

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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PEN – TE – COST!

Have you ever heard our kids sing the song, "Colors of the Church Year" naming the four liturgical colors of the Christian calendar? Part of the lyrics are: Purple is for preparations, White for celebration, Green is for the growing time, Red is for Pentecost! Invariably when kids get to the Pentecost line, they leave the melody and gleefully shout out "PEN – TE – COST!"

Pentecost *is* something to yell about. Falling seven Sundays after Easter Sunday, it marks 50 days since Easter (inclusively) and the moment when the Holy Spirit descended on Christ's disciples. Interestingly, it is also tied in with the Jewish celebration of Shavuot, the day in which God gave Torah (the Law), including the Ten Commandments, to Moses.

Today, Pentecost is known as the church's birthday, when Christ's disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit, scattered to establish the early Christian church. Imagine the courage that must have taken! Imagine how "on fire" with exuberance for and hope in Christ's work those disciples must have felt.

Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate hope born from the knowledge that the Holy Spirit is among us, writes Dennis Bratcher, of CRI/Voice. "It is a celebration of newness, of recreation, of renewal of purpose, mission, and calling as God's people. It is a celebration of God's ongoing work in the world. Yet, it is also a recognition that God's work is done through

God's people as God pours out His presence upon them." See his article at (<http://www.crivoice.org/cypentecost.html>)

God's presence among us — What does that mean for our congregation? Like the disciples who were meeting people and spreading the good news of Christ, our Pentecost marks a new effort by Metropolitan to reach out to those among us. We've all heard Dr. Parker tell us to note the visitors among us on Sunday morning. We want to take a step further and hope you will make a special effort to say hello to these visitors, to get to know them, and to welcome them to our church (and make sure they come back). It's like recapturing those early days of your childhood when making friends was as easy as saying, "do you want to play with me?"

Extend that hand in Christian fellowship. Get to know the person sitting next to you in church. Show them what a welcoming place that Metropolitan can be. Like the children who yell out "PEN-TE- COST!" in the song, we hope that this important day will inspire that youthful exuberance in you. To get you in the mood, join us for a huge picnic on our front lawn after our single 10 a.m. service on Pentecost, May 31. (For all the details of the event, see below).

We look forward to saying Happy Birthday to the church with you on Pentecost.



Pentecost Picnic and Preparation

Pentecost is Sunday, May 31. The day begins with a single worship service at 10 a.m., where our brothers and sisters from Wesley UMC and St. Luke's UMC will join us in church. Then we'll gather under a big tent and you'll see and smell the wonderful feast prepared by *Carbecue* right on our corner (check it out at <http://carbecue.net/>). We'll inaugurate our new basketball hoop, roast marshmallows and make s'mores, and enjoy gelati sold by Carmen's Italian Ices.

The picnic features a giant obstacle course, a moon bounce, and a chance to dunk the pastor in the dunk tank. There will be carnival games, spin art, face painting, and great live music from the Crossroads Band.

Of course, an event doesn't come off without a lot of help from all of you. If you can take a turn supervising the moon bounce, dunk tank, or the spin art, please contact me at church or email Anita Seline at aseline@mmumc-dc.org. Everyone should please plan to bring a dessert to share. After all, we are Methodists, what would a picnic be without something potluck to go with it!

Over Memorial Day weekend, help us prepare for Pentecost during the Study Hour in the Great Hall. We'll have a rousing hour of fellowship enjoying goodies and catching up with friends and families of Metropolitan. We'll put you to work helping to create the beautiful decorations that are planned for the special service. Pick up some posters and door hangers to reach out to neighbors and friends about our picnic on the lawn. If you've pre-ordered a new Metropolitan t-shirt, it will be waiting for you. If you didn't pre-order, you can purchase a new t-shirt at that time. There will be no children's or youth Sunday School that day, so all children, teenagers, families, and friends are welcomed to join us.



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Staff Spotlight: Anita Seline

By Lesli Bales-Sherrod

Anita Seline may be the new director of children's ministries for Metropolitan Memorial, but she's not a new face to the congregation.

Anita, 46, joined Metropolitan in 1995, when her oldest child was only six months old.

"I found Metropolitan in the phone book," laughs Anita, who moved to D.C. in early 1994 when her husband Mike Remez was hired by The Hartford Courant's Washington bureau. "I looked for something close. It was a very not dramatic way (to find a church) when you hear of people shopping around."

Anita has been United Methodist her whole life, as has her mother. Anita grew up in South Pasadena, Calif., where she attended and was confirmed at South Pasadena UMC. She attended church sporadically, she says, when she lived in Connecticut, where she worked as a reporter for the The Hartford Courant for eight years.

Metropolitan was "very different" from Anita's other churches, which were small, but she was eager for a change.

"This was very big, very urban, with lots of different people," Anita remembers. "But I liked that."

It didn't take Anita long to find a place to plug in.

"Soon after I came, I found Circle 10 of the United Methodist Women," she explains. "That's where I made my friends, and it was a nice transition for me. New city, new church, new status ... Circle 10 helped ease that transition for me, and I am still a part of Circle 10."

Since then, Anita has served Metropolitan in many capacities including chair of Church Council, member of Staff-Parish Relations Committee, various posts – including president of UMW, Sunday School teacher for children and youth ("pretty much every age," she says), liturgical dancer, board member for the church nursery school and even interim youth minister in 2005.

"A perfect storm" of circumstances led this longtime church volunteer to apply for the position of director of children's ministries when Kay Jacobi announced she would be leaving at the end of May.

"With my kids now in school from 9-3, I had this huge chunk of time," Anita says of Marisa, 14, Nathaniel, 12, and Elena, 8. "It would be a really easy commute with lots of flexibility, plus it was an organization I knew. This was Metropolitan – my other family, my second home!"

Anita's instrumental involvement in building up Godly Play, which started six years ago, and still having a child in the program also made the position seem like a good fit, she adds.

"I'm very excited to work with kids," Anita notes. "It's wonderful to see all the little faces at church. In all my experiences as a mom, as a Girl Scout leader and as a Sunday School teacher, it has been wonderful to see kids making connections between faith and their lives, making their own choices."



"It's like planting seeds," she adds. "You may not see something in a week, but that kind of nurture builds not only our church, but helps our world. I think it's really, really important work."

Anita's own children were excited for their mother and shared her feeling that this would be a good next step for her to take, "one that wouldn't have a negative impact on my family," she notes. "This is where we are: we're here Sundays, we're here on Christmas, we're here!"

Anita plans to continue the work Kay has done to build "a fabulous foundation," including Godly Play, family movie nights and big events. She's already helping plan one with Jeff Clouser, director of communications and outreach, and Pat House, director of music, worship and arts: a Pentecost picnic on May 31 that will include carnival events and a dunking booth among other fun activities.

Anita also has goals to revamp Summer Sunday School, start video streaming the 11:15 a.m. service into the Vestry to give parents a more "kid-friendly" option than sitting in the sanctuary, and take the Parent Pages newsletter electronic. She would like to build stronger relationships with the nursery school as well.

"Through the years, Metropolitan has given me so much," Anita stresses. "To be able to be there to help it continue its ministry is a great gift, and I'm very excited about that."

Almost 15 years and a part-time staff position later, Anita still finds new things to love about Metropolitan.

"It feels like this place has a life of its own; it's not just a building," she says. "If I don't get to worship at least once a week, I don't feel nurtured."

But when asked what keeps her coming back year after year, Anita's answer is unequivocal.

"It's the people – the relationships, the memories, the connections you make," she explains. "I recently did a class with Ann Michel about interfaith marriages, and it opened up a whole new world to me, even after 15 years here! You never know who's right by you and what you may have in common."

Apportionments: Why We Give

The United Methodist Church defines apportionments as “prime expressions of the covenantal connection of the United Methodist Church.” They are an expression of a promise that allows the mission, ministry and programs determined by our church representatives to be fully funded and active. Each church is allocated a donation that represents its share of the funding required for these programs to exist. The individual church sends these donations to the Conference level, where they in turn are given an apportioned requirement for funding denominational-level programs and sends those funds to the larger United Methodist Church.

The apportionments for each church are calculated based on the church’s operating expenses. This information is obtained from the Statistical Report that each church submits to the Conference in January. They include the Pastor’s salary and expenses, church programs, and operating expenses such as utilities, office expenses and church maintenance. These figures are added together and then multiplied by what is called the “Benevolence Factor.” This Benevolence Factor is a percentage from each church that is requested for its share in our collective ministry as a conference.

One might ask why it is important that we pay our apportionments. As stated on umcsgiving.org, “Apportioned funds enable United Methodists to do together what no church, district or annual conference could do alone.” The funds we raise together as The United Methodist Church enable us to do a greater good in the world than we could as a single church. This is the backbone of John Wesley’s teaching. We are not simply a church operating locally, but we reflect the words of John Wesley with our apportionments when he states, “The world is my parish.” As we pay our apportionments, we become a part of something bigger and are able to impact the world at a larger scale as a denomination. According to Martha Knight, conference treasurer, by paying 100 percent of apportionments, members of the Baltimore-Washington Conference will:

- Provide 5,400 coaching hours with clergy.
- Allow more than 500 clergy to participate in 30 hours of training, for a total of 15,000 clergy training hours.
- Equip 6,500 laity for ministry with an average of five hours of training per lay person, or 32,500 laity training hours.
- Enable more than 4,000 hours of direct contact and resourcing in local churches.
- Start two new faith communities.
- Grow young adult ministry through our congregations in four areas:
 - √ Mission: facilitate young adult Volunteers In Mission trips
 - √ Spiritual leaders: increase young adult Bible study and connectional ministries through our congregations;
 - √ Congregations: focus on two young adult congregations in each region and develop more young adult-friendly worship led by young adults;
 - √ Disciples: equip more young adults for leadership in the local church and community.
- Grant more than \$1.4 million to local churches and ministries to grow congregations and expand ministry in the community.
- Provide 85 scholarships for college students and 30 scholar-

ships for seminary students.

- Train more than 10 sites in Communities of Shalom training.
- Launch two new resources to grow disciples and spiritual leaders: the Immersion Series and the Discipleship Academy.
- Launch, train for and expand a state of the art Web-based information system.
- Transition into a new conference center that within 10 years will save the conference \$500,000 a year and grow an asset for the conference.
- Advocate to stop the spread of legalized slot machine gambling.
- Assist more than 500 immigrants in finding work, with legal issues and humanitarian needs.
- Develop four ministry centers in Baltimore and develop strong suburban/urban partnerships.
- Implement a rural ministry plan to develop rural congregations and engage them in community ministry.
- Provide a retreat/discipling experience for 5,800 youth and youth leaders.
- Provide a pastors’ school in Zimbabwe.
- Begin a partnership with a conference/district in Eastern Europe
- Provide medical benefits to 387 retirees.

These missions and programs depend upon each church’s apportionment. If apportionments go unpaid, these programs and missions will suffer as will the people dependent on them. As a United Methodist congregation we have made a promise to be part of a wider connection of people and ministries that extends beyond our church walls and ministries. We have made a commitment to help support this connection through our apportionment giving. To not pay our share would be to break a promise and not fulfill the commitment we’ve made.

With this in mind, however, the conference understands the financial pressures that we are all facing at this time. In response to concerns expressed, congregations in the Baltimore-Washington conference have received a decrease in their apportionment amount. The benevolence factor for churches in the Baltimore-Washington Conference has been reduced to 19.5%. As Charlie Moore, President of the conference Council on Finance and Administration states, “The decrease comes as an acknowledgement of an increasingly troubled national and global financial landscape and the vital role that local congregations play in the church’s mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world.” While this reduction helps the local churches, it also means cutting the conference budget by approximately \$1.8 million. As Moore states, “The magnitude of these cuts will require us to evaluate all existing programs and staffing requirements.” However, in spite of the budget cuts, this year’s accelerated reduction of the apportionment amount is expected to empower local churches as they take action against today’s financial crisis and enable them to pay 100% of their apportionments to enable ministry beyond the local church. As Moore states, “Apportionments are the hallmark of connectionalism, but many people in the pews may not fully understand the value of the connectional system. Through apportionment, United Methodists are able to support initiatives and ministries on the local, national and international level. Giving is an act of faith.”

Life at Metropolitan

Church Conference

Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m., Great Hall

Dr. David Argo has called a joint Church Conference for Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church and St. Luke's United Methodist Church on Tuesday, May 26 at 7 p.m. at Metropolitan Memorial. We will discuss and vote on a merger between the two congregations. Please join us in the Great Hall on the 26th.

Prepare for Pentecost!

Sunday, May 24, 10:10 a.m., Great Hall

Join us at the coffee hour in the Great Hall Sunday of Memorial Day weekend to help get ready for Pentecost. Join us for a rousing hour of fellowship enjoying goodies and catching up with friends and families of Metropolitan. We'll put you to work helping to create the beautiful decorations that are planned for the special service. Pick up some posters and door hangers to reach out to neighbors and friends about our picnic on the lawn. Order your new Metropolitan t-shirt this coming Sunday and pick it up in the Great Hall on May 24! Extra t-shirts will be available for purchase as well. There will be no children's or youth Sunday School that day, so all children, teenagers, families, and friends are welcomed to join us.

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 31 - One Service at 10 a.m.

What could be better than barbeque food, time with friends, and a dunk tank? Join us Sunday May 31 as we celebrate the church's birthday with a grand Pentecost Picnic on the church's front lawn. We'll have a giant obstacle course and a moon bounce. There will be carnival games, spin art, face painting, and great live music from the Crossroads Band. The day begins with a single worship service, where our brothers and sisters will join us from Wesley UMC and St. Luke's UMC. Then we'll gather under a big tent and you'll see and smell the wonderful feast prepared by *Carbecue* right on our corner (check it out at <http://carbecue.net/>). We'll inaugurate our new basketball hoop, roast marshmallows and make s'mores, and enjoy gelati sold by Carmen's Italian Ices. Worship begins at 10 a.m., picnic to follow until 3 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this special hoopla.

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.



United Methodist Women

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the UMW Great Day of Service on May 2. Many lives will be touched as a result of our efforts. We made 260 sandwiches for Martha's Table, wrote 198 letters for Amnesty International, assembled 48 "Bags of Grace" for the homeless, cleaned Metropolitan House, wrote 42 greeting cards, assembled 150 UMCOR health kits, made 17 toiletry bags and had a great time doing it.

UMW Social Action Talk

Sunday, June 7, 12:30 p.m., Parlor

Join us in the Parlor as Pam Settlege talks about the Economic Crisis and what we can do to help. It will be a short talk with time for questions. Please come and join us, there will be snacks and drinks! Everybody is invited!



UMW Craft Day

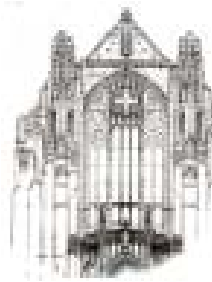
**Saturday, June 27 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
In the Great Hall!**

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.

Interested in Our Historical Records?

Are you intrigued by the rich history of our church and willing to devote some time to searching our archives? We are often asked to search our historical records and are looking for a group of people who would be willing to work in the archives to get historical information. If you are interested, please contact Helen Simon, Office Manager at Metropolitan Memorial, at hsimon@mmumc-dc.org or 202-363-4900.



Saturdays @ 5pm
 St. Luke's UMC
 3655 Calvert St. NW
 at the crossroads of Calvert St.
 and Wisconsin Ave.
 Childcare Provided
 xroadsdc.blogspot.com



a new worship experience
CROSSROADS
 WHERE LIFE AND FAITH MEET

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 Rejoice!*

An outreach of
Metropolitan Memorial
 United Methodist Church
a reconciling congregation
 nationalchurch.org



Worship at St. Luke's UMC
Worship on Sunday Mornings at 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Sandy Rector, preaching

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

Congregation Member Receives Award!



One of our Metropolitan church members, Rose Harper, has been inducted into the Washington, D. C., Hall of Fame Society for her achievements in sports. Many Hall of Fame inductees have established neighborhood programs and led innovative projects that resulted in improvements in schools and communities which enhanced the quality of life for D.C. residents.

Rose has served on various committees at Metropolitan and is a very dedicated and energetic church member. Our church is very proud of Rose and wishes to congratulate her on receiving this honor. Below is an excerpt from the Hall of Fame Society Awards Booklet.

"Rose is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, lecturer, professor, author, global events planner, contributing writer to publications, a subject matter expert in the business of the golf industry and a passionate golfer. The recipient of countless awards for her lifetime achievements in the field of sports development and business, she has established herself as an internationally renowned consultant in sports and special events management to United States presidents, royalty, celebrities, ambassadors, and Fortune 500 CEOs. Her contributions to golf include the founding of the PGA Tour Wives Association, initiating the Golf Digest Minority Golf Summit, reformatting the PGA player credentials, establishing a minority joint venture golf course design team (Rose Harper-Elder, Gary Player & Arnold Palmer) to provide a golf feasibility study for the nation's capital, the first person of color to operate and manage a full concession eighteen-hole golf complex for the United States Department of Agriculture, and

organized the first multi-racial sporting event in the history of South Africa.

One of the most important, visionary women in the world of golf, Ms. Harper has parlayed thirty years of exposure and experience in the sports management and special events industry, to build a successful business that adds value to other professional women's lives and careers. Assessing a void and vacuum in the corporate domain, where executive-level women are under-promoted when it comes to gaining CEO positions, Ms. Harper founded The Grass Ceiling, Inc.

The Grass Ceiling, Inc., established in 1995, is a business empowerment firm that uses the game of golf as a platform to help level the playing field for women with their male counterparts in the business world. "As women navigate the complex tapestries of the corporate world, the game of golf can provide a neutral zone to promote effective communication and positive bonding between professional women and their male peers."

Ms. Harper has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards; most notably she is president of The Rose Elder Sports Academy. The mission of the company is to provide leadership for the advancement of sports as an integral part of the development of the "New" democratic South Africa. In 2006 she received The Founders Award, for "commitment to excellence and elevating the game of golf by establishing The National Minority College Golf Championship," presented by PGA of America at the 20th PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship; and the "Lifetime Achievement Award," a tribute to Rose Elder, for outstanding work, honored by friends of Rose Elder, corporate and political nationally."

Reconciling Ministries Network Update

Reconciling Sunday

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

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 gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) people in the Church.

Rev. Dr. Traci West will be our guest preacher. Dr. West is Professor of Ethics and African American Studies at Drew University Theological School and is an ordained elder in the New York Annual Conference. She is also a member of United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church.

Dr. Sharon Groves will be our guest speaker in the Great Hall (10:10-11:00 a.m.). Dr. Groves is deputy director for the Human Rights Campaign's Religion & Faith Program and will speak on the mission of this program. Sharon is a lay leader at All Souls Church, Unitarian, where she has chaired the Committee on Ministry and worked extensively on issues of racial justice, community voting rights, and neighborhood outreach. She is currently working toward a Masters in Theological Studies from Wesley Theological Seminary.

Shower of Stoles Project Art Exhibition

The Advocacy Ministry team will host the Shower of Stoles Project in the Great Hall, June 7-28. An opening reception will be held **June 7** from **12:30 p.m.** to **2:00 p.m.**



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 32 denominations and faith traditions, and come from 6 countries on 3 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.

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

DC Gay Pride events include:

Interfaith Worship Service at Church of the Pilgrims (2201 P Street, NW) at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9.

Capitol Pride Parade at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 13. Congregants from Metropolitan and St. Luke's will be marching in the parade. All are welcome!

Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference

Voting members of the BWC will consider 32 amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church when they meet at the annual conference session **June 4-6** in Baltimore. BWC is one of 134 annual conferences around the world that will be voting on these amendments.

Amendment 1 would clarify that all people are eligible to attend worship services and receive the sacraments by striking the words "without regard to race, color, national origin, status or other economic condition." The Constitution now states that after baptism and taking vows declaring the Christian faith, people may become professing members in any local church. The proposed paragraph adds a clause stating they must also declare their "relationship in Jesus Christ."

Following a 2005 Judicial Council ruling supporting the decision of a pastor in Virginia not to allow a gay man to join his congregation, the Council of Bishops issued a letter stating: "We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons."

More information is available at <http://www.bwcumc.org/node/141351>.

Capitol Hill UMC to Celebrate Reconciling Sunday

On Sunday, May 31, CHUMC will celebrate its 4th Anniversary as a reconciled church. Congratulations CHUMC!

For more information, contact Reconciling Ministries program chair, Anne Brown at anne_p_brown@live.com

Study Opportunities at Metropolitan

Questions of Faith Sunday School Class

Sundays, 10:10 am, Conference Room

Join us as we watch a new DVD on "Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation" taught by Dr. Phillip Cary, professor at Eastern University. We invite newcomers to watch the DVD and join us to discuss how the theological questions impact our lives today.

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.

Exploring Faith

Sundays at 10:10, Fireplace Room

Join us Sunday mornings as we continue our series focused on the 5 major world religions - Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Topics for the next upcoming weeks include:

May 24: *Ritual Sacrifice in the World's Religions*

May 31: *No Class – One Service at 10 a.m. followed by Pentecost Picnic on the Lawn*

June 7: *The Human Predicament: How to Overcome It*

June 14: *The Problems of Sin and Forgetfulness*

June 21: *Breaking through the Illusion of Reality*

June 28: *The Goals of Religious Life*

Contact Rev. Sandy Rector, 202.363.4900, ext. 19 or srector@mmumc-dc.org for more information.



Science and Religion Class

Sundays, 10:10 a.m., Parlor

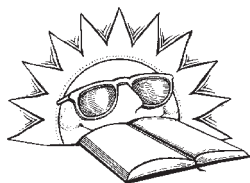
Thanks to all who participated in the "Grounds for Discussion" series focusing on the Science-related sermon topic of the day. And thanks to Dr.

Parker for lifting up these issues for all to ponder. Those of you who were visitors, we welcome you back to all of our continuing dialogues. For the next several weeks we will focus on "Science and Buddhism," with a focus on the book by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, *The Universe in a Single Atom*. Professor Keith Ord from Georgetown University will serve as moderator for this discussion. Copies of the book will be available for purchase for \$7, but if you simply want to have an excerpt via email, please let us know. Join us and bring a friend at 10:10 a.m. for the discussion! Comments and questions? Contact Coordinator Don Smith (donnancy@verizon.net) or Maynard Moore at maynardmoore@onebox.com.

Great Hall Lecture

Sunday, June 7, 10:10 a.m., Great Hall

Dr. Sharon Groves will be speaking on the mission of the Human Rights Campaign's Religion & Faith Program here at Metropolitan Memorial on Sunday, June 7 at 10:10 a.m. Dr. Groves is a lay leader at All Souls Church, Unitarian, where she has chaired the Committee on Ministry and worked extensively on issues of racial justice, community voting rights and neighborhood outreach. Sharon received her PhD in English Literature from the University of Maryland and is currently working toward a Masters in Theological Studies from Wesley Theological Seminary. To learn more about the mission of the Human Rights Campaign's Religion & Faith program go to: <http://www.hrc.org/issues/religion/5906.htm>.



Coming this Summer...

In the Great Hall, Sundays at 10:10 a.m.

Professionally Speaking:

Where Life, Faith, and Work Meet

Members of our community share the opportunities and challenges of a myriad of professions and how their faith influences their lives and their work.

Serious Answers to Hard Questions

A Wesley Ministry Network Series hosted by Bishop Kenneth Carder

Life presents us with a lot of hard questions. In this thought-provoking and inspiring series, leading theologians address issues that are obstacles to faith for many both in and outside of the church.

Sermon on the Mount

Led by Rabbi Joshua Siegel

Sundays, July 12, 19, 26, and August 2

12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Explore the culture, context, and rabbinical thinking and meaning behind one of Jesus' most well-known discourses. Bring a brown-bag lunch and enjoy the afternoon. Please contact Rev. Sandy Rector to register srector@mmumc-dc.org

METROPOLITAN MEMORIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE - May 26, 2009

Metropolitan Memorial and St. Luke's United Methodist Churches became a Cooperative Parish on March 8, 2009, following several months of planning and discussions with leaders and members from both churches. At that time we anticipated that we would spend several months to a year in a period of discernment about the future of both churches. However, after an analysis of St. Luke's budget, we have determined that there are significant advantages to making a decision on a merger sooner rather than later. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. David Argo, has called for two concurrent Church Conferences on May 26, 2009, at 7:00 PM in the Great Hall to vote on whether or not to merge our two congregations. I know that this possibility raises many questions for members of our church family, and I want to address some of those below:

What is the difference between a Cooperative Parish and a merger? In a Cooperative Parish each church exists as an independent legal, corporate entity: there are separate budgets and some separate leadership groups. The pastors are appointed to serve both churches, and there may also be some shared administrative support. In a merger, the two churches legally join, and all property and staff are part of the new merged entity. This will allow for a more streamlined decision-making process and the ability to create and move towards a single vision.

What did the budget analysis reveal that led to this decision? There were a number of factors: the company that leased the commercial kitchen at St. Luke's providing a revenue stream has left; the Conference Apportionments at St. Luke's are in excess in \$50,000 for 2009 and cannot be covered by the endowment or operating budget of St. Luke's; the average attendance at St. Luke's continues to be 15 to 25 each Sunday and the contributions do not provide sufficient funds to continue to operate the church.

What will be the impact on Metropolitan Memorial's budget? In the short term, Metropolitan Memorial may well have to provide some funds in order to make the budget at St. Luke's solvent. If our churches merged the shortfall would not be as great as it is projected to be as a Cooperative Parish, since the apportionment liability would be reduced. We anticipate that, working together, we may be able to lease the commercial kitchen and increase the number of rentals in Shalom Place at St. Luke's which will increase the revenue from the church.

Does this mean that St. Luke's building would be sold, like Eldbrooke? The situation at St. Luke's is very different from that of Eldbrooke UMC. The St. Luke's building is in very good shape, and already houses some very important ministries. It is my expectation that as a merged entity, we would operate as a single congregation at two different locations.

What about the impact on our church staff? Joining into a Cooperative Parish meant that there was an increased workload for our pastors and administrative staff. We would not expect the workload for our merged churches would be increased; in fact, it may well decrease as there are efficiencies of operations in a merger and we will have much more control over the operations of both churches.

What will be the impact on the ministry areas of both churches? For me, this is one of the key reasons why I am advocating a merger. St. Luke's has a long and rich history of serving the homeless of our city, and we want to ensure that this ministry continues. Our shelter programs have much to learn from each other. St. Luke's hospitality house is a wonderful resource for housing work teams engaged in ministry in our city. In addition to its own service, the St. Luke's sanctuary has become the home of Metropolitan's new CrossRoads service on Saturday night. If we do not merge with St. Luke's, it is likely that the church will close and the property will revert to the Baltimore-Washington Conference and the ministries would end.

Summary: I recognize that the speed of this decision may be uncomfortable for all involved, both at Metropolitan and St. Luke's. Beyond all the "facts," I think it is important to acknowledge that sometimes churches do not make decisions from a purely business standpoint. We are called to vision and to dream and to be faithful, trusting in the great abundance and grace of God.

I personally believe that the long-term opportunities that a merger provides far out way the short term impact on Metropolitan. It would be a great loss if St. Luke's were to close, and we can work together to ensure that does not happen. The Cabinet joined us as a Cooperative Parish because our denomination needs to explore some new models for being in ministry. As a congregation and a denomination, we have the opportunity to explore what that may look like.

We have already seen the wonderful gifts and talents and spirit that members of St. Luke's bring to our cooperative efforts, and look with great anticipation for that to grow if our churches merged. I believe that God is calling us to stretch and grow in some challenging, but very exciting ways. Together, our churches will be able to grow and flourish in ways that are far greater than either church could alone.

Service and Advocacy at Metropolitan

Volunteers in Mission Team to Serve in Kenya

On May 16, 2009, five members of Metropolitan will depart for Kenya, Africa.

Our VIM team will be in Kenya for two weeks working at Nakuru United Methodist Church helping to build a boarding school. The school is a life-line for over 300 children who would not otherwise be able to have either an education or a safe and secure place to live. This boarding school is the first of its kind in the United Methodist Church in Kenya.

Construction assistance is needed for the classroom buildings, dormitories and miscellaneous structures. Our team also will have the opportunity to teach, play with, and care for the children.

VIM participants are required to pay their own travel, lodging, and personal expenses.

VIM team members include Beverly Fleming, Karen Howard, Geoff Jacobi, Randy Oberdick, and Hayley Vause.

"This will be my 6th VIM trip and my second visit to Africa. I remember with a mixture of joy and sadness, our VIM trip to Zimbabwe. Africa has always had a very special place in my prayers, ever since my youth when I first heard about missionary efforts there. Turns out that the county is even more beautiful than I had thought and fraught with many more problems today. I look forward to teaching math to the students and sharing this beautiful county with my fellow missionaries." -Beverly Fleming

"The opportunity to travel to Kenya with VIM was presented to me in a New Member class last fall, and I knew instantly I wanted to be a part of that experience. I am thrilled to be representing MMUMC overseas, and feel so

blessed to have found a Church and Congregation like ours. We will be assisting at an orphanage, and touching the lives of many little children, as I am sure they will touch ours. Thank you to all who have supported our VIM Team, and I can only ask for continued support and prayers on our journey." -Hayley Vause



"As in Palestine and Nicaragua, much of the focus of this trip is on the children. Spending time with the kids, especially the orphans, will hopefully be as rewarding for them as it will be for us. Nakuru is a world away, but there is already a strong UMC presence, including a newly built Methodist school. I hope we can contribute to that effort and also demonstrate that Americans, and in particular Methodists, are able to put material pursuits aside and just "be" with others." -Geoff Jacobi

"I am excited about going to Kenya, Africa as this will be my fourth VIM trip. I look forward to meeting people from another culture and working with the children at the United Methodist Camp and Boarding School in Nakuru, north of Nairobi, Kenya. In addition, it will be an awesome experience for me to see African wildlife." -Karen Howard

The VIM team returns home on May 29. Please keep the team in your thoughts and prayers. They will share reflections from their trip later in the year.

Planning for the 2010 VIM trip will begin in early fall. Those interested should contact VIM program chair, Anne P. Brown at annepbrown@hotmail.com.

Yours in Christ, Anne Brown



Homelessness Fact

The average age of a single, homeless person in the District is 49. The average age among adults in a homeless family is 32. -Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness Jan. 28, 2009 Point in Time report

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.

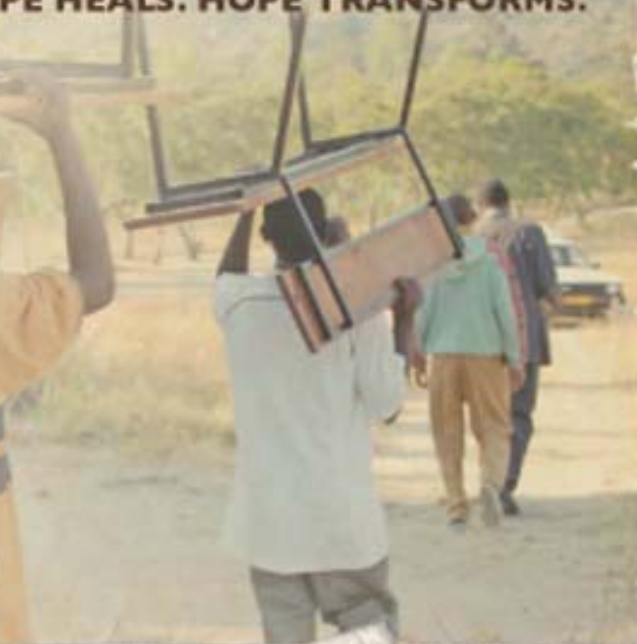
Our next scheduled service is June 14th. If you are interested or want more details, please contact me at srector@mmumc-dc.org or 202.363.4900, ext. 19. This is a great opportunity to serve the local community, and perhaps stretch in a new direction yourself!

Sandy Rector

HOPE INSPIRES. HOPE HEALS. HOPE TRANSFORMS.



Baltimore -
Washington
Conference



Photos by Mike Dugan, Paul Jeffrey and Susan Lane

HOPE FOR ZIMBABWE

T H E H O P E F U N D

When you contribute to the HOPE fund you build a future for the people of Zimbabwe. Your generosity will allow churches to rise, clinics to grow and orphanages to reach out to some of the world's most needy children.

**More than \$250,000 is still needed.
Send your donations to:**

The Baltimore-Washington Conference "Hope Fund"
7178 Columbia Gateway Dr. Suite D, Columbia, MD 21046

\$10,000 will put a roof on top of a church

- Create a place where 62% of Zimbabweans attend Christian religious services. We can build a church for them.

\$500 for making bricks.

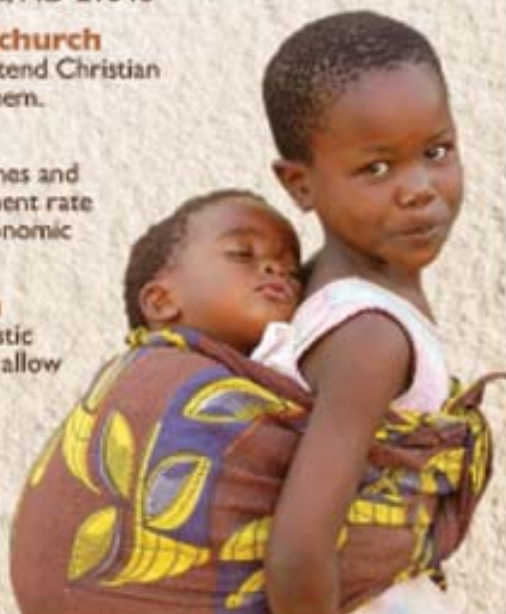
- Buying the materials to make bricks for churches and schools would help Zimbabwean's unemployment rate drop below 80% – creating self-worth and economic freedom for families.

\$20 will put a bench in a classroom

- Since less than 5% of Zimbabwe's gross domestic product goes to education, your donation will allow children to attend and learn in schools.

Hope is in your hands.

For more information, visit our
Web site at www.bwcumc.org/hopefund



AU Campus Ministry

Calling All College Students

Are you staying in the DC area this summer? Returning this Fall? Just graduated with a BA, MA, JD, or other degree? I'd like to hear from you. As the associate for campus ministry, I am hoping to build a network of students and begin having a regular opportunity to meet with together. This may take the form of lunch, a small group, or just a gathering of individuals. We will meet sporadically over the next couple of months and then begin meeting on a regular basis in the fall. I'd love to have you join us! If you are interested, please e-mail me at j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com or call, 319.759.9688.

Law School Group Forming

If you are a law school student, or have recently graduated with a law degree, there will be a small group beginning this summer. Times are yet to be determined, but will be focused around those who are in the law "ministry." We'll probably meet over lunch or dinner one day a week. If you are interested, please e-mail me at j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com or call, 319.759.9688.

Moving into the Summer...

While it appears that the college students "have left the building" this is perhaps the most important time of the year for campus ministry. The preparation for the coming year takes most of the summer, and many of us are already working on it. Our committee is comprised of folks from throughout the church who are helping to build a more welcoming atmosphere for college students and using their skills and areas of expertise to help provide the American University students with a place to come both to worship and to be involved. We'd like your help in this journey. **If you would like to be involved, this is your personal invitation!** I will be looking for individuals who are willing to help with finding creative ways to help students be actively engaged in the life of the church. This means as members of worship committees, helping to lead small groups, helping to be involved in service and advocacy projects, and actively seeking a life that includes leadership in the church. Additionally, I'd like to consider how AU students, both undergraduates and graduate students can find a community here at Metropolitan. Thus, if you are a college student of any sort, then you are invited to help shape some community space with us. We'd love to provide a group that seeks to meet your needs and concerns. So if you are interested in helping us take the next step in our journey with American University, please let me know. Let the summer begin!

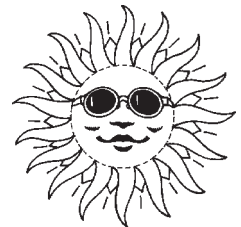
J. Cody Nielsen

-Cody Nielsen is a Master's of Divinity student at the neighboring Wesley Theological Seminary. His passion is campus ministry, and his position here at Metropolitan helps to provide a welcoming atmosphere and facilitation of campus ministry for American University. The ministry of Metropolitan works in conjunction with the previously established and highly active United Methodist Protestant Community at American University. The goal of campus ministry at Metropolitan Memorial is to provide a congregational space for college students to be actively engaged in the life of the church while having a chance to explore vocation and the challenges of the late teens through the 20's.

Youth Connection

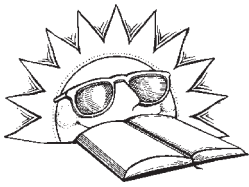
Youth Connection Summer Schedule

We are modifying our schedule for May and June due to finals, sporting events, concerts, etc. We will gather for Youth Connection and "Destination Unknown" on Sunday, May 17 at 5:30-7:30 PM. On Sunday, June 14, we will host a youth choir from Texas who will be singing at both services. We will provide lunch for them and then our youth group will have a swim party! Details to come. Mark the date! We will continue to meet for Sunday School in May and June (except for May 31 when there is only one service). Mark your calendars for the hottest youth ministry outings this summer! Tuesdays on the Town kicks off on Tuesday, July 7. We will be doing something fun on the town each Tuesday in July and August. Looking ahead - mark your calendars for Sunday, July 26. Charlie and Jeannine Parker will once again host the youth for a fun-filled afternoon of swimming, pool volleyball and tennis! If you are around this summer, make plans to join us for our many youth events. There will also be various service opportunities throughout the summer. Check our website and blog for the latest information (www.nationalchurch.org and www.metropolitanyouth.blogspot.com). See you at the Connection!



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.

Children's Ministries



Summer Sunday School

Summer is upon us – the growing season in the liturgical calendar. It's a time to stretch a little bit while also having a little bit of fun. This year, our summer Sunday School will be structured differently from past years when children focused on producing a show at the end of the summer. We hope this will encourage more families to participate in summer Sunday School, even if they are not attending every week.

Summer Sunday School will feature two parts. The first part will run from 9:15 a.m. - 10 a.m. Following the children's sermon in the 9 a.m. service, children are invited to gather in the Vestry for song, dance, and snacks. We'll learn some great new songs and have fun singing some of our old favorites.

During the 10 a.m. study hour, children will be divided into two groups (rising 1st graders and younger) and rising second-graders through rising sixth-graders. These sessions will focus on service projects, art, and stories.

Summer Sunday school begins the first Sunday of June and runs through the end of July. But until then? Memorial Day weekend, families are invited to the Great Hall during the study hour to help the church prepare for Pentecost by creating the decorations for our Pentecost celebration.

Then, Pentecost, May 31, there will be one worship service at 10 a.m. and families are invited to join us on the front lawn of the church for a giant picnic, featuring an obstacle course, moon bounce, dunk tank, and games. We need volunteers to help with the games and activities. Please email Anita Seline at aseline@mmumc-dc.org, if you are interested in helping out, even for just a half hour. Looking forward to a great summer ahead.

Third – Grade Bibles for Next Year

Will your child be in third-grade next school year? Metropolitan's tradition is to present a "first Bible" to these children in the fall of the new school year. If you would like to your son or daughter to be a part of this presentation, please contact Anita Seline at 202-363-4900, ext. 25 or aseline@mmumc-dc.org. Please provide your child's full name for the Bible's personalization and act today. The Bibles take eight weeks for delivery and the order must be completed by the end of June.



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.

Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord

Last week, Metropolitan's Nursery School children filled the sanctuary with their jubilant, joyful and happy voices for our annual Spring Sing celebrating the start of Spring and the gift of Mother's everywhere. Thanks to everyone who joined us for the morning, celebrating the ministry of our Nursery School and the gift of all the children who attend each week.



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
Rev. David Young — Deacon for Social Action and Global Outreach, dndweiszyoung@yahoo.com
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NEXT DEADLINE: Noon on June 9, 2009