don't think this is about me; it's about our church and the tremendous witness our church has made in the past 20 years on homelessness," says Ann, who reports being "quite humbled" by the news. "I'd like to thank all the members of our Metropolitan House board. It's a real team effort. There are so many people who have done so much."

In addition to her work on Metropolitan House's board, Ann also has helped organize other Northwest D.C. places of worship to increase supportive housing for the homeless through her involvement with the Washington Interfaith Network. The Community Council's successful Neighbors First initiative, which has moved 65 homeless from the streets into apartments with funding from the District, was a direct outgrowth of this effort.

"In a way, this issue was made for me," Ann explains. "I had worked for so long with all the church-based shelters in the city, I already knew all the players."

A lot of Northwest D.C. congregations have significant homeless ministries, she notes, though that wasn't always the case. There was a time when people had concerns about hosting the homeless in their churches.

"I worked with a group of people who were dedicated, and I saw no's turn into yes's," Ann remembers of efforts to establish Metropolitan House in 1991. "It was a powerful example for me of how the Holy Spirit can work, and it was life changing for me to see the ministry start up out of nothing."

All these years later, Metropolitan House still runs on the power of volunteers.

"From the very beginning, we wanted it to be a model of hands-on ministry that lay people had ownership of," Ann explains. "There is no executive director. Those of us on the board run it – we do intakes, we raise money, we write grants. The first six years it was totally staffed seven days a week by volunteers, and every meal has been prepared and delivered by volunteers, 17 years and counting."

Ann admits it's a lot of work, but there are lots of ways to help as well: by donating a meal, by spending a Friday or Saturday night with the residents, or by taking on leadership tasks such as communications, fundraising, scheduling volunteers, helping to maintain the shelter space, or interacting with partner agencies such as CCHFP.

In fact, it was actually working at Metropolitan House after it opened its doors in February 1992 that helped Ann see the homeless in a new light, she notes. Spending several nights there with the residents shattered her misconceptions about homelessness.

"It's a real chance to know and talk to some homeless people in a way you wouldn't otherwise – to share a meal and have a conversation," she says. "You put a name and a face (with homelessness), and you hear people's stories."

It's an experience Ann calls "spiritually transformative" as well.

"These were people I knew and cared about and wanted to be with. And not care about them in the abstract, but as friends," Ann explains. "That's how God loves us. He knows our names. He knows what we're about. He doesn't just say, 'I better love these people because they're my people.'"

To find out more about how you can help Metropolitan House, please contact Ann at amichel@wesleyseminary.edu or 202.885.8582; Dick Schleicher, a Benjamin E. Cooper Awards recipient in 2002, at 301.229.2385; or Patrisha House at patrisha.house@verizon.net.

Meanwhile, tax-deductible donations to Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place in Ann's honor may be mailed to CCHFP, 4713 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016. To donate by credit card, call Director of Individual Giving Ben Bradford at 202-364-1419.

Volunteers in Mission

Are You Interested in Participating in a VIM trip in 2010?

If so, we want to hear from you! Four VIM opportunities have been identified and now we need to build our teams, schedule meeting dates and set the dates for the trips. Please send an email to Anne Brown, VIM program chair, at anne_p_brown@live.com indicating which trip(s) you are interested in.

Borderlinks: Mexico & Arizona

Dates: 7-day trip Saturday through Saturday

Work Assignment: Examine issues shaping & influencing US-Mexico immigration & border policies, visit churches and community organizations on both sides of the border.

Price: \$1000

Web site: <http://www.borderlinks.org/>

Nicaragua: Project Chacocente

Dates: 7-day trip Saturday to Saturday

Work Assignments: Out of the Dump; Women in Community

Price: \$1500

Web site: <http://www.outofthedump.org/basic/basic.htm>

UMCOR Relief Supply Depot: Louisiana

Dates: 7-day trip Sunday through Friday

Price: \$1000

Web site: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/sagerbrown/volunteer>

UMCOR Relief Supply Depot: Pennsylvania

Dates: March or April, 2010 (1-day trip)

Price: \$100

Web site: <http://www.missioncentral.org/cms/name/Volunteer>

COATS FOR



Annual Christmas Coat Drive—SHOPEARLY!

Starts December 6

It's time once again to start planning for the annual Christmas Coat Drive. The Bible Plus Sunday School Class is collecting new coats, hats and gloves for needy DC children (sizes 24 months to 16). A collection box will be placed in the lobby of the new building on Sunday mornings from December 6 through December 27. Receipts will be available at the collection boxes. Although we encourage you to donate the above items, cash contributions are also welcome and we will shop for you. Please make checks payable to Metropolitan Memorial and annotate on your check that it is for the Coat Drive. If you are uncomfortable leaving your cash contribution in the box, you can instead mail it to: Debbie Gustowski, 2924 33rd Place NW, Washington DC 20008; your receipt will then be mailed to you if you so desire. Many thanks for your gifts that will help keep the children warm this winter. If you have any questions, please call Debbie Gustowski at 202-298-6222 or e-mail debgustowski@comcast.net.



Season of Advent - Save The Date



December 6 - The MESSIAH - 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

The Metropolitan Oratorio Choir offers the Christmas portion of Handel's beloved oratorio, MESSIAH, performed with choir, soprano, alto, tenor, and bass soloists, 11-piece baroque orchestra, and organ. The service will conclude with the glorious Hallelujah Chorus from the end of Part II of the oratorio.

December 6 – UMW Recognition Luncheon - 12:30 p.m., Great Hall

The United Methodist Women Recognition Luncheon honors women who have made a significant contribution to the church, the nation, and the world.

December 6 - Deck the Halls - Advent fun for all - 5 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Vestry

Join us for crafts, helping our neighbors, wreath-making, music, dinner and worship. All are welcome to this all-church family event.

December 11 - Christmas Movie Night - 6 p.m.

Save the date! Join us for our annual showing of classic children's Christmas movies on Friday, December 12. Dinner will be served, hours will be 6 to 9 pm.

December 13, Christmas Sing-a-Long - 10 a.m., Great Hall

Come and join your friends for our annual Christmas Carol Sing! This is a wonderful opportunity to relax and enjoy fellowship with each other during this hectic season!

December 16 - "Get Me Through December" - 8 p.m., Wesley UMC

This is a service that acknowledges how hard the Christmas season can be. Through blues music, prayer, reflection and communion we will have space to grieve and simply be. Wesley United Methodist Church (5312 Connecticut Ave NW).

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

5 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service

Led by the children of our congregation. Includes live nativity.

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

10:30 p.m. Musical Prelude

11 p.m. Candlelight Worship



United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women Recognition Tea

Sunday, December 6

12:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Each year Metropolitan's UMW holds a Recognition Luncheon honoring women that have made a significant contribution to the church, nation, and the world. The Recognition Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 12:30 p.m.

I am delighted to announce that three outstanding women have been selected for special recognition at the 2009 annual tea. Honorees include Charlotte Carter, Suzanne Forsyth and Eliza Hamner-Koenig. Each one of these women has made significant contributions and will be honored for their achievements. In addition, we will welcome new UMW members, recognize babies born in our church family, as well as honor the lives of women in our church family who passed away within the past year.

All are welcome to attend this special day of celebration.

Yours in Christ, Anne P. Brown

New Circles Now Forming



Never been a member of the United Methodist Women? Or perhaps it's been a long time since you were connected? New circles are now forming! Contact Ann Michel for more details.

If you are a member of St. Luke's UMC or Wesley UMC, perhaps you'd be interested in forming a new cooperative-parish circle. Contact Barbara Gaskill (Barbara@bgaskill.com or 202-244-3512) for details.

Seniors Ministries

Senior Resources in Our Local Community

What is IONA Senior Services?



Founded in 1975 to respond to the growing needs and number of people aged 60 years and older, IONA Senior Services is a nonprofit community organization located in Tenleytown. IONA has received wide recognition as a model agency for providing community and home-based professional and volunteer assistance to seniors and their caregivers. Thirty-three churches and synagogues are members of IONA, including the Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish.

Staffed with more than 40 professional employees and 600 volunteers who collaborate with community and government organizations, IONA offers programs that range from Alzheimer's Care Programs, Counseling and Care Management Services, Support Groups, Adult Day Health Care, Computer and Fitness Classes, and Information and Referral Services.

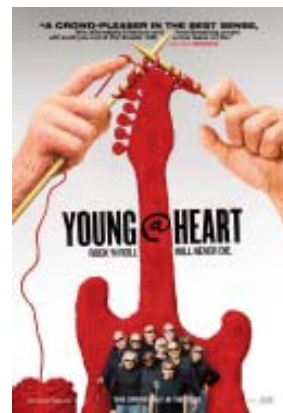
With the vision of serving seniors and their caregivers with excellence, respect and compassion, while enriching the aging experience through innovative and collaborative community participation, IONA is a wonderful resource that Metropolitan is proud to be affiliated with. If you would like more information about IONA, you can visit their website at www.iona.org, call them at 202.966.1055 (TTY 202.895.9444), or stop by the information rack located outside the main office doors at Metropolitan to pick up IONA's Senior Resource Guide.

Young @ Heart: IONA Senior Services Fundraiser

Saturday, December 5, 4 p.m.

Warner Theatre (1299 Penn. Ave NW)

Young@Heart, a nationally renowned chorus of senior rockers and stars of an award-winning documentary, will present their production "Alive and Well" featuring songs by James Brown, Coldplay and Sonic Youth among other popular artists. Proceeds benefit Iona Senior Services' programs supporting people as they face the challenges of aging through the arts, counseling, support groups, wellness programs and high-quality day health programs for families living with Alzheimer's disease. Purchase your tickets here: www.youngatheart.eventbrite.com. Questions? Call 202.895.9416.



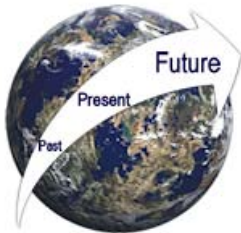
Study Opportunities

Great Hall Lecture

The Economics of the Kingdom of God in the Gospel of Mark presented by Dr. Phillip O'Hara Sunday, December 6, 10:10 a.m., Great Hall

Join us as Dr. Phillip O'Hara concludes his lecture on "The Economics of the Kingdom of God in the Gospel of Mark." Dr. O'Hara is a retired United Methodist Pastor who served parishes in Vermont and upstate New York and was chaplain and lecturer at Green Mountain College. Prior to parish work he taught English and religious studies for 12 years at the Otto Hahn Gymnasium in Goettingen, Germany.

Phil is co-author of a book entitled "Religion as Experience" published in Germany and translator of numerous articles, including Rudolf Bultmann's The Johannine Epistles and essays by Martin Heidegger for the Southern Journal of Philosophy. He has lectured on biblical studies, education, psychology and group dynamics both in the United States and abroad.



Transforming the Legacy: People of the Spirit in the 21st Century - December 17-19 Wesley Theological Seminary | Holiday Inn Georgetown, Washington, DC

Wesley Theological Seminary Hosts a Symposium to Honor the Work and Ministry of Bishop James Kenneth Mathews and his brother Dean Joseph Wesley Mathews.

The *Transforming the Legacy* Symposium commemorates the 2009 opening of the Joseph Wesley Mathews Archives at the Wesley Theological Seminary Library, publicizing the archives availability for graduate student and public research, and to promote the legacy of Bishop James K. Mathews and Dean Joseph Wesley Mathews as their ministries continue to inspire and guide People of the Spirit in the 21st century.

Symposium speakers will chronicle how various aspects of this legacy, and challenges of our times converge in the first decade of a new century and include the following: Bishop John Schol, Baltimore-Washington Conference, United Methodist Church; Danny K. Davis, U.S. Congressman 7th Congressional District of Illinois, "*The Challenge of our Times*"; Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President, Wesley Theological Seminary; Dr. William A. Holmes, retired, United Methodist Church, "*Two Brothers, One Mission: To Build the Earth*"; Bishop Felton Edward May, retired, United Methodist Church, "*Urban Mission: Leadership with a Global Vision*"; Larry Ward-California, "*Interfaith Engagement and Cultural Transformation*"; Bishop Susan Morrison, retired, United Methodist Church, "*Eternal Values in a World of Change*"; Dean Bruce C. Birch, retired, Wesley Theological Seminary. "*The Future of Theological Education*"

More information is available www.wesleyseminary.edu. To register go to www.ResurgencePublishing.com. Questions? Contact Dr. E. Maynard Moore, emaynard8@yahoo.com or 443.812.2699.

Bible Plus Class

Sundays, 10:10 a.m., Christie Room

The Bible Plus class will not be held on November 22 and 29. We will resume class on Sunday, December 6, continuing our study of "Lost Christianities — Christian Scriptures and the Battles over Authentication." Our schedule is: **December 6**-Thomas' Gnostic Teachings; **December 13**-*Infancy Gospels*; **December 20**-*The Gospel of Peter*; **December 27**-*The Secret Gospel of Mark*.

Please join us in the Christie Room at 10:10 a.m.



Questions of Faith

Sundays, 10:10 a.m., Conference Room

Join the Questions of Faith class as they begin a series of lectures on "The History of Christianity" taught by Dr. Timothy George of Stamford University's Beeson Divinity School, followed by a spirited discussion of the history and theology on our lives today.

Great Hall Lecture: Caring For God's Kingdom-Caring for God's Creation-The Eco-Theological Imperative with video excerpts from Ken Burns new film on our National Parks

Many of you joined us for our Great Hall Lecture on Sunday, November 15 with Beth Norcross, who is an adjunct faculty member at Wesley Theological Seminary. Beth helped launch the national Green Seminary Initiative, of which she currently serves as the Coordinator and also serves on the steering committee for the Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light. Beth speaks and preaches on the Scriptural and ecological imperatives to protect the earth and has led several workshops and retreats on nature and spirituality. To obtain your copy of the free Christian Education Course (Study Guide) and free DVD of the National Parks Film clips go to www.earthministry.org.



Advent Sermon Series

Join us for the Season of Advent



Sunday, November 29

Scriptures: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Sermon Title: The Joy of Home

Writing to the Jews who were in exile in Babylon, Jeremiah speaks words of joy as we promises that the community will once again return to their home in Jerusalem. In like manner, Paul echoes the hope of Advent that we all heading towards our final home with God in the last days. The sermon will explore how the promise of coming home gives hope and purpose to our lives and shapes our interactions with one another.

Sunday, December 6

Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

Sermon Title: The Joy of Preparation

The prophets Malachi and John the Baptist were both preparing their communities for the coming of God's promise. They both emphasize that something needs to change within us before we are prepared to receive Christ into our lives. The sermon will contrast the external ways in which we typically prepare for Christmas, with the kind of internal preparation that Malachi and John the Baptist call for.

Sunday, December 13

Scriptures: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18

Sermon Title: The Source of Joy

Christmas is one of the two times of year when many of the "members" that we don't see the rest of the year find their way through our doors. John the Baptist's message is clear that we are not saved by virtue of our membership in the right community, but by God's redeeming presence in the community. That presence is a two-edged sword: a source of purifying judgment accompanied by the promise of ultimate joy. Salvation is not a function of who we are, but who God is.

Sunday, December Dec. 20

Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55

Sermon Title: Surprised by Joy

The great paradox of Christmas every year is the message of an omnipotent God who chooses to encounter us through the vulnerability of a new-born infant. Despite hearing this story again and again every year, we continue to ignore the unexpected places where God is moving. We continue to look for help from the wise and powerful (as we perceive them) rather than the marginalized and "foolish." Over and over, our own conceptions of how we think God should act, blind us to how and where God may actually be acting

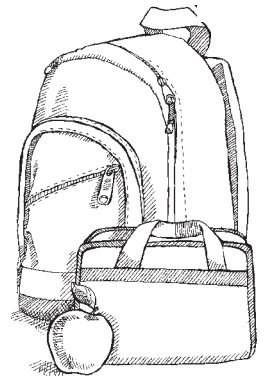
Campus Ministries

Young Adult/College Small Group Study
Sundays, 10:10 a.m., Room G-1

Join us for our Young Adult/College small group study to enjoy fellowship and and scripture. The meetings are casual and fun, so stop by and bring a friend! We meet in Cody Nielsen's office behind the Vestry. If you have any questions or want to get more involved, please contact Cody Nielsen, j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com.

Tuesdays at the Tavern at American University
Every Tuesday in the Tavern, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Starting this Tuesday, come and eat dinner together at the Tavern in the Mary Graden Center. We will enjoy fellowship every week around the table and catch up in the midst of what is always a busy week. For more information contact contact Cody Nielsen, j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com.



Youth Ministries



The Confirmation meeting for parents and youth has been postponed. Look for the new date in the bulletin and Metro Update. Confirmation classes begin on Sunday, January 10 at 3 p.m. Confirmation will be open to students between 7th and 9th grade. If you are interested in joining the class, please contact Rev. Jimmy Sherrod at jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org or call 202.363.4900 ext. 24.

Youth Connection
Sunday, November 22

We will prepare a meal and eat with the Metropolitan House residents during Youth Connection on November 22. We will be exploring what it means to be good stewards of what God has given to each of us. Please note that we will not have Youth Connection on Sunday, November 29.



Children's Ministries

Leaves of a Tree



As we wrap up our annual Commitment Campaign in the coming week, it is important to remember the need to have children take part in the campaign as well. As we have been emphasizing in children's sermons these past weeks, we are all part of this tree that we call Metropolitan Memorial. Our children are the seeds that the tree produces to plant here or somewhere else. We are each a ring of the tree that makes the trunk strong and grows larger as the tree ages. Our ministries are the branches of the tree.

The final part of this tree exploration is the leaves of our tree. The leaves of a tree are kind of like a food factory. Without leaves, a tree cannot survive. Without people supporting our church, our church does not survive. But how can a young child support a big church? Small measures are important, whether it is a pledge to become an acolyte, to prepare a meal for the shelter, to wash the church windows, to pick up trash, or even to give a small portion of their allowance. Any measure is worthwhile, mostly because it instills in our youngest members a sense of ownership.

In Sunday School this month, the children are thinking about stewardship and making their "pledge" to help feed Metropolitan. Their pledges are to be written on "leaves" that they will create from their hand tracings. On Commitment Sunday, the children will bring these leaves to the altar to become part of a tree.



Deck The Halls ~ An Evening in Advent Sunday, December 6, 5 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Join us for a revamped "Advent Workshop" on Sunday evening, Dec. 6 from 5 to 7:15 p.m. This all-church family event will feature singing, music, worship, dinner, and a wonderful array of craft and service projects. Activities will run from 5 to 6 p.m., with dinner for all. Then, we'll finish up with a final culminating worship experience. Some of the activities planned are hanging greens in Sunday School rooms, making Advent wreaths, decorating cookies, making scarves and cookie mixes, decorating picture frames, making Christmas cards for the homeless, packing "magic bags" for Bread for the City and more.

Children are encouraged to bring some of the toys they have outgrown for our holiday toy drive. As Advent is a time for preparation, we're asking families to clean out their toy rooms and closets of toys that they no longer want. These toys will be collected throughout December and given to the National Center for Children and Families, in Bethesda, Md, which serves 178 children, and has 46 beds for homeless families, (www.nccf-cares.org). Please do not send in broken toys. Think of donations that would please a friend. You wouldn't give a broken toy to a friend so please do not give them to families who are homeless.



Christmas Movie Night Friday, December 11, 6 p.m.

Save the date! Join us for our annual showing of classic children's Christmas movies on Friday, December 12. Dinner will be served, hours will be 6 to 9 pm. More details will be available as we set them.

Word of thanks to:

Thank you to the children and families of Metropolitan and of Metropolitan Nursery School who participated in our annual walk-a-thon in support of Metropolitan House, our church shelter. After walking, the three-year-olds and four-year-olds of the Little Wonders class took a donut break. Children in the Young Disciples class made Bags of Grace, filled with food, water, lip balm, and other amenities, for members of the congregation to give to homeless people they encounter. Thank you, kids!



Our Mission

Building an inclusive, caring Christian community that invites others into a deepening relationship with God and challenges them to grow as disciples for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

Extending radical hospitality, transforming lives, and pursuing justice.

Reconciling Statement

Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church affirms that all individuals are of sacred worth without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, education, marital circumstances, economic status, physical and mental condition, or criminal history. We declare ourselves in support of the reconciling movement and welcome the full participation in the church of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered persons and their families, as a reflection of God's unconditional love. At the same time, we recognize differences of opinion on issues of sexuality and seek to journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect.

Pastoral and Administrative Staff

Pastoral Emergency Number - 202.510-8555

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Rev. Jimmy Sherrod — Associate Pastor, ext. 24, jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org

Rev. Kate Murphey — Associate Pastor, ext. 21, kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org

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NEXT ISSUE: December 11, 2009

NEXT DEADLINE: Noon on December 8, 2009