



# 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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[www.nationalchurch.org](http://www.nationalchurch.org)



## And God Saw That It Was Good

Many of you probably have seen part or all of the spectacular new WETA Ken Burns film: *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. It traces the development of the National Park System, from its roots in the late 1800s to today. The film also tells the stories of individual men and women who stood up to powerful political and industrial forces to protect beautiful and ecologically important landscapes.

If you have seen the film, you might have thought to yourself while watching the

gorgeous scenery: "This is very spiritual. I feel God's presence in these special places." That's what Beth Norcross thought when Ken Burns showed some clips of the film at a dinner she attended a year ago. (Beth is adjunct faculty at Wesley Seminary, where she teaches eco-theology, and is the founder and coordinator of the national Green Seminary Initiative.)



Beth Norcross

After the dinner, Beth talked to Ken Burns about the spiritual nature of the film. He said while it was not his intention to make a spiritual movie, the film just moved in that direction. "It's God's land, after all," he said. When Beth suggested that the film should be shown in churches, Burns was delighted with the idea. With Burns' blessing, WETA then contracted with Beth to write *And God Saw That It Was Good*, a four-week Christian education course to accompany the film. So far, nearly 600 copies of the guide have been downloaded from [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org), and WETA has sent out an equal number of DVDs with film clips that accompany each session.

For four consecutive Sundays, starting April 25 and ending May 16, Beth will teach *And God Saw That it Was Good*, using clips from the film, in the Great Hall at MMUMC at 10:10 a.m. Session 1, *The Creator and Creation*, will introduce the concept of stewardship as demonstrated by the development of the National Park System. It will also discuss how vestiges of the biblical creation story are seen in national parks and other natural areas. Session 2, will develop the theme of *God in Nature*. Why does it seem that God is more present to us in nature? How are we more open to God in the face of natural beauty? Session 3, *Made in the Image of God*, will look at important stewards of the National Park System, in particular John Muir, for models of how we might relate to nature ourselves. Finally, Session 4, *A Covenant With Every Living Thing*, will tie up earlier themes by discussing our inextricable entanglement with creation. We will talk about how both ancient Scriptures and modern science tell us that the fate and future of humans are tied up with the fate and future of the rest of creation.

Please join us for this interesting and provocative series.

## Life Stories from Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish

### Pearl Harbor and Much More

By Barry D. Wood



Long-time Metropolitan member Hiroshi Daifuku has a unique perspective on the Pearl Harbor attack. At that time, December 7, 1941, he was a 21-year senior at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. Hiroshi spent much of that fateful Sunday at the city's blood bank, where for several months he had worked a laboratory technician earning extra money for college. "It was three or four hours of chaos," Hiroshi recalls, as he hurried to work, often seeing the attacking Japanese planes as they passed overhead. (In the photo of the Honolulu blood bank staff, Hiroshi is the young man standing in the center)

Hiroshi, whose parents had emigrated from Japan decades earlier, says that in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor he didn't endure anti-Japanese discrimination. That, he says, "was because the population of Hawaii was about 60% Japanese American." People were less fortunate on the mainland where in 1942 over 100,000 Japanese Americans—most of them in California—were rounded up and sent to internment camps.

An excellent student from a middle class family, Hiroshi was an anthropology major. He was so excited about the field that he applied for and won a scholarship for graduate study at Harvard in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After receiving his BA, Hiroshi sailed from Hawaii to Los Angeles in the summer of 1942. He was met at the dock by a "very polite" government official, who assured his safety by accompanying him on the train journey across California and Nevada.

While at Harvard in 1946, not long after the war ended, Hiroshi received his draft notice and entered the US army. Sent to France, Hiroshi's gift for languages resulted in his being discharged into federal service in occupied Germany. Back at Harvard he received his PhD in 1950 and four years later returned to Paris where he began a 25-year career at Unesco (United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization) as a specialist on cultural heritage and monuments. In France he met his wife Alison, who upon graduating from Mt. Holyoke had come to Paris to study voice at the Paris conservatory.

Alison and Hiroshi raised their three children in Paris and then retired to Washington in 1979. Now in their 52<sup>nd</sup> year of marriage, Alison has sung in the Metropolitan choir for 30 years, while Hiroshi spent nearly that many years as an usher in the second service.

This month, on April 7<sup>th</sup>, Hiroshi Daifuku celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. We wish him and Alison many more.



*Hiroshi & Alison Daifuku*

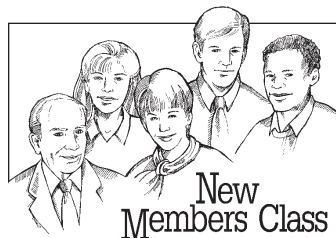
## Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish

### New Member

**Dinner and Orientation  
Sunday, April 11 and 18**

**4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Choir Room**

Thinking about joining our community?! Join us for a new member dinner and orientation on Sunday, April 11 and 18 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. At these meetings, you will get to know more about Metropolitan and have dinner with some of its members. RSVP to Jeff Clouser, Director of Communications and Outreach at [jclouser@mmmc-dc.org](mailto:jclouser@mmmc-dc.org) or 202.363.4900, ext. 23.



**New  
Members Class**



### 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.

# Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish



## **“Healthy Backs” Monday and Thursdays Now - May 3**

**10 a.m. - 11 a.m., Great Hall**

Join us for “Healthy Backs,” sponsored by the Wellness Committee. This series of gentle lessons can help you reduce back pain and increase flexibility. Pat Simpich, a Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner and a certified Anat Baniel Method Practitioner will

guide students through slow and gentle movements. 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, 202.966.1566. Questions? Log onto [www.feldenkraismethod.com](http://www.feldenkraismethod.com).

## **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. 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](mailto:Barbara@bgaskill.com).



## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

**Sunday, April 18, 12:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, April 20, 1:30 p.m.**

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

## **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).



## **Documentary Film Screening and Discussion Sunday, April 18 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.

## **Sign up for the Fun! Wii Party for Children Parents Enjoy an Evening Off Sunday, April 18 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

As part of the recent Youth in Mission Auction, Metropolitan's youth are holding a Wii Party for kids Sunday, April 18 in the youth rooms. Children are invited to come play games (MarioKart, air hockey, guitar hero and more) in the youth rooms, enjoy dinner, and just generally hang out with the big kids. Parents, drop your kids off and enjoy your evening. Slots sell for \$40 a family, and there are just a few slots left. If interested in signing up and joining the fun, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., contact Rev. Jimmy Sherrod at [jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org).



## **Spring Auction Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Embassy of Finland**

Metropolitan Nursery School is holding its first annual auction at the Embassy of Finland (3301 Nebraska Ave. NW) on Thursday, April 22. Tickets are \$75 and will be on sale after both church services this coming Sunday. A wonderful array of items including Redskins tickets, gift certificates to The Jefferson Hotel, Homemade Pizza Company, Black Salt, Jetties, Surfside, Capital Grille, Rocklands, Blue Ridge, Chef Geoff's, Whole Foods, will be up for bidding.

Can't make the auction? There are opportunities to support the event by becoming a sponsor to the auction or purchasing an advertisement in the auction catalog. To do either, contact Kier Peterson at [kierpeterson@yahoo.com](mailto:kierpeterson@yahoo.com).

## **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



## All Creation Sing Paintings by Carolyn Blaylock



*U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters*

### The Sea Chanters and Art Exhibit Opening The Arts Council Presents an Afternoon of Music and Art Sunday afternoon, April 25, 2010.

The U. S. Navy Band Sea Chanters will begin the afternoon at 4 pm with a musical program ranging from traditional choral music, including the sea chantey to Broadway musicals. The Sea Chanters appear throughout the United States and often perform at the White House, the Vice President's home, and for other Washington dignitaries. They performed at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration. Metropolitan has a special connection to the Sea Chanters since several members of our choirs are members, including Casey Elliott, Beth Revell, and Adam Tyler.

A reception and art exhibit opening follows from 5 pm to 6:30 pm. Carolyn Blaylock will present an exhibit of oils and acrylics entitled, "All Creation Sing." Carolyn Blaylock began painting at the tender age of three, earning her first regional art award at the age of ten. She continued her life study with a degree in art at the University of Georgia and has been painting professionally for 20 years. Her joyful works of bright color hang in collections from coast to coast including the National Gallery in New York, Duke University, Wake Forest University, and Baptist Hospital. Mrs. Blaylock lives in North Carolina with her husband, four children, and her faithful assistant, a golden retriever named Liberty. Please visit her website to see more: [www.carolynblaylock.com](http://www.carolynblaylock.com)

**Exhibition Dates: April 25 - May 23, 2010 \* Exhibit Hours: M-F 9am-5pm and Sundays 9am-12:30pm**



### THE CATHEDRAL CHORAL SOCIETY

**J. REILLY LEWIS, MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**ANNOUNCES ITS PRESENTATION OF THE**

### ***BRITISH CHOIR FESTIVAL***

**Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 4 p.m. at the Washington National Cathedral**

**Guest Choirs include: The Choir of New College, Oxford, England, Edward Higginbottom, director of music; Choir of Saint Thomas Church, New York, John Scott, director of music; Washington National Cathedral Choir, Michael McCarthy, director of music.**

The Cathedral Choral Society presents the British Choir Festival, which features some of the most beautiful choral music in the western world. Don't miss this opportunity to experience such choral gems as *Spem in Alium*, the 40-part motet by Thomas Tallis, or John Tavener's haunting *Song of Athene*, sung at Princess Diana's funeral, in the glorious acoustics of Washington National Cathedral. Tickets start at \$45. Contact: Lawrence Reppert, 202.537.5527, [lreppert@cathedral.org](mailto:lreppert@cathedral.org).

The **Choir of New College Oxford** has gained a worldwide reputation and is known particularly for its stylish performances of Renaissance and Baroque music.

The **Choir of Saint Thomas Church** is considered by many to be one of the leading ensembles in the Anglican choral tradition in the United States.

**Washington National Cathedral** has been offering daily sung worship since its inception in 1907. The Cathedral now has two teams of choristers, 20 boys and 20 girls who share the liturgical responsibilities. Along with the team of 18 professional altos, tenors and basses, the senior choristers from both choirs join to form the **Choir of Washington National Cathedral**.

The Cathedral Choral Society is the resident symphonic chorus of Washington National Cathedral. The oldest choral group in Washington, the chorus of 160 voices has enjoyed a long history of producing the finest choral music concerts.

## 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 a 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, which is open to all, will be held on Sunday, May 16 at 12:30 p.m.

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, 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.



#### **Let's Rebuild...Together!** **Saturday, April 24**

This year our assigned house belongs to Ms. Patricia Ragland of 16th St., NE. The house requires some plaster repair, light carpentry and lots of painting. So if you can move furniture, clean walls, spackle, sand, paint, or sweep, please join us.

Volunteer(s) are also needed 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 around 5 p.m. to put furniture back in place. Since this house requires plaster repair, we could also use help a week or so before April 24. 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. To volunteer, contact Geoff Jacobi, gjacobi001@gmail.com or Lee Crockett, leecrockett@verizon.net.

## Service and Advocacy (cont.)

### “The Changing Face of Homelessness”

April 20, 6:30 p.m., Great Hall

On April 20, Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place and Metropolitan will co-host a symposium that is open to the community and will look at the changes of homelessness in DC due to the economic downturn. Overviews of the changing demographics, as well as the nature of the response on the part of the local government, non-profits and the community in general will be discussed by Dr. Martha Burt with The Urban Institute, Laura Zeilinger, DC Department of Human Services, Scott McNeilly, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless and Larry Williams, a Neighbors First graduate and board member of Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place. The event is free but please RSVP to Julie Butner at [JButner@cchfp.org](mailto:JButner@cchfp.org) or call 202-364-1419 x. 19. Reception starts at 6:30 pm and the program is from 7:00-8:30.



### “Essential Stuff Drive..... Socks to Soup”



Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place, along with Metropolitan and 21 other places of worship in Ward 3 are conducting a new annual event, the Essential Stuff Drive. We are asking all of the congregations who support Friendship to make a team effort to collect items to help out in a consumer's daily life. As a church, you help support our own shelter, Metropolitan House, with meals and overnight volunteers from October-April. We are in such close partnership with Friendship that we also have four members from our church on the Board of Directors with Friendship Place, too. We are asking Metropolitan and St. Luke's to collect new, mens t-shirts in Large, XL, and 2X, granola bars and individually wrapped toilet paper from April 16-26. There will be a table set up in the foyer for your donations. If you can't shop, but would like to contribute, please call Leigh Rollins at 202-363-2079 or email her at [Leighs\\_beads@hotmail.com](mailto:Leighs_beads@hotmail.com). Many blessings and thanks for all you do for our homeless neighbors!



## MISSION CENTRAL

MISSION EDUCATION, MISSION OUTREACH & DISASTER RESPONSE

“Where visions of ministry become missions of hope. Where promises of faith are kept in projects of service.”

### Mission Outing to UMCOR Depot Scheduled for Saturday, July 24

On Saturday, July 24, Metropolitan Memorial will dispatch a team of volunteers for a work day at the “Mission Central” depot in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Our team will depart from MMUMC at 7:30 a.m., work at the warehouse from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and return to the church about 9 p.m. after sharing a meal in route home. A number of people have already committed to the trip, but there is room for a few more on the team. So please contact Ann Michel ([amichel@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:amichel@wesleyseminary.edu) or 202-885-5852) if you are interested in participating.

“Mission Central” is a warehouse operated by the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church that serves as a regional hub for the collection and shipment of relief supplies, including those sent overseas by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR.) Last year, Mission Central provided \$1.4 million in goods to 230 different ministries and social service agencies locally, nationally, and globally, including \$250,000 in material aid provided to Haiti in the days and weeks following the earth quake. (Learn more at [www.missioncentral.org](http://www.missioncentral.org).)

## Study Opportunities

### The Alpha Course is Coming to Metropolitan!

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

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? 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. Alpha will be led by MMUMC member Graham Covington who was trained in the Alpha course at the London, England church which developed this outstanding outreach and sharing experience.

To register go to <http://www.metropolitanalpha.org> or contact Helen Simon, [hsimon@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:hsimon@mmumc-dc.org). Questions? Contact Graham Covington at [graham@advocacyonline.net](mailto:graham@advocacyonline.net) or log onto [www.AlphaUSA.org](http://www.AlphaUSA.org).



### Great Hall Lectures

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



#### **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 Environment” - April 25 - May 16**

Join us as Beth Norcross shares the four part Christian education course that she wrote to accompany the recent PBS film, “The National Parks: America's Best Idea.” Beth collaborated with Ken Burns, WETA and the Earth Ministry to create this study guide. **Session 1, April 25, The Creator and Creation; Session #2, May 2 focuses on “God in Nature,” Session #3, May 9, “Made in the Image of God; and Session #4, May 16, “A Covenant with Every Living Thing.** You are welcome to attend all of these sessions or choose as your schedule permits. 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.

### Sunday Morning Adult Study at Metropolitan Memorial

#### Science & Religion Class

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

Our class during the Winter months embarked 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 18<sup>th</sup> century Britain. Now we look at some of the scientists themselves. So far, we have Focused sessions on Robert Boyle, the world's first chemist, Joseph Priestly, who discovered oxygen, and Blaise Pascal, who authored *Les Pensees*. Forthcoming sessions include Lord Kelvin, who articulated the principle of thermodynamics, Sir Francis Bacon, perhaps the first true scientist before Newton, the great French philosopher Rene Descartes, and the British idealists, such as John Locke, Bishop George Berkeley, and David Hume. We always have copies of the reading material available in the Parlor for our discussions at 10:10, and visitors are always welcome. 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 “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 has concluded its fascinating look at “Lost Christianities: Christian Scriptures and the Battles over Authentication.” On April 11, we will begin an in-depth study of the Gospel of Mark, using a video series by Dr. Mickey Efir, professor emeritus of Duke University Divinity School. Dr. Efir has taught Greek and trained pastors at Duke as well as conducted Bible studies in churches for over 40 years. The Gospel of Mark is the second series the class has engaged in with this humorous and erudite master teacher. He is characterized as being able to explain Bible passages “in ways that make sense to our intellect, while appealing also to our spirit.” Please join us in the Christie Room on Sundays at 10:10 a.m.

## Seniors Ministries



### April AARP Meeting

Please join us on Monday, April 19 in the Vestry. Three speakers from the Inclusive Research Institute will speak with us on emergency preparedness for natural and man-made disasters. Social time is at 12:30 p.m., and the meeting starts at 1:00. Refreshments will be served.

## Youth Ministries

### Youth Connection News

Can you believe we are already in April? With April comes spring sports, drama and musical productions, papers, tests and road trips. There is a lot going on inside and outside of the church. We want to continue to be in ministry together even through these busy months. During this time of year, we tweak our schedule just a bit so that we can all continue to be together through the busy times. Therefore, just like last year, all Sunday evening youth connection activities will end on April 18 and will resume in September. However, that doesn't mean we won't be getting together as a group! Sunday School will continue through July, Tuesdays on the Town begins June 15, and we will have special events like pool parties throughout the summer! For a complete schedule, see our blog at [www.metropolitanyouth.blogspot.com](http://www.metropolitanyouth.blogspot.com).

### Youth-In-Mission Auction!

Thank you Metropolitan Memorial for another successful Youth-In-Mission Auction! We raised nearly \$16,000!!! This year's auction was held on March 14, and the proceeds will help fund mission trips to Appalachia and other mission projects both in DC and throughout the world. Thanks those who gave their time, talents, donations, and for those who attended the auction and bid on the items! A special thanks to Anita Seline, Helen Simon, Kevin Settlege, Mike House, Mark Godfrey and Craig Gildner (both Mark and Craig helped keep the auction both moving and entertaining). Thanks to our dedicated youth who gave of their time and talents to pull this off yet again. Thanks again to all those who made this possible.



Craig Gildner lent his talents as an auctioneer!



Marina Rousset, Nathaniel Remez, Hayley Vause and David Davenport helped to make the meal memorable!



Attendees view the silent auction items



Salads prepared by the Youth for the auction attendees

# Children's Ministries



## Nursery School Auction April 22

Metropolitan Nursery School is holding its first annual auction at the Embassy of Finland on Thursday, April 22. Tickets are \$75 and will be on sale after both church services this coming Sunday.

A wonderful array of items including Redskins tickets, gift certificates to The Jefferson Hotel, Homemade Pizza Company, Black Salt, Jetties, Surfside, Capital Grille, Rocklands, Blue Ridge, Chef Geoff's, Whole Foods, will be up for bidding. Looking for kids' items? How about tickets to imagination stage, a sports birthday party, a party with the firefighters in Cabin John, or gift certificates to local toy and clothing stores.

Can't make the auction? There are opportunities to support the event by becoming a sponsor to the auction or purchasing an advertisement in the auction catalog. To do either, contact Kier Peterson at [kierpeterson@yahoo.com](mailto:kierpeterson@yahoo.com). In addition, invitations and response cards should be available soon on the nursery school page of the church website.

Please support our wonderful nursery school at Metropolitan.



## Upcoming Dates for Children's Ministry

**May 16** Children's Celebration Sunday

**May 23** Pentecost Picnic

**May 31** Summer Sunday School Begins

**June 23-26** Vacation Bible School with St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**July 25** Summer Sunday School Ends

## Vacation Bible School Now June 23-June 26

The dates for Vacation Bible School, held in collaboration with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, have shifted slightly to accommodate the extended school year for DC public schools. The dates are now Wednesday, June 23 to Saturday, June 26. For registration information, pick up a brochure at church or contact Anita Seline at [aseline@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:aseline@mmumc-dc.org). Cost for the program is just \$25 per child.

## Peeps Sunday!

We had a sweet time last Palm Sunday in the Vestry constructing Easter Peeps wreaths and bonnets and bowlers for Easter Sunday. Using peeps, paper plates, and frosting, edible wreaths were completed with a candle in the middle. Hats were adorned with ribbons, sparkles, flowers, feathers, and yes, a few peeps.



The Palm Sunday crowd gets to work on their projects.



Spencer Adams decides which Peeps box to open (or eat) first.



Carolynn Christopher tries on her new chapeau.

# Baltimore-Washington Conference Seeks CFO/Treasurer

## CFO/Treasurer

### Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church



BWC is conducting a national search for a CFO/Treasurer possessing a collaborative style, broad vision, cultural sensitivity and administrative expertise, combined with “a genuine love of Christ and desire to serve.” Successful candidate must hold a bachelor’s degree (masters degree preferred), and demonstrate a history of management and increasing responsibility. The BWC seeks to be like Christ as we call, equip, send and support spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow congregations for the transformation of the world. We deploy our resource to serve the 680 congregations, 1,100 clergy and 180,000 laity who make up The United Methodist Church in the Baltimore-Washington region. Candidates should be a proven leader and have strong background in financial management and administration, communications, stakeholder relations, and strategic planning. An understanding of the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church a must. For more information about the organization please visit our website at [www.bwcumc.org](http://www.bwcumc.org). Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, and a current resume to: **BWC Search Committee, c/o Center for Nonprofit Management, 44 Vantage Way, Suite 230, Nashville, TN 37228 (Fax: 615-259-0400 - E-mail: [Ingrid@cnm.org](mailto:Ingrid@cnm.org)).** Applicant screening begins April 19, 2010 and continues until the position is filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Baltimore-Washington Ministry Description - Guides

#### Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

#### Supervisor – Bishop

*We seek to be more like Christ as we call, equip, send, and support spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow 600 Acts 2 congregations by 2012.*

*- Philippians 2:1-11, Acts 2:41-47, Luke 9:1-6, and Luke 4:18-19*

The Baltimore-Washington Conference seeks to be like Christ as it calls, equips, sends and supports spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow Acts 2 congregations for the transformation of the world. To do this, we provide recruitment, training and empowerment of the finest clergy and lay leadership. These spiritual leaders go into the world to form and support disciples to love God completely and to love their neighbor as themselves as well a grow Acts 2 congregations. Acts 2 congregations are communities of faith that are following the first century church model in the midst of 21<sup>st</sup> century realities. These faith communities engage in passionate worship, share radical hospitality, grow through covenant groups, serve like Christ in risk taking mission and share the love of God with others.

#### **Position Summary and Objective:**

The CFO/Treasurer is responsible for all financial, fiscal, benefits and property management aspects of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Provide leadership and coordination in the administrative, stewardship planning, accounting and budgeting ministry of the Conference.

Organize and lead the finance, benefits and property team so that staff work collaboratively and accomplish their ministry duties on time and with excellence.

#### **Key Accountabilities**

1. Hire, equip, direct, support and evaluate staff and ministry in the following areas to ensure that the financial resources of the Annual Conference are directed toward growing Acts 2 congregations.

**Finance and Administration**— Create, coordinate, and evaluate the financial programs and supporting information systems of the Conference to include budgeting and asset growth.

- Approve and coordinate changes and improvements in automated financial and management information systems for the company.
- Ensure compliance with local, state, and federal budgetary reporting requirements.
- Oversee the approval and processing of revenue, expenditure, and position control documents, department budgets, ledger, and account maintenance and data entry.
- Coordinate the preparation of financial statements, financial reports, special analyses, and information reports.
- Develop and implement finance, accounting, billing, and auditing procedures.
- Establish and maintain appropriate internal control safeguards.

## Baltimore-Washington Conference Seeks CFO/Treasurer (cont.)

- Interact with other team leaders to provide consultative support to planning initiatives through financial and management information analyses, reports, and recommendations.
- Ensure records systems are maintained in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- Analyze cash flow, cost controls, and expenses to guide team leaders. Analyze financial statements to identify potential risks and opportunities.

**Benefits Administration**— Provide oversight and accountability for the benefit's staff

- Billing and collection procedures are developed, organized and carried out to collect benefits payments on time.
- Reports are submitted properly and on time to the Conference Board of Pensions and the General Board of Pensions.
- Timely communication is sent to clergy, church treasurers and finance chairs so that they understand the pension and benefits policies and reporting and payment schedule.
- Pension and Benefits programs are organized and carried out with excellence. This includes but is not limited to retirement planning, retirement luncheon, and benefits selection.

**Property**—Provide oversight and accountability for the Property Coordinator to ensure that all BWC property is safe, well maintained and resources staff and churches well.

- Attend and coordinate staff support for the Council on Finance and Administration, Board of Pensions, Board of Trustees and Foundation Board so that the groups achieve their goals and the strategies and needs of the Bishop and Staff Executive Team are represented.
- Ensure that all conference finances, administrative activities, practices and policies are aligned with BWC vision, mission and goals and the Book of Discipline so that we accomplish our purposes effectively and efficiently.
- Develop team work with the stewardship team so that staff support one another and fully align with the conference vision, mission and goals.
- Organize and lead staff to develop and maintain an online management system for data base, apportionments direct billing, and statistical reports so that we do not duplicate tasks, congregations, pastors and church leaders self manage their information, and we can create reports to assist with conference administration, program, appointment making and finances.
- Represent the Conference externally to congregations, conference and general church agencies, funding agencies, and the general public.
- Lead the administrative and operational planning for the Annual Conference sessions so that the conference runs smoothly and within budget.

**Skills: Leadership:** motivates and influences people to achieve positive results, vision for and ability to develop staff, team player, ability to mentor and coach, strategic thinker, ability to interact with diverse groups of laity and clergy; **Finance:** plan, organize and analyze multimillion dollar budget; negotiate contracts, and prepare timely financial reports; **Organization:** plan with the end result in focus, ability to perform administrative tasks effectively, and effectively, completes tasks on time; effective written and oral communication, demonstrates timely follow through, and a problem solver.

**Qualities:** Christ centered and Christ-like; open to listening and learning from the faith experiences of others with different theological views; accepting of and appreciating people of other races and cultural diversity; punctual; builds unity; demonstrates a spirit of joy, cooperative, collaborative, committed to the vision, mission, beliefs and values of BWC, moral integrity, a good work ethic, and committed to excellence.

**BWC Search Committee**  
**c/o Center for Nonprofit Management**  
**44 Vantage Way, Suite 230, Nashville, TN 37228**  
**Fax: 615-259-0400 - E-mail: [Ingrid@cnm.org](mailto:Ingrid@cnm.org)**  
**Equal Opportunity Employer**

### **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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