



THE MESSENGER

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

March 12, 2010
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www.nationalchurch.org



Arriving at Easter

The journey through Lent is winding down. Soon it will be Palm Sunday, a day which marks a joyous celebration in the life of Jesus and those who followed him. A day when Jesus is hailed as King of the Jews, and people come from near and far to see him. His procession into Jerusalem is like a victory parade – the king coming home to assume his rightful throne in Jerusalem, met by the adoring, palm-waving crowds. For centuries the church worshipped Palm Sunday with joy and triumph.

But then an interesting thing happened. As the church became less central to the lives of people, fewer people came to church, and fewer still to the mid-week services that dealt with the harsh realities of the final days of Jesus' life. In order to more fully experience the totality of Holy Week, the church is reclaiming Palm Sunday as Passion Sunday as well, a day in which Christians anticipate Jesus' suffering as he journeyed to the cross. No more skipping from the exuberance of Palm Sunday to Easter without reflecting upon the humility and obedience, the emptying, the sacrifice of Jesus the Christ. No shouts of 'Hosanna' followed only by 'Christ is Risen!'

That's fine for churches that are not able to offer services that help their congregations experience

the richness of Holy Week, or for people who are truly unable to attend mid-week services for a variety of reasons. But we would like to encourage you to move beyond a Palm/Passion Sunday faith, to contemplate more deeply and richly what it means to follow Christ to the foot of the cross. This is a path we must walk if we are to truly understand the gift of Easter and roll back the stones that keep us from emerging to new life in Christ.

We invite you to join us throughout Holy Week and experience more fully Christ's final days of love, obedience, suffering and sacrifice. The last supper on Maundy Thursday. The passion and death of Jesus on Good Friday. The waiting of the disciples during the Easter vigil. The victory of Christ as God transforms the cross from an instrument of death into a symbol of eternal life and love and we rejoice together on Easter morning, singing "Christ is Risen!" with new understanding for our lives.

Sandy Reetz

Remembering Others at Easter



You can remember friends and family this Easter by donating altar flowers in honor or memory of loved ones.

This year, our altar will be graced with Lilies and Azaleas, each given in celebration of someone known and loved by a member of the church.

I wish to donate # _____ Easter Lilies at \$30 each
I wish to donate # _____ Azaleas (not winter hardy) at \$30 each

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

- I will pick up these flowers following 11:15 a.m. worship
- I am donating these flowers to the church for distribution to our members by the Visitor Corps.

All donations will be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

The deadline for gifts is Monday, March 29, 2010.

Please drop off or mail your form and payment to the church office.

Orders cannot be taken by phone.

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| My Name: _____ | Phone: _____ |
| Address: _____ | Total Enclosed: \$ _____ |

Holy Week at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish

Metropolitan Memorial, St. Luke's and Wesley United Methodist Churches

Walk through the last week and hours of Christ's life at services during Holy Week at all three of our campuses. Begin with Palm/Passion Sunday and continue preparing your heart and soul for Easter through a variety of worship services in the days leading up to Easter. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to join you for one of the most meaningful weeks in our church year.



Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28 "The Great Banquet"

Past, present ... and future: In both Jewish and Christian tradition, the end times are portrayed as a great feast that the saints have at the table of God. Holy Communion is also about looking ahead: whenever we celebrate communion, we recreate, in anticipation, the great day when we will feast at the messianic banquet. Living out of the future reality has profound implications for how we live today as well. At Metropolitan UMC, our 5th and 6th Grade Sunday School classes will offer a dramatic reading of the triumphant processional into Jerusalem during the children's time and will help serve communion. All worship will include Palm Processions using "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>.

Metropolitan Memorial UMC

- 9:00 a.m. Blended Dayspring Choir
- 11:00 a.m. Children Come to the Vestry,
Make an Easter Bonnet (or hat) to wear on Easter Sunday
plus create a "Peeps" wreath!
- 11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir and Organ
- ~ ~ ~
- 11:00 a.m. Wesley United UMC
- 11:30 a.m. St. Luke's campus
- 4:00 p.m. Mt. Vernon Place UMC – United Methodist Clergy for Marriage Equality (*see page 8*)

Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Reflection

Monday through Friday, March 29-April 2

Great Hall Labyrinth Walk - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Find time this week to spend a few minutes or an hour in quiet prayer and reflection in our Sanctuary or walking the labyrinth in our Great Hall. For those of you with children in school, drop them off and spend some time in prayer and reflection. If they are on Spring Break – bring them along! If you work downtown, take a break from your office duties and spend your lunch hour away from what keeps you busy. This is a good week to break from over-committed days.



Maundy Thursday, April 1 - Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish

Worship in Sanctuary at 8 p.m.

The Thursday before Easter is the day we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin for "mandate" and refers to Christ's command to love one another. Rev. Sandy Rector will offer a meditation and the Chancel Choir will enrich us through music.

Holy Week at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish (cont.)



Good Friday, April 2

“The Seven Last Words of Christ” from Noon – 3 p.m. at Metropolitan Memorial UMC ~ Join us in the Sanctuary anytime between noon and three. There will be a continuum of preaching, music, prayer and meditation shared by an ecumenical group of local preachers. Come and go as you please or stay for the entire three hours.

7 p.m. at Wesley UMC ~ The service will follow the story of Christ’s arrest, trial, and crucifixion and include other contemporary stories of struggle and brokenness as well. Join us in prayerful meditation and remembrance of the sacrifices that come in confronting injustice led by Rev. Kate Murphey. We will leave in darkness and silence.

8 p.m. at Metropolitan UMC ~ The service will take us from the garden and move through the darkness to the crucifixion and burial. Rev. Dr. Charles Parker will lead the service and Dayspring choir will offer music. We will leave in darkness and silence.

Easter Vigils

Crossroads 5 p.m. Worship at St. Luke’s ~ Join the Crossroads worship community led by Rev. Jimmy Sherrod as he leads a worship of preparation for Easter through the darkness of Christ’s last night.

Metropolitan Memorial ~ The sanctuary will be open from 10 p.m. till 6 a.m. for prayer and reflection. Come join in a tradition that links Christians across the world as we gather in vigil and prayer. Scripture readings, background music, candles will provide a special place of waiting and being.

American University 12 a.m. Kay Spiritual Life Center ~ Join with the AU community and Rev. Mark Schaefer for a traditional Easter Vigil. If you don’t want to stay up late, join Mark and the students for an **Easter Sunrise** service at 6:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday, April 4

Join friends and neighbors for a glorious Easter morning. We will offer two identical services with choirs, bells, and brass. Following both services is a bountiful free brunch. **Don’t forget to wear your “Easter Bonnet.”**



9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Worship at Metropolitan UMC with choirs, bells and brass

10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Easter Brunch at Metropolitan Memorial UMC

11:00 a.m.

Worship at Wesley United Methodist Church

11:30 a.m.

Worship at St. Luke’s followed by a celebratory reception

Easter

GOING GREEN FOR LENT

Last month’s *Messenger* included a variety of articles concerning “going green” during Lent and beyond. In these last weeks before Easter, we invite you to actively think about the impact of your carbon footprint and how small changes you make at home, in your work or school life and here at church can make a difference. As a reminder, here are a few simple changes you can make right away: **Eat/shop locally** – purchase produce at farmer’s markets and local groceries which sell locally grown produce – Whole Foods and Harris Teeter both offer “local” options. **Walk more/drive less** — make few trips in your car (consolidate errands) and walk when possible. Let your kids ride their bikes to a visit a friend rather than drive them. **Save energy at home/work/church** – turn off lights, radios, TV’s, etc. when you leave a room; turn your thermostat down a degree of two. Maybe for Holy Week have a moratorium on television watching – more time to spend with family or reading or gardening. Most of all – be creative – there are so many ways to “tread lightly.”



Our altar decorations have been “green” this Lenten season as well. Not only in color but they are live plants which can be planted here at church or at home rather than throwing them out. We hope you’ve noticed and might be interested in “donating” a plant for next year. And, on Palm Sunday, we’ll be waving “Eco-Palms” again this year, purchased directly from communities who use sustainable farming, protecting valuable natural forests.

And, don’t forget to mark your calendars to attend Metropolitan Player’s production of “The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail.” This production is a bit history, a bit theology, and most of all thought-provoking. What a great way to lead into Holy Week and our walk to Jerusalem, and then Dr. Parker’s sermon series on the environment following our Easter Celebration.

Easter Sunday Volunteer Opportunities



Do you remember the first time you visited Metropolitan Memorial (or any church for that matter). It can be a daunting experience from where do you park, to which door should I enter, is street parking legal...? And that's not all. Once you get inside — where do you go? Do you have young children and need the nursery, do you need assistance and possibly an elevator, or maybe a rest room, or a Sunday School class? On Easter Sunday we need lots of “helping hands and feet.” If you feel called to welcome the stranger and offer some good old fashioned hospitality, we've got a job for you. Look at the list of opportunities below and then contact Patrisha House at phouse@mmumc-dc.org, the contacts listed below, or call the church office at 202.363.4900. Let's make Easter Sunday morning a very welcoming place at Metropolitan – and you can help!

†**Traffic/Parking Coordinator:** Assist and coordinate with volunteers to direct traffic in the parking lot and to the American University lot across the street. Our goal is to ensure all who worship with us have a safe, positive experience. We will provide traffic safety gear. Please wear appropriate attire based on weather (i.e. raincoat, umbrella, etc.). Contact Jeff Clouser at jclouser@mmumc-dc.org.

† **Greeter:** Offer a warm handshake and smile to welcome all who enter our doors to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Contact Jeff Clouser at jclouser@mmumc-dc.org

† **Sidewalk Greeter:** Offer a smile and directions to our guests as they cross the street from American University, the AU parking lot, Nebraska Avenue and Newark Street. Contact jclouser@mmumc-dc.org

†**Nursery Assistant:** Rock a baby or play with a child while parents attend the Easter service. We expect to have lots of visiting children. **Requirement:** You must be **14 years of age or older** to help in the nursery. If you have questions, please contact Anita Seline at aseline@mmumc-dc.org

†**Usher:** Provide a welcoming presence in the Sanctuary for our members and guests. Help direct seating, pass attendance notebooks, offering plates, etc. You will need to arrive 30 minutes prior to either service. Contact Derek Stone at derekstone@mindspring.com for the 9 a.m. service or Paul Norian at penman327@hotmail.com for the 11:15 service.

†**Easter Sunday Brunch:** Please contact Helen Simon at hsimon@mmumc-dc.org

- Set up tables and help decorate:** Come on Saturday morning from 10a.m. -12 p.m. and help set up tables and decorations.
- Be a Greeter/Seater at the 10:30 seating or 12:30 seating:** Be available to greet people as they arrive at the Great Hall and assist them in finding a seat.
- Reset Tables between services:** Help clear and reset tables following the first seating.
- Clean Up:** Stay after the second seating and help clean up, stack chairs, put away tables, etc.



Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, March 16, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 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.

Sermon Series Following Easter

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.

"Healthy Backs"

**Monday and Thursdays Beginning April 8
10 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the Great Hall**

Join us in the Great Hall for "Healthy Backs." These movement lessons sponsored by the Wellness Committee will run from April 8 to Monday, May 3. This eight-lesson series of gentle lessons can help you reduce back pain and increase flexibility.

The class is open to everyone from the Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish. Pat Simpich, a member of Metropolitan and of the Wellness Committee, will lead the class. Pat is a Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner and a certified Anat Baniel Method Practitioner with advanced certifications in the Anat Baniel Method for Children and for Anti-Aging. She will guide students through *slow and gentle movements* during the lessons. Students wearing comfortable clothing sit on chairs or lie on mats and follow the guided movements. Pat says the lessons often also evoke a renewed sense of well-being. Low tables are available for those with difficulty lying on the floor.

Classes are free, but registration is required. The Wellness Committee suggests that individuals with chronic conditions such as heart disease, recent illnesses, or injuries or who are recovering from surgery speak with their health care provider before beginning the program. To register, contact Pat Simpich at 202.966.1566. For more information about these methods go to www.feldenkraismethod.com and www.anatbanielmethod.com.

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 and check out our blog at www.xroadsdc.blogspot.com.



Our prayers go out to the family and friends of Carolyn Gruver, who died on February 24.

Just Born!

•Congratulations to Ann and Chuck Cochran on the birth of their grandson, Clayton Frederick Ruebensaal IV on February 24.

•Congratulations to Eliza Hamner-Koenig and Jeremy Koenig on the birth of their son William Marshall Koenig on February 19.



Welcome New Members!

We welcome our new members who joined on February 28 and March 7! They include: Ida Brown*, Josh Fowkes and Jennifer Trainer, William and Brinkley Hellams, Jennifer Leary, Pam Rogers*, Curtis Pree*, Shelly Presler, Diane Stabb, Charles Stanfield*, James and Beth Steele, Derek Switzer* and Stephanie Thornton.
*New Member at Wesley UMC

Congratulations!

We congratulate Rev. Sandy Rector on her new appointment. Beginning July 1 she will be the lead pastor at Oak Chapel UMC in the Layhill area of Silver Spring, MD.



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. Your willingness to serve as a Shepherd is a faithful commitment to our church.

Worship at St. Luke's (3655 Calvert St. N.W.)

Led by Rev. Sandy Rector

Sunday Worship at 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



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 p.m.
Free Will Offering ~ Ticket Donation ~ \$10 suggested/students free

A Warning From the Director of "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail"

I am a long-time member of Metropolitan – way, way back in the early years. I remember hearing someone say words I have heard many times since, "I love this church. You don't have to leave your brain at the door."

Now you have an opportunity to test yourself. Charlie Parker has been preaching and leading us toward reclaiming the Sacraments. Metro Players are producing a play in which Thoreau derides baptism and Ralph Waldo Emerson resigns as pastor from the First Church Concord because he "intellectually, emotionally, spiritually cannot administer this Sacrament" – Communion!

But don't leave your funny bone at home for you will follow the antics of the Concord eccentric as he confounds his Mother, "David Henry! What have you gone and done?" and shocks the neighborhood, "Oh David Henry! Not on Sunday!!!"

Oh, incidentally, Thoreau, the guru of the environmental movement prepares us for Charlie's next sermon series. Yes, we are amazingly relevant as we celebrate Henry's "wit, impudence, his ability to perceive with every pore."

- Fran Cleaver



Image: Niche, Oil on Linen, 46" x 36"

The Arts Council of Metropolitan Memorial UMC Presents

Reflections

Oil Paintings by Anamarío Hernández

Exhibition Dates: March 7 - April 5, 2010

Exhibit Hours: M-F 9am-5pm and Sundays 9am-12:30pm

3401 Nebraska Ave., NW Washington, DC 20016

202.363.4900; <http://www.nationalchurch.org>

Free parking available

Service and Advocacy

Marriage Equality and the United Methodist Church

On Wednesday, March 3, **The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009**, which permits same-sex couples to marry in the District of Columbia, took effect. Mayor Adrian Fenty signed the bill into law December 18, 2009. The law provides equal rights for same-sex couples to marry in DC and preserves the right of clergy and congregations to adhere to their faiths. 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. Dr. Parker held open discussion with Metropolitan's church leaders on February 2 and with the congregation on March 2, sharing that he will perform same-sex marriages at Metropolitan for members of our congregation. A third discussion will be held on May 16. Our discussions provided participants with the opportunity for thoughtful discernment and discussion on the issue of marriage equality, and the effect Dr. Parker's decision will have on Metropolitan, in light of United Methodist Church law. Our congregation is invited 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 GLBT persons in the ministry of the church. Please plan to be present for our upcoming events.



Sunday, March 14

Discussion with Carol Cook Moore - 10:10 a.m. - 11 a.m., Great Hall

Carol Cook Moore, Assistant Professor of Worship and Preaching at Wesley Theological Seminary will discuss the history and theology of marriage in the United Methodist Church.

Sunday, April 18

Film Screening and Discussion - 12:30 p.m., Great Hall

All are welcome to attend a screening and discussion of the film, *Incompatible with Christian Teaching*, which was produced by Anne Brown. The screening, which will be hosted by the Advocacy Ministry team, will provide participants the opportunity for thoughtful discernment and discussion on the issue of United Methodist doctrine pertaining to homosexuality including marriage equality. Throughout 2010, the film will be screened at 17 United Methodist churches and theological seminaries nationwide. Refreshments will be provided.

Sunday, May 16

Discussion with Dr. Parker - 12:30 p.m. — Great Hall

All are welcome to attend a discussion 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. Lunch will be provided.

United Methodist Clergy for Marriage Equality - Palm Sunday Service

4 p.m. Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church

As a witness of our support, the United Methodist Clergy for Marriage Equality will be holding a service of worship on Sunday, March 28 at Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church, 900 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington DC at 4 PM, and invite all people to be part of that celebration. The church is easily accessible by metro at Metro Center, Mt. Vernon, and Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro stations, and underground parking is available.



**Take Part in the
March for America
Sunday, March 21**

On Sunday, March 21, thousands of people of faith will gather on the National Mall from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. for a powerful witness for just, humane, immigration reform. An interfaith service will be held at 1 p.m. The United Methodist delegation will begin assembling at the Washington Monument at noon. Please join members of Metropolitan's Advocacy Team and our United Methodist Women in supporting this event. Our group will assemble in the Great Hall Foyer at 11 a.m. and then go to the Mall as a group by Metro. For more information on this event, go to: www.reformimmigrationforamerica.org. Or contact Ann Michel at 202/885-8582 or amichel@wesleyseminary.edu.



Let's Rebuild Together!

Saturday, April 24

This year's Rebuilding Together (formerly known as "Christmas in April") day will be Saturday, April 24. We have not yet been assigned a house, but we typically need people who have the following skills: light painting, plaster repairs, electrical repair, light plumbing, etc. If you think you have no skills, think again! We can always use people to help us move furniture in the morning and/or help us move everything back in the afternoon. We could also use volunteer(s) to provide lunch (sandwiches, chips, drinks, etc.). You may volunteer for one or both of the two main shifts: the morning shift (8 a.m. - 1 p.m., or the afternoon shift (1 p.m. - 6 p.m.) We also request volunteers to come at 5 p.m. to put furniture back in place. This is a great opportunity to help someone in need, meet other members of our church community (MMUMC, Wesley, and St. Luke's), and hone your light home repair skills. If you would like to volunteer or provide lunch, please contact Geoff Jacobi, [gjacob001@gmail.com](mailto:gjacobi001@gmail.com) or Lee Crockett, leecrockett@verizon.net.

Study Opportunities

Great Hall Lectures

Join us in the Great Hall on Sunday Mornings at 10:10 a.m. for these informational lectures!

Reaching Out to Women in Africa, Led by Ambassador Shirley Barnes - Sunday, March 21

On March 21, Ambassador Shirley Barnes, formerly the United States Ambassador to Madagascar will talk about her work helping girls and women with education, health and economic development in Africa. Ambassador Barnes has been an advocate for stronger international anti-trafficking laws to protect women and children from sexual and labor abuse. She is now the President of the Board of Directors of the **Barnes Findley Foundation**, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization whose primary target group is women and girls of the African Diaspora. The Foundation seeks to increase educational and economic development opportunities for girls and women as well as support the elimination of human trafficking of African Diaspora women and children. Since 2003, she has taken a stand on the plight of African women and children “trafficked” for prostitution and slave labor. She also advocated for the creation of a research institute to track global trafficking activity in Africa.

Ambassador Barnes is a retired Career Foreign Service Officer. In addition to her Ambassadorship to the Republic of Madagascar she worked with the U.S. Consul General in Strasbourg, France. In private industry, she was vice president at several major advertising agencies in New York City. In the non-profit world, she was a Program Assistant with the Ford Foundation in Congo-Kinshasa, and was with the Women’s Africa Committee of the African-American Institute in New York City. She holds a BBA from Baruch College/CUNY, MBA from Columbia University and an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois.



Appalachia Service Project - ASP is not just for youth! - Sunday, April 18

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. On April 18, Ned Bachman will 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. Ned Bachman is a MMUMC member, minister and attorney,

and has worked for over 30 years with church youth groups. It was through his work with youth that he began his participation with the ASP and has participated on ASP mission trips for 15 years. For the last two years he has gone on mission trips twice each summer as well as participated on several weekend ASP adult mission trips. Come hear about upcoming ASP trips from an experienced and committed participant/leader

The Alpha Course is Coming to Metropolitan!

Beginning Tuesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

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 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.



Sunday Morning Adult Study at Metropolitan Memorial

Science & Religion Class

Sundays, 10:10 a.m., Parlor

In March our class embarks on an extended study of some of history’s great scientific minds in the Western world. As background, we reviewed the development of science prior to and during the decades when John Wesley was publishing accounts of “natural philosophy” in his monthly magazine in 18th century Britain. Now we look at some of the scientists themselves. On March 14, Dr. Alex McPherron leads a discussion focusing on Robert Boyle, considered the world’s first chemist. On March 21, Kent Weaver helps us consider the work of Joseph Priestly, the discoverer of oxygen and a founder of the denomination now known as Unitarian. On March 28, Ned Bachman highlights the work of Blaise Pascal, the French Jansenist who authored the classic *Les Pensees*. On Easter Sunday we join in on the annual all-church brunch, and resume our series in April. Copies of the reading material are available in the Parlor for our discussions at 10:10 a.m., and visitors are always welcome. Questions? Contact Maynard Moore at emaynard8@yahoo.com or Kent Weaver at 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 “What is Religion?” by given religious scholar Karen Armstrong, who describes the transition when ancient societies recoiled from an ethic of violence and instead developed an ethic based on compassion and the Golden Rule. Each lecture is followed by a spirited discussion.

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.

United Methodist Women

Great Day of Service

Saturday, March 20, 9 a.m - noon, Great Hall

The Great Day of Service will be on Saturday, March 20 from 9 a.m. – noon at Metropolitan. We will gather in the Great Hall, but there will activity throughout the church, including the kitchen, nursery and Sunday School rooms. Projects will include:

- Making sandwiches for Martha's Kitchen
- Assembling snack bags for Friendship Place
- Cleaning the nursery and other odd jobs in the church
- Writing letters on behalf of Amnesty International
- Creating cards and letters to homebound church members
- Assembling health kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief
- Crafts for children for delivery to Visitor Corp members
- Cooking meals for Metropolitan House.
- Bread for the City food collection



Bring the whole family. Adults, youth and children are welcome. Youth can receive Student Service Learning hours. A nursery will be provided for the littlest ones. Coffee, drinks and light snacks will be served. The event is hosted by Metropolitan's United Methodist Women.

Service Day to Include a Food Drive for Bread for the City

Let's Collect 2010 items in 2010

The United Methodist Women of Metropolitan are organizing a congregation-wide food drive in conjunction with the March 20 Great Day of Service. They are asking church members to bring donated food items to church anytime between March 1 and March 20. There will be collection boxes in the Great Hall foyer, near the side entrance to the Sanctuary, and in the Narthex. On Service Day, volunteers will sort and pack the donations and deliver them to Bread for the City. Seeking to provide healthy food to their clients, Bread for the City suggest donations of the following items:

- Canned Tuna, Chicken, or Salmon
- Canned Fruit, preferably in its own juice
- 1 lb packages of Dried Beans
- 1 lb packages of Brown Rice
- Whole Grain Pasta
- Canned Vegetables, low-sodium preferred
- Canned Tomato Sauce or Spaghetti Sauce, low sodium
- Boxed Cereal
- Oatmeal

Other non-perishable food items will be accepted as well. We've set an ambitious goal of collecting 2010 items. So please contribute generously! Volunteers are welcome to help with the sorting and delivery on Saturday, March 20 from 9 a.m. – noon in the Great Hall.



UMW Book Sale

Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

It's time to clean out your bookshelves and do some spring cleaning for the UMW Book Sale. The event will be Saturday, April 17 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Book donations can be placed in the UMW closet. Barbara Gaskill is coordinating the event and is also looking for volunteers, if you want a sneak peek at the book selection this year. For more information, contact Barbara at 202.244.3512 or Barbara@bgaskill.com.

Seniors Ministries



Asbury Today: A special day of Learning about Asbury Methodist Village

Luncheon and tour of campus and model apartments

Wednesday, March 17, 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Join us for lunch and an informative discussion to learn how you can find the perfect combination of access to quality long-term health care and the retirement lifestyle you want. Because it's what you know that can help you make a great decision. Learning all you can about the options you have really makes sense. You still deserve the freedom you can never have while maintaining a house. Transportation provided to pick you up at the church at 11 a.m. and return you to church at 3:30 p.m. For reservations, please call Louise Stewart by March 15, 2010 at 301.216.4958. For more information go to <http://www.asburymethodistvillage.org/>.

Youth Ministries

Youth Events

March 20 - Great Day of Service
9 AM-Noon March 28: No evening youth connection
April 12 - Confirmation Class, 3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Children's Ministries



Let's Go Camping!

The green growing time of summer is a wonderful opportunity to become closer to God and God's kingdom on earth. This summer, Metropolitan encourages you to grow your faith at summer camp by taking part in one of a number of camping opportunities available to children and families. No matter the age of your child, there is a wonderful summer camp opportunity for you. Contact Anita Seline, director of children's ministries at aseline@mmumc-dc.org or 202-363-4900, ext. 22, if interested in any of these camping opportunities.

Vacation Bible School June 21-25

This year, Metropolitan is teaming up with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Washington DC to run a cooperative Vacation Bible School for children ages 3 to rising 6th graders.

Vacation Bible School runs from June 21 to June 25 from 9 am to 12 noon. It features crafts, games, snacks, songs, worship, and lots of fun. Vacation Bible School will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The VBS is nominally priced at just \$25 per child or maximum \$70 per family for early-bird sign up, which is ends on Monday, May 24. Our registration form is on our website, www.nationalchurch.org.

Too old for VBS? We are looking for middle school and high school students who would like to help out at the school and also earn community service hours.

Summer Camp for Rising Second- through Sixth-Graders

The Baltimore-Washington Conference of the UMC, at West River and Manidokan, both about an hour from Washington DC, offer a wide-range of camps from grandparents camp experiences to adventure, sports, and water activities. **Look at your calendars for July 11-16, there are camping opportunities for all ages and we could camp together at West River!** Contact Anita Seline at aseline@mmumc-dc.org if you are interested.

Camp for Rising and Current Middle School Students

West River Camp, one of the Baltimore-Washington Conference's campsites, has scheduled a special week of camp just for you. Special for rising and current Middle School students! Ultimate Camp at West River will feature fabulous counselors Rev. Kate Murphey, Rev. Jimmy Sherrod, and Pam Settlage. It runs the week of July 18 to 23. What a great way to get to know your middle school pals at Metropolitan. Camp brochures available from Anita Seline.



Metropolitan Nursery School News!

- Have you driven by Surfside restaurant, a new eatery in Glover Park, and wanted to try it? Here's your perfect opportunity. If you visit the restaurant Monday, March 22 from 5 to 9 p.m. and mention Metropolitan, 25 percent of the evening's proceeds will benefit the nursery school. Support our nursery school and enjoy a great meal too.
- Metropolitan Nursery School will hold a spring auction on Thursday, April 22 from 7 to 10 pm at the Embassy of Finland. Tickets are \$75 and will be on sale after church Sunday, March 21.
- Summer Sensations is a summer camp at Metropolitan for children ages 3 to 5. The program runs in two-week sessions in June and July, with a possible toddler-caregiver camp for the last two weeks of the month.



Celebrating Peeps Sunday

Join us in the Vestry after Sunday School Sunday, March 28, as we celebrate Palm Sunday with Peeps projects. We'll make Peeps Easter Wreathes and Peeps hats to wear in church for Easter. Peeps are lined up and ready to go in their green, yellow, purple, and pink. Be ready for Easter, Peeples! Join us.

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

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Rev. Sandy Rector — Associate Pastor, ext. 19, srector@mmumc-dc.org

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod — Associate Pastor, ext. 24, jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org

Rev. Kate Murphey — Associate Pastor, ext. 21, kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org

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NEXT ISSUE: April 9, 2010

NEXT DEADLINE: Noon on April 6, 2010