

THE MESSENGER

For the congregation of the Metropolitan Memorial Charge

(A cooperative parish of Metropolitan Memorial and St. Luke's United Methodist Churches)

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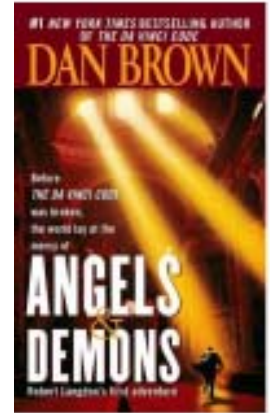
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Angels and Demons!

Before Dan Brown wrote *The Da Vinci Code*, he wrote another page turner called *Angels and Demons*. Featuring the same main character as *The Da Vinci Code* (and again starring Tom Hanks), the movie will be coming out in May. It's a story about the historic battle between science and religion; and while Mr. Brown plays fast and loose

with the actual history, I thought that it might be an interesting jumping off place for a series of sermons on science and religion.

Rather than explore this topic through the categories of science (evolution, cosmology, etc), which tends to emphasize the areas of conflict, I thought that it might be helpful to look at the profound similarities between fundamental values of science and religion. To do so, I have chosen to use the classic Platonic language of the True, the Beautiful, and the Good. The weeks will be laid out as follows:



Charlie

Week 1: Sermon Title: Angels and Demons: The World of the Bible

Scriptures: Isaiah 40: 6-8, Matt. 15: 1-9

Theme: We'll start the series by addressing head-on issues around Scriptural inerrancy and the process of Biblical interpretation. The general point will be that Scripture is not (and was never intended to be) a book about history or science. It is a book about theology; about who God is and how God has sought relationship with us. An important sub-point will be that those who pursue an agenda of Biblical inerrancy generally do a great deal of violence to the text that they claim to revere.

Week 2: Sermon Title: Angels and Demons: The Search for Truth

Scriptures: John 17: 14-19, Zachariah 8: 14-17

Theme: In this week, we will actually begin to address the fundamental values that science and religion share. The first of these is a passion for truth. When truth is the goal – truth about God and truth about God's world – both science and religion are able to cast aside paradigms that no longer work, and embrace new and evolving understandings. Both religion and science have, at times, fallen short of this goal, but both know that the quest for truth is at the heart of both enterprises.

Week 3: Sermon Title: Angels and Demons: The Search for Beauty

Scriptures: Psalm 27, Ezek. 16:13-14

Theme: Odd as it may seem, one of the fundamentally similar values between faith and science is a quest for beauty. From a religious perspective, beauty is an expression of the divine and a gift of the divine. From a scientific perspective, one of the primary signs of the truth of an hypothesis is its simplicity and beauty. We will look at how this quest for beauty should draw religion and science together.

Week 4: Sermon Title: Angels and Demons: The Search for the Good

Scriptures: Amos 5: 14-15, 1 Thessalonians 12:-15

Theme: One of the purported differences between science and religion is that science is a "valueless" quest for truth, while religion more comfortably includes the fields of ethics and morality. In reality, science is often motivated by a profound moral sensibility and provides us with the tools we need to bring about a more just society. We will close out our reflections on science and religion by looking at how they both help us to do good.



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Staff Spotlight: Rafael Villatoro-Reyes

By Lesli Bales-Sherrod

Rafael Villatoro-Reyes takes pride in his work as Metropolitan Memorial's new Director of Building and Grounds, and his work ethic is contagious. Just take a look at the kitchen.

"When I came here, the kitchen looked terrible – everybody was using it and then leaving everything in the sink dirty," Rafael said when asked what he already has tackled since starting his job Feb. 1.

Forewarned that his hard work cleaning the kitchen, right up to the light fixtures, could be undone in two weeks of regular church use, Rafael refused to believe it.

"I said, 'If people see we are working hard in this project to keep the kitchen clean, maybe they will keep it clean,'" he remembered. "And they have done a good job."

Among his other accomplishments thus far, Rafael has organized the closet with the kitchen supplies, throwing away a lot of empty boxes, and a closet in the sanctuary that was full of things the church was not using.

"When you wanted to find something, it was hard to find," he said. "I try to make everything simple so that people can see where everything is."

"My goal is to keep everything organized and keep people happy," Rafael added. "People can feel free to ask me anything. I would be happy to do it."

Rafael, 28, is no stranger to hard work. He moved to D.C. eight years ago from his native El Salvador to join two of his brothers who lived here. Immediately Rafael started working two jobs while going to school to learn English.

"It is very hard when people come from our country and other Central American countries because no one speaks English there, even if they teach it in school," he explained. "I could only say very simple words like, 'brother,' and 'good morning.'"

Rafael worked for a company cleaning office buildings for three years and then worked for Temple Micah in Glover Park for four years. The temple uses Metropolitan Memorial for its high holiday services in September, and this is how he came to know Director of Church Administration Dona Collary.

It was Dona who asked Rafael if he could recommend someone for the Director of Building and Grounds position after it was vacated. Rafael told her he would like to work for the

church and, after an interview process, he joined the staff.

As Director of Building and Grounds, Rafael is responsible for making sure everything is clean, he said, as well as ordering and organizing supplies, replacing light bulbs and other duties. He particularly enjoys his work on the church's floors, and his goal for this summer is to get the entire sanctuary floor stripped and waxed.

"I already started to do the front and side where the piano is, and it already looks much different," he noted.

Rafael isn't the only one who sees the difference.

"One thing I really like is people here notice how I've been working and what I've been doing, and they say I'm doing a good job and thank me," he said. "That's made me happy, and I feel like I can keep doing what I'm doing."

Rafael says he is happy to be here and that he likes what he is doing and what he already has done.

"What a surprise for me how people always say, 'It's nice to have you here,' and 'Anything you need, feel free to ask,'" he said. "I want to say thank you to Miss Dona for trusting me, giving me all her support and showing me everything when I came here. When I have any questions, always I call her and always she is here to help me."

Rafael, who attends Shrine of the Sacred Heart, also is quick to give God the glory for his many blessings.

"I think He is the one who gives you the big support, and I always say thanks to God for what I have and where He put me," Rafael stressed. "Without Him, you are not going to go anywhere or do anything."

Being Catholic or from another country does not make Rafael feel like a stranger at Metropolitan Memorial. Even as he looks forward to his mother's visit from El Salvador this month, he knows a different kind of kinship here.

"As long as we have our hope and faith in God, we all are part of a whole family."



Do You Have A Heart for Older Adults?

As a part of our ongoing outreach to the surrounding community, we will continue to offer a worship service each month to the residents of Grand Oaks, the assisted living facility at Sibley Hospital, in a rotating partnership with several other local congregations (Our Lady of Victory, St. David's, and St. Patrick's). Metropolitan leads a 30 minute worship service on the second Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. The past few months, including Easter Sunday, the hymns, the prayers, scripture, devotions, and communion have been joyfully received by the residents and joyfully delivered by a small group of Metropolitan volunteers.

I am looking for volunteers (either individual or friends or small groups, strong readers, piano players, or people who simply have a heart for being with older adults) who would be willing

to lead worship on a rotating basis. I am willing to provide as much or as little of the liturgy as you would like help with, and bulletins will be prepared and printed here in the office.

Our next scheduled service is May 10th (Mother's Day), followed by June 14th. If you are interested or want more details, please contact me at srector@mmumc-dc.org or 202.363.4900, ext. 19. This is a great opportunity to serve the local community, and perhaps stretch in a new direction yourself!

Sandy Rector

Life at Metropolitan

Farewell Reception Sunday, May 17, 10:10 a.m. In The Great Hall

Please join Metropolitan's Staff-Parish Relations Committee in thanking Kay Jacobi, Director of Children's Ministries, for her six years of service to Metropolitan and its youngest members of the congregation.



A celebration of Kay's wonderful work at our church will be held Sunday, May 17, in the Great Hall during the study hour. The children's Sunday School classes, families, parents, and all members of the congregation are invited to attend. A special program is planned and refreshments will be served.

Plan on attending this special day in showing our appreciation to Kay for her inspiring ministry.



AARP Meeting

Please join us on Monday, May 18 in the Vestry. Representatives from some of the local Village projects, which have been set up to help citizens age in their own homes, will speak to us about these projects and how they are structured to provide services to the elderly. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. with a 12:30 p.m. social time. Refreshments will be served.

Calling All Artists

The Arts Council would like to have a show in September of the artists in our own congregation. That includes all media of art that can be hung on the walls, no free standing sculpture. This will include all areas of painting, photography, fiber arts and sculpture that can be hung safely on the walls of the Great Hall. Please contact Alva Millian at alvacm@gmail.com and Carol Schleicher at rschlei@verizon.net, if you would like to be a part of this show.

Be A Part of History!

Do you live or work in Georgetown or have you ever lived or worked there? If so, you have a chance to be part of the a history that is being developed. The Georgetown Historic Trust has called local churches seeking people with an association with Georgetown to share their stories for a project that the Georgetown Historic Trust is developing. For more information, contact Nola Klingenberg at 202-342-3195.



The Arts Council of Metropolitan Memorial Presents Exhibition Opening Reception & Concert

Sunday, April 26, 2009

Concert - Sea Chanters
4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Exhibition Opening Reception
Making Story Worlds: Scene Design for the Theater
Theater Set Designs by Anne Mundell
5 p.m. in the Great Hall

The Arts Council of Metropolitan Memorial will present an afternoon of music and art on Sunday, April 26. The U. S. Navy Sea Chanters will begin the afternoon at 4 p.m. with a choral program ranging from traditional choral music, including the sea chantey to Broadway musicals. The Sea Chanters is the official chorus of the United States Navy and are one of the preeminent professional choral ensembles in the country today. Metropolitan has a special connection to the Sea Chanters since several members of our Choirs are members, including William Edwards, Casey Elliott, Beth Revell, and Adam Tyler.

Under the leadership of Chief Musician Georgina L. Todd, the Sea Chambers appear throughout the United States and often perform at the White House, the Vice President's home and for other Washington dignitaries. They recently performed at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration. They have appeared at the Kennedy Center Honors and with the National Symphony Orchestra for the nationally telecast

"National Memorial Day Concerts" at the U. S. Capitol. The ensemble will perform a variety of music ranging from traditional choral music, including the sea chantey, to Broadway musicals.

A reception and art opening follows at 5 p.m. where Anne Mundell, daughter of Ken and Georgie Mundell, will present an exhibit entitled, "Making Story Worlds: Scene Design for the Theater." Ms. Mundell has designed scenery for many projects throughout the US, including theater, television, museum exhibit design and industrial projects. Her media include: photography, computer renderings, acrylics, primacolor sketches, mixed media. Anne is an Associate Professor of the Drama School at Carnegie Mellon University. Please visit Anne's website to see more: www.annemundell.com

The exhibit will run through June 1. Hours are: M-F 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sundays 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 202.363.4900. No admission charge. Free parking.



Wow! It has been nearly two months since the launch of Crossroads. I am so excited about the possibilities of this brand new worship experience. I have seen a lot of folks from Metropolitan and St. Luke's at Crossroads over the past eight weeks. Thank you for your support! We have also welcomed some new visitors as well. If you have not experienced Crossroads yet, I invite you to join us on Saturdays at 5 PM. I think you will find an uplifting, encouraging, and deeply spiritual experience. You can keep up with Crossroads at www.xroadsdc.blogspot.com.



See you on Saturday!

An outreach of Metropolitan Memorial UMC
at St. Luke's UMC church.



Worship at St. Luke's UMC
Worship on Sunday Mornings at 11:30 a.m.
Spring Sermon Series
"Angels & Demons"

Rev. Dr. Charles Parker, preaching

Join our friends at St. Luke's for worship on Sunday mornings at 11:30 a.m. (3655 Calvert Street N.W.)

Easter Thank You's

We are so grateful to the host of people who made the Easter Brunch such a success:

Table decorations: Connie McWorkman and Robin Emery

Those who provided hams: Carol Tippett, Mary Beth West, Joyce Shields, Joan Spencer, Penny Pagano, Ken and Alva Millian, Linda Fort, Terry and Wayne Rusch, Suzanne Forsyth, Ann and Chuck Cochran, Carol Bartlett, Linda Davenport, Leigh Rollins

The outstanding staff of *Office Catering*

Coordinators of the Brunch: Carolyn and Roger Johnson and Helen Simon

Leigh Rollins and Marty Janowiecki who took all the leftover food to the DC Central Union Mission

Lay Leaders of the Church who helped with serving and clean-up

Rafael Reyes who was invaluable throughout the entire Brunch.



The Outreach Committee would like to thank those who helped present Metropolitan Memorial to our visitors!

Easter visitor bags and brunch napkins: Jeff Clouser, Robin Emery, Annette Fletchall, Carolyn Johnson, Lorene Logan, Lorraine and Bill Marsh, Terry Rusch, Anita Seline and Joyce Shields, Chair.

Ushers and Greeters: Jane Bishop, Jeff Clouser, Dee Dennis, Mike and Robin Emery, Annette Fletchall, Phyllis and John Kokus, Barbara Tate and Nancy Wolfe.



Easter Flowers: MiSook Ahn, Sharon Dougherty, Jennifer Fan, Nancy Holmes, Shirley Humphreys, Kelly Kokus-D'Angelo, and Carol Tippett

United Methodist Women

The Great Day of Service

Join in the fun and good works on May 2!

Make a difference in our community - and have fun along the way – at Metropolitan Memorial’s Great Day of Service, Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. If you like to clean, write, organize or craft, there is an activity for you.

We will gather in the Great Hall, but activities will take place throughout the church. Light snacks will be served in the morning and lunch at noon.

This is a wonderful event for the whole family. Adults, youth and children are welcome. Youth can receive Student Service Learning hours. A nursery will be provided. Projects will include:

- Making sandwiches for the hungry
- Cleaning the nursery and other odd jobs around the church.
- Writing letters on behalf of Amnesty International
- Assembling Bags of Grace to give to the homeless
- Cleaning Metropolitan House shelter
- Creating cards and writing letters to homebound church members
- Assembling health and layette kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief
- And much more!



Calling all Frequent Travelers!

One of the projects for the UMW sponsored “Great Day of Service” is putting together Bags of Grace. Our youth assembled these bags as a service project earlier this winter. The bags are sent to Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place for distribution, as needed. One of the many items in these bags are individual/single usage shampoos, etc. -- just the size that you collect at hotels along the way. Please do some spring cleaning and donate any unopened toiletries that you may have acquired. There will be a box for donations located in the Church office.



The Great Day of Service is sponsored by Metropolitan’s United Methodist Women.



Hands-on help at Hannah House: Networking event May 6

Our UMW is hosting a networking reception on Wednesday, May 6 from 6-8 p.m. at Hannah House, a transitional housing facility for women in downtown Washington. We need 10-15 women from Metropolitan to commit to attending the event to make it possible.

This is a great opportunity to share our professional work experience with women who are trying to re-enter the workforce after struggling with addiction, incarceration or other issues. The event will be a combination of presentations, informal discussion and the chance to work one-on-one with residents.

The women need help with career decisions, job applications, resume writing, and interviewing. They also need the experience of talking with professional women and overall encouragement. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to make brief presentations about job hunting skills, share their personal experiences and talk about how the general economic climate today is impacting job seekers.

Hannah House serves 15 single women. Each woman must pursue full-time activity while a resident. The program, which lasts 6 months, helps women develop the personal skills and accountability necessary to transition from homelessness to self-sustained, independent living.

If you can attend, please contact Caralee Adams at Caralee.Adams@verizon.net. You need not be a member of a circle or UMW to volunteer. All are welcome.

Hannah House is located at 612 M. Street, Washington D.C., near the Mount Vernon Metro Stop by the Convention Center. For more information, see <http://www.hannahhouse.org/>.

Reconciling Ministries Network Update

Clergy Call 2009

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the nation's largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) civil rights organization, announced on May 5, 2008, the launch of Clergy Call 2009, a year-long educational effort to facilitate faith-based mobilization within congregations and local communities.

The effort builds off Clergy Call 2007, where the HRC Religion & Faith Program brought 230 religious leaders from all 50 states to Washington, D.C. Since the Summer of 2008, HRC has been supporting faith-based trainings throughout the country with a particular targeted emphasis on transgender education in 40 communities. The trainings will lead into the national Clergy Call event **May 4-5, 2009** and will propel faith leaders to organize and advocate locally for GLBT equality.

Clergy Call 2009 speakers, panelists and presenters include two Methodist clergy: **Rev. Drew Phoenix** (Baltimore-Washington Conference) and **Rev. Dr. Traci West** (New York Conference).

The opening plenary (Building a Progressive Faith Movement for Justice) will be lead by Bishop Gene Robinson.

An Interfaith Service will be held on **May 4** from **7 p.m. to 9 p.m.** More information is available at http://www.hrc.org/your_community/9792.htm

Metropolitan to Celebrate Anniversary as a Reconciled Church

On June 1, 2008, Metropolitan voted to become a reconciling congregation. In recognition of our first anniversary, Metropolitan will be celebrating Reconciling Sunday on **Sunday, June 7, 2009**.

Each year, reconciled congregations set aside one Sunday to celebrate its commitment as a reconciled church. This allows the conversation and hospitality to be refreshed each year. It also is helpful to new members of a congregation to have the opportunity to hear the story, understand the priority, and share the hope. Reconciled congregations seek justice, full inclusion and participation for GLBT people in the Church.

Metropolitan's Reconciling Sunday will include guest preacher, **Rev. Dr. Traci West**, as well as scriptures, prayers, and hymns to celebrate the occasion.

Shower of Stoles Project Art Exhibition



The Advocacy team will host the Shower of Stoles Project **June 7-28** in the Great Hall.

An exhibition opening reception will be held **June 7** from **12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Great Hall.

The Shower of Stoles Project is a collection of liturgical stoles representing the lives of GLBT people of faith. These religious leaders have served in 31 denominations and faith traditions, and come from six countries on three continents. The collection celebrates the gifts of GLBT persons who serve God in countless ways, while also lifting GLBT persons of faith that have been excluded from service and silenced by the Church because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Project was founded by Martha Juillerat, who worked for years as a closeted Presbyterian minister in rural Missouri. When faced with the threat of being defrocked by the church in 1995 after coming out, she chose to set aside her ordination. It was important both for Martha and for her partner, Tammy Lindahl, to impress upon their presbytery the fact that they were only two of hundreds of GLBT people of faith who were active in the life and ministry of the church. They asked GLBT friends and colleagues to send a stole to hang at the presbytery meeting on the day that Martha was to set aside her ordination. They were hoping to receive a couple of dozen stoles; instead they received 80! After that presbytery meeting the stoles kept coming. To date there are over a thousand stoles, 30 of which will be on display at Metropolitan in June.

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Institute for Welcoming Resources oversees the Project.



June is Gay Pride Month!

June 28, 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York, the defining event that marked the start of the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world. On June 28, 1970, the first Gay Pride marches took place in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco

commemorating the anniversary of the riots. Today, Gay Pride events are held annually throughout the world during the month of June to mark the Stonewall riots.

DC Gay Pride events will include an **Interfaith Worship Service** at Church of the Pilgrims on the evening of **June 9** and the **Capitol Pride Parade** on **June 13**. Congregants from Metropolitan and St. Luke's will be marching (alongside members of Capital Hill, Dumbarton and Foundry UMCs) in the parade. All are welcome!

Study Opportunities at Metropolitan

Questions of Faith Sunday School Class Sundays, 10:10 am, Conference Room

Join us as we watch lectures on DVD followed by spirited discussions on the subject of the history of Christianity. Presently, we are completing a series entitled "After the New Testament, The Writings of the Apostolic Fathers." Lectures are given on DVD by Professor Bart Ehrman. We encourage you to join us and to help us select a new series for the coming weeks.



Science & Religion Class Sundays, 10:10 a.m., Parlor

If you have some "hard questions" bring them to the Parlor on Sunday mornings! The Science and Religion class may not have all the answers, but we have fun on this "adventure of ideas." Questions? Contact Donald Smith at donnnancy@verizon.net or Maynard Moore at maynardmoore@onebox.com.

The Living Faith Sunday School Sundays, 10:10 a.m., Christie Room

The Living Faith Sunday School Class concludes its fascinating, in-depth study of the New Testament. Please join us in the Christie Room on Sundays at 10:10 a.m. Below is the schedule of topics:

April 19 - *Paul and the Crisis of his Churches - First Corinthians*, April 26 - *Pauline Ethics*, May 3 - *Paul's Letter to the Romans*, May 10 - *Paul, Jesus, and James*

Exploring Faith Sundays at 10:10, Fireplace Room

Join us for a series focused on the 5 major world religions - Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Religion is a central feature of human life, and the vast majority of human beings perceive themselves to be religious. We know it when we see it, but religion is surprisingly difficult to define or comprehend. Our new DVD-based series will provide a systematic and comparative framework for understanding the complex and multidimensional nature of religion as it explores the many similarities than link all religions, as well as major differences among many of the world's traditions. Contact Rev. Sandy Rector, 202.363.4900, ext. 19 or srector@mmumc-dc.org for more information.

Faith and Film

Friday, April 24, 7 p.m., Youth Room

Join us on Friday, April 24 at 7 p.m. as we watch "Shawshank Redemption" starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. This movie, nominated for 7 Academy awards, was adapted from a novella of the same name by Stephen King. It is the story of two men, both imprisoned, who form a friendship that ultimately redeems them both. Andy (Tim Robbins) was a prominent banker and financier who was tried and convicted of murdering his wife. He insisted that he was innocent but was sentenced to life in prison. There he meets Red (Morgan Freeman) who has been there for 30 years. Red helps his new friend adapt to life in the Shawshank prison. In their giving to each other and ultimately to others in the prison, they each begin to find hope and redemption. It is a spiritually uplifting story about finding freedom even within prison walls through friendship, trust and the sharing of themselves. We have seen some wonderful movies and have really enjoyed our discussions afterwards. The popcorn is pretty good too! Questions? Contact Mary Jean Evans at 202.337.6715 or Debbie Gustowski at 202.298.6222 or Suzanne Forsyth at 202.686.8819.

Great Hall Lectures

Sundays at 10:10 a.m. in the Great Hall

"Grounds for Discussion"

Led by Rev. Dr. Charles Parker
Sundays, April 19, May 3 and May 10

Join us for this discussion led by Dr. Charles Parker on the Science and Religion sermon series "Angels and Demons." The conversation will be in the Great Hall at 10:10 a.m. so grab a cup of coffee and join us for a deeper exploration of the themes and issues of each week's sermons, either after you've heard it during our 9 a.m. worship service, or as preparation for the 11:15 a.m. service.

"Campus Ministry as Mission"

Sunday, April 26

What are the particular challenges of campus ministry and how might it represent the best hope for the future of the church? Join Rev. Mark Schaefer, American University campus minister, and some students from AU for a presentation to learn about the work of campus ministry and the ways that Metropolitan can support this important work with college-aged young adults.

(Join us in the Great Hall on May 17 for a farewell party where we will recognize the contributions of Kay Jacobi, Director of Children's Ministry at 10:10 a.m. *There will be no Great Hall Lecture on May 24 due to Memorial Day Weekend.*)

Service and Advocacy at Metropolitan

Rebuilding Together

Painters Wanted

This year's Rebuilding Together (FKA "Christmas in April") day will be April 25th. Our assigned house is on the edge of Capitol Hill at 702 12th Street, NE and the homeowner, Mrs. Powell, is 68 and cares for her two granddaughters, one of whom has cerebral palsy. Her house needs an interior coat of paint. Which means we have volunteer opportunities available for cleaning, painting, and moving furniture. You may volunteer for a morning shift (8-12), afternoon shift (12- 4), late shift (4-8), or any combination of shifts. We could also use volunteer(s) to provide lunch (sandwiches, chips, drinks, etc.). This is a great opportunity to help someone in need, meet other members of the Church, and hone your painting skills. If you would like to volunteer or provide lunch, please contact Geoff Jacobi (gjacobi001@gmail.com) or Lee Crockett (leecrockett@verizon.net).

The Mobilization to End Poverty

Christian advocates from around the country will gather for The Mobilization to End Poverty from April 26 - 29. This historic gathering of thousands of anti-poverty advocates in Washington, D.C. is sponsored by Sojourners (sojo.net) and cosponsored by Wesley Theological Seminary. The assembly will call on President-elect Obama and the new Congress to make overcoming poverty a national priority. President Barack Obama has been invited to address The Mobilization and they are working to secure his participation. Registration is \$299/person or \$169/Students. For more information and to register, visit www.sojo.net/mobilization, or call 800.714.7474. If you are interested in attending this event or learning how Metropolitan church members can support it, please contact Advocacy Chair, Ann Michel, 202.885.8582 or amichel@wesleyseminary.edu.



Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place Presents Protecting Our Veterans: Addressing Homelessness Among Our Nation's Protectors Thursday, April 23 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church

Panel

National Policy and Legislation

Kara Stein, *Legislative Counsel,*
Office of U.S. Senator Jack Reed

Federal Programs and Service Gaps

Peter H. Dougherty, *Director, Homeless Veterans Programs,*
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Psychiatric Issues

Major Lillian Green, *Psychiatric Nurse,*
Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Local Caseload and Services

Kevin Morton, — *Co-Chair for Homeless Veterans,*
DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Query Panel

Rev. Dr. Charles Parker, *Senior Pastor, Metropolitan Memorial*
Don Freeman, *Homeless Veteran and Advocate*
Laura Osuri, *Executive Director, Street Sense*

Moderator

Harry Jaffe, *Columnist, Washingtonian Magazine*

Reception

6:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Panel Discussion

**Exploring the mental, emotional and physical stressors that contribute
to the unconscionable rates of homelessness among veterans**

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Free admission - space is limited. RSVP online at www.cchfp or call 202.364.1419 ext. 23.

Metropolitan House - Radical Hospitality in God's House

Spending the night at Metropolitan House is so much more than, well, *spending the night*. When you first arrive it takes a few moments to acclimate yourself, read the log, make up your bed, find the dinner...but after that you can settle in for a night that can be of quiet conversation and shared stories, a passion for movies, or a game of scrabble.

In Hebrews 13:2 we are told, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that, some have entertained angels without knowing it." My experience at Metropolitan House is that after I leave in the morning, I am humbled by the knowledge that these men are so much like you and me. I find that my life has been enriched by the stories shared and that our gift of hospitality has been returned tenfold.

We re-opened the doors to Metropolitan House this past December after an extensive renovation (which included rebuilding the floor) and the purchase of new beds, lockers and living room furniture. The delay in opening, allowed the Board an opportunity to re-think and re-envision the living space. The new living arrangements afford the men a larger and more private sleeping and dressing area — overall, a vast improvement.

We've come a long way since Metropolitan House first opened its doors in 1992 in a makeshift space located behind the stage. As a part of the overall building addition and renovation in 1998, dedicated space was allocated for the shelter and volunteer quarters. The shelter and homelessness ministry has long been a defining mission of our church. Those of us on the board are honored to be a part of this ministry and are humbled by the people we serve and the many volunteers who make this ministry possible.

In the coming months we will spend time in prayerful reflection as we discern how this ministry will look in the future. In the past we partnered with Capital Interfaith Housing Network (CIHN) to house families (women with children) in the spring and summer months. Because of funding limits CIHN is not able to open their second shelter here at Metropolitan this spring. We are looking at other ways to use our space to

serve the homeless in Northwest Washington.

The Board is looking for people who might be interested in joining us as we plan for the future. If you have any interest or would like to talk to a member of the board, please feel free to contact either Dick Schleicher, 301.229.2385 or Ann Michel, 202.244.2977.

Often my emails begin with "Calling All Volunteers" today we would like to begin with "Thanking All Volunteers"

Overnight Volunteers: Jon and Nathaniel Rees, Eliza Hamner-Koenig, Colette and Zack Thibideau, Helen Simon, Peter Espenscheid, Jim Conley, Larry Jenkins, Andy House, Kevin Settlege, Mary Lou Wood and Jamie Shedel, Penda Hair, Net Eggleston, Corey Dobyns, Julie Clements, Joyce Shields, Eric Olsen, Russell, and William Olson, Jennifer and Kevin Fain, Craig and Nate and Ben Hukill, Dick Schleicher, American University APO Sorority, and our wonderful staff: MiSook Ahn, Peggy Fields, Anna Bradley, and Robert Phillips

Dinner Volunteers: Lesli Bales-Sherrod, Leigh Rollins, Jim Conley, John and Trist Long, Pam Settlege, the Brody family, Grace and Nancy Lewis, Mary Beth West, Katie and Carlisle Campbell, the Adams family, the Parker family, Carol Bartlett, Barbara and John Tate, Ann Michel, Shirley and Doug Lewis, Heather Creek, Mary Louise Viereck, Linda Davenport, Dianne Maffia, Anita Seline, Frances Bourne, the Klick family, Jean and Mariah McGee, the Vogt family, Carol Jobe, Diane Stabb, Sue Roach, Kent Weaver, Suzanne and Carolyn Clewell, Ann and Chuck Cochran, Dana Lehmer, the Comey family, Stacy Krogh, Holly Burke, Penny Pagano, Linda Davenport, Suzanne Forsyth, Joyce Shields, Gail Hurlbut, Martha Mizroch, Jack Blaylock, Anne Bechdolt, Anne Brooks Rudzki, Jayne Mardock, Jacki Craven, Craig Scherer, Betty Rogers, Pyper Imperial, Andy and Maggie Hershey, Linda Fort, Lee Crockett, Tammie Manning, Allie and Brian Boyle, Charlotte Carter, Penda Hair, AU Covenant Discipleship group, Helen Latimer, Dick and Carol Schleicher, Pat House, and Helen Simon

Youth Connection

Join us each Sunday at 5:30 for Youth Connection. Starting Sunday, April 19, we'll start Destination Unknown. For four weeks (April 19, April 26, May 3, and May 17), we will use a mystery topic and destination as we seek to follow Jesus in a deeper way. Hang out with us from 5:30-6:00, stay for worship, program and small group gatherings each Sunday night. Please note there will be NO youth connection on Sunday, May 10 (Mother's Day) and Sunday, May 24 (Memorial Day Weekend).

Check out our blog at www.metropolitanyouth.blogspot.com for updates and schedules. If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, please send Jimmy an e-mail at jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org. You can also receive text updates. Send Jimmy a text message with your name to be added to these updates to 865-805-5373.

Metropolitan Youth Meets the Obama Family!



Bella Davenport meets Marian Robinson

Bella Davenport, a member of the Metropolitan Memorial youth group and daughter of Linda Davenport, had the honor of meeting the members of the Obama family on Thursday, March 19 at a celebration dinner at the White House.

Bella was one of 5 juniors and 5 seniors chosen to go to the White House from TC Williams High School to join Mrs. Obama's celebration of women's history month. There were 10 girls from a total of 12 local high schools, and about 25 high achieving women from sports, business and entertainment, including Denyce Graves, Sheryl Crowe, Alicia Keys, and Ann Dunwoody, the first 4 star women general. Also attending were Mrs. Obama's mother, Marian Robinson and the daughters Sasha and Malia Obama.

Bella recounted her experience stating that the event started at 6 p.m. with a reception and lots of mingling where the women were very friendly. The place cards at the formal dinner seated Bella next to Fran Drescher of "The Nanny," and at the table next to Malia and Sasha. She also had a White House staffer at her table who encouraged her to apply for an internship.

At the end of the evening, there was a reception line to meet Mrs. Obama where Bella states, "She was so excited she hugged her - twice - without secret service incident!" It was a wonderful evening that Bella says she will never forget. She fully appreciated how special it was and told her mother Linda after, "Mom, I want to go back."

The excitement didn't end there as Bella was interviewed by WRC NBC Channel 4 regarding the experience. Her interview can be found here: http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/10_T_C_Williams_Women_to_Attend_Star-Studded_White_House_Dinner_Washington_DC.html.



Bella poses for pics with Fran Drescher of "The Nanny"

We congratulate Bella on her honor!

Children's Ministries



"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."
Mark 10:14



Family Dinner and Game Night Friday, May 8, 6 p.m.

Join us for dinner and game night! Bring your favorite games to share and play with others. This is a wonderful event to invite your friends, your neighbors, your extended family too – so mark your calendars and plan on spending the night with us here at church!

Children's Ministry

Sunday School Teacher Retreat

This Saturday, April 18 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., I am thrilled to host the 5th annual Sunday School teacher retreat in our home. Metropolitan has a wonder-filled and wonderful group of volunteers who generously give of their time and their talents each week to teach our children and share their faith with them. Please hold us in you prayers as we gather for a time of reflection and prayer together.

Kay Jacobs

Children's Choir

Our final performance of the year is Sunday, May 17 at the Children's Celebration Sunday worship services. Please be sure to come to practice each week as the children will be singing several songs for our special worship services that day.



Children's Celebration Sunday

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Join us on May 17 for our special
Children's Celebration Sunday!



Metropolitan Memorial Nursery School

Join us this summer for June Jubilee

June Jubilee is designed to provide a happy, exciting and fun camp experience for children ages 3 - 5. The buzz around Metropolitan is that it will be a fantastic Session I full of wonder and beauty. Discover the insect world and go on a butterfly hunt. We'll create art masterpieces, play games, sing songs, and have bugs on a log for snack. And then jump on in-the water's fine! Grab your beach towels, lawn chairs, buckets, sunglasses, and sandals. We'll be going to the beach during Camp Session II. What a wonderful place to explore, discover, play and make friends. Camp will run from May 26 through July 3 in two three-week sessions. Questions? Contact the Nursery School office at 202.362.8746.

Pastoral and Administrative Staff

Rev. Dr. Charles Parker — Senior Pastor, ext. 11, cparker@mmumc-dc.org
Rev. Sandy Rector — Minister of Congregational Ministries, ext. 19, srector@mmumc-dc.org
Rev. Jimmy Sherrod — Minister of Youth and New Worship, ext. 24, jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org
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NEXT DEADLINE: Noon on May 12, 2009