



THE MESSENGER

For the congregation of the Metropolitan Memorial Charge

(A cooperative parish of Metropolitan Memorial and St. Luke's United Methodist Churches)

December 12, 2008

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www.nationalchurch.org

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year...

Our homes are decorated, the lights are strung, the cards are addressed, and the shopping is done. Ok, maybe we're not all quite there yet, but we're working on it...

This is a magical time of year, one filled with family and friends, with parties and presents, great music and memories. But it's also a time of the year when the busyness and festivities that fill our calendars can easily overshadow the simple, yet profound message of the season.

I was reminded of this the other night when my family sat down together to do what so many have done every year since 1965 – we watched *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Who would have guessed that over 40 years ago this prime-time animated TV special, based on Charles M. Schulz's popular comic strip *Peanuts*, would grow to be such a holiday classic?! In the midst of a great jazz soundtrack, low-budget animation, and awkward dialogue, I found myself moved once again by the powerful message told through this cartoon classic.



Charlie Brown finds himself increasingly disheartened by the commercial nature of the holiday season. Lucy complains about always getting “a lot of stupid toys” instead of what she really wants – real estate. Snoopy is decorating his doghouse in an effort to win hundreds in prize money, and little sister Sally asks Santa to just send money, preferably 10's and 20's. Even the Christmas play Charlie is directing spirals out of control as the Peanuts bunch focuses on dancing and having fun rather than the nativity.

To regain focus for the cast, Charlie decides to get a Christmas tree. Rather than the “big, shiny aluminum one, maybe painted pink” that was suggested by the gang, Charlie selects the only live tree on the lot. This small, scraggly specimen draws the disdain of the Peanuts gallery, who chide Charlie for his failure to do anything right. As he turns to leave, scrawny tree in hand, he asks loudly, “does anyone really know what Christmas is all about?” Enter Linus, center stage:

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men (Luke 2:8-14).’ That’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.”

The show ends with the newly enlightened cast finding unexpected beauty in the tiny tree, but more importantly, discovering the true meaning of the Christmas season.

In the midst of this busy time, may you and your loved ones find God's promise in the unexpected – through the birth of a tiny baby named Jesus, the one who brings the promise of hope and peace to all God's creation. Merry Christmas!

Rev. Sandy Reetz

MALARIA KILLS.
Send a net. Save a life.



NothingButNets.net

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING
All Three Services
*A simple gift: giving to others
and giving to God*

The Gospel According to Les Mis

One of my very favorite books growing up was Victor Hugo's powerful novel *Les Misérables*, the story of convicted felon Jean Valjean finding redemption in post-Napoleonic France. The book was so important to me, that I wouldn't see the play for some time, because I didn't believe that there was a way of capturing that book in the form of a musical. I was wrong, of course, and *Les Misérables* immediately became my favorite musical.

For four weeks in January, we are going to be exploring the gospel themes that run throughout the play and the musical. During these weeks, the format of our two services will be identical, and the choirs will perform some of the music from the plays. We have also reserved a block of tickets to the play at the Signature Theater for after church on Sunday, January 11. This series will be a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends who may not be regular church-goers to visit Metropolitan.

Charlie



January 4 - Sermon Title: The Gospel According to Les Mis: Revolution to Redemption

Scriptures: Amos 5: 18-24, Luke 10: 25-37

Theme: We will set the stage for *Les Misérables* and lay out the themes for the series. We will focus particularly on Hugo's belief that our call to service requires not merely helping individuals in need, but changing the structures that bring about that need.

January 11 - Sermon Title: The Gospel According to Les Mis: A Question of Identity

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7, John 10: 1-5

Theme: The sermon will explore the importance of "naming" in Scripture, how society seeks to "name" us, and how, ultimately, our name is found in our relationship with God.

January 18 - Sermon Title: The Gospel According to Les Mis: Struggling with Grace

Scriptures: Joel 2:12-14, Romans 3: 21-28

Theme: The sermon will examine how we seek to wrest control for our own salvation from God, by making it a matter of living according to the law. In contrast, the Gospel message is about salvation that is given as a free gift from a gracious and loving God, a reality which completely transforms the way that we relate to the world.

January 25 - Sermon Title: The Gospel According to Les Mis: Awaiting a New World

Scriptures: Genesis 12: 1-5, Revelation 6: 7-17

Theme: Responding to God's call, and God's vision for a new world, can often lead to disappointment when we fail to see our work bear fruit. Our call is to work for the vision that God has shared with us, trusting that our efforts will bring us closer to the day of God's final victory.

Les Misérables Tickets

We have reserved a block of 50 tickets to Signature Theatre's (4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington, VA) production of *Les Misérables*, which runs December through January. The tickets are Sunday, January 11 at 2 p.m. and cost \$61. That's a 20% discount! If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact the church office at 202.363.4900 or volunteer@mmumc-dc.org.

Church Council Approves Visioning Statements

As all of you know, our congregation has been involved in an intensive visioning process throughout this year. Many wonderful projects have come out of this process, including our outreach to American University and our upcoming contemporary worship service. This process has also refined our overall understanding of who we are as a community. At its most recent meeting, the Church Council approved the following statements to describe the work of Metropolitan Memorial UMC:

- 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.
- OUR CALL:** Praising, Learning, Serving.

You will probably notice the parallelism of these statements immediately, and will begin to see them used in a variety of contexts in our church. Please study them and internalize them. We would like every person in our church to be able to know them well enough to answer the question: "What makes your church different?"

Study Opportunities at Metropolitan

The Living Faith Sunday School

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

The Living Faith Sunday School class has embarked on a very interesting study of the New Testament in its historical context through a thought-provoking video series by Professor Bart D. Ehrman. Below is a list of upcoming lectures.

December 14 - *The Acts of the Apostles*

December 21 - No class

December 28 - No class

January 4 - *Paul: The Man, the Mission, and the Modus Operandi*

January 11 - *Paul and the Crises of His Churches - First Corinthians*

January 18 - *Pauline Ethics*

January 25 - *Paul's Letter to the Romans*

Please join us in the Christie Room on Sundays at 10:10 a.m.!

Discussion Group on Interfaith Relationships

Sunday, February 1 - Sunday, February 22
10:10 a.m. in the Terrace Room

How does having a life partner with a different religious background affect your relationship, your family life, and your own walk of faith? Several MMUMC members who have interfaith families will be coming together for discussion and sharing of concerns during the study hour in February. The group is open to anyone interested in learning and sharing.

In the Library..



You can find adult and children's books on Advent, Christmas, carols and songs, and a children's book on Christmas celebrations in other countries. There are also some interesting children's books on Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Time is always precious and especially so during the Christmas season. Feel free to bring your personal book from home and spend a little "down time" in one of our comfortable chairs.

January 1 will usher in not only a new year but a new Chair of the Library Committee, Mary Jean Evans. Check the Library space in the next *Messenger* for her words and contact information.



I Was In Prison and You Visited Me: Christian Perspectives on Prison Issues and Prison Ministry

January 4 - Sunday, January 18
10:10 a.m., Great Hall

The Advocacy Team is sponsoring a three-week Great Hall series on issues related to prisons and prison ministry.

·Sunday, January 4, Metropolitan members Mary Jean Evans and Clark Rector will speak about their personal experiences working with Kairos Prison Ministries.

·Sunday, January 11, Bill Mefford, director of civil and human rights for the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society, will speak on policy concerns related to prisons and prisoners.

·Sunday, January 18, will focus on Christian Perspectives on Prison Ministry using Dr. James Shopshire's new book, *I Was in Prison*, as a guide.

Sermon Ideas

One of the great ideas that I heard on our trip to the Church of the Resurrection was that Adam Hamilton periodically asks the congregation for their thoughts on what he should preach on. He takes those thoughts on retreat, prays about them, and starts to develop sermon outlines for the coming two years. I loved this idea, and hoped that you could share with me your thoughts on the following questions:

1) What life situations would you like to see addressed in the sermons? 2) Are there parts of the Bible or theological questions you would like to explore? 3) Are there places in your life where you're hurting and need guidance? 4) What do you feel are your spiritual deficiencies? 5) Are there subjects that your non-churchgoing friends would come to listen to?

Please send your thoughts to me at sermons@mmumc-dc.org, or drop them in the box in the Narthex marked "Sermon Ideas." I'm looking forward to hearing from you! Blessings, Charlie

Service & Advocacy at Metropolitan



Washington Interfaith Network Training Learn More! Get Involved! Sunday, January 11, 12:15 p.m., Great Hall

On Sunday, January 11, an orientation session will be held for all those who are interested in getting involved in the work of the Washington Interfaith Network. City-wide WIN organizer Timothy Tilghman and Advocacy Chair Ann Michel will lead the session. The focus will be on how Metropolitan members can get more involved in WIN's work for supportive housing for the homeless and efforts to improve Wilson High School. WIN's organizing

was instrumental in getting city support for the Community Council for the Homeless' new *Neighbors First* program. This initiative has moved 65 of the city's most-vulnerable homeless into apartments. WIN also played a major role in getting Wilson High's athletic facilities upgraded.

The Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) is a multi-ethnic, interfaith, non-partisan grassroots coalition of 48 congregations working to improve life in the District of Columbia. WIN identifies potential leaders in all parts of the District and trains them for involvement in grassroots efforts to challenge power for the betterment of their fellow citizens, especially those who are low-income and living in neglected areas of the city. The group advocates for affordable housing, neighborhood revitalization, public school improvements and other common concerns. Metropolitan Memorial was one of the founding congregations that created the network in the mid-'90s. For more information contact Ann Michel, 202-885-8582 or amichel@wesleyseminary.edu



Metro House Reopens

Following a substantial renovation and refurbishment, Metropolitan House has reopened its doors and is receiving residents for the winter season. Metropolitan House board members and others have been working for several months to arrange new flooring and furniture. The result is a cleaner, brighter, safer, and more accommodating space.

As always, Metropolitan House runs on volunteer power! You can help extend hospitality to our guests by donating a meal or volunteering for an overnight on a Friday or Saturday night. To schedule a meal donation, contact Helen Simon, helenmsimon@gmail.com. To schedule an overnight volunteer time, contact Pat House, phouse@mmumc-dc.org or 202.363.4900.



Service & Advocacy at Metropolitan (Cont.)



Volunteers in Mission 2009

The VIM international destination for 2009 will be Kenya, Africa. Dates of the trip have yet to be determined. Our VIM team will be working with Nakuru United Methodist Church helping build facilities for, and working with, abused and neglected children.

There will likely be some building or construction work to be done, and the opportunity to teach, play with, and care for the children. If you can't help with construction, or do any physically demanding tasks, there is always a way for a willing person to contribute.

VIM participants are required to pay their own travel, lodging, and personal expenses. The preliminary estimate for

expenses is \$3,500.00 per person. Scholarship funds are available to those in need of financial assistance. Please contact Anne Brown, VIM coordinator, or Rev. Charlie Parker if you're interested in a scholarship.

As we move ahead with planning for the trip the team will meet on a monthly basis to plan and prepare for the trip. To join the team or for more information, contact Anne Brown at anne_p_brown@live.com or Randy Oberdick at rloberdick@verizon.net.

Reconciling Ministries at MMUMC



MMUMC is proud to be a reconciling congregation. After a period of prayerful discernment, we joined the reconciling ministries network in June 2008.

As a ministry team we work to ensure that everyone who walks into the doors of our church are welcomed. We are always welcome to new ideas and to find

unique ways to declare God's love for ALL of God's children.

MMUMC also is involved with the B-WARM Network, the Baltimore/Washington Area Reconciling United Methodists. B-WARM works to encourage dialogue and education about LGBT issues, increase the number of reconciling congregations, and stand in solidarity with all who have been excluded or marginalized by the Church. Members come from United Methodist churches from across the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Some of us are members of reconciling congregations; many of us are not. We are LGBT and straight people. (Wording adapted from the B-WARM website).

BWARM meets the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting is December 13 at St. John's of Baltimore City UMC from 10 a.m.-noon.

If you are interested in getting involved with us, please contact Anne Brown at anne_p_brown@live.com.



Advertise Your Group Event!

There are many opportunities to advertise your group's events and activities. One of those is the window near our Library. If you or your group are interested in advertising your event in our window near the Library, please send your requests to Jeff Clouser, Director of Communications and Outreach, at jclouser@mmumc-dc.org or 202.363.4900, ext. 22.

Upcoming Events

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Worship on Sunday Mornings at 11:30 a.m.

Join our friends at St. Luke's for worship on Sunday mornings at 11:30 a.m.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Sunday, December 21, 12:30 p.m.

Join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and ministry! Questions? Contact Annette Fletchall at 202.363.9231.



Music Celebration Sunday

Sunday, December 21

9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Join us for identical blended worship services on Sunday, December 21 with meditation featuring Adult & Children's Choirs, Organ, Piano, and Bells.



Christmas Eve Services

December 24

5 p.m. Family Service

7:30 p.m. Candlelight & Communion Service

10:30 p.m. Prelude Music

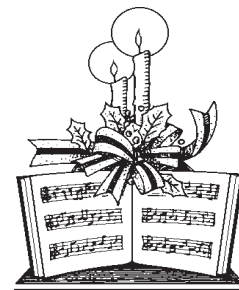
**11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service
with music**

Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 28

One Service at 10 a.m.

Join us as we come together to celebrate Jesus' birth with scripture and song.



Metropolitan Nursery School

Children's Programs ages 2 to 5 years

Join us for our Open House Dates:

January 7, 8, 14, or 15th

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

for 2009 Fall Admissions

Church Members have

first priority for Admissions

Please call Linda Smith at 202.362.8746



**St. Luke's Shelter
Monthly Potluck Dinner
Saturday, January 17,
6:30 p.m.**

Come join the monthly potluck dinner with St Luke's Shelter on Saturday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. This is a fun evening of food and fellowship with our residents and a great opportunity to learn more about the life-changing work occurring every day in our building. For more information or to sign-up to bring a dish, please contact Shalom Mulkey, shalom.mulkey@gmail.com. To find out more about Shalom Place, St. Luke's shelter, go to their website, <http://www.shalomplacedc.org/>



Metropolitan Memorial Tables of 8 – 2009

Tables of 8 is an informal way for members (and friends) of our congregation to meet new people, share experiences, and strengthen old friendships. At some dinners you'll share your faith journey, at others it's all gossip. Only kidding, but sometimes the wine does flow...

The Saturday evening schedule: February 21, March 21, April 18 and May 30, 2009.

Here's how it works: You (or with spouse or friend) will have dinner at a different home with a group of 8. *If you host*, you provide the main course and beverages. *If you are a guest*, you bring a pre-assigned dish.

What to do before December 31: If you have any questions or are interested please send your name(s), address, phone number to Ann Cochran at 301.229.2114 or e-mail her at ann@annpcochran.com or mail it to Ann Cochran, 6718 Tomlinson Terrace, Cabin John MD 20818.

Remember:

1. You do not have to host!
2. You can sign up for one dinner, two, three or all four.
3. You can change your mind - at any time. Just give notice as early as possible.
4. You can sign up as an individual, a couple, or friends.
5. You can even sign up as a *substitute*, and will probably be asked to fill in for people who have to cancel.



Tables of Eight 2009

Please fill out the information in this form and mail, email or deliver it by December 31 to:

Ann Cochran
6718 Tomlinson Terrace
Cabin John MD 20818
Questions: call Ann: 301-229-2114

or ann@annpcochran.com

or the Church Office
3401 Nebraska Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016

YOUR NAME(S): _____
ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I can (A)ttend, (H)ost or (S)ubstitute the following nights (Indicate an A, H or S in each column for dates you can participate).

February 21	March 21	April 18	May 30
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I am able to host a total of _____ people for dinner. (**Note:** *there are times we have a shortage of hosts and seating more than 8 is helpful, please indicate if that is possible when you host a meal.*)

I/we do not eat the following foods:

Add any other comments/preferences you'd like us to consider as we assign the tables:

Behind the Scenes at Metropolitan

Over the past year and a half, as our visioning process has unfolded and we have identified new areas of focus, we have gone through some staffing changes and realignments to better equip Metropolitan Memorial to live into the call God has for our community. As the faithful volunteers who have been helping out at the Metropolitan church offices (our heartfelt thanks go to Helen Simon, Carol Tippet, Annette Fletchall, Ken Mundell, and Holly Burke) can tell you, we get quite a few calls that begin with, "I'm not sure who I should get in touch with regarding..." Because of this we thought it might be helpful to provide a brief overview of what each administrative staff member is responsible for in our day to day operations. Though by no means exhaustive, the brief summaries here should give you a snapshot of what keeps us busy behind the scenes in addition to what you see us doing on Sunday mornings, during class, fellowship, and committee and ministry team meetings.

The **Rev. Dr. Charles Parker**, senior pastor, is responsible for overall administrative and pastoral oversight of the operations of the congregation. He participates in all the administrative committees of the church (SPRC, Finance, Trustees, Nursery School Board, and Church Council), and has specific responsibilities in the areas of preaching, providing staff support for the Advocacy and Service teams, and oversight of the day to day functioning of the church staff. Charlie also helps to facilitate the efforts of the Visioning team and works extensively with the annual stewardship program. Most recently, he has been involved in ensuring a smooth transition into our new cooperative parish relationship with St. Luke's UMC.

Rev. Sandy Rector's portfolio has shifted to include additional staff administrative oversight, focus on Study and Pastoral Care, and the development of a more comprehensive Small Group Ministry program designed to both meet the needs of our community while inviting others to join. She oversees the Sunday morning and evening adult study classes, short and long-term studies, and the Great Hall programs. Sandy coordinates care for our community, guiding the ministries that nurture our congregation, including Wellness, Visitor Corps, and Stephen Ministry, while coordinating pastoral response to the needs of our community, and is working to enhance our care of our older adults in the coming year through new ministry support.

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod handles all the responsibilities involving Metropolitan's Youth Ministry and New Worship. Jimmy oversees the Sunday morning youth education and the Sunday evening United Methodist Youth Fellowship, called Youth Connection, working to strengthen our ministry to our middle and high school community while equipping adult volunteers to help out. He is also responsible for developing a new contemporary worship service which will launch in 2009, including working with a team to shape the service, providing over-

sight of the worship service as it takes shape, and offering pastoral leadership to guide the process. He is also involved in coordinating the evangelism efforts of the church.

Each of our clergy are also actively engaged in the life of our community by providing pastoral counseling and officiating during baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

Kay Jacobi, the Director of Children's Ministry at Metropolitan, is responsible for oversight of our wonderful children's Sunday school programs and for developing enrichment and mission opportunities for children and their families. She works to offer insight and guidance to the staff about ways to integrate children in the life of our community while coordinating outreach events such as the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and the Church-wide Picnic each Fall with the Children and Youth Ministry Team. Kay also serves as a liaison to the weekday Nursery School.

Patrisha House, Director of Worship, Music, and Arts, is responsible for the oversight of all worship, music and arts components of our congregational life together. In addition to participating in Church Council, she serves as the staff liaison with the Worship Ministry Team and the Arts Council. Her specific responsibilities include preparation of weekly and special worship services, including coordination of music, lay readers and liturgists, sound and lights, producing our bulletins, as well as overall worship planning.

Jeff Clouser serves as our Communications and Outreach Director. Jeff coordinates outreach events and activities, publicizing them in a number of ways. These include the church website, which he maintains, *The Messenger*, which he produces each month (and is going electronic and more feature-focused as we strive to become better stewards of our resources), the weekly email announcements found in *Metro Update*, and newspaper articles and advertisements. In addition to managing our database, in conjunction with the pastoral staff, Jeff is also now responsible for administering visitor follow-up and is working to enhance new member assimilation into the life of our community.

Campus Ministry associate **Cody Nielsen** is the primary outreach staff member to American University. Since he joined us late this summer, he has been working to bridge relationships between the chaplain and AU-Methodist-Protestant campus ministry with Metropolitan Memorial. His goal is to help the church understand how they are involved in a mission oriented ministry to AU and to help realize the potential of intergenerational ministries on the AU campus. In addition to being a full-time student at Wesley Theological Seminary, he has been leading 2 weekly book studies and a covenant discipleship group at the church for AU students, along with assisting at the Thursday evening healing service and traditional Sunday evening service at the Kay Spiritual Life Center at AU.

Behind the Scenes at Metropolitan (cont.)

If you've ever seen Director of Church Administration **Dona Collary's** office, you know she is a very busy woman. Dona manages all business and day to day affairs of the church, including scheduling (room reservation, weddings, funerals, outside organizations) and maintenance of the church and properties. She also serves as a liaison with the Pastors, Church Council, Trustees, Finance, and other committees in the church. She manages the collection, processing, depositing, recording and disbursement of all church funds, and serves as the director of personnel, handling payroll and associated responsibilities. She also has a hard hat tucked away for her role as Project Manager for our Capital Campaign building program (no small task considering the scope of work completed), where she has been seen frequently "be-

hind the fence," going places none of the rest of the staff is allowed to go and assuring that the job is done right.

Eric Gunnerson serves as the Director of Building and Grounds and is responsible for overall "physical" functioning of our church and parsonage. He maintains, repairs, sets up, breaks down, opens, closes, replaces, refits, retools, picks up, paints, or coordinates with contractors to care for and make possible the activities that take place in the physical plant and the surrounding grounds. He also serves as Church Sexton during special events such as weddings and funerals, and provides invaluable assistance related to audio-visual needs during worship and special events.

AU Campus Ministry

All during Advent we have been talking about being simple. This January, I am looking for some members of this congregation who want to take the next step. We live in a consumer world where overindulgence is king and our motto is "do you want fries with that?" What we are going to do during the spring is form a group and find ways to live more simply. We are looking for people and families from all generations to join into covenant with AU students and others and learn how to live a more simple life. Each week, we will be looking at different ways to approach a simple life and actualizing the reduction of our own personal carbon footprint. Together, we will learn how to struggle through small sacrifices in order to make a big difference in our community and in our world. If you are interested in this group, or would at least like to find out more information on how you could be involved either within the group or with weekly updates on how to live more simply, please email Cody Nielsen at j.cody.nielsen@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

J. Cody Nielsen

Are you an Alum of American University?

The proximity of MMUMC and American University presents some wonderful opportunities for our church to interact with the campus and the students. A number of us have already met and are working with J. Cody Nielsen, a Wesley Seminary student who is our Associate for Campus Ministry. Some of us may have attended a service, lunch or lecture at the Kay Spritual Life Center on campus and met University Chaplain Joe Eldridge and United Methodist chaplain Mark Schaefer. We'd like to identify AU alums in our congregation, and to see if some might be interested in working with us on building our church-campus relations. There are probably more than a few AU students who would occasionally enjoy a home-cooked meal or appreciate a holiday invitation if they cannot travel home. As an AU alum who is now working as the university's Director of Community and Government relations, I can be reached by email at pagano@american.edu or by phone at my office 202.885.2167, or at home 202.338.7926.



Penny Pagano

Youth Connection

Youth Ministry Open House

Sunday, January 25, 2009

10:10 -11 AM and 12:15 – 1 PM

In case you haven't noticed, a lot has changed on the 2nd floor of the education building. The youth are celebrating new, more inviting space, and they want you to join in their excitement. You are invited to join the youth for an open house on January 25 between the morning services and then again from 12:15 to 1 PM. Come hang out, have some coffee, play air hockey, or just chill on the couch for a few minutes. We hope to see you in rooms 204 and 206 on January 25!



Deck the Halls!! The youth enjoy decorating ornaments at the Youth Christmas Party at the Parsonage on December 7.

Youth Calendar



December

21 and 28: No Youth Connection

January

4: No Youth Connection

11: Youth Connection 5:30 – 7:30 PM

25: Open House for Youth Space

25: Youth Connection 5:30 – 7:30 PM

A Look Ahead

January 30-February 1

Rock Retreat in Ocean City, MD

February 1:

No formal Youth Connection – Football party TBA

Advent Mission Project



Operation Swaddling Clothes

This year we will again gather infant items for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Layette kits. These kits include items for newborns and are shipped to relief hospitals in Africa. Many women do not have swaddling clothes with which to welcome their child into the world. Layette kits provide basic supplies for their baby's needs. I remember

all the special, new items I received after my girls were born, and I hope you will help us make a special package for other new moms across the globe! Each kit includes:

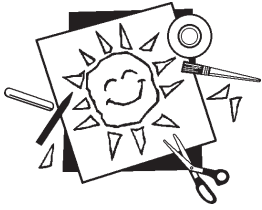
- 6 cloth diapers
- 2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits
- 2 receiving blankets
- 2 baby washcloths
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 1 sweater open in the front
- 2 diaper pins



Of course, your family is welcome to buy more items than is on this list! If you can't find the time to shop this December or if you want to help with the cost of shipping, please consider a monetary gift! Monetary gifts should be made to MMUMC – UMCOR KITS.

Items may be brought to the church throughout Advent and placed in the crib on the 2nd floor of the Education Building or the basket in the Vestry during the study hour on Sunday mornings or you may bring them to the Family Christmas Eve Service. Please contact Kay Jacobi with any questions, 202.363.4900, ext. 26 or kjacobi@mmumc-dc.org. Thank You!

Children & Youth Ministries



Advent Workshop Sunday, December 14 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Vestry

On Sunday, December 14, the children will have time for fellowship and art, fun and learning. We will also share lunch with each

other before leaving for the afternoon at 12:30 p.m. This is always a great event for children of all ages, so mark your calendar and bring a friend!



•Both choirs will sing at The Methodist Home on Connecticut Ave. on Saturday, December 20 at 1 p.m. following the choir practice and lunch at church starting at 11 a.m.

•Both choirs will sing at both worship services on Sunday, December 21 – **Children are asked to arrive by 8 a.m. on the 21st.**

•Both choirs will sing at the Family Christmas Eve Service, December 24 at 5 p.m., arriving no later than 4 p.m. for rehearsals.

Family Christmas Eve Service

Just a few more weeks to go before our annual Family Christmas Eve Service! **This year, we will hold our mandatory rehearsal on Saturday, December 20 from 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. in the sanctuary.** There are still a few spots left for the pageant so stop by my office door, Room 101A and sign up soon! (Readers – don't forget we rehearse on Sunday, December 14 at 10:10 a.m. in the sanctuary.)



Choir Rehearsal and Special Performance Saturday, December 20

Following the mandatory Family Christmas Eve Service rehearsal on December 20 (9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.) both choirs will



rehearse with Ms. Cartwright and Mrs. Settlege from 11 a.m. – noon. This rehearsal will help them prepare for the music Sunday the following day, the Family Christmas Eve service and our special outing to the Methodist Home later today at 12:45 p.m.

Opportunities for Adult Volunteers

Adults! Below are some areas where you can volunteer through the rest of the year!!



•**Sunday, December 14, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**, at the Advent Workshop – no prep time, simply show up at 11 with a willingness to help our children with arts and crafts centered around the Advent season.

•**Saturday, December 20, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.**, for the Family Christmas Eve Rehearsal. Ideally, these volunteers will also be the volunteers who help at the Family Christmas Eve service on December 24th. Again, no prior work or experience necessary.

•**Saturday, December 20 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.**, Drivers and 'helpers' needed to escort our children's choirs to The Methodist Home as they sing for the patients there. Driver's license required!

•**Saturday, December 24 – Family Christmas Eve Service** – Hopefully the same folks who can help on the 20th will continue to volunteer here. This includes someone to look over the sheep, other animals, star barriers, angels, etc. while they wait to move into position for the service. No actual shepherding experience necessary ☺.



What's Coming in the New Year!

•**Operation Swaddling Clothes Workday** - Monday, January 19 at noon. Help out at the Operation Swaddling Clothes Workday and stay for a while after we are done and share the school holiday with your friends at Metropolitan! We'll play games and perhaps watch a movie after eating lunch together before heading for home to prepare for Tuesday's Inauguration.

•**Family Dinner and Game Night** – Friday, January 9 at 6 p.m. Bring a board game or two, a deck of cards or a jump rope and join your friends here at church for a night of fun. We were having so much fun at our last game night that it lasted until 9 p.m.! So invite a friend and come out for a night of Monopoly, Chess, Checkers and more! Are you also getting tired of Pizza? Well, I am, so look for a different dinner menu in January!

•**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** – Tuesday, February 24 at 5:30 p.m. as always, this is a fabulous church-wide event and another great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors. The Children's choirs will meet at 5:30 for rehearsal and sing at 6 and then eat dinner afterwards.