



THE MESSENGER

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

June 11, 2010
Volume XX, No. 6
www.nationalchurch.org



It's Summer Vacation...Make Metropolitan Your Destination

It's summertime. The days are lazy and long, hot and humid. Schedules are relaxed, weekends are for the beach,

you have a houseful of relatives and the kids are driving you crazy. You've probably already booked your summer get-away – because how can you plan for your trip until you know where you are going?

Well, here at Metropolitan, we offer a “destination” for everyone. Our destination is 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 call is: PRAISING, LEARNING, SERVING. What better time to explore what it means to be a member of Metropolitan than summer when commitments are fewer and life is simpler. We offer a variety of ways to get to your destination this summer.



PRAISING: This is a great time to experiment — attend a different style or time of worship or even a different venue. During July and August our 9 a.m. worship

will be in the Great Hall. We'll be using the screen for hymns and scripture and it's definitely a “come as you are” style of worship. Our chairs will be facing each other, we'll stand to sing and look at the screen, and the alcove in the front by the windows will be the “children's corner.” We'll have rockers for moms or dads with babies and baskets of toys and pillows for the kids. Shorts and flip-flops are the norm and we'll be sure to make a “Joyful Noise.” Our 11:15 a.m. service will be a simple, traditional service with organ and soloists where you sit in the cool and calming presence of our glorious sanctuary and absorb the music and the Word.

New this summer: Coffee and tea will be served outside as you enter the administrative building from the parking lot prior to and following our 9 a.m. worship. Before and after the 11:15 a.m. worship, lemonade, iced tea and cookies will be served on the promenade in front of the church. In case of rain both will be served in the Vestry.

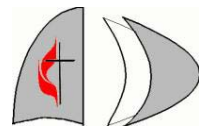


If you want to sleep in on Sunday mornings, summer is a great time to try Crossroads worship at our St. Luke's campus at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday evening. *The band is hoppin' and toes are stompin.* Crossroads offers a blend of the old and new. Music plays a vital role and following the sermon is a time for reflection and prayer. Stations are set up with candles, space for quiet reflection, prayer, healing, and communion. If you are looking for a smaller worship experience with a chance to connect with a different community, this is your opportunity. Following the service there are many great restaurants along the “Upper Georgetown” strip and your car is parked for free.

But that's not all. Sunday morning also offers an opportunity to worship at Wesley United Methodist Church, a member of our cooperative parish. Worship begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends with fellowship (this means food and drink in the best Methodist tradition). Wesley offers a rich variety of worship with a rockin' gospel choir and a diverse community.

LEARNING: School may be out and our regular Sunday School classes may not meet, but that doesn't mean we've stopped learning and questioning. Some of our adult Sunday school classes continue to meet. Check the bulletin each week for times and locations. This could be a great time to try out one of our classes. Our Great Hall series takes a hiatus for the summer BUT we do offer “Grounds for Discussion” most Sundays when Rev. Parker or our guest preachers answer questions in an informal setting. Grab some coffee and come to the Great Hall.

Our children's program kicks off the summer with Vacation Bible School June 23-26. Metropolitan and St Paul's Lutheran are joining together this summer. The theme is High Seas Expedition. Rev. Kate Murphey and Anita Seline will be a part of the crew. There are still a few slots left if you'd like to join in. Contact Anita at aseline@mmumc-dc.org. On Sunday mornings our Summer Sing-a-long returns following the children's sermon at 9 a.m. worship. Join Ms. Betsy for some rousing Vacation Bible School-style songs – it's a time to sing and move and smile. During the Sunday school hour in June and July the kids will gather together to explore the themes of the summer...(cont. on pg. 2)



It's Summer Vacation...Make Metropolitan Your Destination (cont.)

– June is about the Family and July about Art. Our friends from M.O.M.I.E. (Mentors of Minorities in Education's Total Learning Cis-Tem), a DC-based nonprofit organization dedicated to "nurturing the genius" of our children by creating a transformative educational experience, will join us to help explore faith through art. And there's always sleep away camp at one of our nearby Methodist locations. This summer Rev. Jimmy Sherrod and Pam Settlege will lead a camp at West River — one of the camps in the Baltimore Washington Conference. For more information on camping opportunities go to: <http://www.bwccampsandretreats.com/Home.html>. Our youth meet regularly for "Tuesdays on the Town" from June 15 through July 27. This is a time to keep connected over the summer months with fellowship and adventure (searching the best ice cream, a trip to the Nat's game, and more).



SERVING: Mission work doesn't take a vacation and we offer many opportunities for mission work during the summer. Our long-standing commitment to the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) means that our youth and adult leaders will head to Logan County, West

Virginia in mid-July for a week of home repair and connecting with our brothers and sisters in rural Appalachia. Three teams of high school youth and adults will depart on July 11. A few spots are still available so please contact Jimmy Sherrod at jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org.

Our middle-schoolers will have an opportunity to help Heifer International, from August 12-15, with Thursday and Friday nights spent in the Global Villages, bartering for ingredients and cooking a native meal, hiking, vermiculture (learning how worms make compost and making compost tea) and candle-making. After lunch Saturday, they will leave for Camp Manidoken for an overnight and back early Sunday afternoon. Contact Leigh Rollins, leighs_beads@hotmail.com. This summer our Volunteers in Mission Team (V.I.M.) plans a one-day trip to "Mission Central" at the UMCOR Depot on Saturday, July 24. Please contact Ann Michel if you'd like to participate at amichel@wesleyseminary.edu or 202.885.5852. Our homeless ministry offers an opportunity to help Capital Interfaith Housing Network (CIHN) with meals and overnights. Please contact Eliza Hamner-Koenig at eliza_hamner@yahoo.com if you'd like to help.



EVANGELISM: Maybe you have friends or neighbors without a regular church home. Summer is a great time to invite them to join you. Here's what we have in store. The month of July will focus on "The Divine Mystery of Art." We will have two guest preachers during the month. On July 18, our guest preacher is Deborah Sokolov. She is the Director of the Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion at Wesley Theological Seminary, where she also teaches courses in art and worship. She received her B.A. and M.F.A. from California State University at Los Angeles; a Master of Theological Studies degree from Wesley Theological Seminary; and the Ph.D. in Liturgical Studies from Drew University. Before coming to Wesley as Artist-in-Residence in 1994, she taught art, design, and computer imaging at the university level. In recent years, she has been a regular contributor to ARTS, the journal of the Soci-

ety for Religious and Theological Studies, and her essays have appeared in several books on religion and the arts. Her work has been shown locally and nationally, and is represented in numerous collections.



On July 25, Rev. Chris Holmes (son of Bill and Nancy) who is a United Methodist Minister, currently a District Superintendent, and an artist will join us. Chris is the founder of Catch Fire Coaching through which he offers coaching to pastors, District Superintendents and others who are motivated to grow in life fulfillment. Chris has 25 years of experience as a pastor, over 400 hours of

coaching experience and is in his fourth year serving as the District Superintendent of the Annapolis District of the Baltimore Washington Conference. Chris is also an accomplished watercolor artist. The focus of his sermon will be on "The Voyage of Life" series by painter Thomas Cole. One set of the paintings is at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and we hope you take an opportunity to view the paintings.

During the month of August, we will explore all that music and hymns offer to us. We will begin on the first Sunday with Hymns as Healing as we share communion and anointing with oil. On August 8, Rev. Dr. Charlie Parker will explore Hymns as Justice and on August 15 Rev. Dr. John Tate will take us on a journey with Hymns as Storytelling. We will round out the month on the 22nd Dancing the Hymns (that of course is with our very own Kate Murphey) and on August 29 Jimmy Sherrod and Kate Murphey will jointly preach on Taking it to the Streets: Hymns as Evangelism. This is a summer you won't want to miss.

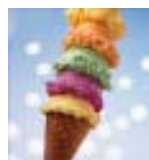


INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS:

Join us for our annual "MET-FLIX" summer movies on the corner. Bring your friends and neighbors, your lawn chairs and your blankets. Our films this summer are "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" showing on June



17th and "UP" on August 27th. Movies start at dark (around 8 p.m.) Popcorn, hot dogs snacks and soda are available for purchase and benefit the Children's Ministries.



On our last Sunday before Labor Day, join the United Methodist Women (UMW) in the Great Hall between services for an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social.

We invite you to grow in your faith this summer. The liturgical color following Pentecost is green, a color signifying rest and growth. Don't miss this opportunity to explore your faith and build connections. Make Metropolitan your destination this summer.

Pat House

A Word of Thanks from Rev. Sandy Rector



Words cannot begin to convey how deeply touched my family and I were at the genuine outpouring of love that was showered upon us during our farewell celebration on May 30th. It was very overwhelming, in a good way (easy to gauge by the tear count that Chuck Cochran was keeping tabs on). There are so many people to thank, and of course I am afraid that I will leave someone off if I try to name names, so I will keep it broader and hope that you know that I know who you are, and am so grateful for all that you did to help make the day so special.

For those who made all of the celebration arrangements - from the beautiful table decorations (which are now on my front porch, back deck, and in my garden!) and the stunning orchids, to the wonderful brunch - which I knew was intended for my family as a whole when I saw Evan with a plate of bacon with a donut on top. To the "MC's" who kept the program running, and those responsible for set up and clean up, and all those who shared words I feel I hardly deserve.

Thank you to the musicians, who surprised me and prepared special music during our morning worship, bringing me to tears - did you get those in your count, Chuck? To the Wellness Committee for a wonderful book on Healing Liturgies - a phenomenal resource which I know will get good use throughout my ministry. To the prayer shawl knitters ("ka-nitters") for hours and hours of a labor of love and the beautiful afghan you made for my family. To the SPRC for the beautifully framed photo of Metropolitan - already hanging in my house, and to the photographer who might want to consider a second career in the field. For those who wrote such lovely notes, and to the one who pulled it together in such a fun and creative way (this IS the

day!). To the UMW for a beautiful plant with special meaning, which has also found its way into my garden. And to my Stephen Ministers, who brought me to tears twice with their kind words, beautiful gifts, and hospitality. And to all who made donations to a parting gift - I was so touched by your generosity - though I shouldn't say I was surprised, because that's the kind of people that make up this community. I also want to say thank you to the churches - for you have allowed me to grow my gifts in ministry by constantly challenging me while showing me what it means to be passionate, committed, and centered upon Christ as you have lived into God's vision for us of praising, learning and serving. And to the staff that I have been privileged to work alongside, you are an amazing team that makes the impossible come to fruition. It is hard to say goodbye to this place, but I know I leave a better minister because of all that we have been through together. Thank you. May God continue to richly bless you and yours, from the bottom of my heart and with much love.

And a special P.S. to the community at St. Luke's. The above was written before our final service was held is Sunday, June 6th. What a wonderful gathering we had as we celebrated our history and ministry and looked to the future with hope! Thank you to a great music team who pulled everything together, to the crew who set up and cleaned up our "garden party" in the Wesley Room, for all those who prepared special food, for the kind words, the lovely gifts (especially the one which will always make me smile and think of St. Luke's - cracks and chips and all), the hugs, the tears, and all that you have done and continue to do to serve with integrity and faithfulness. You truly are a special bunch, and I am so grateful to have had the privilege of serving as your pastor this past year. God bless you all, with love and deep gratitude. Sandy

Rev. Sandy Rector

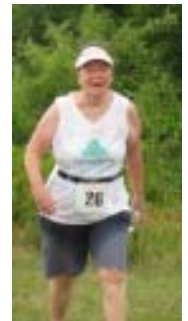
Where Are They Now | Carol and Peyton Middleton

This month we are introducing a new feature titled, "Where are they now?" If you have news about one of our members and would like to write a story, please contact Jeff Clouser at jclouser@mmumc-dc.org or 202.363.4900, ext. 23.

Carol and Peyton moved to Austin, Texas in 2005. They looked forward to missing the icy, snowy winters like we had this year and to a more relaxed life-style in close proximity to two of their three sons and three grandchild-

ren. They live in a charming neighborhood of arts and crafts style homes. Carol has converted an unfinished room over their garage to a full blown art studio. Soon after they moved they joined St. John's United Methodist Church where Carol is a member of the Worship Committee and Peyton is singing in the choir. True to form, Peyton has found time to volunteer in the church office and at the local hospital. Carol has taken advantage of the many opportunities to explore all areas of her spirituality with classes, lectures and weekend retreats. Not long after they moved to Texas, Carol needed heart surgery. Not one to stay down long, as soon as her strength allowed she began to build up endurance. *And now for the fun part:* This past weekend, on June 6, Carol competed in the Danskin Triathlon in Austin. This triathlon is the largest and longest running women's-only triathlon series. This required a 1/2 mile swim, 12 mile bike ride and a 3.1 mile run - all this on a summer day in Texas with

temperatures reaching 104 degrees. Carol commented on trying to swim with hundreds of other people all going in the same direction, "I kept seeing the waves of different colored caps passing me by but I just kept chugging along until I got to the shore." Not only did she finish, but was 10th overall in her age group. Near the end, when the going got tough, her sons David and Michael showed up on the course, walking alongside and telling her she was close to the finish and could do it. Then, just before the finish line, her grandchildren Caitlin and Woodrow joined her and hugged her as she ran across the finish line and her name was called. "WOW" was all she could say. She experienced lots of support along the way and at one point a young woman came and held her hand to encourage her. As Carol notes, "this was an incredible experience - a once in a life-time experience..." Well, maybe not. At the late afternoon family celebration (after a hot shower and nap), Carol's granddaughter looked up the age for when she could participate and suggested in three years they could do a three generation thing... How cool is that!



Life at Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish

METROPOLITAN MEMORIAL PARKING PERMIT

New Parking Passes Available in the Church Office

Coming to Metropolitan Memorial during the week? Get your Metropolitan Memorial Parking Permit! Due to increased student parking in our parking lot, AU will be stepping up their patrol for illegally parked cars. We ask that if you are attending an event during the day at Metropolitan that you come to the front office and pick up a parking permit to display in your windshield. This helps the AU patrolman to determine who is parked legally and who is not.



Your Name Here!

Nametags

If you ordered a nametag, please pick them up at the visitor center located in the Narthex. If you wish to order a nametag, please add your name to the list! Nametags are a wonderful way to engage our visitors and members alike!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, June 15, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 20, 12:30 p.m.

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



Met-Flix

**Outdoor Movie at Metropolitan Memorial
Friday, June 18 at 7:30 p.m.**



Bring your blankets and chairs and join us on the campus of Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church for a free evening of fun under the stars! Our movie for the evening will be Universal Pictures' "E.T." Movie begins at 8 p.m.

Discussion with Carol Cook Moore

Sunday, June 27

10:10 a.m., Great Hall

Carol Cook Moore, Assistant Professor of Worship and Preaching at Wesley Theological Seminary, will facilitate an interactive discussion on marriage in the United Methodist Church.



**Worship at Wesley UMC (5312 Conn. Ave., NW)
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.**

Worship at Wesley—a truly diverse and welcoming church with a rocking Gospel choir. Questions? Contact Kate Murphey, kmurphey@mmumc-dc.org or 202.363.4900, ext. 21.



Congratulations

•To Maggie and Andrew Hershey on the birth of their twins Sarah and Hayden on May 19.

•To Lisa and Eric Whisenhunt on the birth of their twins Wyatt and Walker on May 13.



**Beat the Heat and
Get Your Craft On!
Saturday, July 17, 10 a.m.**

In the Great Hall

The United Methodist Women are hosting their annual craft day on Saturday, July 17, in the Great Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We'll be making items to sell at our fall bazaar. Projects include creating greeting cards and bookmarks, sewing Raggedy Ann dolls, beading earrings, bracelets and necklaces and more!

No experience required! We'll have women on hand to teach you everything you need to know. Lunch will be served. It's a time to relax, create, hang out, and connect with women from throughout UMW and beyond. All women are welcome—so bring a friend! Questions? Suggestions? Contact Suzanne Vieth at [msvieth@verizon.net](mailto:m svieth@verizon.net) or 202.237.6744.

Calling All Photographers

The Arts Council is planning a September exhibition of photographs by members of Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish. The title will be "Where Do You See God?" Exhibit instructions and dates will be provided later. If you are interested in exhibiting your work, contact Carol Schleicher, rschlei@verizon.net or Marilu Wood, at shedelwood@yahoo.com.



Photographers Needed!

Are you interested in helping us to document life here at Metropolitan Memorial?! We are looking for individuals interested in taking pictures of the various events. If you are interested please contact, Jeff Clouser at jclouser@mmumc-dc.org or 202.363.4900, ext. 23.



**Crossroads: A Weekly Worship Experience
Saturdays, 5 p.m., St. Luke's Campus
(3655 Calvert Street N.W.)**

Join us for a worship experience that features a high energy band as well as creative uses of visuals and multimedia. A nursery is provided, and a time of gathering to build community over refreshments follows the service. Questions? Contact Jimmy Sherrod, 202.363.4900, ext. 24 or jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org and check out our blog at www.xroadsdc.blogspot.com.

Annual Conference Report 2010



The 226th session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church was held on June 2-4 in Baltimore, Maryland. The Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish was represented by four clergy and four lay delegates: Charlie Parker, Sandy Rector, Jimmy Sherrod, Kate Murphey, Anne Brown, Tim Rousset, Ina Morgan, and Helen Simon. They joined 647 clergy and 640 lay members from 674 churches in Washington, DC, Maryland, the panhandle of West Virginia, and Bermuda, in considering 20 resolutions. Four of the proposed resolutions focused on the church and homosexuality, and they were tabled by the Conference in order to hear from a panel of six individuals who provided a wide range of opinions, and then Conference participants broke into small groups to focus on two questions: “How can

we as the church most effectively offer ministry and pastoral support to and for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender sisters and brothers?” and “How can we as a connectional church relate to and work with each other as the body of Christ given our disagreements over this issue?” The panelists all agreed with the perspective that “whatever differences separate us, Christ loves us.”

The theme of the Conference this year was “Passionate Disciples: Celebrate in Worship,” and highlights of the worship experiences included the worship offered by our *Crossroads* musicians led by Jimmy Sherrod. The Conference also witnessed the ordination of eight Elders and one Deacon and the commissioning of seven provisional members; honored the ministries of 29 retirees who gave 780 years of service; memorialized previous Conference members who died in the past year; and listened to and reflected on the State of the Church address by Bishop John Schol. Among the preachers at the Conference were three other Bishops: James Swanson (the Holston area in Tennessee), Hans Vaxby (the Eurasia Area), and Janice Huie (the Houston Area in Texas). Rev. Adam Hamilton, pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas, shared his experiences and perspectives on worship, leadership, and evangelism. This church began with four people and today has more than 12,000 adult members, with more than 7,500 in worship.

The Council on Finance and Administration proposed that the budget for 2011 remain the same as 2010, with considerable effort made going forward to “restore trust and confidence” in the apportionment and budgeting processes. This recommendation was approved by the Conference and means that there will be no increase in either 2011 apportionments or the 2011 apportioned expense budget. The Conference members also adopted the benevolence factor of 19.5 percent, which remains the same as last year. In 2009, the apportionment collection rate was 89.24 percent, which reversed the downward trend of the past several years. In addition, the Conference approved the goal of starting at least two new churches in 2012, 2013, and 2014, with primary consideration of new church starts being given to planting churches that reach non-churched young adults between 18 and 35, as well as intentionally directed toward the ethnic, cultural and economic diversity of the Baltimore-Washington Conference region.

The Crossroads band leads worship at Annual Conference



Annual Conference Report 2010 (cont.)

Session Notes from “Effective Worship and Preaching” by Rev. Adam Hamilton, Minister, Church of the Resurrection (COR) in Kansas



Rev. Adam Hamilton leads the session on “Effective Worship and Preaching”

Improving Worship: Worship is a soul-food café – you cannot microwave good worship, you need to think carefully about the guests who are coming. People today are interested in savoring their experiences. When surveyed, 72% did not expect to have an encounter with God in worship, 11% did and the rest did not understand the question. At COR they allow 60-90 seconds for people to

Jesus’ stories were often agriculturally based, so Rev. Hamilton did lessons from the farm: the power of manure. All of us have stepped in it, what do you do with manure you step in? If you compost it you can turn it into fertilizer but it has to be turned once every 7 days (like once a week on Sundays!), turn your manure into something valuable. This illustrates the power of analogies.

There are 2 basic sermon types: from the Bible to exegete to apply to illustrate **or** human condition to exegete to the Bible to apply/illustrate (the latter is more powerful for the non-religious). Jesus started with issues that people are dealing with in their life; there are a number of Bible passages on depression, for example.

stand and greet people around them and ask questions like how long someone had been coming to their church. It is also important to have silence in worship.

Five categories of sermons he uses (preaching speaks to the mission/vision/plan of a church): sermons that particularly appeal to non-religious people; discipleship; pastoral care; equipping and sending out (how to do Christian ethics or how to do mission); and institution building (how do we do church). His view is that the Lectionary delivers the lumber for a house, but it does not know where you are in building the house. Now he uses the Lectionary only in Advent.

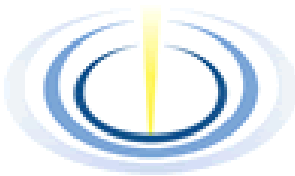
Five components of preaching that helps people connect: (1)teach people something they do not know; (2)inspire them/touch their hearts; (3)provide a call to action – preach with convictions and what you want them to do; (4)inspiring and intriguing (Jesus told Parables) – draw examples from daily life; and (5)needs to be Biblical.

Before Rev. Hamilton goes away for sermon planning, he asks the Church Council for sermon topic suggestions – what do they think people need to hear in upcoming sermons and where does our church need to go? He also asks people on Christmas Eve to identify the 3 hardest questions that would keep them from being Christian, and he chooses 6 of these for sermons the following year. He uses the daily newspaper to develop stories for sermons: one sermon series was The Gospel and Stories Making the News Today.

Rev. Hamilton provides devotionals to every person that includes Scripture reading that can be used for small groups also. He sends e mails to church members telling them about upcoming sermons that they can then forward to friends.

Service and Advocacy

A Wider Circle: Health, Hope & Human Connection



A Wider Circle, a small nonprofit Washington organization, dedicated to helping individuals and families lift themselves out of poverty, is urgently seeking basic household furniture to furnish the homes of families in need and those transitioning from homeless shelters. Won't you please help by donating no longer needed beds, mattresses, cribs, strollers, chairs and tables in your home?

Please contact the organization at 301.608.3504 or by E-Mail at furnish@awidercircle.org to

arrange for a pick-up of your donation. You may drop off items, if your prefer, 7 days a week, at our Center for Community Service, 9159-C Brookville Road, Silver Spring, MD.

United Methodist Women

Beat the Heat and Get Your Craft On! Saturday, July 17, 10 a.m., Great Hall

Join us for our annual craft day! We'll be making items to sell at our fall bazaar. Projects include; creating greeting cards and bookmarks, Sewing Raggedy Ann dolls, beading earrings, bracelets and necklaces and more! No experience required! We'll have women on hand to teach you everything you need to know. Lunch will be served. It's a time to relax, create, hang out, and connect with women from throughout UMW and beyond. All women are welcome – so bring a friend! Questions? Suggestions? Contact Suzanne Vieth at [msvieth@verizon.net](mailto:m svieth@verizon.net) or 202-237-6744.

UMW Bazaar - Contributions Welcome!

Many thanks to all in the congregation who supported the UMW's spring book sale! Now, planning for the annual fall bazaar is underway, and we are ready to accept your contributions of gently used household items (no clothing, no electronics). Donations may be dropped off at the UMW closet area at any time. Pricing sessions will continue throughout the summer on Thursday mornings, beginning June 17, from 10 a.m. to noon — join us! Questions? Contact bazaar coordinator Barbara Gaskill (202-244-3512 or Barbara@bgaskill.com).



Recognition Luncheon: Nominations Being Accepted Sunday, December 12, 12:30pm.

Each year the United Methodist Women of Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church hold a Recognition Luncheon honoring women who have made a significant contribution to the church, the nation, and the world. The Recognition Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 12, beginning at 12:30pm in the Great Hall. We are seeking nominations of outstanding women to honor this year. Please submit nominations by calling Robin Emery at 202-625-9273 or by email to emerymjon@aol.com by October 15th. In addition to recognizing these special women we will also celebrate the babies who have been born this year and remember with gratitude those who died last year.”

Seniors Ministries



June AARP Luncheon

Please join us on Monday, June 21 at noon in the Vestry for our spring luncheon. There also will be musical entertainment. The cost of \$10 is due by June 16. Please send a check payable to AARP Chapter 2183 to Eileen Reilley, 1 Scott Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

IONA Senior Services - Caregiver U

An informed caregiver is an effective caregiver.

If you are currently caring for an older relative or just want to get information to help you be prepared for the changes aging can bring, please join us for a series of monthly seminars on topics ranging from health and wellness to financial planning. Refreshments are served, care is provided* and all are warmly welcomed.

Sessions are on the first Wednesday of every month at 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and repeated from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Iona Senior Services, 4125 Albemarle Street, NW. Classes are free, but registration is recommended. Call 202.895.9448 or visit us on the web: www.iona.org. Topics include: April 7, Planning Ahead for Financial Security; May 5, Navigating the Health Care System; June 2, Driving Safety and Transportation Options; July 7, Dementias Other Than Alzheimer's; August 4, Nutrition and Older Adults; September 1, Medication Management and Managing Pain; October 6, Understanding and Treating, Depression and Anxiety; November 3, Coping with Grief and Loss; December 1, Information Fair and Caregiver U Graduation Celebration.

*Care: If you are planning to attend and need care for a family member, our professional staff at Iona Adult Day Health, wellness and Arts Center will care for your loved one. Please tell us if you need this service when you call.



Youth Ministries



Youth Connection: Tuesdays on the Town Begins Tuesday, June 15, 6 p.m.

Tuesdays on the Town begin Tuesday, June 15. We'll gather in the church parking lot and travel together in the big, blue van! We're going go-carting! We will return to the church at approximately 9 p.m. Please bring \$20. To attend, RSVP to Rev. Jimmy Sherrod, jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org by Monday, June 14. On June 22, we will join together for a pool party from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Palisades Pool in Cabin John. RSVP and let Jimmy know what you can bring (chips, coleslaw, fruit, baked beans, dessert). Other Tuesdays on the Town dates: June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27.

Confirmation Class 2010

We congratulate the Confirmands that joined our church on Sunday, May 23!

From left to right front row: Katherine Davis, Paige Rumelt, John Ahn, Leslie Crockett

Left to right back row: Adam Settlege, Jimmy Sherrod, Emily Vogt, Alyssa Axthelm, David Davenport, Evan Rector, Kojo Otchere

Not pictured: Danny Guimaraes, Claire Comey, Nathaniel Remez, and Josh Mattsson



Campus Ministries

Food and Fellowship

Are you a graduate or a non-traditional student looking for a community where you can come together weekly for food and conversation? Looking for a summer outing group? Join us Wednesdays this summer as we meet for food and fellowship at various DC locations. To get involved, contact Cody Nielsen, j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com or 319.759.9688.

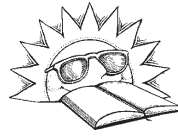
- J. Cody Nielsen



Children's Ministries

Summer Singalong Returns!

Betsy White, the Cherub Choir director, will lead our Summer Singalong, this summer. Children are invited to join Ms. Betsy for some rousing Vacation Bible School-style songs such as "Rise and Shine," "Alleluia," "B.I.B.L.E." Get up and move, sing, and smile. Join us for the fun, Sundays, starting June 20, after the children's sermon at the 9 a.m. service. Want to stay in church instead? We'll have bean bag chairs and baskets of fun activities to entertain the little ones and rocking chairs for parents.



Summer Sunday School

Explore the presence of God through art in our special Summer Sunday School sessions for children, starting June 20. There will be two classes, one for younger children, ages 3 through 2nd grade, held in Room 101, and one for older children, 3rd grade and older, held in Room 203. June's topics are: June 20 (Father's Day) ~ Respect and Love Dad; June 27 ~ Stars in the Sky. Summer Sunday School will run through July 25. Please plan to join us for any or all of the sessions. See you then!



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School, organized by Metropolitan Memorial and St. Paul's Lutheran, will be held June 23 to 26 for children three to rising 6th graders. VBS will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at St. Paul's, located at 4900 Connecticut Ave. NW in Washington DC. It's not too late to register. Contact Anita Seline at aseline@mmumc-dc.org for information.

Children's Sermons

On Sunday, May 16 the children of Metropolitan Memorial led our Worship Service. Below is the text from Sermons written by Owen Brody, Elizabeth Vogt, Kate Peters, and Anna Hukill.

"Beginnings and Endings" by Owen Brody

There are endings and there are beginnings. And some endings are also beginnings. A couple of years ago, my great grandmother died. I was sad. That was an ending. But soon after that, a new baby cousin was born. That was a beginning. So the ending of one life in our family was the beginning of another.

This is my last year of elementary school. I am sad because I have so many memories from elementary school. That is an ending of a period of my life. It is also a beginning because I am starting middle school. The fifth graders like me are going from being the oldest kids in elementary school to the youngest kids in middle school.

Also, I have been in Godly Play for seven years and am moving to Youth Connections next fall. I am sad. Godly Play has taught me many important lessons and taught me much about the Bible in a fun way. This also is a beginning because I will start to learn more about the Bible and Christianity but in a new and more complex way.

The Scripture we read today is about Paul. Paul had many endings that were also beginnings. Such as, when Paul was put in jail. Paul prayed and prayed to God. So in the middle of the night there was an earthquake, that shook the jail so much that all the doors opened. The jailor, of course, was shocked and almost killed himself because he thought he would be tortured for losing his prisoners. This was almost an ending, but right before the jailor killed himself Paul told the jailor to stop. They

were still there. This was a beginning because the jailor became a Christian.

Another one of Paul's endings that was also a beginning was when he was on the road to Damascus to find Christians to persecute...His name was actually Saul at the time. Saul was blinded by a great light from Heaven. Jesus asked him why he was persecuting him. The people Saul was traveling with led him to Damascus. Three days later Saul regained his sight and was baptized by Ananias. This was an ending because Saul stopped persecuting Jesus and his disciples. This was also a beginning because he became a strong Christian and a leader in the church.

As I said before, Godly Play taught me many lessons. But two of the more important ones were the Easter story and the story of the Circle of the Church Year. In the Circle of the Church Year story, I learned that there are endings and there are beginnings but some endings are also beginnings. That is why the church year is a circle not a line. When Jesus died, it was an ending and many, many people were very sad. But also, it was a beginning because Jesus came back to life and opened Heaven to us and gave us eternal life so we can live on forever.

So as you can tell, there are endings that can be beginnings. When are you sad about an ending coming, remember many endings are also beginnings and maybe that will help you through a difficult ending.

The Gift of Life by Elizabeth Vogt

God gave us the gift of life. With that gift we can help others that are less fortunate than us. This year in our Sunday school class we did two community service projects to help the less fortunate. One of the things we did was make a meal for the church's homeless shelter. These people don't have a lot and need others' help, and it is not a difficult task to help them by simply making a meal.

We also visited the senior-citizen home, Grand Oaks, and held a church service there. We served communion to them, and at the end almost all of the residents came up and said how much they

appreciated our Service. They do not get to see children or other young people very often, and it was not hard or tiring for us to go there and hold a church service. It felt good when we saw the smiles on their faces.

It is very rewarding to be able to do these types of community service. We have all been in Sunday school for about six years by now and we enjoy and learn a lot from the Bible stories, but one of the things we get the most out of is doing community service.

Children's Ministries (cont.)

"Working Together" by Kate Peters

I have learned over the many years that I have been at Metropolitan United Methodist Church that teamwork is the key to success. No one is going to get anywhere if they are fighting all the time. I have learned that when I am working on a group project I need to listen to everyone's voice. Everyone is important to be a full person.

Our class worked together in planning and leading a service at Grand Oaks Retirement home. We started out by picking a theme for the service. We decided on Jesus and Children for the theme. Then, we selected songs that would reflect the theme. We also came up with prayers that the seniors would enjoy. Finally after many weeks of practicing we were ready to perform. During the service, as I looked into the seniors' eyes I saw that they were so happy to be here listening to what we had to say. I can remember this look to this very day. It was a look of pleasure and happiness and made me feel as if they were actually listening to what I had to say. They were relating to our passages and prayers. After the service, we all knew that we wanted to do it again, but there was not enough time in the year to complete all the planning and preparation. There was enough time, however to make another meal for the shelter.

The Bible Explorers had already cooked for the shelter in the fall. We all had so much fun we wanted to do it again. During the winter we started planning the meal together. We each put in our own ideas and together we came out with a meal. The whole class was prepared and excited to cook for the shelter,

but on that Sunday the blizzard of 2010 came. One of my Sunday school teachers, my mother, decided that we should make the meal that everyone had planned. We made the meal and the two of us had a hard time delivering the food. There were huge snow drifts of about 2 feet high and 3 feet wide. The stairs to the shelter were blocked. We had to slide down the snow bank with a tub of hot soup in our arms. Finally, after my pants were soaked through, I got close enough to the shelter door. My mom was still retrieving the salad from the car when I knocked on the door. A shelter resident opened the door and greeted me. He took me inside and we started to unpack the food together. Although my pants were thoroughly soaked, I had a great time delivering the food. My mother and I thought long and hard if it was worth the trouble to deliver the food. We decided that if we were the ones in the shelter we *would* want hot soup on a cold snowy day. We also debated if we should cook the food that the class had thought out and planned. Our class had put long hard hours of thought and preparation into that meal. If we had abandoned that meal then the class would have wasted all of that time. We decided that we would not demonstrate the responsibility to our classmates if we blew off that meal. I believe that our Bible Explorers class is happy that the shelter residents enjoyed our dinner.

Both cooking for the shelter and preparing for Grand Oaks have helped me learn that in order to be the best person I can be I will have to work together with everyone.

"The Power of God's Love" By Anna Hukill

The psalm we read today describes the power of God. As I was reading this psalm, one part really stood out to me. It showed me a connection with current life. It read, "The distant shores rejoice. Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side. His lightning lights up the world and the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth."

This year, earthquakes have been in the news a lot. If you have been listening to the news lately, you know that there was an earthquake in Haiti, causing destruction there. Then, to make matters worse, it happened again in Haiti, and then China was hit with an earthquake. This caused both physical and emotional pain to everyone. Haitian and Chinese people were hurt because of physical damage, and loved ones died. And, I mean, when you hear all these sad stories, doesn't it start to break your heart too?

Now, I wonder, are these earthquakes the power of God? If so, what does that mean? Is God angry? Sad? Mad? What is it? I think it is God's way of helping Haiti and China in some ways, and teaching people, like you and me, the power of helping. This might have helped these countries because they weren't in the best state, so they definitely got more attention and got the help from others. This also teaches people that things like this happen to everyone. Whether it's the death of a loved one, or a best friend moving, it happens all the time. If you are ever hurt, God will always be there to guide you back to your path. If your mother, or father, or grandma or grandpa died, it feels to you

like a part of your heart went with them. This is exactly what the people around you are for. They are there to help you and support you. Now, causing these huge disasters in the world probably wasn't God's way of showing how great your friends are. This helps you learn that, even if someone isn't your best friend, you can always lend a helping hand. And because of these earthquakes, Haiti and China really do need that help.

Although the power of God may be seen and felt in these destructive natural disasters, we can feel his power in other places and in other times too. Every time you pray, he will help you, especially through hard times. God is in the stories we hear in Sunday School, He is always there, so we often feel the power of God at church.

Sometimes I have even felt the power of God, and of God's love, at home or at school. At home, whenever I pray, it's a connection to God. At school, maybe you are having trouble with school, teachers and friends. Or even taking a hike in the woods, you can feel his power in nature. God is there giving you words of wisdom. Even if you can't hear them being spoken, you can feel them.

So even if earthquakes are puzzling, and big deadly storms may not make any sense, we should always remember another symbol of God's power, the rainbow. It's not fierce, it doesn't hurt anyone or anything, but it shows us that God loves us. And that is important to remember and to celebrate. Amen.

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

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

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

Anita Seline — Director of Children's Ministries, ext. 22, aseline@mmumc-dc.org

Patrisha House — Director of Worship, Music and Arts, ext. 28, phouse@mmumc-dc.org

Jeff Clouser — Director of Communications and Outreach, ext. 23, jclouser@mmumc-dc.org

J. Cody Nielsen — Associate for Campus Ministry, ext. 14, cnielsen@mmumc-dc.org

Bruce Caviness — 11a.m. Organist-Choirmaster, ext. 15, bcaviness@mmumc-dc.org

Casey Elliott — Dayspring Choir Director and 9 a.m. Worship Leader, ext. 12, celliott@mmumc-dc.org

Dona Collary — Director of Church Administration, ext. 17, dcollary@mmumc-dc.org

Helen Simon - Office Manager, ext. 10, hsimon@mmumc-dc.org

Rafael Reyes - Director of Building and Grounds, ext. 20, rreyes@mmumc-dc.org

Bob Weintraub - Bookkeeper, ext. 18, bweintraub@mmumc-dc.org

Linda Smith - Director of Nursery School, 202.362.8746, lsmith@mmumc-dc.org

THE MESSENGER is published by: The Metropolitan Memorial Cooperative Parish

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

Metropolitan Memorial - 3401 Nebraska Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20016 Tel: 202.363.4900

Fax: 202.686.2056 E-Mail: jclouser@mmumc-dc.org website: <http://www.nationalchurch.org>

St. Luke's Campus - 3655 Calvert Street N.W., Washington, DC 20007

Wesley United Methodist Church - 5312 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20015

NEXT ISSUE: July 9, 2010

NEXT DEADLINE: Noon on July 6, 2010