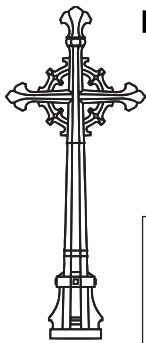




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THE MESSENGER

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

December 11, 2009
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A Big Gift of God's Love



*It only takes a spark, to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's Love.
Once you experience it, you spread your love to everyone,
You want to pass it on.*

This classic campfire song reminds us that it's time to start thinking about summer camp. Excuse me? It's only December? Well, any Type-A mom knows that all the fun and exclusive summer camp options for kids have to be booked in January. As soon as the presents under the tree have been unwrapped and the New Year rung in, next on the agenda is planning our summer vacations and our camp schedules for our kids. How blessed we truly are.

But not all of us. There are some kids who live in this area for whom spending a week in the woods is an elusive dream. Sleeping under the stars? Singing campfire songs around a bright campfire? Breathing fresh air? Not even close.

The United Methodists have a camp called West River Center which has a campership fund that seeks to help out kids such as these. The fund underwrites a week of camp for families who are not able to pay for it themselves.

"Anyone who's ever been to West River knows that these children's lives are changed in a single week at summer camp," says Pam Settlege, finance committee chair and mom to two boys who have attended West River.

West River offers a wide variety of camp experiences to children and youth during the summer. Located just south of Annapolis in Anne Arundel County and blessed with one mile of riverfront property, it's an ideal spot for sailing and other great activities such as a giant swing, ropes course, swimming, archery, and beach volleyball. There's a dock used exclusively for kids to go crabbing and canoeing. (Type A moms reading this, check out camp offerings for this summer at <http://www.bwcumc.org/microsites/e/westriver>)

West River is part of the Baltimore-Washington Conference's Retreat and Camping Ministries. Children who experience a week at camp can experience God's love in different ways.

Rev. Kate Murphey, who grew up going to church camp during the summer and has since worked regularly as a camp counselor, said the experience molded her. "As I look back, God was infused with everything we did. You're playing, having fun, doing all this crazy stuff, but then you are learning all this great stuff in a way that church is not set up to do."

Kate knows the power of camp and has seen it work in the lives of God's most precious, some of whom may have recently had a family member murdered or incarcerated. "It's space for them to grieve, cry, breakdown, freak out in an environment that they won't be made fun of later," she said.

This Christmas Eve, Metropolitan Memorial is wrapping up a big gift of God's love for these kids. Our offerings collected Christmas Eve, are the most highly attended worship services of the year, will be given exclusively to camp scholarship fund at West River. The gift will be like "gift of new life and rejuvenation," to the campers who will benefit, says Kate. And isn't that what Christmas is all about?

Our campfire song ends with:

*I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want the world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on.*

God's Love, Pass it on! And Merry Christmas.

Anita M. Seline
Director of Children's Ministries

Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish

Handbell and Chancel Choir Caroling Concert National Gallery of Art, Sunday, December 13

The Handbell and Chancel Choirs will lead caroling in the rotunda of the West Gallery of Art on Sunday, December 13 at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 pm. Each 45-minute set will include sing-along caroling interspersed with handbell and choral Christmas anthems. We warmly encourage Metropolitan family and friends to join the festive caroling and support our choirs at this special event!

Christmas Sing-a-Long

Sunday, December 13, 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!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m. ♦ Sunday, Dec. 20, 12:30 p.m.

Join us for a time of knitting, crocheting, fellowship, ministry and fun! Questions? Contact Annette Fletchall at 202.363.9231.

"Get Me Through December"

December 16, 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).



YOU ARE INVITED!

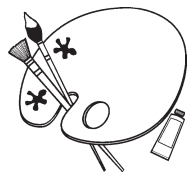
What: A service of lessons and carols with special music from *In Process* (the wonderful women's a capella group that also sang at "A Little Night Music" at St. Luke's)

When: Sunday, December 27 at 11 a.m.

Where: Wesley UMC, 5312 Connecticut Ave. NW

Why: To celebrate the joy of the season with lots of amazing music, worship, and fellowship afterwards!

Questions: Contact Rev. Kate Murphey, 202.363.4900, ext. 21 or kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org.



Art Show Exhibition

Kaleidoscope: A Recent Retrospective

by Stanley Squirewell

January 24 - February 22

The Art Council invites you to an art show exhibition opening. The artist, Stanley Squirewell, is a Washington artist who graduated from Duke Ellington and is now teaching there. The show will run from Sunday, January 24 to February 22, 2010.



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

Join us at Crossroads on December 19. We will have special guest musicians (graduates from Peabody who play violin, viola and a jazz musician) who will be joining the Crossroads Band during the worship experience. Come and experience the hope of Advent at Crossroads at 5 p.m. on December 19. Childcare is provided. **Please note that we will not have worship on Saturday, December 26.** Questions? Contact Jimmy Sherrod, 202.363.4900, ext. 24 or jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org and check out our blog at www.xroadsdc.blogspot.com.



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.

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

Sunday, December 27

Metropolitan Memorial - One Worship Service at 10 am.

Wesley UMC (5312 Conn. Ave NW) - One Service at 11 a.m.



Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish (cont.)

Stamp Collecting Returns

Cancelled (and uncanceled) stamps are again being collected at Metropolitan Memorial. Collection boxes are in the alcove with the ice-cube machine, just off the Vestry.



The stamp-processing business (that took Congressional approval to start, in 1999) is run by Mark Melanson, occupational therapist for the criminally insane at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Metropolitan Memorial has supported it almost from the beginning.

To support this project, cut the stamp corner retaining at least 1/4 inch around the stamp, gather these in an envelope or baggie, and deposit in the collection boxes.

Success stories abound "...one guy in the ward...was in restraints for two years 'cause all he wanted to do was hit people" said a patient who has some supervisory responsibilities in the program. "He was our employee of the month last month." Anecdotes about the impact on patient lives and business methods are available from an MMUMC member. Contact Helen Latimer for details at 202.363.7102.



Nursery School Open Houses Come Check out Metropolitan's Nursery School

Please join us for Metropolitan Nursery School's Admissions Open House on January 7, 2010 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.

Watch the January
Messenger
for the results of the
Worship Survey.



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.



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.



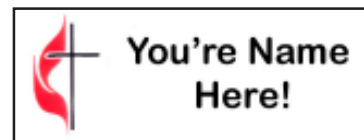
Our prayers go out to the family and friends of Mary Ellen Nichols who died on November 29.

New Church Pictorial Directory

Olan Mills will be creating a new pictorial directory for our congregation. Please plan to participate, as we are hoping to have all our members pictured in our new directory. Photos will be taken January 5 - 7 and January 29 - 31, plus January 28 if needed. Photo hours are weekdays 3 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5p.m. Schedule sheets are located in the foyer. Also for a limited time, you may make your appointment online. To sign up online go to www.signup.olanmills.com and use the church phone number (202.363.4900) as your password.



When making your appointment, please **select the earliest date and time that works for you. If you are available during the afternoon, please consider one of those appointment times.** Each family photographed will receive a free copy of the directory and an Olan Mills custom color 8 x 10 family portrait just for participating. There is no obligation to purchase portraits, although you certainly may if you wish. You will be photographed and see the proofs immediately thereafter. **Please allow an hour for your appointment.**



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 or sign-up in the church office!

Reconciling Ministries Update



Reconciled Churches Set Record

The Reconciling Ministries (RMN) Network is a growing national movement of United Methodists working for the full participation of all people in the United Methodist Church. Since its formation in 1984, individuals, congregations, campus ministries, and other groups have declared their dissent from UM policy on Lesbian Gay Bi Transgender issues and joined the RMN movement.

RMN encompasses 325 Reconciling Congregations and 114 Reconciling Campus Ministries and other Reconciling Communities and Ministries. There are over 80,000 Reconciling United Methodists.

In 1984, 9 United Methodist Churches became reconciled churches.

In 2009, 23 United Methodist Churches became reconciling churches, the most churches to reconcile in a single year in RMN's history.

Congratulations are extended to **Chestnut UMC** (Portland, Maine), **Green Street UMC** (Winston-Salem, NC), **Journey of Faith UMC** (Round Rock, Texas), and **United Methodist Church of Tarrytown** (Tarrytown, NY) on becoming the newest reconciling churches to join the movement.

Marriage Equality Rally

"The Campaign for All DC Families" and "DC Clergy United" are co-hosting a rally in support of marriage equality in DC on **Monday, December 14 at 7 p.m.**, at the Kennedy Recreation Center, 1401 7th Street N.W., in D.C. The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009 would permit same-sex couples to marry in the District of Columbia!

Thank You to Metropolitan and the Advocacy Team

I wish to express my gratitude to Metropolitan and the Advocacy Ministry team, chaired by Ann Michel, for hosting a screening of my documentary film, "Incompatible with Christian Teaching" on Dec. 6. The event was attended by 63 guests. In the coming months, I will be screening and discussing the film at United Methodist Churches and organizations all over the country. It was an honor to share the film with all of you at Metropolitan before I take the film on the road. —Yours in Christ, Anne Brown

Volunteers in Mission

Are you interested in participating in a Volunteers in Mission 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: 6-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>



United Methodist Women

Bazaar Thanks

From the 2009 UMW Bazaar Coordinator on Behalf of a Grateful UMW

It was a BAZAAR! Thank you to everyone in the congregation for your contributions and for your support of the UMW Bazaar in early November. It was a tremendous success. Primarily, income from the Bazaar enables us to provide financial support to projects for women and children locally, nationally, and around the world. But the Bazaar also serves as a community-enhancing vehicle within the church, and provides a service to our lower-income neighbors in need of affordable items for everyday use or for gifts. Thank you to everyone who was so welcoming to our visitors.

Where does the money go? Organizational beneficiaries of UMW giving from Bazaar funds include the following - **Locally, in D.C.** : Centro Nia, the Epiphany Welcome Table, the Early Childhood Learning Center of the Baltimore Washington Conference in southeast D.C., the Ballet Studio /MMUMC Arts Outreach Project (in a D.C. public school serving low-income and immigrant families). **Nationally:** Red Bird Mission (Kentucky), Rosebud Indian Reservation (South Dakota). **Globally:** Women in Community (Nicaragua), Sierra Leone Theological College, Mabel Jones School (India), Samhati (Bangladesh), FOSA Orphanage (Zimbabwe), Poor Children of Haiti.

There are many, many people helped make this year's Bazaar a success. To start at the very beginning, a huge thank-you to **Dona Collary** and to **Rafael Reyes** and his crew for emptying the UMW closet of non-UMW items and then giving it a good vacuuming this summer. This made it possible for us to follow through with not cluttering up the stage or other storage areas during the donations and pricing process from July through November.

Thank you to all who donated items of all kinds, large and small, specialty items and the mundane, from "gently used" to "nearly-new." Thank you for keeping the stage and Vestry clear, by delivering your items to the UMW closet! Thank you to everyone who cleaned up their donations before dropping them off. Special thanks for the items that were *not* donated - during the pricing period we came upon nearly-zero plastic margarine tubs and old women's magazines to take home and recycle...thank you for doing it yourselves at home!

Thank-yous from July through November to **Bobby Turnbull** for always being there on Thursdays at 10 a.m. to direct the sorting and the pricing. Theoretically it's Attic Treasures that are sorted and priced throughout the summer, but in reality every thing is sorted. Keeping up with Attic Treasures also means that books are encountered and set in one area, preliminary decisions must be made as to whether something is a candidate for the Kitchen area or for Gifts or Collectibles, and Jewelry that's been delivered to the UMW closet must be taken to the church office for safe-keeping. To **Helen Latimer** for measuring and labeling all of the donated fabric, and for giving potential buyers creative ideas on how the odd sizes might be used. Thank you, Helen, also for the things you took home and cleaned up or glued or took to other places for advice on value. The unusual butterfly collection labeled in Korean (?) comes to mind particularly. To special people who are not members of MMUMC or our UMW who showed up regularly to sort and price. Yes, people actually do this! There was **Robin Clement** nearly every week throughout the summer

and during set-up week, as well as two ladies from the neighborhood who "just like to help" who showed up during the final pricing sessions and during set-up week. And it was a pleasure to have **Heather Purnell** from Australia with us all summer; her husband was the artist-in-residence at Wesley Seminary through the end of October. Thank you to **Helen Simon** and volunteers at the reception desk in the office who kept track of jewelry as it came in and put it aside for safe-keeping, and **Charlotte Carter** who regularly took a look at what was accumulating for the Kitchen area. To the amazing Margaretha Sawyer and her Sewing Circle for our signature Raggedy Ann dolls, and the Prayer Shawl group for their wonderful scarves. To others who came in for Thursday pricing sessions - **Addie Owen** and **Brigitte Wolter** who were there from the beginning. **Charlotte Walch**, **Ann Veatch**, **Bonnie Edwards**, **Yolanda Augustine**, and **Leigh Rollins** who also brought a friend along. Most weeks there were about four women working on Thursdays, but two Thursdays before the Bazaar we had a crowd! And the crowd came just as they were most needed! A special serendipity was that the day that Yolanda Augustine came was also Heather Purnell's last day with us. We'd been trying to figure out what to give to Heather as a heartfelt but simple thank-you that wouldn't be too difficult to pack for her journey back to Australia. Yolanda had in her purse a small bag containing a few of the UMW pins we'd had made several years ago. She'd been wondering what to do with them and brought them to the pricing session. Just the thing to give to Heather! We presented Heather with an MMUMC UMW pin and made her an honorary lifetime member of our group. It was perfect.

In the final weeks leading up to the Bazaar, special thanks to **Anita Seline** and **Caralee Adams** who picked up the ball on publicity both inside and outside the church. To **Jenny Stathis** for overseeing Books, **Charlotte Carter (and Mr. Carter!)** for setting up the Kitchen items area, **Ann Cochran** for her work with Collectibles, and all of the ladies who worked on the pre-bazaar in-house jewelry sale which strengthens congregational awareness of the Bazaar-to-come. To **Caralee Adams** and **Kate Vogt** who climbed up into the attic storage space and handed about 12 heavy old-style folding tables down to a waiting crew of women who hauled them down the hall to the choir room for use by Attic Treasures.

A couple of Bazaar-time stories — Two Sundays before the Bazaar we put out a last-minute word for donations and said "don't hold back." Well, let's just say a LOT of stuff arrived between Sunday and Thursday! People just "happened to show up" that week, and we had more volunteers for that Thursday pricing session than ever before or since. Leigh Rollins and a friend came, Yolanda Augustine came, everyone who'd worked a little or a lot over the summer came. Thank you! Then, on set-up Sunday, the electricity went out throughout most of the church. Yes, during the jewelry pre-sale and on the afternoon when we had asked for extra volunteers to help us empty the UMW closet and distribute all of the boxes to the appropriate areas for the Bazaar. Thank you to **Cindy Love** and **Carol Tippett** and **Anne Brown** and **Mary Jo Marchant** and others I'm afraid I'm forgetting who stuck it out working pretty much in the dark to be sure this task was completed. The process was eased greatly by Rafael Reyes

United Methodist Women

Bazaar Thanks (cont.)

and his friend, who were able to put up some lighting in the Jewelry pre-sale area of the Vestry and in the UMW closet so we could see at least a bit.

Bazaar day thanks to **Dr. Parker** for coming so early in the morning to start us off with prayer, **Joyce Shields** and her fabulous Security team – **Bill Roach, Pat Nicolette, Dick Schleicher, Clem Gaskill, and Mike Emery.** **Carol Tippett** who served as Bazaar treasurer, in addition to her UMW and church treasurer duties. **Caralee Adams and Circle 10** for the marvelous lunch, including their notable Harvest Soup, **Ann Michel and Circle 6** for the baked goods, and all of the teams and leaders already named above who made it all work seamlessly. At the end of the day, a huge thank you to **Ann Michel and her cleanup group** (whew!). Afterwards, thanks to those who hauled approximately 25 boxes of leftovers to

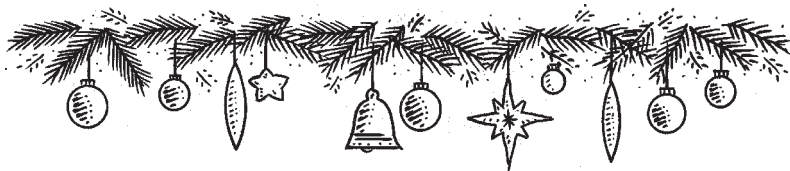
the Gaskill's garage. **Helen Latimer** arranged a pick-up by the Salvation Army for a pick-up at the garage, and waited there for the group to come and take it all away on Monday.

In the coming year if you're moving, cleaning out a house, etc. *do* contact Barbara Gaskill directly (202-244-3512 or Barbara@bgaskill.com) if you need a place to store donations before the official summer drop-off period begins. We can probably work something out.

Want to be a part, or a more active part of the UMW and its projects on behalf of women and children? We'd love for you to join in, whether you're a regular participant at Metropolitan Memorial, or the Wesley Church campus, or the St. Luke's campus, or at American University or Wesley Seminary. Incoming UMW President (2010-2010) is Caralee Adams (caralee.adams@verizon.net), and she'd be pleased to hear from you!

Sincerely, Barbara Gaskill

Season of Giving



Used Toy Drive

Now Through December 19

Clean out your toy chests, closets, bookshelves, and bedrooms! Children are encouraged to bring some of the toys they have outgrown for our holiday toy drive. Advent is a time for preparation for the new birth and giving to others. Do both with this service project. The used toys will be collected through Saturday, December 19 in the Vestry and then distributed to the community, free of charge. 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 in need. For more information, or if you would like to help out at the toy distribution, or if you have questions, please contact Anita Seline at aseline@mmumc-dc.org or 202.363.4900, ext. 22.

Annual Christmas Coat Drive

Now Through December 27

The Bible Plus class is collecting new coats, hats and gloves for needy DC children (sizes 24months - 16). A collection box will be placed in the foyer on Sunday mornings. Receipts will be available at the collection box. Cash contributions are also welcome. Please make checks payable to Metropolitan Memorial and write "Coat Drive" on your check. You may also mail your cash contribution to: Debbie Gustowski, 2924 33rd Place NW, Washington DC 20008. Many thanks for your gifts that will help keep the children warm this winter. Questions? Contact Debbie Gustowski, debgustowski@comcast.net.

Order your 2009 Poinsettias and Christmas Greens

Honor friends and family while helping to beautify our Sanctuary by purchasing poinsettias or seasonal greens this Christmas.

During the Christmas season, our church altar is decorated with scores of beautiful poinsettias and the Sanctuary is adorned with wreaths and seasonal greens. All of these seasonal decorations are purchased by the congregation. Poinsettias and seasonal greens are \$40. **We ask that you submit your order by December 14. All names will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20.** Poinsettias may be taken home after the 11pm worship service on December 24.



Remembering Others at Christmas

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I/We wish to support Metropolitan with a gift of:



_____ Christmas poinsettias at \$40 each x _____

_____ Support for seasonal greens at \$40 each x _____

_____ Total amount enclosed

I wish to place this gift(s) in memory of

I wish to place this gift(s) in honor of

For those who are not donating their gift, poinsettias may be taken home after the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

_____ I will pick up my flowers after the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

_____ I will donate my flowers to the ministry of Visitors Corps

Fill out this form and bring to the church or send by mail by December 14. No phone orders, please.
Metropolitan Memorial UMC ♦ 3401 Nebraska Avenue NW Washington DC 20016

This Christmas...

Give the Gift of Summer Camp.

In today's media-rich, everything-in-an-instant society summer camp provides a place where kids can disconnect from video games, cell phones and electronics and reconnect to friends, fun, creation, and God's spirit.

Summer Camp gives children and youth a place to be a kid, try new activities and helps them make lifelong friends. It helps to develop self-esteem/self-worth and develop skills in leadership and communication. Summer Camp also helps develop compassion for others and an appreciation for God's Creation and a desire to give/help others in a foundation of faith.

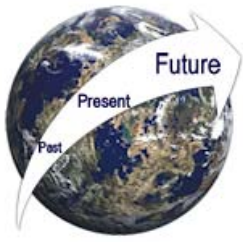
In Summer of 2009 over \$33,000 Camperships were awarded to help over 170 children and youth experience the joys of camp. Let's try to break that record and allow more children from the Baltimore-Washington Conference an opportunity to change their lives.



GIVE GENEROUSLY THIS CHRISTMAS EVE SO OTHERS MIGHT EXPERIENCE THE "JOY" OF CAMP!

* A Special Christmas Eve Giving Opportunity – Giving Beyond Our Walls *

Study Opportunities



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, Bal-

timore-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.

Great Hall Lecture

Sunday, December 20, 10:10 a.m., Great Hall

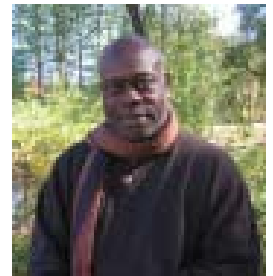
Presented by Larry Ward, International Director of the Institute of Cultural Affairs

The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. changed Larry's life. He was searching for direction when this event called him into community service, spiritual growth and planetary peacemaking.

He joined the staff of the Ecumenical Institute / Institute of Cultural Affairs in 1969. Over the next twenty-five years, he lived and worked in over twenty countries. He became an ordained minister in 1972. Larry has taught clergy and laity theological wisdom, organizational change and community development. Larry has lived in inner-cities and villages of the world serving efforts toward local community renewal. He served in India for two years training village leaders in human development skills.

For five years he lived in Hong Kong where he consulted with leaders throughout Southeast Asia on human development and strategic planning. During the last ten years drawing upon his life experience and degree in psychology and organizational behavior he began a management consulting firm that provided Fortune firms services in diversity education, organizational change and executive coaching.

Larry's introduction to Buddhist practice began in Calcutta, India in 1977 but it was not until 1991 when Larry met Thich Nhat Hanh, that this practice became the center of his life and service. He was ordained as a lay minister in 1994 and a Dharma teacher in 2000. He has lived in spiritual community and has assisted Thich Nhat Hanh throughout the world. He has accompanied Thich Nhat Hanh on peacemaking missions in China, Korea and Vietnam, as well as staffing many retreats through the USA.



Larry sings gospel music that touches your soul. Larry's favorite possession is his passport. He enjoys study, being close to nature and animals, playing golf, writing poetry and reading mystery novels.

Larry is a charismatic and inspirational teacher, expressing his insights with personal stories and resounding clarity. Expressing his dharma name, "True Great Sound."

Bible Plus Class

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

The Bible Plus Class continues our study of "Lost Christianities — Christian Scriptures and the Battles over Authentication." Our schedule is: **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.



Science & Religion Class

Sundays, 10:10 a.m., Parlor

In recent weeks we have discussed Scriptural interpretation of time, history and the dates of events. Now we turn our attention to the Christmas story. On December 13 we will focus on the way the church has conveyed that story and why, and look at some of the other decisions concerning the date of the event. We will have copies of the background material available in the Parlor for anyone who wants to drop in, and visitors are always welcome. Questions? Contact Maynard Moore at emaynard8@yahoo.com or Kent Weaver at kenthweaver@gmail.com.

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 Stanford University's Beeson Divinity School, followed by a spirited discussion of the history and theology on our lives today.

January Sermon Series

The Wizard of Oz & Wicked

January 3

Scriptures: Numbers 22:21-31; John 20: 24-31

**Sermon Title: The Heroine's Journey
(Somewhere over the Rainbow)**

Theme: The Wizard of Oz is a book/movie about a little girl who takes a journey to a different world and returns a different person, able to see her old circumstances (and acquaintances) with new eyes. Our journey of faith is a process of seeing our "ordinary" reality through new eyes; like seeing all the colors of a rainbow in the "invisible" white light of the sun.

January 10

Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 4:13-16; James 3:13-4:3

Sermon Title: Gazing behind the Curtin (Wonderful?)

Theme: All of Oz stood in awe of the wonderful Wizard, until a little girl and her dog happened to pull back the curtain and saw the real man behind the mask. There is a deep anti-authoritarianism to The Wizard of Oz (and Wicked), encouraging us to look behind the appearances of our structures of power to see the flawed humans behind it, and develop the ability to make independent judgments based on the deeper wisdom that our faith offers.

January 17

Scriptures: Isaiah 1: 10-17; Mark 7:1-8

Sermon Title: Defying Gravity



Theme: Particularly in church life, we very quickly get ourselves locked into very narrow definitions of right and wrong. It is one of the reasons that the "Unchristian" survey found that young people's most predominant impression of churchgoers was that they (we!) were judgmental and moralistic. That's an interesting point, given the fact that it is exactly that moralism that Jesus criticizes most vehemently in his own teaching, continually castigating the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. An ongoing theme in Oz (and particularly Wicked) is that our perceptions of goodness and wickedness are often profoundly wrong, and are often masks for far more complex realities. Many post-modern theologians argue that Jesus was far more interested in authenticity than right behavior.

mently in his own teaching, continually castigating the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. An ongoing theme in Oz (and particularly Wicked) is that our perceptions of goodness and wickedness are often profoundly wrong, and are often masks for far more complex realities. Many post-modern theologians argue that Jesus was far more interested in authenticity than right behavior.



January 24

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 34: 1-6; Matthew 16: 13-23

**Sermon Title: Dorothy Leadership
(Follow the Yellow Brick Road)**

Theme: When many of us think of the qualities of a leader, we think of people who seem decisive and in control. We look to leaders for answers and for sorting out our problems. Dorothy (and Jesus!) model a different kind of leadership: it is leadership that is about forming community and about taking that community on a journey. Dorothy doesn't have the answers, nor does she keep her little band from experiencing hardship, but she keeps them together as they travel towards their goal.

January 31

Scriptures: Jeremiah 1: 4-10; Acts 4: 1-22

**Sermon Title: If I only had a Brain
(“The Wizard and I”?)**

Theme: On her journey, Dorothy collects a group of misfits who are looking for the thing that each feels is lacking to make him whole. What becomes quickly obvious is that they each already possess the gifts that they're looking for. Answering God's call is often a process of claiming as our own the gifts that God has already given us.

Seniors Ministries

Annual AARP Holiday Luncheon

Monday, December 21, Noon, Vestry

Please join us at noon on Monday, December 21 in the Vestry for our annual holiday luncheon. The cost is \$10.00 per person. We will enjoy a delicious meal of turkey and all the trimmings, following which we will be entertained by Dehrric Richburg, a piano vocalist with the Washington Performing Arts Society. Please send your check to our treasurer, Wanda Van Vliet, 4901 Connecticut Ave., NW, #231, Washington, DC 20008 by December 17.



Sharing Christmas Cheer

One of the challenges that can come with aging is a body that doesn't want to keep pace anymore. It can become increasingly difficult to get out and about, hard to keep with the regular rhythms of life and enjoy things like attending church and seeing friends from the community.

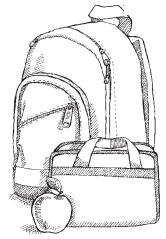
The Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish hosts a program to make sure those who aren't able to be with us most Sundays know they are not forgotten. Our **Visitors Corps** is a group of lay volunteers who take time each month to visit with those who, for one reason or another, find themselves more homebound than they would like to be. Just after Christmas, our Corps volunteers deliver the donated poinsettias that have helped make our sanctuary such a beautiful place. What a wonderful way to let folks know they are not forgotten and that their church community loves and cares for them. If you know anyone who might need a little Christmas cheer, or you are interested in helping to brighten someone's day by visiting, please contact Rev. Sandy Rector at 202.363.4900, ext. 19 or srector@mmumc-dc.org



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.



Youth Ministries

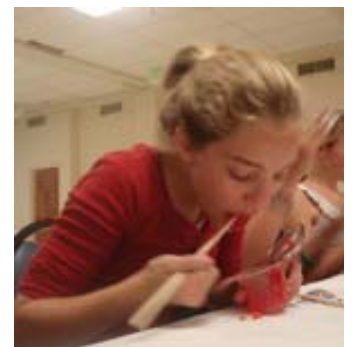
The year is winding down, and what a year it has been at Youth Connection. We started the year by attending Rock, we had a great Youth-in-Mission Auction, followed by Tuesdays on the Town in July, ASP in July, Youth Connection this fall, an awesome youth retreat at Manidokan this past October, and ending with a great turnout at our Evening of Advent. I hope we continue this spirit into 2010. We are planning two youth retreats, confirmation class, Youth-in-Mission Auction on March 14, and Confirmation Retreat, and ASP July 11-17. Please note that we will take the rest of December off from Youth Connection. We will resume our Sunday evening gatherings once again on January 10. We will have Sunday School on December 13, 20 and January 3. Have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.



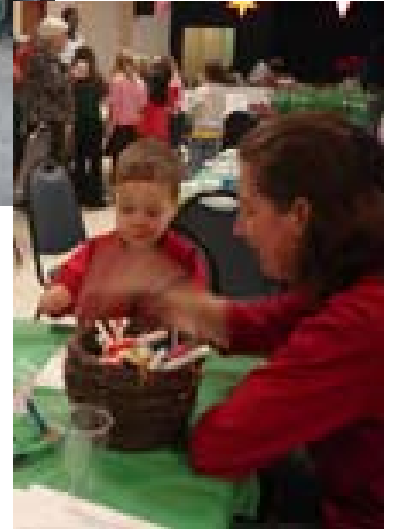
Confirmation classes begin on Sunday, January 10 at 3 p.m. Confirmation will be open to students between 7th and 9th grade. Watch for the new date for the Confirmation meeting for parents and youth in the bulletin and Metro Update. If you are interested in joining the class, please contact Rev. Jimmy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

Children's Ministries

Metropolitan members marked the beginning of Advent earlier this month with a revamped Advent Workshop that featured crafts, a service project in support of Bread for the City, a homemade dinner of Sloppy Joes, and a short worship service. More than 60 people attended the Advent Evening, which concluded with a Moravian Love Feast of hot chocolate and sweet rolls. It was a festive way to ring in the Christmas holiday. Special thanks to the volunteers who helped with each craft table and to the 10 members of the youth group who helped with the crafts, the kids, and serving food. Next year, we hope even more people will attend this inter-generational event. Some of our favorite scenes from the event:



Children's Ministries (Cont.)



Used Toy Drive

Out with the Old, To Make Room for the New

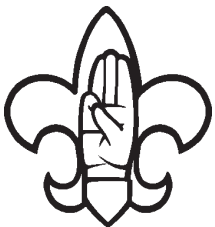
We are holding our first used toy drive this month and you are invited to participate. Children are encouraged to bring some of the toys they have outgrown for our holiday toy drive. As Advent is a time for preparation, we're asking families to clean out their toy rooms and closets of toys that they no longer want. These toys will be collected through the morning of Saturday, December 19 and may be placed on the Vestry stage. We already have a collection going, so thank you very much to the families who have donated these items. We will be holding a joint used toy bazaar with Wesley United Methodist Church, in hopes of helping families who live in the District. Please take time to make your donation this week, for any child, from baby to teenager. 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 in need. Thank you for spreading joy.

Family Christmas Eve Service

Preparations Underway

REMEMBER! Rehearsal for the Family Christmas Eve Service is Saturday, Dec. 19. All shepherds, ducks, angels, sheep, and others involved in the service will rehearse in Metropolitan's sanctuary starting at 9:30 a.m. Children in the choir should expect to stay until about 11:30 a.m., others will be able to leave a little sooner. This Saturday morning rehearsal is necessary to prepare for the Christmas Eve service, 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. There are lots of moving parts and many pieces for this worship service so families are asked to please make every effort to be a part of this rehearsal.

If you didn't sign up for a part and would like to be a part of the live nativity scene, please contact Anita Seline at aseline@mmumc-dc.org or by calling 202-363-4900, ext. 22. All are welcome to be a part of the worship, we just want to know you are coming.



Calling All Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts God and Church Programs Forming Now

As a Girl Scout or a Boy Scout at Metropolitan, you are eligible to earn one of the God and Life awards developed by P.R.A.Y., Programs of Religious Activities with Youth, which seeks to deepen a child's understanding of God and his or her role in their family, church, and country and is approved by national church denominations as well as Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.



This six-week course is tailored to different age groups, starting with first-graders, those who would be Daisy Girl Scouts, for instance, and working up to programs for teenagers. The programs are: God and Me (1st, 2nd, 3rd grades); God and Family (4th and 5th grades); God and Church, (6th, 7th, 8th grades) and God and Life (9th - 12th). Boys and girls can participate together.

If you are interested in your child earning one of these awards (being a scout is not necessary), please contact Anita Seline at aseline@mmumc-dc.org or 202-363-4900, ext. 22. Depending on interest, classes would be held starting this winter, likely following the Sunday School hour, (unless there is a better time for the groups to meet). The program will culminate in an awards ceremony during a Sunday worship service. For more information about the program, see www.praypub.org.

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

Rev. Dr. Charles Parker — Senior Pastor, ext. 11, cparker@mmumc-dc.org

Rev. Sandy Rector — Associate Pastor, ext. 19, srector@mmumc-dc.org

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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Patrisha House — Director of Worship, Music and Arts, ext. 28, phouse@mmumc-dc.org

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Casey Elliott — Dayspring Choir Director and 9 a.m. Worship Leader, ext. 12, celliot@mmumc-dc.org

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NEXT DEADLINE: Noon on January 5, 2009