

Metropolitan's Volunteers in Mission Program Celebrates 5th Anniversary



On December 9, the VIM program celebrated its fifth anniversary. I would like to thank the VIM planning committee - Lee Crockett, Eliza Hamner-Koenig, Ann Michel, and Randy Oberdick - for their hard work and imagination in planning for and participating in the anniversary celebration. In addition, I would like to thank Paul Dame, Beverly Fleming, and Art Rynearson for sharing their reflections as VIM participants.

VIM exists to promote, encourage and enable Christians to exemplify "Christian Love in Action." As we celebrate the last five years, I lift up all our volunteers who have adopted the "Christian Love in Action" motto by participating in VIM. I also thank Metropolitan Memorial for all your prayers, financial gifts, clothing and school supply donations. You helped make a huge difference in the lives of others at Orphanage 43, the Old Mutare orphanage, Africa University, the Rosebud Reservation, Mar Elias Educational Institute, the Costa Rica Missions project, and the congregants of St. Paul UMC.

As you can imagine, we have learned a lot by serving in Russia, Zimbabwe, the Holy Land, Costa Rica, as well as here in the United States in South Dakota and Mississippi. We have done all sorts of tasks such as roofing, carpentry, dry wall, painting and electrical work. We also cleaned, shoveled, hauled, and repaired. In addition to construction work, we worked in libraries and a hospital, washed clothes, cooked meals, visited orphans, and even played soccer at an elementary school.

In five years, 54 people have volunteered on Metropolitan's 7 VIM trips. During this time we have logged a lot of hours. In total, team members have made 88 VIM trips representing approximately 119 weeks of volunteering. Or, in other words, it is equivalent to supporting a full time missionary for over 2 years!

And our service continues. As we did in 2006 and 2007, there will be two VIM trips in 2008. One team will serve in Pass Christian, Mississippi, to continue the work of rebuilding homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Another team will serve in San Francisco Libre, Nicaragua. (Information on both trips can be found on the following pages of this *Messenger*).

Looking back over the last five years, I remember how we all dreamed of making a difference in the lives of others and then our realization that the lives we were changing were our own. I think back to serving at the hospital in Zimbabwe and that moment when our VIM team realized we were not really in a hospital but an ill-equipped clinic with only one doctor. One lesson that we learned on every VIM trip is that life is difficult - there never is enough of anything that is needed - but it is on these trips that we found faith, hope, and love in the people that we met. And it is on these trips that we took part in the miracle of accomplishing the impossible every day.

As we look forward to 2008 - a new year of hope and possibility - I invite you to prayerfully consider participating in VIM - whether it be in Mississippi or Nicaragua - and taking part in the miracle.

- Anne Brown

Upcoming Events

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

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

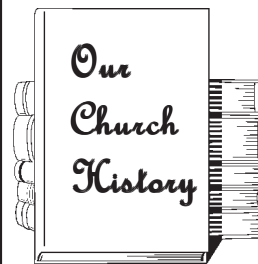
Prayer Shawl Ministry



Join us for this wonderful time of friendship and ministry!
For more information contact
Annette Fletchall at
202.363.9231.

✂ Tuesday, January 15 at 1:30 p.m.

✂ Sunday, January 20 at 12:30 p.m.



Help needed in the Church Archives

It is certainly true that the past is prologue... but the past is also piling up. Our church historian Joe Arnold is looking for a few helpers to help with filing and sorting materials in the church archives. One time opportunities and on going help are greatly appreciated. To volunteer contact our church historian Joe Arnold at jearnold@wesleyseminary.edu or 202.885.8560.



Children's Programs for ages 2 years to 5 Years

2008 - 2009 Enrollment

Join us for our January open houses!

January 8 & 9 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

January 15 & 16 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

January 22 & 23 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- Registration 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.

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

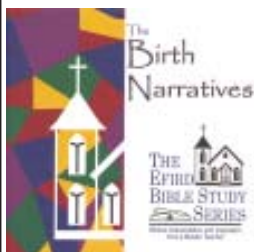
Sunday Morning Offerings!

Science & Religion

Begins Sunday, January 6, 10:10 a.m.

The Education Team is pleased to announce a new class beginning on Sunday, January 6 at 10:10 a.m. in the Parlor - Science & Religion, a topic that many of our members have continued to request.

Dr. E. Maynard Moore will provide the initial leadership, as the group will focus first on the small book by Canon John Polkinghorne, *Belief in God in an Age of Science*. Books are available at the main office front desk for \$10. Later in February, the discussion will move on to consider the ideas of other influential thinkers, including the 20th century Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. There will also be guest presenters on some special occasions. For more information contact, Rev. Sandy Rector at 202.363.4900, ext. 19 or srector@mmumc-dc.org.



The "Birth Narrative"

The Living Faith Sunday School Class continues its interesting, in-depth video series on the "birth narrative" by Duke University Professor, Dr. Mickey Efird. This engaging series will run through January.

Please join us in the Christie Room on Sunday mornings at 10:10 a.m.

Metropolitan House

As the cold winds of winter permeate our capitol city sending many homeless seeking shelter, we at Metropolitan House offer a home to four men. Now that the holidays are over and the quiet months of January and February are upon us, we hope you will consider spending one night of your weekend in community with our residents. Plan to arrive at 6:30 p.m. to welcome the residents, enjoy a warm dinner prepared by another volunteer and spend an evening away from distractions and getting to know the men who call Metropolitan House home. If you are interested in finding out more about our ministry, please contact Pat House at patrisha.house@verizon.net or 301.365.5205.



The Best New Year's Resolution to Make!

Start the New Year off by strengthening your relationship with God! Dive deep into scripture during Disciple Bible study or join a lively discussion on how we understand our faith in the context of our life experiences during Living the Questions. Please contact Rev. Sandy Rector at 202.363.4900, ext. 19, or srector@mmumc-dc.org to register or have your questions answered. Classes begin January 8 (Living the Questions) or 15 (Disciple 1 & 2) at 7 p.m.



Living the Questions (14 weeks) Starting Tuesday 1/8:

A small group study exploring provocative questions faced by Christians in today's world. Topics include literal interpretation of the Bible, being a Christian without having concrete answers, why an all-powerful, all-loving and all-good God allows evil, how religion fits with social justice. Be forewarned...the issues and concepts may challenge your worldview and understanding of the divine. It may be radical information or an affirmation of what you've always believed! Facilitated by Barbara Green, this class is open to all.

Disciple 1 (34 weeks) Starting Tuesday 1/15: A journey from Genesis to Revelation. You will see how Scripture fits together into the one coherent message of God's salvation. You will spend 17 weeks in the Old Testament and 17 weeks in the New Testament, culminating in a look at each believer's spiritual gifts. Co-facilitated by Rev. Sandy Rector and Randy Oberdick, this class is a wonderful starter for those who have not engaged in much study or desire to refresh or stretch their understanding of God's word in the world.

Disciple 2 (32 weeks) Starting Tuesday 1/15: Into the Word, Into the World - Move deeper into the word with this study of Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts. Study themes of pride, hospitality, patience, and humility as we consider how we are called into ministry in the world around us. Co-facilitated by Ann Michel and Fred Simpich, this class is a natural fit for those who have already taken Disciple 1 or have had a little more extensive Sunday School background.



Metropolitan Memorial 2008 Volunteer in Mission Trip **NICARAGUA**

Planning is underway for a Metropolitan VIM trip to Nicaragua in late June, 2008. The mission will be in partnership with United Methodist Missionaries Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena who serve in San Francisco Libre.

Expectations of VIM Participants

Participants in Volunteers in Mission projects are expected to represent Christ's presence in the places they serve with:

- An enthusiastic and positive attitude
- Flexibility and openness to other people and cultures
- A cooperative spirit of teamwork
- Willingness to follow the guidance of a leader

Participants are also expected to:

- Attend orientation, training, and team-building meetings prior to the trip
- Prepare spiritually and participate in group reflection during the trip
- Pay their own travel expenses or raise funds to cover their own expenses; scholarships may be available based on criteria agreed to by the team and the pastors
- Participate in fund-raising to cover costs associated with the project

Dates: Either June 14-22 or June 21-29

Costs: \$1,350 (estimated) per person for air travel and on-ground expenses

Accommodations: Lodging most nights will be with local host families

Mission Work: Will be done under the direction of Nan and Miguel and might include housing construction or repair, work with various community organizations, and with local children.

Fund-raising: The team will be expected to make a project contribution of at least \$5,000 and send it in advance of the trip.

For more information: Contact Anne Brown (202.257.9431 or AnneBrown@bna.com) or Ann Michel (202.885.8585 or amichel@wesleyseminary.edu)

First Team Meeting – January 13!

The first meeting for those interested in the Nicaragua mission trip will be Sunday, January 13, from 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Following a time of team building and planning, we will have a power point presentation from a VIM group from Salem UMC in Keedysville, MD, who made a similar trip in January, 2006.



Happy Birthday!!

...to those from our church who were born in January*



Stephanie King	1/2	Raymond Durbin	1/16
Anne Starke	1/2	Katherine Jacobi	1/16
Meredith Thompson	1/2	Wallace Megginson	1/16
Martha A. Carr	1/3	Ethelyn Nelson	1/16
Benjamin Giordano	1/3	Hayden Rhudy	1/16
Thomas Scurlock	1/3	Declan Casey	1/17
Burns Strider	1/3	Robert Hunnicutt	1/17
Rebecca Bell Meszaros	1/4	Richard Merriman	1/17
Thomas Evans, Jr.	1/4	Andrew Reis	1/17
Patricia Schofield	1/4	Alexandra Boyle	1/18
Danielle Whitehead	1/4	Michael M. Long	1/18
Mary Allin	1/5	Brendan Martin	1/18
Kaitlin Barry	1/5	Hailey McKelvie	1/18
Ashley Derrick	1/5	Bobby Rudzki	1/18
Alexander Gunnerson	1/5	David Bulford	1/20
Nancy Holmes	1/5	Margaret Caddick	1/20
Philip Dankner	1/6	Wren Jabs	1/20
Dorothy Fleming	1/6	Scott Walker	1/20
Annika Kapteyn	1/6	Joseph Yalch	1/20
Louise Stewart	1/6	Regula Guess	1/21
Suzanne Forsyth	1/7	Sheldon Smith	1/21
Peter Stifel	1/7	Lisa Miller	1/22
India Wells	1/7	Robert Veatch	1/22
Catherine Anderson	1/8	Annemarie Westermann	1/22
Mary Davis	1/8	Veronica Wolf	1/22
Joan Spencer	1/8	Amy Ericksen	1/23
Jake Starke	1/8	Christopher Fretts	1/23
Sara Atwater	1/9	Peter Tillman	1/24
Elizabeth Bosnak	1/9	Elisabeth Grasser	1/26
Sean Gill	1/9	John Grasser	1/26
Frank Hale	1/9	Ben Moore	1/26
Brian McClure	1/9	Nancy Nelson	1/26
Cara Evans	1/10	Julian Heller	1/26
Eric Gunnerson	1/10	E.W. Kelley	1/27
Marleny Lordos	1/11	Alexander Ruhl	1/27
Tamara Munk	1/11	Scott Ruhl	1/27
Mark Miller	1/12	Judy Hamby	1/28
Sherwin Collette	1/13	Kevin Settlege	1/28
Linda Derrick	1/13	Brittany Bates	1/29
Jessica Bartlett	1/14	Brian Crowley	1/29
Christina Breuer	1/14	Katherine Davis	1/29
Nancy Jameson	1/14	William Matthews	1/29
Jessica Osterman	1/14	Kode Nascimento	1/29
William Bauer	1/15	Alexa Sloan	1/29
Sarah Goodman	1/15	Perry Smith	1/29
Edwin Noyce	1/15	Melissa Edwards-Pearson	1/30
		Linda Gerrish	1/30
		Tiffany McClean	1/30
		Laura Lauver	1/31
		Susan McLain	1/31
		Sharis Pozen	1/31

***If your birthday is missing from the list, please contact the church office and let us know your date of birth.**



Happy 97!!

Special birthday wishes go out to Martha Hickman, who turned 97 on December 28. Martha is a long-time member of Metropolitan Memorial joining in 1963 where she helped with the UMW bazaar for many years and also worked as a secretary in the Minister's Office. All the best to Martha!



Congratulations to DaeHwa Park and his wife Young Hoon, who gave birth to Theodore Atticus Park on December 17.



We extend our sympathies and prayers to **Sue Zongker and her family**, upon the death of Sue's father, James Seldon Lichtenberger on December 23.

Children's Ministry

Operation Swaddling Clothes (OSC) Workday

It's not too late to make donations for OSC. Layette items may be dropped off through Sunday, January 20, with Kay Jacobi or in the church office.

Join us on Monday, January 21 at 10 a.m. as we bundle our swaddling clothes and pack them to send to UMCOR. Following the assembly, we will have a workshop creating Prayer Books for each child to use throughout the year. Lunch will be provided and we will finish by 1:30 p.m. It's a school holiday and we know you and your parents are looking for something to do – why not spend part of the day with your friends at church?!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

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 tithe 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 [kjacob@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:kjacobi@mmumc-dc.org).

God and Me

Are you a Brownie Girl Scout? Are you interested in earning your God and Me Award? The God and Me Program is the first program in the Girl Scout God and Country Series. The entire series is a program about the church. It strives to help young persons grow in their understanding of the Christian faith, see how people have put their beliefs into action and to provide young people an opportunity for Christmas service to others. Kay Jacobi, Director of Children's Ministry, will be leading a group starting in January and hopes that you and your Brownie Girl Scout will consider joining her and others as they explore their faith and friendship with Jesus Christ.

Meetings will be held at the church in Room 206 from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.:

- January 10, 2008
- February 14, 2008
- March 6, 2008
- April 10, 2008
- May 8, 2008

The God and Me Award will be given during the Children's Celebration Sunday Worship service on Sunday, June 1. To register and receive your student handbook, please contact Kay Jacobi at 202.363.4900, ext. 26 or [kjacob@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:kjacobi@mmumc-dc.org).

Nursery Parents

Please remember to bring your child's diaper bag with all the items he/she may need while in the nursery on Sunday mornings...diapers and wipes, sippy cup, bottle, etc. I also want to remind you that we have several children in the toddler nursery with nut and berry allergies. **Please do not send your child to the Nursery on Sunday Morning with any food containing nuts or berry products.** Thank you for your support.

Pictures from our Nursery School Christmas Concert!



Children's Ministry

Pictures from our Family Christmas Eve program!



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

Youth Ministry

Calling all Confirmands!



Have you ever wondered what it means to accept Jesus? Or what it means to be baptized? Or "join" the church? Then you are asking the right questions and you may be ready to begin Confirmation - a class for middle school and senior high students who want to explore and make important decisions about their faith!

Confirmation Class will be held on Sunday Morn-

ings during the study hour, and will be taught by the Pastors of the church. It includes a camping retreat in early May and a special worship service in early June. To find out more, contact Rev. Faith Lewis at 202.363.4900 ext 22 or email her at flewis@mmumc-dc.org! Kick Off for Students and Parents is Febuary 3 at 10 a.m. - location to be determined.

