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THE MESSENGER

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

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Radical Hospitality: A Job for Everyone

As most of you know, on Pentecost we kicked off a sermon series exploring Radical Hospitality. Having come to the end of that series, I would like to have us follow up on some of the issues that were raised and act on the many wonderful suggestions that emerged from our conversations on this topic.

While Radical Hospitality is a somewhat esoteric concept, I am hoping that we can make it come to life in some very concrete ways. For example, in our church parking lot, you will soon be seeing signs marked for our visitors: this is one way to clearly let our visitors – from the time they arrive in our parking lot – know that they are welcome here. For most people visiting our church, the first people they meet are our ushers and greeters. This summer we are going to hold a “visioning day” for our greeters and ushers to look at how we welcome visitors and figure out where people are falling between the cracks. We have a strong cadre of ushers and greeters, but would invite anyone who would like to be a welcoming presence on a Sunday morning for either of our worship services to join us. And, as you all know, when Methodists want to do something, the first step is always to form a committee! We are forming a new Hospitality team to bring a clear focus and coordination to our efforts. But keep in mind that it is

NOT solely the role of the Hospitality Committee to take care of being hospitable! This is a responsibility for ALL of us. The committee will help us start to develop a “culture of hospitality” and to be a place where some of the specific programs can be housed.

I am often told by visitors and new members how welcoming our church is, and I want us to work together to build on that welcoming spirit. I would ask each of you to prayerfully consider where God might be calling you to extend Radical Hospitality. Each of us has stories of people who welcomed us in our early days at our church. How might you be that welcoming person for the next visitor to our church? As we engage in this new adventure together, please send me your thoughts and ideas. When you get the chance to visit other churches, pay careful attention to how you are welcomed. And if you feel a call to help us develop in this area, please contact Helen Simon, our Office Manager, at 202.363.4900 or hsimon@mmumc-dc.org to volunteer for any of our radical hospitality ministries.



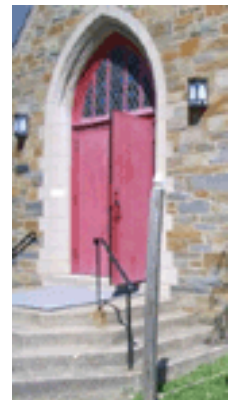
A Warm Welcome from Rev. Kate Murphey



Greetings! I am ever so delighted to have officially begun ministry with all of you in the Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish. I look forward to swapping stories, dreaming up possibilities, and serving together. Frederick Buechner once said that vocation is where the world's deep need and our deep gladness meet. I am excited to discover with you those points of connection—and to watch what the Holy Spirit will create in the energy of such a match!

Not only have I joined you all in ministry July 1 but Wesley UMC has as well. Wesley is a “joyful and inclusive community of faith” to quote the opening line of their vision statement. They bring a wide range of gifts and commitments including their multicultural and intergenerational nature, partnerships with Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, the Manuel Zapata Olivella Center that hosts ESL and computer classes, a Salvadorian Cultural Association - MILPA, and much more.

We will all be getting to know one another and discerning what the best structure for the cooperative parish will be. Our objective is to find something that will strengthen each and all of our ministries, whether they be at Metropolitan, Wesley, St. Luke's or a combination of the three. This is a chance to shine as the body of Christ, each part improved and strengthened by the other, creating an amazing witness to the power of the kingdom of God. May our deep gladness spring up in the midst of the world's deep need, and may all of us taste life abundant and joy made complete!



Staff Spotlight: Cody Nielsen



Cody Nielsen feels passionately about the importance of campus ministry.

College is often a transformative time for young people. “It’s a time when you take every piece of your entire life that’s been thrown at you and ask: ‘Do I believe any of this?’,” says Nielsen, 25. “It’s a time when you take a secular society and you articulate your faith into whatever you are doing. You figure out how to engage in the world through the eyes of God.”

Nielsen has just completed his first year as the Associate for Campus Ministry at Metropolitan, reaching out to the American University community – faculty, staff and students. “My job is to bridge the assets of Metropolitan with the already established protestant community on the AU campus,” says Nielsen. Nielsen has worked in collaboration with Rev. Mark Schaefer, who leads the United Methodist community at AU, to strengthen the ties between the church and campus.

This year, Nielsen has helped lead worship services on Thursday and Sunday nights, conducted weekly covenant disciples groups, led a book study and helped serve meals to students on campus. In the fall, he plans to start a young adult study group between the worship services, reach out to the AU Law School and bring Metropolitan members to campus helping lead social justice service programs and activities.

“I’m in love with campus ministry. There is no other way around it,” says Nielsen.

Nielsen is encouraged by what he is hearing from students about how they feel welcome at Metropolitan and the growing awareness they have of what the church can offer.

“Students are learning that we want them to be involved – and, in response, we are seeing more of them around the

church,” says Nielsen, who is hired to work 15 hours a week for Metropolitan (but often works closer to 25) and is also a full-time student at Wesley Seminary pursuing his master’s of divinity.

A native of Iowa, Nielsen was the full time campus ministry intern for the Wesley Foundation at the University of Northern Iowa for two years prior to moving to Washington. While an undergraduate, he was involved as a student for four years in leadership of that same Wesley Foundation. Nielsen has a bachelor’s degree from UNI in social work and psychology and has almost completed his master’s in mental health counseling. He also worked as a youth minister in Iowa for four years.

Nielsen has been married for three years. His wife, Erin, works at the National Museum of American History. The couple lives on the campus of the Wesley Seminary.

Working as an Associate for Campus Ministry at Metropolitan has only reinforced Nielsen’s desire to pursue campus ministry as a career. After he completes his degree at Wesley in two years, Nielsen hopes to find work with an established campus ministry or start a new one at a public university in the Midwest. Nielsen serves as the Northeast regional coordinator of the National Campus Ministry Association and will co-chair the association’s national conference at Wesley and AU in June 2010.

At Metropolitan, Nielsen is supported by the AU Outreach Committee, chaired by Angela Gildner. Members include: Julie Clements, Maynard Moore, Barbara Gaskill, Penny Pagano, Suzanne Forsyth, Ann Cochran, Hayden Rudi, Anne Matthews and Laura Huff.

If you are interested in helping with the campus ministry at AU, contact Nielsen through the church to see how you can be of assistance as a mentor, cooking at meal, helping with worship or just being a welcoming presence to college students.

“We are moving forward and this church is beginning to have open doors for college students,” he says. “We have to realize students are in transition. We may not be their home base, but we can nurture them while they are here and send them off with our blessings.”

AU Campus Ministry

In less than 5 weeks, college students will begin their annual descent upon campus. With almost 10,000 student at American University, and with almost 1200 incoming Freshman, it’s time to get involved with making our doors open and welcoming for college students. Even better, it’s time to meet them on campus. We would like your help. Whether you are a regular church attender, new, or just come when you have time, this is the time to get involved. August 16-22 is Freshman orientation week, and activities will be taking place every night on campus. We’d like you to sign up to get involved in the life of a college student. Additionally, The AU protestant community will be discussing the following topics in their social justice program this fall: Science & Religion, Climate Change, and the Israel & Palestine issue. If you have expertise in these areas, we would like to know about it and get your involved in helping to provide education and understanding on these important issues. So, the time is now. The students are coming. And we want your help. Please consider helping even if you have limited amounts of time. Please contact J. Cody Nielsen Associate for Campus Ministry at j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com or 319 759 9688. Have a great July.

J. Cody Nielsen

Metropolitan Volunteers In Mission



Metropolitan VIM- Kenya May 16-29, 2009

What a wonderful experience we had again on Metropolitan's latest VIM trip. It seems so long ago now, but just over 1 month ago our intrepid team returned from two weeks in Kenya, Africa, where we joined another team from North Carolina volunteering at several local schools in Nakuru— which is a few hours north of Nairobi. We were working under the auspices of Kenya Partners, a United Methodist organization, which has just built a Christian Boarding School for middle and high school students, and additionally provides assistance to other local pre-schools.

Primarily, we visited with the kids, played games, and worked on a variety of craft projects at three different schools: The Methodist Boarding school, a Methodist Pre-school, and a very poor public pre-school. Also, we were assisting in assembling computer work stations for the new computer lab at the Boarding School. Most of our days consisted of spending a few hours at one of the schools in the morning, then after lunch heading to one of the other schools for a few hours.

There are so many incredible things to say about an opportunity like this. We plan on some sort of presentation or display sometime in the near future; but among the many different experiences we have had on each of our VIM trips, one common observation stands out— God's love is truly spread around the world! It always seems surprising to us how happy and content the people we meet seem to be when they have so very little compared to what we have in our "developed" world. But I guess that's the point isn't it...the material things we have in abundance aren't the source of happiness.

The people we met there were wonderful; and the children were so sweet and excited to see us. Of course being the self-aware people we are, we were concerned with how the local adults perceived us interlopers. One of our drivers, also a local, told us he has heard on several occasions, something to the effect that, we (Americans) must be so rich because God blesses us for being so kind and generous toward others. We must have looked a little incredulous because he then looked at us earnestly and said "they really meant it!" That was nice.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge our team members who were all truly terrific and did Metropolitan proud: Beverly Fleming, Karen Howard, Geoff Jacobi, and Hayley Vause.

Kenya Diaries

By Hayley Vause

Randy Oberdick

As we drove from the bustling city of Nairobi to the township of Nakuru, I knew I had arrived in Africa, but it didn't feel like the Africa I had always pictured in my mind. I knew in the center of their nation's capital it would feel like any major city: crowded with street vendors and open-air markets; people packed into vans, riding bikes, and walking with intent to get to their next destination. But outside the city, as we drove along the one major highway, instead of flat savannahs filled with long tan grass blowing in the wind, there were lush green rolling hills, mountains, craters, and big salt-water lakes that housed thousands of pink flamingoes.

Further along the highway, we were not stopped by any of the guards at any of the security check-points, but what did stop us dead in our tracks: a herd of Zebras as they decided to cross right in front of our van.

After we arrived at our final destination in Nakuru, we met the other team we would be working with, and started our initial planning for the week ahead. After months of planning, I felt excited to finally meet the children, but I have to admit I also felt a little bit anxious about the first day.

There were fourteen of us in total, some were teaching academic classes at the boarding school, others were setting up a computer lab, and the group I was a part of taught craft and art projects to three of the schools in the area. Two of these schools were for Pre-School aged children, and we made crafts like sock puppets, beaded cross necklaces, and paper-plate tambourines. These children were excited by the crafts, but what excited them even more was the attention and affection given from us to each one of them. They wanted to feel my skin and hair, hug me, and see their picture in the

screen of my digital camera. We would sing songs, and play with the balls and jump ropes we brought along, but nothing seemed to compete with our personal attention. Kids would even push each other out of the way just to hold one of our hands. It was pretty comical to see.

In the afternoons, the children at The Boarding School would give up their PE time to make crafts with us. I felt so respected when I entered every class, as every student stood up from his or her seat, and greeted me with, "Hello, how are you?" Art was always my favorite subject in school, but I was noticing that the focus for these students was more on academics. The older kids especially loved having a chance to break free from such a structured class schedule, and be told, "Draw anything you wish." It was fun to see their reaction, and true enjoyment with something so simple as a piece of white copy paper and a few colored pencils.

In all the places I have seen in this world, I had never been to one where I felt like every moment was a "Kodak Moment." The moments that will forever remain in my memories are these: Seeing three year olds color for the first time in their lives; The voices of the children singing hymns as we arrived at their school Sunday morning for church; Being asked by one little girl, "Will you write to me?" But what will forever remain etched in my heart are their smiles.

I left Kenya feeling very melancholy. I was pleased with all that we had accomplished, but I wasn't ready to leave. I felt like there was more I could help with, more I could teach. In my heart of hearts, I know I will go back someday. When I do, I will be going back to the very beautiful country of Kenya, and the Africa that I now picture in my mind.

Life at Metropolitan

Crossroads: A New Weekly Worship Experience An Outreach Ministry of Metropolitan Memorial Saturdays, 5 p.m., St. Luke's Campus

Join us for a weekly worship experience that features a high energy band as well as creative uses of visuals and multimedia. Crossroads is held at 5 p.m. each Saturday in St. Luke's sanctuary (3655 Calvert Street N.W.). A nursery is provided, and a time of gathering to build community over refreshments follows the service. Questions? Contact Jimmy Sherrod, 202.363.4900, ext. 24 or jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org and check out our blog at www.xroadsdc.blogspot.com.

Summer Sundays at St. Luke's **RethinkChurch**

Sundays at 11:30 a.m., 3655 Calvert St. NW
Led by Rev. Sandy Rector

St. Luke's is a small, welcoming community made up of young professionals and a few, much-loved older adults. With our recent merger, we've got the freedom to spend the summer months doing some creative exploration and planning as we reshape life at the St. Luke's campus. What does it mean to be the church today, and what does that church look like? What does it mean to be a person of faith, or a person seeking faith? How can we live out our faith in a way that makes a difference in the Glover Park community and beyond? Join us on Sunday mornings at 11:30 throughout the summer as we gather for a time of casual contemplation, some prayer and praise, and new visioning for our future as we **RethinkChurch**.

Worship Team Meeting

There will be a Worship Team Meeting at Metropolitan Memorial at 6 pm. on Thursday, July 16 in the conference room. If you have any questions contact John Tate at 202.363.5950 or jbartate@verizon.net.

The Swiss Embassy Invites You!
Jazz Concert at Metropolitan
Thursday, July 16 at 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Featuring Swiss artists:
Sam Burckhardt, tenor saxophone
and Stephan Grieder, organ

"Standing in the Need of Prayer" Summer Healing Services

St. Luke's Campus on Thursday, July 30 at 7 p.m.
Wesley UMC on Thursday, August 27 at 7 p.m.

Metropolitan Memorial will hold two healing services this summer at our two satellite locations. You may have friends and neighbors who are experiencing difficult times of pain and loss ~ be sure to invite them. These services offer healing through music, prayer and word. Anointing with oil is also offered.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sunday, July 19 at 12:30 p.m.
and Tuesday, July 21 at 1:30 p.m.



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

Calling All Artists - Deadline August 1

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. Please submit all entries by August 1, 2009.

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 23

Metropolitan's United Methodist Women are hosting a free ice cream social on Sunday, August 23 from 10:10-11 a.m. in the Great Hall. All are welcome!



Met-Flix

Outdoor Movie at Metropolitan Memorial
Saturday, August 29 at 7 p.m.



Bring your blankets and chairs and join us on the campus of Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church for a free evening of fun under the stars! Our movie for the evening will be Disney Pixar's "Finding Nemo." Movie begins at sundown.

Just Born!

•Congratulations to Bryant and Devon Oskvig who are celebrating the birth of their child, Kari René Oskvig on July 5, 2009. Bryant is pastor at Linden-Linthicum UMC in Clarksville and was an Associate Pastor at Metropolitan Memorial.



•Congratulations to Tony and Kim Brown on the birth of India Catherine Brown on July 7, 2009.

Please Remember Metropolitan while you are on vacation!

Summer is the time that many of us retreat from the frantic pace of the school year, and many of us are away on vacations. Please remember that our church's financial needs do not take a vacation, and we rely on your continued pledge support even when we must miss you in worship. Please keep your pledge current while you enjoy a wonderful summer break!

Reconciling Ministries Network Update

On Saturday, June 13, twenty-five members from Metropolitan and St. Luke's marched in the DC Pride Parade behind a banner saying "Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church – A Reconciling Congregation."

Many other congregations—Baptist, Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Unitarian, and non-denominational—took part, as well. Because many in the GLBT community have only experienced the church as angry, condemning, and exclusionary, our presence was very welcome. Parade-goers cheered us. Many thanked us. Others shouted "Yeah, United Methodists!" It was clear from the excited reactions of many in the crowd that they were United Methodist or were from a United Methodist background. They were especially touched by our presence. It was a powerful experience of "reconciliation," an explicit form of missional outreach, and a deeply profound act of Christian witness.



Service and Advocacy at Metropolitan

Discussion Forum on Congregational Diversity

Sundays In the Terrace Room during Study Hour

Join us for a discussion forum in the Terrace Room as the Advocacy Team launches a new initiative to consider issues related to racial and ethnic diversity in congregational life. This discussion will continue during July and August. At the same time, we will be beginning a series of visits to worship with some of our sister congregations in the Metro area.

Congregational Visits. On the third Sunday of each month, beginning Sunday, July 19, the Advocacy Team will be organizing a series of group visits to worship with some of our sister congregations in the area. The visits scheduled to date include:

•**Sunday, July 19, Asbury United Methodist Church.** Gather in the MMUMC foyer to depart at 9:45 for their 10:30 service (11th and K St.)

•**Sunday, August 16, Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church,** "the National Cathedral of African Methodism." Gather in the MMUMC foyer to depart at 10:15 a.m. for their 10:50 a.m. service.

•**September 20, Shiloh Baptist Church.** Gather in the MMUMC foyer to depart at 10:15 for their 11 a.m. service.

Discussion Forum. On the other Sundays during July and August, we will hold a discussion forum on diversity in the Terrace Room during the Sunday School hour (10:10- 11:00 am) Leaders from the Advocacy Team will be leading these conversations. Dates for these sessions are Sundays July 5, 12 & 26 and August 2, 9, 23, and 30. For more information, contact Advocacy Team Chair Ann Michel at 202.885.8582 or amichel@wesleyseminary.edu or David Young at 703.786.8911 or dndweiszyoung@yahoo.com.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed for The Haven, a transitional shelter for women. The Haven, is in need of dinner and weekend volunteers.

·Dinner volunteers provide a meal for 6 people once a month. You can drop it off at The Haven, just two blocks from the Tenleytown metro, around 6:30 p.m. or in the morning before 8 a.m. Please contact Kathy Caputo at kcaputo@starpower.net or 202.362.7583.

·Weekend volunteers come to The Haven for a four hour shift once a month (Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.). Feel free to bring a book or other activity, but you'll likely find yourself in friendly conversation with the residents. Your presence allows our shelter to stay open during these hours. Please contact Inga Blust at iblust@usa.net or 202-966-9051.



Homelessness Fact

According to the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, on January, 28, 2009, 6,228 people were homeless in DC; this included individuals and families.

Study Opportunities at Metropolitan

“Let There Be Light” - Tuesdays Evenings in July

Must we reject belief in God to accept the findings of science? How might religion and science coexist and even complement one another in the 21st Century? Join us on Tuesday evenings this July as we use the Wesley Seminary Ministry Network DVD Series on Religion and Science, facilitated by Dr. E. Maynard Moore, to explore these questions and more. Classes meet from 7 - 9 p.m. and registration is required (limited to the first 15 registrants – call Rev. Sandy Rector, 202.363.4900, ext. 19) so that pre-session reading material may be distributed.

July 14 “The Search for God”: Dr. Alister McGrath, Oxford University, Great Britain, colleague of Richard Dawkins and author of “The Dawkins Delusion,” a critical review of Dawkins’ best-selling “The God Delusion.” McGrath speaks forcefully from a Christian perspective, but to date, Dawkins has declined to debate McGrath in any public forum. Come decide for yourself.

July 21 “Natural Selection & the Economy of Grace”: In the “Year of Darwin,” it is important to discuss the implications of the “evolution idea” and to learn how to talk coherently as Christians who also embrace the theory and its power to interpret the natural order of things. Dr. Amy Laura Hall, Duke University Divinity School, discusses a few of the ethical implications in provocative ways.

July 28 “Beyond Conflict: Christianity & Science”: Dr. David A. Wilkinson, Principal of St. John’s College, Durham, Great Britain, member World Methodist Council, and our guest last August, will be with us again. Renowned internationally as an astrophysicist, Dr. Wilkinson shows how the so-called “conflict” between science and religion oversimplifies reality. He staunchly claims that science should be embraced as a gift from God, and if we are created in God’s image, we should be able to understand God’s creation. His in-person presentation to us on July 28th should be another stimulating occasion for us all.

Great Hall Lectures - “Professionally Speaking”

July 19 and July 26, Great Hall at 10:10 a.m.

Our popular summer series “Professionally Speaking,” returns with an opportunity to learn about some of the meaningful and exciting vocational fields in which our members and friends participate. Our speakers include individuals who work in the newspaper industry, in humanitarian aid, with the homeless, serving as a diplomatic liaison, and helping people find their true vocational niche even in this tough economy. Speakers on July 19 are Debbie Gustowski, Derek Willis, and Betty Rogers and on July 26 are Suzanne Forsythe, Shalom Mulkey, and Leigh Rollins.

United Methodist Women

Jewelry Donations

UMW Circle 5 is now accepting donations of jewelry for sale at the Bazaar in November. We will be sorting, cleaning and pricing throughout the summer, and we welcome any and all donations of jewelry.

Please leave your donated pieces in the library on a Sunday or at the office desk during the week.

All proceeds from the Bazaar go to helping women and children locally and globally and we need your help to further our mission.

Recognition Luncheon

Sunday, December 6, 12:30pm.

Each year the UMW of Metropolitan Memorial hold a Recognition Luncheon honoring women who have made a significant contribution to the church, the nation, and the world. This year the luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 12:30 p.m.. We are seeking nominations of outstanding women to honor this year. Please submit nominations to Robin Emery at 202.625.9273 or to emerymj@comcast.net by October 15. In addition to recognizing these special women, we will also celebrate the babies who have been born this year and remember with gratitude those who died this year.

UMW Bazaar: November 7 & 8

Donations and Volunteers Needed

The annual UMW bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 7 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., and on Sunday, November 8 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. with lunch available after the second worship service. The UMW membership looks forward to this event every year to open our church up to the community and to join in fellowship with one another. Proceeds from the bazaar go to projects benefitting women and children worldwide.

Donations are needed!

·Look through your closets and attics for items that you no longer use but that would be a treasure to someone else! Bring your donations and gift items to the UMW closet, located on the lower level of the church near the Parlor. (No furniture, no clothing.)

·Please bring items all the way to the UMW closet. If the closet is locked, be sure your items are labelled “bazaar” and leave them just outside the closet. But kindly do not drop items on the stage or elsewhere in the Vestry.... thanks!

·Receipts for your donations are available inside the closet or ask in the church office.

YOU are needed!

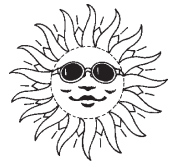
·**Thursdays, beginning July 16, from 10 a.m. - noon.** Join in the fun and fellowship of pricing attic treasures in the Terrace Room. All hands are needed!

·**Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Help the sewing group as they create our ever-popular Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy dolls. Or, use your own handiwork skills to create a unique item for our arts and crafts table. If you knit, crochet, needlepoint, cross stitch, crewel, or sew, your creations would be welcomed at the crafts table.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer, contact bazaar coordinator Barbara Gaskill, Barbara@bgaskill.com or 202-244-3512.

Youth Connection Summer Schedule

Sunday School continues through July during the 10:10 a.m. study hour. In August, we'll take a break and head to Starbucks during that hour for coffee and discussion about life and faith with different topics each week.



Tuesdays on the Town return this July and August. Each week we will head to a different place in the city for fun and fellowship. We'll return to the National Mall, go to a Nats game, have fun in the pool, and attempt to improve our bowling score. Generally, Tuesdays on the Town will begin at 6 PM, and we will return to the church no later than 9 PM (except when otherwise noted). Weekly updates will inform you of time and event.

Tuesday on the Town Calendar

July 14: Go Karting

July 21: Washington Nationals game versus Mets
(1st pitch - 7:05 p.m. We will leave approximately 5:30 p.m.)

July 26: Pool party at the Parkers' 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
(please note that this is a Sunday event)

July 28: Bowling at Strike Bethesda

August 4: To Be Determined

August 11: Laser Tag

August 18: To Be Determined

August 25: Pool party at Palisades Pool.

There will be service opportunities throughout the summer. Please look for those details in weekly e-mail and text updates. Keep up with Youth Connection at www.metropolitanyouth.blogspot.com. If you would like to receive text updates, please send Jimmy a text at 865.805.5373. (Jimmy Sherrod, Minister of Youth and New Worship, 202.363.4900, ext. 24).

Children's Ministries

Sundays of Service

Serving



OTHERS

This month, Children's Sunday School is focusing on service. Each week, we are learning about a different ministry at Metropolitan and are completing service projects in support of that ministry. Friends from church visit our Sunday School class every week to talk about their experiences. It has been a wonderful way for the kids to connect with the many beautiful ministries that Metropolitan participates in.

The first Sunday in July, Annette Fletchall visited our class and talked about the monthly worship service at Grand Oaks. Grand Oaks is a senior residence next door to Sibley Hospital. Every month, Metropolitan volunteers hold a short worship service in Grand Oaks' chapel for 20 people. Annette shared how sometimes the residents cry when they hear the old familiar hymns or how they respond when someone briefly holds their hand. At the end of the discussion, the kids gathered around and decorated wall hangings in the shape of a cross for the residents. They were to be distributed at the July worship service.

The second Sunday, Caralee Adams, who has led the Visitors Corps for a number of years, came to tell the kids about her experience. The Visitors Corps is a group of volunteers who regularly visits members of the congregation who are homebound and can no longer make it to church regularly. They enjoy visits from these friends from Metropolitan. The children decorated birdhouses for volunteers to take to these senior citizens on their next visit.

On July 19, we'll be celebrating Christmas in July. Leigh Rollins will attend the class to tell us about the Community Council for the Homeless and all the good work they do for homeless people right in Metropolitan's neighborhood. The children will be making Christmas cards to give to the residents in December. We are accepting donations of old Christmas cards so that we can cut them up to make new cards. We are also hoping to persuade someone to make three dozen Christmas cookies for that Sunday. On July 26, Jeannine Parker will explain the wonderful work of Bread for the City and the children will do a service project to benefit that organization.

August Happenings

There will be no children's Sunday School in August, however, because school starts so early for some children, we have activities planned for the study hour later in the month. Sunday, August 23, join the United Methodist Women in the Great Hall for the second annual Ice Cream Social. Enjoy ice cream treats and the company of good friends.

August 30th, children and youth will join together for our first Blessing of the Backpacks. With the start of school we pray for a productive year ahead and for love and support during the year. During the study hour, children and youth will assemble school kits for UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR sends these kits to locales all over the world to help kids there get an education. We are hoping the congregation will donate supplies to this effort and tote bags to carry them. [See box]

UMCOR School Kit Supplies

Please send in new, unused supplies. Drop them off at the church office

KIT CONTENTS

- 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2" x 11" ruled paper
- 1 30-centimeter ruler
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 eraser, 2 1/2"
- 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Can You Help This Year?

As you make your plans for the fall, please plan to be a part of your child's Christian education by volunteering to be a greeter or a teacher for our Sunday School Godly Play classes. We are looking for volunteers to help at all age levels from 4 years old to 6th grade. Training is provided. Please prayerfully consider becoming part of this important ministry at Metropolitan. Contact Anita Seline at aseline@mmumc-dc.org or amseline@aol.com if you are interested or have questions.



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