

# THE MESSENGER

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

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## A Time to Grow

The Talmud says that every blade of grass has its own angel that whispers over it, "Grow, grow." Why is growing so powerful? Why do we sometimes want it so desperately and do our best to speed the process up? Why do we sometimes want to avoid growing at all costs and run away and hide instead?



I am always amused at how some people say they can't wait for winter to be over, for it to be warmer, and then crank up the air conditioning as soon as it does get warmer. In the Christian year, some skip from Christmas to Easter, trying to find and make that perfect comfortable temperature. But then we miss the time to grow. In between Christmas and Easter is Jesus growing—from child to man, from student to leader, from private life to public ministry. He grows in understanding the scope and vision of his ministry and call and in the suffering he experiences.

We don't call them growing pains for nothing. They hurt. Jesus wept, and he asked that the cup be taken from him. We humans are smart enough to seek pleasure and avoid pain—getting all giddy about another character growth opportunity isn't exactly normal.

Yet in these dreaded moments of sacrifice, loss, and challenge is a kind of depth that the moments of celebration and perfection simply do not have. In moments of suffering, where we have to make a choice, where everything is put on the line, where the situation demands more of us than we knew existed, we grow. We make that reach one inch higher; we break through barriers that stopped us before. We find freedom, new dimensions, more. More of God, more of ourselves, more of the world around us—we move from black and white to color.

That's why we grow; that's why we need Lent, a season to focus on growing. It is a season that calls us to be present, not impatiently rushing things along or doing our best to escape from dealing with what limits us. It is a call to meet the difficulties that have entangled our lives because then, our adrenaline released, we have a chance to break through what is binding us. In the power of the Holy Spirit we meet the situation or person or issue, and we wrestle. In our wrestling we learn—we grow. We are freed to be more wholly who we are, our senses awakened to new depths of abundance.

So as we prepare to enter the season of Lent, don't be afraid to grow. We each have our angel, bending over us, and whispering, "Grow, grow."

*Kate Murphey*



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# Going Green For Lent!

**WE'RE NOT IN "OZ" ANYMORE  
BUT WE ARE STILL GOING GREEN!  
METROPOLITAN CHALLENGES YOU ... Go Green for Lent!**



Clean air, water, and soil are gifts from God that keep us and the entire interdependent web of God's creation healthy and thriving. During the weeks of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, we invite you and your family to join us on a Lenten Journey of Mindful Living – a Carbon Footprint Fast.

Inevitably, in going about our daily lives – commuting, sheltering our families, eating – each of us contributes to the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change. Yet, there are many things each of us, as individuals, can do to reduce our carbon emissions. The choices we make in our homes, our travel, the food we eat, and what we buy and throw away all influence our carbon footprint and can help ensure a stable climate for future generations. Go to the website below to use The Nature Conservancy's "Carbon Footprint Calculator" to measure your impact on our climate. You can do this as an individual or as a family.

<http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator/>



## **Here are five easy ways to begin decreasing your carbon footprint today!**

(from [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com))

**Eat locally.** Shopping at farmer's markets is a simple way to purchase locally grown food such as fresh vegetables, fruit and poultry. You reduce your carbon footprint when eating local because of the reduction in emissions by transporting vehicles such as trucks or trains. If local food isn't available, opt for unpackaged and unprocessed foods.

**Filter your own water,** rather than buying bottled water. Most tap water is safe to drink, and some bottled waters are flown in from the far corners of the earth.

**Choose greener transportation.** An overwhelming majority of drivers are alone most of the time, and bringing along just one other person will cut your emissions in half. Using public transportation, reducing your flights, walking and driving a more fuel-efficient vehicle will also cut down your carbon footprint.

**Save energy at home.** Replacing your light fixtures with fluorescent bulbs, drying your clothes on a clothesline, reducing the length of your showers, reducing the temperature of your home a couple of degrees in the winter and cutting back on air conditioning in the summer are all things that help. Others include using a low-flow shower head and buying energy-efficient appliances.

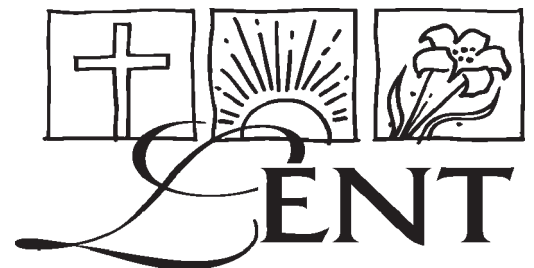
**Sign up for renewable energy.** Using solar power to heat your water could decrease your gas bill by 70 percent.

There are many resources online and at your local library. Go to this Link to find "19 Creative Ways To Decrease Your CO2 Footprint Online"

<http://www.webhostingsearch.com/articles/decrease-carbon-emissions-online.php>

## **Tread Lightly for Lent**

The General Assembly Mission Council of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Environmental Ministries has put together a Lenten calendar to guide us over the 40 days of Lent to learn about eco-justice (caring for creation and all humans in it) and to be challenged to take action on the issues of waste, energy, water, consumption and food. Please go to <http://www.pcusa.org/environment/> and download the calendar. Join us on the journey!



## Going Green For Lent! (Cont.)

### Worship Spaces as Stewardship

You are not alone on this journey, Metropolitan Memorial, St. Luke's and Wesley will be modeling environmental stewardship as well. Stewardship continues long after our annual campaign is over. Even as we are blessed as communities of faith with gathering places for our worship and ministry, we have responsibilities to be good stewards of these sacred spaces. Over the past year, you will notice that we have recycling containers for glass and plastic as well as for paper. *The Messenger* is now delivered electronically to most of our membership. During the summer months the 9 a.m. worship service used the video screen in the Great Hall eliminating countless pages of bulletins. But this spring, we'd like to take a giant leap forward and challenge ourselves as a staff and congregation to be better stewards. There's lots to do – challenges big and small. Our Trustees will look at the bigger issues such as programmable thermostats, better weatherization of windows and doors, cutting back on the use of PVC products, and the use of non-biodegradable disposables, and cleaning products that are not harmful to animals, humans or the ozone. By working to keep toxic materials out of our church buildings, we protect the health of those coming to worship and meet in our buildings, we love our neighbors as ourselves, and we help to preserve God's good Creation.

There's so much we can do as a church. Being mindful of how much water we use, being sure to turn off taps completely or reporting a leaky faucet or toilet to the church office. Turning lights off when we leave a room, recycling responsibly (don't put trash in the recycle container just because it's convenient), don't waste paper – use email instead. Being mindful during Lent will help guide our prayer life as well and prepare us for our sermon series following Easter.

### Lenten Greenery

You might notice a change on the altar this Lenten Season. Last year we switched to greens instead of flowers to more accurately reflect the mood of the season. This year we are switching to "living greens." We will use a series of live plants on the altar which will add oxygen to the air we breath and will return to people's homes at the end of Lent. For Palm Sunday we will again use "Eco-Palms" purchased directly from the communities where men harvest them in the forest and women process and sell them contributing to their family's financial stability. Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests. For more information go to <http://cinram.umn.edu>.



### Upcoming Sermon Series After Easter – “The Environment”

Following Easter, the sermon series (April 11 through May 9) will focus on the environment. Beth Norcross will preach the opening sermon as well as present several of our Great Hall lectures. Beth is adjunct faculty at Wesley Theological Seminary where she teaches and guest-lectures in eco-theology. She also spearheaded the creation care and renewal program at Wesley and chairs the Wesley Creation Committee. She helped launch the national Green Seminary Initiative, of which she currently serves as the Coordinator. Beth also serves on the steering committee for the Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light. Beth speaks and preaches on the Scriptural and ecological imperatives to protect the earth and has led several workshops and retreats on nature and spirituality. Along with other resources, she has developed two for the National Council of Churches – “Sacred Waters,” an adult education curriculum, and “Building a Firm Foundation,” an eco-friendly building guide for churches.



### **METROPOLITAN PLAYERS PRESENT: The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail By Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Directed by Frances Bartley Cleaver**

In March Metropolitan Players will present “The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail” a play of simplicity in costume, set and lighting which allows the essence of the man to shine through. Thoreau spoke out long before smog-filled cities dotted our landscape and global warming became a soundbite. He sang out in nonviolent defiance but people were slow to listen. It was the material mindedness of his government that drove the mystic Thoreau to the shores of Walden. The bloody conflict with Mexico played an important role in Thoreau's thinking as well. U.S. Grant wrote in his *Memoirs*: “I do not think there was ever a more wicked war than that waged by the United States on Mexico ... only I had not the moral courage to resign.” According to Santayana, “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to relive it.” Perhaps this play will jog our memories as we relive the poetic protest of one of America's freest men. **Join us for this perfect family event! Childcare will be provided for Saturday and Sunday performances.**

“Thoreau is a fascinating paradox: A man who was – and is. A self-effacing giant; a wit who rarely laughed; a man who loved so deeply and completely that he seemed, sometimes, not to have loved at all.” *The playwrights.*

**Friday, March 19 at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 20 at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 21 at 2:30 p.m.  
Free Will Offering ~ Ticket Donation ~ \$10 suggested/students free**

## Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish



**Rev. Dr. William B. Lawrence, Guest Preacher**  
**Dean, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University**  
**and Former Senior Minister at Metropolitan Memorial**  
**Sunday, February 14, 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Worship**

**“The Glare of Glory”**  
**Exodus 34:29-35 and Luke 9:28-36**

The glory of God is something that we crave and which we hope to experience. Yet it is also something we resist experiencing. Moses met with God on the mountain face to face, but the glory that was simply reflected in his appearance when he came down the mountain was more than the people could bear-so he veiled his face. Jesus, according to the gospel account in Luke, was transfigured in His appearance with Moses and Elijah but it was beyond anything that Peter and the other disciples could manage. When people so powerfully manifest the presence and mystery of God in the world, it is hard to face them. Such people as Mother Teresa surpass our capacity to understand, let alone emulate. Yet the message of faith-certainly the message of the scriptures-is that we are called to reflect the glory of God in the world. The glare of our doing so might be more than the world can handle.

A term that is terribly common nowadays in our school of theology, on our campus, and-as far as I can tell-in the nation’s capital is the term transparency. People allegedly want the government to be transparent. Faculty want the administration of the university to be transparent. The problem seems to be that when we actually achieve transparency, we do not like what we see. People complained when negotiations about health care legislation did not seem to be transparent. But when there was public attention to some of the details of the negotiation-for example, the special considerations given to one state whose senator was playing a crucial role in the matter-most of the public apparently preferred not to know that such things occur. Nevertheless, the church is called to be transparent to the presence of God. We are called to manifest the mystery of God in the world, even if the world would rather not have to see it. And yet that mystery, that glory, that love will be our only hope for having the ills and evils of the world overcome.

**BLACKMUN DEDICATION**  
**Sunday, February 14**

**10:10 a.m. Great Hall ~ Reflections on Justice Blackmun**  
**Wanda Martinson, Harold Koh and Bill McDaniel**



**11:15 a.m. Worship and Dedication of Memorial Plaque**  
**Justice Harry Blackmun and Dorothy Clark Blackmun**  
**Reception to follow in the Great Hall**



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

### Altar Flowers

Gracing the Altar with flowers on Sunday is a good way to memorialize or honor someone who means or has meant something special in one's life. If you would like to reserve a Sunday for that special someone in your life, please contact the church office at 202.363.4900. The cost is \$45. Please note that only living greens will be used during Lent.



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

- Margery Diffenderfer David, January 22
- James Chandran, January 30
- Julia Barnhart, February 3



### 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).

### Tables of 8

Please note that the Tables of 8 material has been sent out. Anyone who has not received the information should please call or email Ann Cochran, [ann@annpcochran.com](mailto:ann@annpcochran.com) or 301.229.2114.



### Donate Your Walkers or Crutches

Suburban Hospital is accepting donations of walkers and crutches for Haiti. Donations can be dropped off from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Information Desk in the Main Lobby. For more information, contact Stacy Goldsamt, 301.896.3971.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, February 16, 1:30 p.m.  
Sunday, February 21, 12:30 p.m.

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

### Are You Called to be a Shepherd?

Do you feel called to guide new members into the life of Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish? An important time in one's life is entry into a new church community. Individuals who join the church through friends and neighbors come in on a fast track with introductions and invitations to church events. Individuals who join on their own can be overwhelmed in a large church community. It appears that everyone knows each other; this can be intimidating. The church "geography" can also be overwhelming. If you are interested in this important welcoming ministry, please contact Suzanne Forsyth at [suzanneforsyth@aol.com](mailto:suzanneforsyth@aol.com). Your willingness to serve as a Shepherd is a faithful commitment to our church.



### Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17  
7:30 a.m., Noon\* and 8 p.m.

*Services of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes*

\*Our Noon service will be at Wesley UMC, 5312 Conn. Ave NW  
The Sanctuary at Metropolitan Memorial will be open for prayer.



### 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, [davesproul@aol.com](mailto:davesproul@aol.com) or Pat House, [phouse@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:phouse@mmumc-dc.org)

### 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.

## Stewardship Update: Thy Kingdom Come



A huge thanks to everyone for the wonderful results on our annual stewardship effort! Our stewardship team did a amazing job of helping us focus on how our giving allows us to participate in the building of the Kingdom of God; a Kingdom that God promises is both a future promise, but also a present reality. Pledges continue to arrive, but our preliminary numbers are as follows: we have received 195 pledges for a total of \$819, 767 in pledge commitments. Looking at the list of last year's pledges, we can probably expect another \$103,035 to come in, bringing us to a projected total (for budgetary purposes) of 922,802. This is slightly (but not dramatically) off of last year's total of \$927,000. Given the difficulty of our economy, I think that this is reason to celebrate. But I also want to encourage those of you who have not returned your pledge cards, please get them in as soon as possible. Everyone's gift is important, and every gift contributes to the Kingdom church that God is calling us to be.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read 'Charlie'.

## Help the Homeless

### Hypothermia Shelter at St. Luke's Enhances our Parish's Service to the Homeless

Since 1991, St. Luke's United Methodist Church has hosted a six-bed transitional housing program for men that is much like Metropolitan House. The St. Luke Shelter is located in the basement of the church and is open 365 days a year.

Since 2004, St. Luke's has also been the home of a men's hypothermia shelter. This life-saving program, which is located in a separate section of the church basement, now provides refuge for men living on the streets on nights when a "hypothermia alert" is declared. Under the District of Columbia's Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005 (HSRA), homeless people have the right to shelter in severe weather conditions. Hypothermia services begin whenever the actual or forecasted temperature, including the wind chill factor, is 32° or below. Hypothermia shelters throughout the city operate from the beginning of November through the end of March (or longer if hypothermic conditions persist). Of the 151 days in the 2008-2009 winter season, there were hypothermia alerts on 112 or 74% of those days.

Prior to 2004, there were no such hypothermia shelters in upper Northwest. The Community Council at the Homeless and a number of concerned congregations were seeking a suitable host site. St. Luke's stepped forward to host the hypothermia shelter for men and the Community of Christ on Massachusetts Avenue agreed to host the hypothermia shelter for women.

The system of hypothermia shelters operates through a collaborative network of nonprofit and government agencies. At St. Luke's, Catholic Charities provides the overnight staff that operates the shelter from 7 pm to 7 am. The DC Central Kitchen cooks and delivers approximately 4,000 meals per day to St. Luke's and other hypothermia shelters city-wide. And the United Planning Organization (UPO) provides vans to pick up and deliver persons to shelters and its drivers also perform outreach functions. **IF YOU SEE SOMEONE NEEDING HELP WHO SHOULD BE IN A SHELTER CALL the toll free Hypothermia Hotline: 1-800-535-7252.** Any person needing assistance may also call the Mayor's Call Center at 311.



## Metropolitan Memorial Responds to Crisis in Haiti



Metropolitan Memorial would like to thank its congregation's response for assistance for Haiti. It shows again the love and care our members, including many in Glover Park, have for all God's people. From supplies brought in by members on Sunday morning, January 17, Metropolitan's youth assembled 250 UMCOR health kits filled with towels, toothbrushes, soap, bandages, and more. Those kits were transported to an UMCOR collection point in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, on the next day, along with extra health kits supplies to assemble another 20 kits.

In addition, the congregation donated t-shirts, flip flops, candles, batteries, diapers, non-perishable food, baby formula, shampoo, soap, and much more, all of which were driven to the Embassy of Haiti on Sunday afternoon to join a caravan of other people donating relief supplies to the effort. The front steps of the embassy were filled with donations to be loaded into trucks and buses.

A special collection was taken up for UMCOR's Haiti relief effort, as well. Donations can still be made to the relief arm of the United Methodist Church. This organization received an A+ rating for its ability to spend all of its money for its intended beneficiaries. Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325 can be accessed through this link: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/>. We asked the UMC General Board of Global Ministries for information on people who had contributed to UMCOR on-line and designated Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church as their church. While they do not yet have information on Haiti, their list of the first 50 donations from December 2005 to December 31, 2009, was \$225,728.16. Amazing generosity!



## A Letter of Thanks To Our Congregation

Dear Members of MMUMC,

On behalf of the volunteers for the Bokamoso Youth Centre in Winterveldt, South Africa, I want to express appreciation, and deep respect, for the mission-oriented hospitality of your congregation. Your gifts of vestry hall space, and other support, make it possible for volunteers from several local churches and school communities to hold a "**Dream Breakfast**" for the benefit of the youth from the Centre.

As you know, MMUMC has hosted the Centre's young singers in your worship services for many years. In 2008, MMUMC partnered with other volunteers to create a breakfast fundraising event to help graduates of the Youth Centre attend college or vocational training beyond the high school level.

Since the first Breakfast at MMUMC in 2008, over 70 South African youth have been provided with scholarships to work towards their dreams. Each \$1500 donated supports one student for an entire year. Because of the monetary exchange rate differences, each U.S. dollar is worth eight times more in South Africa.

Your gift of vestry hall space, and other support, has made it possible for U.S. supporters to continue to raise the scholarship money and other crucial giving to sustain the Centre. The Breakfast events have been very successful and the volunteer team is growing. Last week, the 2010 Bokamoso Dream Breakfast was held in your vestry hall and donations remained as strong as prior years.

On February 7, the youth from the Centre will be worshipping with you at both services. They are eager to express their appreciation, thanksgiving, and profound respect for the way you use your building and resources to share God's love, grace and hope.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Chris Hughes Bridgeman* (on behalf of the youth and the Bokamoso Dream Breakfast volunteer team)



## Study Opportunities

### The Alpha Course is Coming to Metropolitan!

The Alpha Course is coming to Metropolitan beginning Tuesday, April 13 and running for 10 weeks. We hope that you will join us along with friends and family!

Alpha is intended to help Christians and non-Christians to explore the meaning of life. Each evening, participants enjoy food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile...questions like: Is there a God? Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going?

Today, more than 33,500 Alpha Courses run in 163 countries. Our hope is that Alpha will be a source of inspiration and fellowship for our congregation and help to engage people that have never been to Church before. If you would like to attend please contact Helen Simon at [hsimon@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:hsimon@mmumc-dc.org) or 202.363.4900 to register your name. We look forward to welcoming you on April 13.

We are also looking for volunteers to help support the course, so please also let us know if you would like to join the team.



### 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." Please join us in the Christie Room at 10:10 a.m.

### Science & Religion Class

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

In January, our class focused attention on Galileo. We considered some of the background of what was happening in celestial observations from the ancient Greeks through Copernicus and Kepler, and then reviewed the details of Galileo's 1633 appearance before the Inquisition in Rome, discussing the political and scientific issues involved. Galileo's publication of his celestial observations in *The Starry Messenger* in 1610, exactly 400 years ago, marked the emergence of what we call today "the scientific method." On February 14 thousands of churches across the U.S. will celebrate "Evolution Weekend," with sermons, films and discussion groups. We will be reviewing a recent article in the journal, *The Scientist*, entitled "Should Evolutionary Theory Evolve?" Please join us. Visitors are always welcome and copies of the background material are always available in the Parlor. 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 for 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.



### **Appalachia Service Project**

#### **ASP is not just for youth!**

Our Youth are preparing for this year's ASP trip, but did you know that ASP provides weekend and week-long mission opportunities as well. In the coming weeks, Ned Bachman will lead a session in the Great Hall to explore the ASP program in general and the adult mission program in particular. Ned will also include slides from last summer's Metropolitan youth mission trip to Raleigh County, West Virginia. The youth are beginning to raise funds and plan for this summer's ASP trip and this will be a good opportunity to learn what about the kinds of things they will be doing. Watch future Messengers for the date of this informative session.

## Marriage Equality and the Church: Discussion and Learning Opportunities

### **Great Hall Discussion Series**

**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**.

### **Marriage Equality Discussion with Dr. Parker**

**March 2, 7 p.m., Great Hall - All Church Members**

**(Dessert hosted by the Advocacy Team)**

Charlie has invited all members of the Church to an informal conversation about the implications of the recent approval by the DC City Council of The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009, which would permit same-sex couples to marry in the District of Columbia. Following a required period of Congressional review, the law will take effect—probably sometime early this year. The fact that same-sex couples will have the legal right to marry creates new possibilities and new questions for congregations and clergy in the District of Columbia

### **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)

# United Methodist Women



*Pictured are UMW Circle 2 members on a trip to see the Terracotta Warriors at the National Geographic Museum.*

## **Movie: "Daughters of Afghanistan"**

### **UMW Circle Six Meeting, February 11, 7 p.m.**

Circle six will meet on Thursday, February 11 at 7 p.m. in Room 206 (the Youth Room) for a viewing and discussion of the film, "Daughters of Afghanistan." All UMW members and women of the church are invited.

## **Building Love Tea**

### **Saturday, February 13, 10 a.m., Great Hall**

Walk the labyrinth and enjoy a Valentine's tea and fellowship with your UMW pals. This is UMW's annual observance of prayer and self-denial. An offering will be taken at the tea in support of the global UMW's 2010 mission to fund renovations and construction of mission buildings supported by the UMW in the United States and throughout the world. Funds collected by UMW units will fund community centers, women's residences, hospitals, schools, and more.

## **Lenten Women's Retreat: Living Waters: Sustaining Your Soul February 26-28, 2010**

Women of Metropolitan! We invite you to join us for a Lenten Women's Retreat. Come retreat, relax, recharge, and immerse yourself in the "healing waters" of spiritual renewal with a diverse gathering of Metropolitan women. Our time together is designed to prepare us for a fuller experience of Holy Week and Easter through group and individual reflection, prayer, relaxation and fellowship.

The retreat will take place at The Sanctuary Retreat Center/Am Kolel in upper Montgomery County, MD; the cost is \$160 including accommodations and meals. Space is limited so register early—don't miss out! Registration forms are available in the office or contact Suzanne Vieth at [msvieth@verizon.net](mailto:msvieth@verizon.net) or 202-237-6744. *This event is sponsored by UMW but open to all Metropolitan women.*



## Seniors Ministries

The Ward Circle Chapter of AARP has been serving seniors in our area for over 30 years. It is open to all AARP members. While participating where possible in overall functions such as the AARP Great Day of Service, the chapter provides entertaining programs and fellowship for its members and visitors.

The chapter meets in the Vestry on the third Monday of each month, March through June and September through December. Most meetings start with fellowship time and refreshments at 12:30, followed at 1:00 by any business and one or more speakers. Recent programs have included a description of the local Village projects set up to help seniors age in their own homes, a presentation by the head of volunteers at the Kennedy Center, and a talk by the author of *The Cloak and Dagger Cook, A CIA Memoir*. Presenters from AARP DC and the national organization periodically provide updates on services available to members and on local and national initiatives. Meetings usually end by 2:00.

In October the chapter hosts a flu clinic, open to all, and it has luncheons in June and December, with local entertainment. Additional tours and lunches at area restaurants are planned once or twice a year.

The next meeting is Monday, March 15. The speaker will talk about his book on the Loughboro family, which was very influential in the early history of the area surrounding the church. All are welcome.



## Campus Ministries

Dear Friends,

I would first like to begin by sending a big thank you to everyone who prepared goodies for December's Final's Packages for the AU students. Being away in Israel for 2 weeks and home right after Christmas kept me from getting that message to you all until now. Again thank you for volunteering your time and talent for our students.

February means many things in the life of college students: for graduating seniors the reality may begin to set in that this is the last "go-around" and it's time to start considering what is next. For others, midterms and spring break plans may take center stage. But also this month, Lent takes center stage in the life of the church. And with Lent comes a Lenten Devotional guide, which is being prepared in conjunction the AU students and focuses on the sacraments as we begin the path toward Easter and beyond. Together as students and as a congregation we will have the opportunity to consider the devotions of around 40 individuals in this area. We hope you might join us as we prepare to hand these out on Valentine's Sunday.

This semester's schedule includes a Sunday morning study of Luke, Tuesdays at the Tavern (at the Mary Grayden Center) at 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., a book study on AJ Jacob's, "The Year of Living Biblically," putting together care packages for our students overseas this semester and other events as scheduled. If you would like to join us, or would like to help with our Sunday dinners with the AU students, please contact Cody at [j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com](mailto:j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com) or 319.759.9688. Have a great month.

*J. Cody Nielsen*

## Youth Ministries

### **Appalachia Service Project 2010 - Deposit Due Monday, February 8**

It's time to think about ASP again. We know that our dates are July 11-17 (be prepared to block off July 10 because we usually leave a day early). We do not yet know where we will be serving this year, but the ASP team wants to invite you to consider joining us. If you are a youth age 14 and older, then you are invited to apply. We are always looking for adults who may wish to volunteer. If you are interested, please contact Jimmy Sherrod, 202.363.4900, ext. 24 or [jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org).



**For youth who are interested, a deposit to hold your place of \$100 is due in the office no later than Monday, February 8 (make checks payable to MMUMC).** Along with the deposit, we need paperwork as well. A medical release form that needs to be notarized as well as a statement of activities release form are available at <http://www.nationalchurch.org/youth/appalachia.html>. Please download those forms and fill them out and turn them in with your deposit. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jimmy Sherrod. Find out more about ASP by going to their website [www.asphome.org](http://www.asphome.org).

### **Donuts for Donations Returns!**

The Youth in Mission auction, supporting mission trips such as the Appalachia Service Project, is coming up next month and we are asking for your donation. Forms for donations (and donuts to thank you), will be available Sundays in February in the Vestry during the coffee hour. Make a donation to this effort and get a donut in return. Cash donations are also welcome. Youth will be on hand to answer your questions.

Donor forms are also available NOW on the church website at <http://www.nationalchurch.org/youth/PDF/2010/aspdonorform2010.pdf> for those eager donors out there. Please return your forms to the church office (place them in Rev. Jimmy Sherrod's box), by Sunday, Feb. 28.

The Youth in Mission Auction will be held Sunday, March 14 and will feature a silent auction, a live auction, and lunch. It's always a wonderful time and what a great way to support our youth in their journey of faith and service. Please be thinking about what you can donate whether it is tickets to sporting or arts events, gift certificates, services, vacation homes, specialty foods, parties, or something else.

Last Sunday, we received pledges from more than 12 past donors to this year's Youth in Mission auction. Many thanks to The House Family, Helen Simon, the Oberdicks, the Cochrans, Sam Rawlings, the Rusches, Nathaniel Remez, John Derrick, the Settlages, the Gildners, Anita Seline & Martha Mizroch, and Jeff Clouser for their donations.



# Children's Ministries

## Fun in the Sun!

### **Summer Camps for Metropolitan Kids!**

Planning for the summer is upon us and Metropolitan is exploring ways to connect with the vibrant Methodist camping ministry, which has two campgrounds: West River and Manidokan. There are several options before us.

One option is selecting a week in which the camp offers programs for elementary school aged children. There are several of these opportunities available, including one-week camps for third-through fifth-graders, run in conjunction with shorter opportunities for second-graders the same week.

Another option is a middle-grades camp contemplated for the conference's West River camp in mid-July. Additionally, planning is underway for a Family Camping weekend, to be held October 15-17. Details will come together in the next month.

Other camping opportunities closer to home are also available. Metropolitan and St. Paul's Lutheran Church this summer will hold a joint Vacation Bible School the week of June 21-25. This morning camp is available to ages three through fifth-graders, and will be staffed by volunteers and staff from both congregations.

Metropolitan's Nursery School will again offer a summer camp this year, running for eight weeks. The camp for three-year-olds will run June 1 to July 23. A camp for toddlers is contemplated the final two weeks of this session.

Brochures and sign up information on all of the above opportunities will be available in Sunday School this month. It's a bit nice to think about the summer in the midst of this wintery weather.

## Pancakes Anyone?

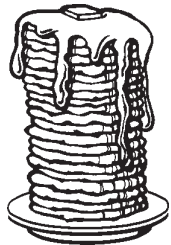
### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**

**February 16, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., Vestry**

Egg casserole, bacon, sausage, and all the pancakes you can eat are on the menu for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Celebrate before Lent begins. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. The children's choirs will perform. The cost is \$3 per child and \$5 for adults. Proceeds benefit Metropolitan Nursery School and Children's

Ministries. Questions? Contact Anita Seline at [aseline@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:aseline@mmumc-dc.org).

**Volunteers Needed:** Can you flip pancakes? Blow up balloons? Set the table? Help with the upcoming pancake dinner? We hope there are some people out there who can help pull off this fun event. Please contact Anita Seline at [aseline@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:aseline@mmumc-dc.org) to volunteer. Mardi Gras beads to anyone who will help!



## Upcoming Children's Ministry Dates of Note

- Feb. 16 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30 to 7 pm
- Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
- Feb. 20 CPR class 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.,  
(organized by Metropolitan Nursery School)
- March 7 Lenten Workshop, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**The children had a wonderful time during the Children's Sermon during the Wizard of Oz Sermon Series. We thank Pam Settlage for her transformative talents! Below are some pics.**



### 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)

**Helen Simon** - Office Manager, ext. 10, [hsimon@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:hsimon@mmumc-dc.org)

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**NEXT ISSUE: March 12, 2010**

**NEXT DEADLINE: Noon on March 9, 2010**