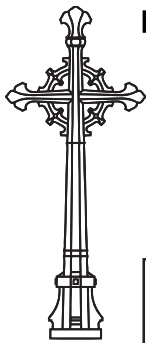


# Contents

<b>Marriage Equality and the Church: An Open Letter to the Congregation....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Marriage Equality and the Church: Same-Sex Marriage and United Methodist Doctrine</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Marriage Equality and the Church: Discussion and Learning Opportunities</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish (cont.)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The Arts at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Help the Homeless</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Worship Survey Summary Results</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Mathews Brothers and Their Works Honored</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Study Opportunities</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>January Sermon Series</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Seniors Ministries</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>United Methodist Women</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Campus Ministries</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Youth Ministries</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Children’s Ministries</b>	<b>12</b>



# THE MESSENGER

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

January 8, 2010  
Volume XXV, No. 1  
[www.nationalchurch.org](http://www.nationalchurch.org)

## Marriage Equality and the Church: An Open Letter to the Congregation from the Advocacy Ministry Team



Dear Friends,

On December 15, the DC Council approved **The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009**, which would permit same-sex couples to marry in the District of Columbia. Mayor Adrian Fenty signed the bill into law December 18. And the law will take effect at the conclusion of a Congressional review period, which lasts for 30 legislative days following the Mayor's signature. This legislation provides equal rights for same-sex couples to marry in DC and preserves the right of clergy and congregations to adhere to their faiths.

On June 2, over 200 clergy and religious leaders of many faiths, races, ethnicities, and sexual orientations, representing religious institutions in every ward in the District of Columbia, signed the **DC Clergy United for Marriage Equality** declaration, which states: *Our faith calls us to affirm marriage equality for loving same-sex couples. Our religious traditions and scriptures teach us that wherever love is present, God is also present. One of God's greatest gifts to us is our human capacity to love one another. The ability of two people to enter into relationships and form families of love and care is one expression of this gift. It is holy and good. We therefore affirm the right of loving same-gender couples to enter into such relationships on an equal basis with loving heterosexual couples.* The declaration is available at [http:// www.clergyformarriage.com](http://www.clergyformarriage.com).

Acting in accord with their own religious conscience, the four pastors of the Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish—Charlie Parker, Sandy Rector, Jimmy Sherrod, and Kate Murphey—all signed this declaration, as did many other of other clergy associated with our congregation.

Because the passage of same-sex marriage in the District of Columbia creates new possibilities and new questions for our congregation, the clergy of the parish and the Advocacy Team have planned a number of learning and discussion events related to the subject of same-sex marriage and the church. A schedule of learning events and other background information on the subject can be found in this *Messenger*:

We invite you to enter this time of discussion, dialogue, and discernment prayerfully and with open hearts as we seek to live into our calling as a reconciling congregation to affirm and welcome the full participation of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgendered persons in the ministry of the church.

As we explore this subject, we invite you to participate, learn, listen, and be heard. Knowing that people of good faith can differ on this subject, we invite *everyone* to take part in these conversations. If you would like to be part of this effort, or if you have thoughts or opinions to share, please contact Rev. Dr. Charles Parker, [cparker@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:cparker@mmumc-dc.org), 202.363.4900, ext. 11.

Yours in Christ,

Members of the Advocacy Ministry Team

# Marriage Equality and the Church: Same-Sex Marriage and United Methodist Doctrine



## Homosexual Marriage By Rev. Tex Sample

The term homosexuality as we understand that word today appears nowhere in Scripture. In fact, the word was not coined until the nineteenth century. Moreover, there is no evidence that the Scripture addresses the matter of sexual orientation as that characteristic is now understood. In Scripture the attention is given to same-sex practices. It is a minor concern and appears in only five passages. (I exclude two passages on same-sex rape that are not under consideration here. Rape of any kind is wrong.) Biblical scholars hotly contest all of these passages.

All of the references to same-sex activity in Scripture are negative. It is not condoned anywhere. Yet, each passage either occurs in a biblical context that has been surpassed and transformed (the Holiness Code), or it addresses specific instances and these cannot be universalized. For example, one cannot accept the characterization of same-sex practices in Romans 1 without taking seriously that the practices condemned there are those resulting from idolatry. This important passage does not engage all that is before the church today, especially homosexual marriage. We must, therefore, look beyond these five texts to come to an adequate stand by the church.

To address Christian homosexual marriage, attention must be turned to the tradition of the church. Marriage in the Christian tradition serves a number of ends: procreation, fidelity, sacramental, mutual support and companionship, mutual society, and loving companionship. What is striking is that all of these ends can be met by homosexual marriages, even the procreative end when the procreative end is understood as raising children for the Kingdom of God and not primarily as a function of nature [a biological function]. On these grounds, it is appropriate for gay and lesbian Christians to be married in the church, and it is not in violation of Scripture or tradition.

The objection to this argument by some Christians is to raise up Mark 10:7-8 where Jesus states that “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” The argument is then made that this is the only form scriptural marriage can take. The issue addressed in this passage, however, is divorce. Jesus is responding to a hard-hearted test of his authority. Extending his response to a blanket denial of homosexual marriage goes well beyond the text. Moreover, it is uttered by a single Christ who did indeed leave his mother and father to engage in his Incarnate mission. So long as we are dealing with a single Christ who left father and mother for a different reason, we must be open to other possible options, especially options that fulfill the ends of Christian marriage traditionally understood.

In conclusion, biblical teaching does not address a host of same-sex practices, among them homosexual marriage. Moreover, the ends of marriage as understood in the tradition of the church are ends that homosexual marriage can fulfill. So the issue in the confirmation of a bishop in a homosexual relationship is not whether he or she is gay, not even whether he or she is a practicing homosexual. The question is: is he or she married to this partner, and if so, does this marriage meet these ends?

Sample, an ordained United Methodist pastor, is the Robert B. and Kathleen Rogers Emeritus Professor of Church and Society at the Saint Paul School of Theology. (Full text of Rev. Sample’s article is available at: <http://nolongersilent.org/SampleArticle.html>)

## **What does the United Methodist Book of Discipline say about Same-Sex Unions?**

**Regardless of sexual orientation, certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons.** *Equal Rights Regardless of Sexual Orientation – Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for homosexual persons. We see a clear issue of simple justice in protecting their rightful claims where they have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, and other such lawful claims typically attendant to contractual relationships that involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law. ¶162J)*

**Homosexual unions must not be conducted by our ministers or held in our churches.** *Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches. ¶341.6*

**A bishop, pastor or clergy member can be tried by the Judicial Council for conducting a same-sex wedding ceremony.** A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference, local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged with practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies. ¶2702.1

# Marriage Equality and the Church: Discussion and Learning Opportunities

## Marriage Equality Sunday Sunday, February 7, 9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.



On Sunday, February 7, our clergy - Rev. Dr. Charlie Parker, Rev. Sandy Rector, Rev. Kate Murphey, and Rev. Jimmy Sherrod--will share their thoughts on marriage equality and the United Methodist church.

In June 2009, our pastors, and nearly 200 other DC clergy and religious leaders of many faiths, races, ethnicities, and sexual orientations, representing religious institutions in every ward in the District, signed the **DC Clergy United for Marriage Equality** declaration, which states: "Our faith calls us to affirm marriage equality for loving same-sex couples. Our religious traditions and scriptures teach us that wherever love is present, God is also present. One of God's greatest gifts to us is our human capacity to love one another. The ability of two people to enter into relationships and form families of love and care is one expression of this gift. It is holy and good. We therefore affirm the right of loving same-gender couples to enter into such relationships on an equal basis with loving heterosexual couples." Text of the declaration, as well as a complete list of co-signers, is available at <http://www.clergyformarriage.com/declaration>.

## Pre-Cana for Metropolitan and Foundry Members

Are you planning a wedding? Foundry UMC is planning a Pre-Cana Weekend for opposite-sex and same-sex couples at Foundry United Methodist Church. Dates have not been set, but watch future Messengers for more information or contact Bob McDonald at [rmcdonald@foundryumc.org](mailto:rmcdonald@foundryumc.org)

## Great Hall Discussion Series

February 2

**Dinner and Discussion with Dr. Parker, 6:30 p.m.**  
On Tuesday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m. all are welcome to attend a dinner & discussion in the Great Hall with Dr. Parker. The event, which will be hosted by the Advocacy Ministry team, provides the opportunity for thoughtful discernment and discussion on the marriage equality issue.

February 21

**Discussion with HRC's Sharon Groves, 10:10 a.m.**  
On Sunday, February 21 at 10:10 a.m., our guest speaker in the Great Hall will be Dr. Sharon Groves, deputy director for the Human Rights Campaign's Religion & Faith Program. Dr. Groves will discuss HRC's collaboration with DC Clergy United for Marriage Equality and DC's **Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act**.

## Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish



### Calling all Techies!

Do you like to work behind the scenes ... wish you could have been a roadie for a rock group? Here's your chance - join the sound/light team at Metropolitan. Training will be provided. Contact Dave Sproul, [dsproul@aol.com](mailto:dsproul@aol.com) or Pat House, [phouse@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:phouse@mmumc-dc.org)



Our prayers go out to the family and friends of those who have passed away:

- Nora Topalian, December 10
- Richard Merriman, December 18
- John Broderick, January 4
- Charles Howe, January 5

### Thank You

The family of Elsie Topalian Oppenheim and Nora Topalian want to thank all of my church family during this very sad time. To lose two sisters within three weeks is heartbreaking. But, I do believe they are now at peace. I thank all of you for your many kindnesses to Nora and me over a very long period of time. I received so many phone calls, cards, visits, and other expressions of sympathy from many of you. My sister, Lily, and I were overwhelmed by the number of people who attended both Elsie and Nora's memorial services. You are good, kind people. I'm blessed to be a member of Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church. All of our ministers at Metropolitan have provided me with comfort and care which was greatly appreciated.

Love, Joan

### New Church Pictorial Directory - It's Not Too Late!

Olan Mills will be creating a new pictorial directory for our congregation. Please plan to participate, as we are hoping to have all our families pictured in our new directory. Photos will be taken January 29 - 31, plus January 28 if needed.

Photo hours are weekdays 3 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5p.m. Schedule sheets will be located in the Vestry during the coffee hour. Also for a limited time, you may make your appointment online. To sign up online go to [www.signup.olanmills.com](http://www.signup.olanmills.com) and use the church phone number (202.363.4900) as your password.

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



## Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish (cont.)

### BOKAMOSO Returns in January!

Join our friends from South Africa as they share their music and drama with our community.

**Thursday, January 14 - 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast**

**Sunday, February 7**

9 a.m. - Dayspring Worship (sharing in song)

10 a.m. - Drama Excerpts and Conversation in the Great Hall

11:15 a.m. - Worship (sharing in song)

Go to <http://www.xroadsdc.blogspot.com/> to view a video of their last concert here at Metropolitan Memorial!



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Sunday, January 17, 12:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, January 19, 1:30 p.m.**

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

### Remembering Justice Blackmun

**Sunday, February 14, 2010**

**Dedication of Plaque at 11:15 a.m. Worship**

**All Church Reception to follow  
in the Great Hall**

On Sunday, February 14, we will remember and celebrate the life of Justice Harry Blackmun. We will recall what he meant to his family, to our congregation and to the nation. The formal dedication of the plaque located in the Sanctuary near the Sacristy door will occur during the 11:15 a.m. worship. Dr. William Lawrence, currently Dean at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, will be our guest preacher at both services and both he and Dr. William Holmes will say a few words at the reception. Justice Blackmun's funeral was held here during a surprise snowstorm in March 1999 and Garrison Keillor arrived in time to deliver a eulogy. Justice Blackmun was one of the true saints of our church. Please join us in honoring his memory and that of his wife Dorothy.



## Join the Young Professionals



### Young Professional Ski Trip

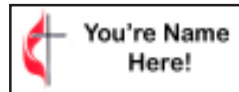
**February 18 - 20**

Join other young professionals (those who are roughly 22-35) for a ski/snowboard outing in Snowshoe, WV on February 18-20. We will leave after work on Thursday, Ski 2 full days, Friday and Saturday and leave Saturday evening to be back for church on Sunday! (There is an

option for staying Saturday night and skiing Sunday for those interested; just let Kate know to make the arrangements.) The cost is \$250 for lodging and lift ticket plus \$37+tax/day for rentals, and additional costs of gas and food. The lodging includes a 4 bedroom condo—ski in and out, 3 bathrooms, full kitchen amenities, internet access, and a fireplace (for S'mores!!) For more information contact, Kate Murphey at [kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org).

### Young Professional Game Night

Come and join us for games and a potluck dinner! Saturday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> at Jimmy & Lesli's—3311 Nebraska Ave. We'll be getting together for the 5 p.m. Crossroads service at St. Luke's UMC, 3655 Calvert St. NW, and then going over to the parsonage for dinner and games around 6:30 p.m. (This is the roughly 22-35 yr old group of folks.) Contact Kate Murphey: [kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org) for more info!



### Order Your Nametag!

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



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

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



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

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

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

## The Arts at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish



### **Jazz Concert and Art Exhibit** **Sunday, January 24 - 4 pm - Jazz Concert** **5 pm - Reception and Art Exhibit**

The Arts Council is pleased to present a program that includes a jazz concert featuring The Davey Yarborough Quintet featuring the music of Esther Williams with Jon Ozment, piano; Wes Biles, bass; Francis Thompson, drums; and Ike Daniel, guitar. Native Washingtonian Davey Yarborough is a saxophonist, flutist, and vocalist. Since 1986 he has established the jazz studies program at The Duke Ellington School of the Arts and is now chairman of the instrumental music department. This husband and wife team share a passion for and commitment to music and art in the Washington DC Metropolitan community. That passion led to the development of the Washington Jazz Arts Institute, which is a model for teaching young musicians to excel in an exciting and stimulating environment. They have performed at The

White House for the past three administrations, including the recent jazz workshop held by First Lady Michelle Obama. A free-will offering will be taken to support the work of these musicians. Following the concert, the audience will adjourn to the Great Hall for a reception and art exhibit opening featuring the work of Stanley Squirewell, in an exhibit called "*Kaleidoscope: A Recent Retrospective.*" Mr. Squirewell is a Washington artist who graduated from The Duke Ellington School of the Arts and is now a teacher there in the Visual Arts Department. Mr. Squirewell is not only a painter, but he works in photography, computer graphics, digital arts, and creates sculpture. The Arts Council is pleased to present the talents of these artists.



### **Mark Your Calendars and Save the Date!**

#### **Metropolitan Players Present** *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*

**By Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee**  
**Directed by Frances Bartley Cleaver**

**Friday, March 19, 8 pm - Saturday, March 20, 4 pm**  
**Sunday, March 21, 2 pm**



Following Easter, Dr. Parker's sermon series will focus on the environment. On April 11, Beth Norcross will preach at Metropolitan and will be leading the Great Hall sessions throughout the month. She is adjunct faculty at Wesley Theological Seminary where she teaches and guest-lectures in eco-theology. Come immerse yourself in the life and thoughts of Henry David Thoreau in preparation for the sermon series.

## Help the Homeless

### **St. Luke's Shelter Needs Your Help!**

St. Luke's shelter at our St. Luke's campus provides housing and supportive services for six homeless men year round; volunteers provide meals while donors and supporters provide for the operating costs including the salaries of our amazing counselors. Like many of our neighbors, our fundraising efforts have taken a loss of 10-12% of this year. St. Luke's is asking for your help, won't you please consider making a donation to our shelter to offset our operating costs? You can mail your check to St. Luke's Shelter, 3655 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20007. Thank you for giving.

### **Join us for the 18th annual Sing Out for Shelter concert!**

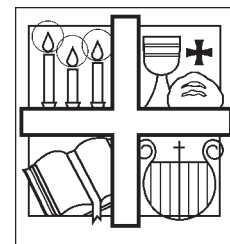
This great event is hosted by the Augmented Eight, a barbershop-style *a capella* group that holds this event every year to raise money to help the homeless. All proceeds from the concert support Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place, Metropolitan House at MMUMC and Christ House. Tickets for students and seniors are \$10; general admission \$25; patron, preferred \$50; and children under 13 are free. Refreshments available at intermission. More information on participating groups to come. Please save the date! February 6 at 8:00 pm at Metropolitan.



# Worship Survey Summary Results

In October 2009 the Worship Committee solicited the views of the congregation attending Sunday morning services at Metropolitan about their preferences for worship styles and the church's success in addressing these preferences. In October 2009 the questionnaire also was sent to all subscribers to the *Messenger*.

A total of 120 questionnaires were returned; 103 were submitted at the church and 17 were sent by mail. The proportion of the congregation responding to the survey cannot be determined since the responses came from both individuals and family units. Nonetheless, those who did respond not only answered direct questions, but often also shared remarkably detailed comments. In view of the limited coverage of the survey, these comments appear to provide the most provocative and useful inputs.



**Respondent characteristics.** Because discussions about the future of the Church have so often focused on generational differences, results were analyzed by demographic group. Four groups (self-identified in the questionnaire) yielded five or more responses: “young families” (7), “mid-career” (24), “empty nesters” (31) and “retirees” (47). Other responses were received that did not meet the test of either identity of the respondent’s demographic characteristics or being members of a group with more than five respondents. Results from all respondents were included in total summaries.

Three conclusions from the responses were straightforward, and offer more insight into the group responding. First, the most frequently reported (but not necessarily the most important) reason for attending MMUMC worship was that the respondent was brought up in a church—cited by 80% or more of respondents in all groups except young families.

Second, over 90 % of respondents in all groups described themselves as regularly attending services. Third, over 80 % from each of the age groups find the bulletins helpful and prefer services on a Sunday.

These findings underscore that the survey results constitute “preaching from the choir” – the observations of a committed, thoughtful group concerned with Metropolitan’s future.

**Worship style preferences.** Respondents were diverse in their preferences regarding worship styles, among both demographic groups and all respondents. Not all respondents had preferences: only 54% of mid career respondents chose to cite a preference for any one type of service, while over 140% of young families did so (recall that multiple responses were encouraged).

By group, the percentages liking each style were:

	<b>Traditional</b>	<b>Blended</b>	<b>Contemporary</b>
<b>All respondents</b>	44	35	20
<b>Young families</b>	43	57	57
<b>Mid career</b>	22	48	22
<b>Empty nesters</b>	44	33	51
<b>Retirees</b>	63	25	12

Clearly, “worship style” is not a strictly generational issue. Comments were as mixed as the above percentages would suggest. In some instances, a mixture of styles was itself seen as problematic. It was noted that there “seems to be a struggle in keeping traditional and contemporary service format and content distinct. Movement to blended service seems to lessen both.”

All four demographic groups expressed strong interest in “sermons on practical issues”— from 40% of young families to 52 % of empty nesters.

And finally virtually all who responded to the options of “more music” or “less music” chose to opt for “more.”

**Comments and suggestions.** Those who took the time to provide detailed comments clearly valued the opportunity to express their views and preferences. Therefore, their responses should be taken especially seriously. Music drew many comments: have more singable hymns; more good old hymns; don’t change the great music. There were also notes about the special music offerings, citing that these events provided many of the most memorable worship experiences at Metropolitan.

The physical setting of our worship space clearly affected many responses. The beauty of the sanctuary space was cited as both an asset and a challenge. It serves contemplative, individual worship experiences, but it also poses challenges to us to offer supportive and participatory worship.

Written comments were mixed about the reception given to newcomers or other members. While many respondents felt warmly welcomed, many others who were long-term members of the church saw the congregation as insular and closed to outsiders.

These comments suggest the range and thoughtfulness of the views that respondents shared. The full set of responses provides suggestions for further reflection and discernment by the Worship committee. Our clergy and staff are reviewing the many detailed comments.

# Mathews Brothers and Their Works Honored

By John W. Coleman, for the Baltimore Washington Conference

Three United Methodist bishops with ties to the Baltimore-Washington Conference honored a fourth, retired Bishop James K. Mathews, and his deceased brother, the Rev. Joseph W. Mathews, at a historic symposium Dec. 17-19. Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, hosted the event.

Washington Area Bishop John Schol; his predecessor, retired Bishop Felton May; and retired Bishop Susan Morrison, formerly a clergywoman in the conference, were among the noted speakers at the symposium. They joined the Rev. Dr. William Holmes and Rev. Bruce Birch, both retired Baltimore-Washington Conference clergy, in extolling and examining the impact of the Mathews brothers and their trailblazing ministries.

With the theme, “Transforming the Legacy: People of the Spirit in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” the symposium’s key purpose was to celebrate the seminary’s opening of the Joseph W. Mathews Archive at its campus library. The collection of published and unpublished writings are available for use in graduate and scholarly research. A ribbon cutting outside the library highlighted the event.

Both Mathews brothers were lauded as pioneers and change-agents in the tradition of Methodism’s founder, John Wesley. The gathering of about 150 included seven members of the Mathews family.

James Mathews served as a missionary in India, a bishop in the U.S. and an interim bishop in Zimbabwe, as well as head of world missions for 14 years for the denomination’s former Board of Missions. In each appointment, he championed the causes of mission education and social change, as well as interfaith cooperation and racial progress. Today he is “Bishop-in-Residence” at Metropolitan Memorial UMC in the nation’s capital.

The Rev. Joseph Mathews also broke new ground five decades ago by teaching practical theology and congregational renewal as a seminary professor and founding dean of the innovative Ecumenical Institute in Chicago. The institute, a lay and clergy religious order that attracted thousands of members and visitors, modeled interdependent, Christian-community living and community organizing. It grew to become the Institute for Cultural Affairs (ICA) with a global presence in more than 40 countries, offering training, human development activities and community building strategies.

Joseph Mathews died in 1977. His surviving heirs and the institute donated his personal archive-including letters, research and dissertation materials, books, manuscripts and other writings-to Wesley in 2008. The seminary’s library is working to ensure their preservation and availability for academic research, including plans to digitize much of the collection and add presented papers and video recordings from the symposium.

The seminary is trying to raise funds for the digitization, which would make the archive more accessible online to the wider public.



*Bishop John Schol*

In praising Wesley for creating the archive, along with its other initiatives, Bishop Schol used words that seemed to refer to the Mathews brothers themselves. He commended the seminary for “narrowing the distance between biblical scholarship and biblical living, between church history and present-day reality, between theological thinking and heart living.”

Schol commended Joseph Mathews for shepherding an “Acts 2” community in the troubled neighborhood known as Fifth City, on Chicago’s West Side, “in which they shared all things in common and gave to any who had need.” He also praised Bishop James Mathews’ for stimulating change through his cultural sensitivity, his “inquisitive mind” and his keen influence on the Council of Bishops and on the episcopal areas where he served.

Bishop May, sharing a vision for leadership in urban mission, lamented the relentless poverty, violence, drug abuse and other crises in urban centers, along with the church’s declining presence and relevance. He called upon the denomination to challenge these and

other social ills in more meaningful ways.

“The programs that have been sanitized by our General Conference do not touch the heart of the pain and suffering that goes on in our cities,” May said. “How can we be in ministry with them (the poor) when we do not know them, because we’re still shielded by our paternalism and do-goodism?”

“What will it take for The United Methodist Church to move beyond its brilliant programs and just get down and dirty,” he implored as listeners applauded.

May lauded the “pedagogical methodology” taught and used by both James and Joseph Mathews as one that invites the imagination and the Holy Spirit to reveal problems and possible solutions through reason, emotion and action.



"I've taken a bit of your pedagogy as I've moved around the world among some of the poorest nations," he said, speaking particularly to ICA members in the audience. "All over the world, the light of compassion and the brilliance of this organization of human resources shine brightly because of these two men and because of you."

Bishop Susan M. Morrison recalled Bishop Mathews' seminal 1959 book, *Eternal Values in a World of Change*, newly republished with a foreword that she wrote. She spoke of its timeless principles, still relevant today, that address various "situations in life and in our relationships with each other."

Morrison echoed Mathews' urging for Christian leaders to be actively, responsively engaged in the world by "participating with one another, studying and reminding ourselves of the eternal message of God's love."



Rev. Dr. William Holmes

The Rev. Dr. William Holmes recalled the profound impact that both Mathews brothers had on his life and ministry. Joseph Mathews challenged him, as his professor at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas, "with the radical implications of what it means to live in Jesus Christ." And Bishop James Mathews appointed him in 1974 as senior pastor of Metropolitan Memorial UMC in the nation's capital, where he served for 24 years.

Holmes recalled using methods learned from Joseph Mathews to train teachers in the principles and praxis of religion and culture, while also pursuing James Mathews' vision of making Metropolitan Memorial an influential voice in addressing important national issues.

"His vision was always global, but his praxis was local," Holmes said of Bishop Mathews, listing some of the bold steps Mathews took to help foster social change. Among those steps: meeting with U.S. presidents and foreign leaders; challenging racism and trying to integrate an all-white, Mississippi church in the 1960s with the help of fellow Bishop Charles Golden, who was black; welcoming and aiding Native American marchers in 1978 on their "longest walk" from California to the National Mall to demonstrate for their treaty rights; helping to organize the Interfaith Conference of Washington D.C., today considered one of the most diverse local interfaith councils in the

nation; and helping to create the Council of Bishops' historic 1978 document, "In Defense of Creation."

The Rev. Bruce Birch, who retired in 2009 after 11 years as dean at Wesley, similarly recalled being influenced by the Mathews brothers as a seminary professor for 38 years. Describing major changes in theological education in the past and current century, Birch credited Joseph Mathews with "raising up and equipping leaders for a new church and a new world."

"I will always count bringing Joe Mathews' archive here to Wesley as one of the most important things I was able to do as dean," he said. "I couldn't think of a better place for it to be."

## Study Opportunities



### Great Hall Lecture

**"Classical Economy Theory and the Economics of the Kingdom of God"  
A Conversation with the Rev. Dr. Phil O'Hara and Dr. Sabina O'Hara  
Sunday, January 17, 10:10 a.m., Great Hall**

Join us for this thought provoking lecture in the Great Hall!

### Bible Plus Class

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

The Bible Plus Class continues our study of "Lost Christianities — Christian Scriptures and the Battles over Authentication." Our schedule is: **December 13-Infancy Gospels; December 20-The Gospel of Peter; December 27-The Secret Gospel of Mark.** Please join us in the Christie Room at 10:10 a.m.



### Science & Religion Class

**Sundays, 10:10 a.m., Parlor**

During the month of January, the class will be focusing on issues surrounding Galileo's appearance in Rome following the publication of his celestial observations in *The Starry Messenger* in 1610, exactly 400 years ago. It was to mark the emergence of what we today call "the scientific method." The ensuing debates with Jesuit philosophers, who insisted on the "quintessence" of the heavens, eventually led Galileo to the Inquisition. In our class on January 10 we will give attention to the events that shaped the Inquisition, and the forces that were arrayed against Galileo. We will have copies of the background material available in the Parlor for anyone who wants to drop in, and visitors are always welcome. See you at the 9 a.m. worship and/or the 10:10 discussion. Questions? Contact Maynard Moore at [emaynard8@yahoo.com](mailto:emaynard8@yahoo.com) or Kent Weaver at [kenthweaver@gmail.com](mailto:kenthweaver@gmail.com).

### Questions of Faith

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

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

## January Sermon Series

### The Wizard of Oz & Wicked

**January 3**

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

**Sermon Title: The Heroine's Journey**

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

**January 10**

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

**Sermon Title: Gazing Behind the Curtain**

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



**January 17**

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

**Sermon Title: Defying Gravity**

**Theme:** Particularly in church life, we very quickly get ourselves locked into very narrow definitions of right and wrong. It is one of the reasons that the "Unchristian" survey found that young people's most predominant impression of church-

goers was that they (we!) were judgmental and moralistic. That's an interesting point, given the fact that it is exactly that moralism that Jesus criticizes most vehemently in his own teaching, continually castigating the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. An ongoing

theme in Oz (and particularly Wicked) is that our perceptions of goodness and wickedness are often profoundly wrong, and are often masks for far more complex realities. Many post-modern theologians argue that Jesus was far more interested in authenticity than right behavior.



**January 24**

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

**Sermon Title: Dorothy Leadership**

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

**January 31**

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

**Sermon Title: If I Only Had a Brain**

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

## Seniors Ministries

### Be A Guiding Force in A Young Child's Life!

Are you looking for a place to connect and plug in? Are you missing your grandchildren and great grandchildren? Horace Mann Elementary School (right behind Metropolitan) is seeking older adults to help with special projects with their pre-K program. This is a great opportunity to spend time helping young children (getting a grandparent "fix" to tide you over until your next family visit) and foster our church relationship in the community. Contact Rev. Sandy Rector to learn more. [rector@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:rector@mmumc-dc.org) or 202.363.4900, ext. 19

### IONA Senior Services

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

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

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



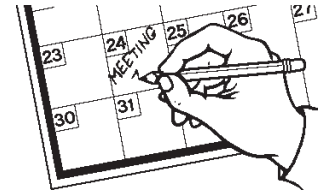
# United Methodist Women



**UMW Circle 10**  
**Sunday, January 24**  
**6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Christie Room**  
**and**  
**Friday, February 19**  
**9:30 a.m., Church Parlor**

Where are you in your spiritual journey and where would you like to be in the new year? Bring books to share that have helped you.

## UMW Upcoming Events

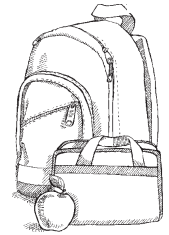


**Spiritual Retreat – Feb. 26-28 (off site)**  
**Great Day of Service – March 20 (Great Hall)**  
**Book Sale – April 17 (Vestry)**

## Campus Ministries

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

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



### Lenten Devotional Guide

In partnership with the AU Methodist Protestant Community, we at Metropolitan are working to create a devotional guide for Lent. Jayne Mardock and Cody Nielsen are looking for individuals who would be willing to write a single day devotional up to 300 words on a yet to be decided topic. We are also looking for 3-4 individuals who would be willing to provide their time and talents mostly during the month of January to work with students. We would be asking you to help recruit others as well as work together with students on the layout of the guide. Please email me (Cody) at [j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com](mailto:j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com) or call 319.759.9688 if you would be willing to help.

## Youth Ministries

### Welcome to 2010!

We will resume our Sunday evening gatherings on Sunday, January 10. We gather from 5:30-7:30 in room 206. We'll eat, pray, talk, play and discuss together. We are always looking for people who might want to volunteer in our youth ministry. If you think you are interested, please contact Jimmy at [jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org).



### Confirmation Class Begins



Our 2010 Confirmation Class begins on Sunday, January 10. We will have 9 sessions plus a retreat in May just prior to confirmation Sunday. You will see the class of 2010 in various roles in worship throughout the spring. Please keep the confirmands, parents, mentors and teachers in your prayers as they make this journey together.

# Children's Ministries

## Scenes from Christmas Eve Family Service

Thank you to all the children and youth who were a part of our Christmas Eve Family Service and to their parents who helped get the group together for rehearsal in the hectic days before Christmas. A special thank you goes to our children's choir director, Pam Settlage, and accompanist Eileen Guenther for leading the special music in the service.



*Our Holy Family: Kim and Tony Brown with India.*



*Our Three Kings: Claire Comey, Emily Vogt, and Greg Michel.*

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

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

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

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

**Reminder: Scouting Sunday is March 14**

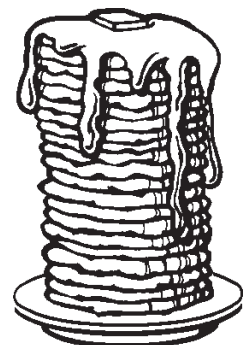
### Pancakes Anyone?

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER February 16, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Mark your calendar and join us on Tuesday night, February the 16 for pancakes, fellowship and fun in the Vestry. Dinner will be served from 5:30 - 7 and our children's choirs will provide entertainment for the evening. Join us for this wonderful annual event to mark the beginning of Lent.

**Family  
Movie Night  
January 29, 6  
p.m.**



**"The Wizard of Oz"  
Dinner with movie to follow  
Pajamas Optional!  
Room 206**



### **Our Mission**

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

### **Our Vision**

Extending radical hospitality, transforming lives, and pursuing justice.

### **Reconciling Statement**

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

### **Pastoral and Administrative Staff**

**Pastoral Emergency Number** - 202.510-8555

**Rev. Dr. Charles Parker** — Senior Pastor, ext. 11, [cparker@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:cparker@mmumc-dc.org)

**Rev. Sandy Rector** — Associate Pastor, ext. 19, [srector@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:srector@mmumc-dc.org)

**Rev. Jimmy Sherrod** — Associate Pastor, ext. 24, [jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org)

**Rev. Kate Murphey** — Associate Pastor, ext. 21, [kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org)

**Anita Seline** — Director of Children's Ministries, ext. 22, [aseline@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:aseline@mmumc-dc.org)

**Patrisha House** — Director of Worship, Music and Arts, ext. 28, [phouse@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:phouse@mmumc-dc.org)

**Jeff Clouser** — Director of Communications and Outreach, ext. 23, [jclouser@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:jclouser@mmumc-dc.org)

**J. Cody Nielsen** — Associate for Campus Ministry, ext. 14, [cnielsen@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:cnielsen@mmumc-dc.org)

**Bruce Caviness** — 11a.m. Organist-Choirmaster, ext. 15, [bcaviness@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:bcaviness@mmumc-dc.org)

**Casey Elliott** — Dayspring Choir Director and 9 a.m. Worship Leader, ext. 12, [celliott@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:celliott@mmumc-dc.org)

**Dona Collary** — Director of Church Administration, ext. 17, [dcollary@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:dcollary@mmumc-dc.org)

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