



THE MESSENGER

For the congregations of the Greater Metropolitan Parish

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What Does the New Year Offer in Worship, Music and Arts?

During this time following Advent and Christmas our liturgical calendar seems to slow a little before we begin our journey through Lent, which this year will begin early with Ash Wednesday on February 6. There are, however, many exciting events being planned and lots of opportunities to explore, participate, be challenged and enjoy the many ways music and the arts expand our understanding of our Christian faith as well as the world around us.

On Sunday, February 3, Metropolitan welcomes back the youth from Bokamoso in Winterveldt, South Africa.



Over the last several years we have been honored to host this group during worship, an afternoon performance of drama and dance and last year an evening event (which occurred during the winter's worst snowstorm but was a moving event for those who braved the elements). This year the group will sing and dance at both worship services and will perform an excerpt from their new play "Voices" during the study hour. CD's of their music as well as some local handicrafts will be available for purchase as you have an opportunity to visit with these



The township of Bokamoso

amazing young people. Following the second service, our Metropolitan youth will host them for lunch.

On Ash Wednesday, February 6, Metropolitan Memorial will offer three worship services: A 7:30 a.m. service in the chancel followed by a light breakfast, a mid-day service at noon and an evening service at 8 p.m. Our next *Messenger* will have more details regarding other special worship opportunities in Lent.



The Arts Council is looking forward to a return to the Great Hall with a watercolors exhibit by Bonny Lundy on March 9 and an exhibit of works by congregation member, Rose Harper-elder on April 20. Both exhibits will be preceded by a free concert!

The Metropolitan Players are in full swing preparing for two upcoming productions:

Brontë - A Solo Portrait of Charlotte Brontë
Friday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m.
and Sunday, January 27 at 2 p.m.

This is a monodrama by William Luce and is based on the life of Charlotte Brontë, author of *Jane Eyre*. Come enjoy what the *LA Times* calls "an immaculate work of theater." This will be Michele Wells' last performance with Metro Players before moving to Indonesia with her family. Once again Beverly Fleming has designed a period costume for the actress. Proceeds from these performances support Metropolitan's Ballet Studio and Capital Interfaith Hospitality Network (one of our partner organizations supporting homeless families in the District).

"The Laramie Project"
April 25 at 8 p.m., April 26 at 5 p.m.,
and Sunday, April 27 at 2 p.m.

This is a play by Moisés Kaufman and the Members of the Tectonic Theater Project and directed by our own Frances Bartley Cleaver. It is a breathtaking theatrical collage that explores the depths to which humanity can sink and the heights of compassion of which we are capable. From *New York Magazine*: "There emerges a mosaic as moving and important as any you will see on the walls of the churches of the world."

This is only the beginning of what we have planned for the coming year. We hope to grow both Chancel and Dayspring choirs - be on the lookout for special events coordinated by Connie McWorkman and Stacey Krogh; our children's choirs will continue to bless our worship with their voices and the Handbell choir will ring with joy. We plan to incorporate more liturgical dance in our worship and encourage the participation of our youth. And, with the support of John Tate, the new chair of the Worship Ministry Team, we are creating several new worship experiences. I am overjoyed to return to the staff of Metropolitan and look forward to building this ministry.

Pat

Upcoming Events

Brontë - A Solo Portrait of Charlotte Brontë



**Saturday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 27 at 2 p.m.**

Join us for a staged reading of *Brontë - A solo portrait of Charlotte Brontë* by William Luce, directed by Frances Bartley Cleaver and featuring Michele Wells. This is a Metro Players production in benefit of The Ballet Studio - an Arts outreach project in residence at Brightwood Elementary School and Capital Interfaith Hospitality Network (one of our partner organizations supporting homeless families in the District).

Tickets are \$25 each or join the Circle of Friends with a \$125 contribution or more (4 complimentary tickets). Tickets available beginning January 13, 202.244.3512.



The Lorax

Sunday, January 27 at 3:30 p.m.

You remember The Lorax, don't you? He's the keeper of the forest in the timeless 1971 story by Dr. Seuss, warning against greed and calling us to save our environment.

Now it is your turn to see this beloved story come alive, in song and dance, thanks to the Interfaith Children's Theatre Company!

Join us for this entertaining and inspirational performance at the Universalist Church at 1810 16th St. NW. Tickets are available at the door and are \$5 for adults and free for children.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 5 at 5:30 p.m.



The Children's Ministry Department hopes you will join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner on Tuesday, February 5, from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. The proceeds from the evening will support Children's Ministry with a title of 10% going to support VIM! So join us for an evening of fellowship, food and fun! If you are also interested in helping with this dinner, PLEASE contact Kay Jacobi at 202.363.4900, ext. 26 or kjacobi@mmumc-dc.org.

16th Annual Sing Out for Shelter (SOS) Concert

**Saturday, February 9 at 8 p.m.
Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church**

Featuring

**Augmented Eight ♦ Yale Whiffenpoofs
♦ Cartoon Johnny ♦ Tonic and Gin**

**Benefiting the Community Council for the Homeless at
Friendship Place ♦ Christ House ♦ Metropolitan House**

Tickets:

\$15 (students and seniors) - \$25 (general admission),
\$50 (patron, preferred seating) - Children under 12 free

For information and tickets, please contact:

Julie Butner 202.364.1419, ext. 19 - www.cchfp.org
John Symington, 202.244.5707 - www.augmented8.org



Children's Programs for ages 2 years to 5 Years! 2008 - 2009 Enrollment

**Join us for our January open houses
January 22 & January 23 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

Register by February 1, 2008!

**Contact Bruce Kahan, Director of the Metropolitan Nursery School at 202.362.8746
or bkahan@mmumc-dc.org for additional information.**



Metropolitan House

What Are You Doing This Weekend?

The Christmas parties are over, it's too soon for Spring Break ... so how are you spending your weekends? Metropolitan House has openings for overnight volunteers on Friday and Saturday evenings. This is a great opportunity to spend quality time with your children or youth teaching them to step outside of their comfort zone to engage a homeless person in conversation or time to reconnect with a friend after the busy holidays.

Dr. Parker offered a challenge during his sermon on Homelessness Ministry Sunday in October. He spoke about meeting God in the stranger; that as disciples of Christ we need to engage the wanderers we meet on our journey; that when we break bread with these strangers we become open to meeting the risen Christ. "Reaching out to the homeless and the marginalized in our community is not a duty, but an opportunity to meet God and have our lives transformed... If we expect to look into the eyes of a stranger and see Christ, we open up the space for God to look back into our eyes and speak to us through the stranger." Dr. Parker's conclusion was that "work with the homeless and marginalized in our community is a sacred calling from God. But more importantly, it is a gift that God gives to us; a chance to reach beyond our fears and pre-occupations to meet the Holy One in those we serve."

As a member of the Metropolitan Shelter Board, I would like to encourage you to experience the gift we have right here in our own church – the opportunity for hands-on engagement with our shelter residents. Whether you choose to prepare a meal and then sit down and eat with the residents or whether you can commit to the whole evening, you won't be disappointed but you will be changed.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Patrisha House at patrisha.house@verizon.net or 301.365.5205 (overnight volunteers) or Karen Strider at 202.363.5411 or karen.strider@comcast.net for meal volunteers.

Pat

Forgiving You Is Hard To Do

A New Short-term Lenten Study

Led by Rev. Tony Gattis, Ph.D.

Forgiveness, and the experience thereof, has always represented a founding and fundamental idea of Christianity. Many believe the experience of forgiveness, or at least the experience of forgiveness from God, is what begins the Christian pilgrimage of faith. Yet, this idea is never simple when it comes to human relationships. Indeed, for most of us, understanding forgiveness and its practice represents a very great personal challenge - a complex and nuanced experience in the very least.

You are invited to join a vigorous discussion in a small study group examining how forgiveness functions in interpersonal relationships. For the first time, scholars studying interpersonal communication have examined the socially negotiated aspects of forgiveness in a new theory called Negotiated Morality Theory. This new approach is different from a typical psychological, sociological, or even, theological approach.

This short study is designed to assist Metropolitan Memorial members and friends to grow in their own individual understandings of forgiveness. This rich, multifaceted experience will be carefully unpacked and examined from an interpersonal perspective. We will deepen our understanding with different definitions and descriptions. The goal is for each participant to be better prepared for negotiating forgiveness with others. To this end, this course should help you develop your own personal answers to the following questions:

- Is interpersonal forgiveness required?
- Are there unforgivable offenses? What is conditional forgiveness? What are the differences among forgiving, pardoning, forgetting, exonerating, repenting, and reconciling?
- (Don't forget forbearance and pity as well.)
- How does forgiveness relate to justice?
- What are the elements of the forgiveness process?
- What are the types of transgressions? How does forgiveness change by relational context? Is there a dark side to forgiveness?

Come join us for an interesting discussion. There is a \$5 fee for the cost of photocopying. Please contact Rev. Sandy Rector at 202.363.4900, ext. 19 or srector@mmumc-dc.org to discuss the course meeting time and to register.

Our Community



We extend our sympathies and prayers to the family of Evelyn McCartney, on her death on December 7.

We extend our sympathies and prayers to the family of Louise Crain, on her death on January 7.

We hold Katherine and Bill Fabian in our prayers, with the death of Bill's father, Jay Fabian, on January 8.

We extend our sympathies and prayers to the family of Phyliss Kindley upon her death on January 10.

We also extend our sympathies to the Rawlings Family, upon the death of Kathy Rawlings beloved aunt.



Metropolitan Memorial Commemorative Ornament

Have you picked up your Metropolitan Memorial Christmas Ornament? These ornaments were created to celebrate the new fleche adorning our beautiful church. Ornaments are still available in the church office, so, if you haven't received yours or would like to send one to friends and family, please come by and pick one up today!

Congratulations to Chris and Holly Spera on the birth of their son, Owen Andrew Spera on December 27. He joins big brother Carter!



Permanent Name Tags Available!



Now available for \$5 each! If you would like to order a permanent, magnetic nametag for \$5 please contact Rev. Faith Lewis. For those who have pacemakers, we will need to order you a tag with a pin backing. So please be sure to tell us when you order! Leave a message for Rev. Faith Lewis at 202.363.4900, ext. 22 or by email, flewis@mmumc-dc.org

Great News for Coffee Drinkers!

Every Sunday morning, Starbucks coffee is available in the Vestry! This is made possible by the generous contribution of Foxhall Square Starbucks at 3301 New Mexico Avenue. If you are ever at this location, be sure to tell them "Thanks!" for their contribution to this welcoming ministry!



Save the Date!



[play] *Brontë - A Solo Portrait of Charlotte Brontë*
January 26 at 7:30 p.m. and January 27 at 2 p.m.

[concert] Bokamoso Concert
February 3 at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. with a special presentation of their play "Voices" at 10:10 a.m.

[worship] Ash Wednesday Services
February 6 at 7:30 a.m., Noon and 8 p.m.

Our Community (cont.)

A Note from the Chancel Choir...



We enjoyed the recent article in *The Messenger* about Chuck Huber, Jill Cottine, and Bruce Caviness. How fortunate we have been to have them with us for so long!

But we have a few words to add about Chuck, who leaves us to begin a new adventure in Georgia. The congregation has known him, as we have, as the cantor and soloist with a baritone voice like dark honey, treating us to wonderful music and with the “caboose” chant at the end of each service. But there are a few things that may be less well known about him. For example, did you know that he met his dear wife Pam in the choir? That he is a gourmet cook and a dab hand at the barbecue? That for years he arrived at church on a Vespa?

Beyond his musical talent and expertise, most special to us has been his role for some years now as chaplain to the choir. You may have seen him leading the choir in prayer in the Vestry before the Sunday morning services. But you might like to know that he has closed each Thursday night rehearsal with an eloquent devotional meditation. Sometimes it has been a poem or prayer, sometimes a joke that has us falling down laughing, or his observations on the news of the day or an event in his own life. Tears have been shed. No matter what the subject, his message has always conveyed his vision of compassion and calmness, of grace and hope. Chuck truly has a spiritual gift, and we have all been the blessed recipients.

We welcome Annie Presbury as she takes on this role, confident that her own message will be profoundly comforting and inspiring. But we will always appreciate our chance to bask in Chuck’s warmth, and we wish him and Pam all the best as they begin on their new path.

-submitted by Joanne Reams



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE - CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



If you have visited the church lately, you can’t help but notice the construction trailer, the chain link fence, mounds of dirt, and pallets of concrete blocks and stone. It’s a visible sign of the many improvements to our church facility that are being funded by the generous donations of our church community through our Capital Campaign.



Outside, the footer for the new stone wall that will run along Nebraska Avenue has been laid with reinforcement rods and concrete. The installation of the concrete block is complete and the next step will be to face the wall with stone to match the exterior of the church. The footers for the new handicapped ramp to the Sanctuary are being installed. This ramp will have electrical coils that will be heated during inclement weather to ensure the safety of all who use it. At the other side of the front entrance, great care is being taken as we waterproof the walls of the Columbarium to ensure that this space will maintain its structural integrity for decades to come.

Inside, work continues in the Great Hall. As I write, the acoustical panels are being installed, and we are anxiously awaiting the installation of the cork flooring which includes the labyrinth. We will also be installing a projector, a projection screen, and a room darkening curtain. Once this work has been completed the Great Hall will once again be open for events.



The electricians are busy running conduit lines in both the Vestry and the Sanctuary. It is quite challenging trying to run conduit lines through our church walls that were constructed in 1930. I can assure you that this building was built to last; the walls are 12 to 13 inches thick with steel beams running in every direction!

The fleche is still shining brightly. We are still receiving compliments from total strangers calling the church to tell us how much they enjoy seeing the fleche. In addition Unlimited Design, the fabricator of the fleche, has been nominated to receive a Craftsman’s award for their work! I think we all agree they should receive this award - let’s hope the Washington Building Congress judges agree!

Don Colhoun



January 20

- 10:10 a.m. Sunday School
Topic: "I am"
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Evening Youth Group

January 27

- 10:10 a.m. Sunday School
Topic: ASP/Heifer Mission
Adult leaders and parents join us!

February 3

- 10:10 a.m. Confirmation Kick-Off in Youth Rm
Students who are not in confirmation will watch performance of the youth from South Africa, "Bokamosa," in the Vestry.

- 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Afternoon Youth Group
Lunch and "Mixer" with Bokamosa

February 10

- 10:10 a.m. Confirmation in Fireplace Room
Topic: "God, Sin, & Grace"
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Evening Youth Group

February 17

- 10:10 a.m. Confirmation in Fireplace Room
Topic: "God, Sin, & Grace"
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Evening Youth Group

February 24

- 10:10 a.m. Confirmation in Fireplace Room
Topic: Jesus as Savior & Lord, Salvation & Atonement
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Evening Youth Group

March 2

- 10:10 a.m. Mission Show/Auction Set-up
- 12:30 p.m. Mission Show/Auction Lunch

Confirmation News

Confirmation, a class for middle school and senior high students who want to explore and make important decisions about their faith, begins on February 3! Held on Sunday Mornings at 10:10 a.m., and taught by the clergy, the class includes an overnight retreat and a worship service.

- May 2 – 4 Confirmation Retreat at Manidokan Outdoor Ministry Center
- May 11 Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday One Worship Service at 10am!

For more information contact Rev. Faith Lewis at flewis@mmumc-dc.org or at 202.363.4900, ext. 22!

Kick Off for Students and Parents is February 3 at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room! The remaining weeks we will meet in the Fireplace Room.

Participants who have Expressed Interest

Nick Adams
Brien Comey
Simon Courtney
Anne Francis Davis
Alex Fishman
Connor Jabs
Peyton Kettler
Melissa Mattson
Marissa Mizroch
Marisa Remez
Reid Remult
Bill Rufkhar
Emily Stone
Elliott Smith
Danielle Whitehead

If u want to be confirmed & you don't see your name - contact Faith!



Faith

Children's Ministry



Upcoming dates and reminders! Boys are asked to wear khaki pants and white shirts and girls are asked to not wear jeans or tennis shoes on the days of our performances. Please take time to practice with your child during the week and attend each Sunday rehearsal.

- The Cherub and Morning Star choir will sing at the 9 a.m. Worship service on Sunday, January 20.
- Both choirs will sing at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner (Meet Mrs. Settlege and Ms. Cartwright in the choir room at 6 p.m. to rehearse before singing at 6:30 p.m.)
- Both choirs will sing on Palm Sunday, March 16 at both services.

Family Movie Night

Join us on Friday, February 22 for dinner and a movie. We'll start with dinner at 6 p.m. and watch a movie together as we eat popcorn and curl up on the floor. Don't forget your sleeping bag or at least something comfy to sit on the hard Vestry floor.

So put on something cozy, bring something comfy to sit on the floor and spend an evening with your friends at Metropolitan for a fun family event!



Have a movie request? Please submit all requests to Mrs. Jacobi before January 31. Current requests include:

- Charlotte's Web* (non-animated version)
- The Little Princess*
- Ratatouille*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner Come Join the Celebration! Tuesday, February 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening of food, music, fun and fellowship! There will be plenty of pancakes, sausage, bacon, egg casserole, fruit and more. The proceeds from the evening will support Children's Ministry with a tithe of 10% going to support Volunteers in Mission (VIM). The Children's Choirs will sing at 6:30 p.m. and choir members should meet in the choir room at 6 p.m. for a quick warm-up rehearsal.

So bring your appetite, your family and friends for a yummy evening of fun!

Can you help this year? Help is needed to decorate on Tuesday morning and for cooking all afternoon. Clean-up help is also very appreciated! To help contact Kay Jacobi, Director of Children's Ministry. **Thank you!**



On Sunday, January 7, all five Godly Play Sunday School classes met together in Room 206 and welcomed a very special visitor. Do you know who it was? Be sure to ask your child about her story and how her story impacts each of our lives! After our special visitor (Jesus' mother, Mary) left, the children and I talked about ways each one of us can carry Jesus' light in 2008. I asked the children to think of ways they can serve as a light for Christ and here are some of the children's responses in their own words:

- I can pray (this was mentioned by several children)
- I can give food to the hungry and help people who don't have homes
- I can bring joy to friends and family
- I can make meals for the shelter here at Metropolitan
- I can go to church every Sunday
- I can asked to be baptized
- I can be kind to others
- I can remember to give thanks everyday
- I can give money to the church
- I can think of others first before we think of ourselves
- I can keep our promises
- I can invite friends to church
- I can sing (this was mentioned by several children)
- I can carry God's light by working hard and going to Sunday School
- I will carry God's light by trying to go to church every Sunday even when I'm tired
- I will have faith and go to church every Sunday
- I will do a good deed daily and help people when they are down
- Instead of blowing up at people I could pray to get out my feelings

How will you carry Jesus' light in 2008?

Have You Seen...

- A Razor cell phone? It was lost by a nursery school worker on Thursday morning, December 6.
- 2 new boys winter coats? One is orange and blue, size 4; the other is red and blue, size 6. They were left at church on Christmas Eve on a hook outside the sanctuary.
- A CD player with the word "Nursery" written across the top? It is missing from the closet in the infant nursery, Room 100.

If you have information about these missing items, please contact Kay Jacobi. Thanks!

If you have questions about any of these events or programs, please contact our Children's Ministry Director, Kay Jacobi 202.363.4900, ext. 26 or kjacobi@mmumc-dc.org.