

The Way of the Cross

Holy Week is the abridged version of our entire faith story. All of what we believe - the heart and soul of our faith - is captured in the events of this week. In generations past, when church was a focal point in our communities, much of the community life was focused around worship services throughout this week. This gave the faithful the opportunity to live through the week with the Disciples: experiencing the high celebration of Palm Sunday, the gradual turning in the mood of the crowd, the confusion of the Last Supper, the devastation of Good Friday, and the jubilation of Easter.

In more recent generations, due to shifts in lifestyles, work styles, and increased competition from the demands of modern society, attendance at mid-week services has markedly declined. Theologians and church leaders became concerned that the average worshipper, attending church only on Sunday, was moving from the peak of Palm Sunday directly to the higher peak of Easter without ever having the opportunity to move through the dark valley of the crucifixion. From a spiritual and theological standpoint, this creates profound problems. Resurrection without crucifixion is what 21st century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer coined "cheap grace."

The church's solution to this problem was to shift the focus of Palm Sunday to include some focus on the passion narrative, which is why we now celebrate this day as Palm/Passion Sunday. This gives people who only come on Sunday a chance to more fully experience Christ's final week.

It is my conviction, however, that it is a somewhat anemic solution to the problem. I believe that fully experiencing the significance of the season necessitates being part of the services during the week, and we have a wonderfully rich week prepared for you here at Metropolitan. Palm/Passion Sunday will start off on a high celebratory note with singing by the Children's choirs at both services, but as the service progresses, the tone will shift as we turn towards the cross.

Maundy Thursday, drawing from the scripture focused upon Jesus' last supper with his Disciples, will include a reenactment of the washing of the Disciples' feet and a communal breaking of the bread as we celebrate communion. Sandy Rector will provide a meditation and the Chancel Choir will enrich us through their music. On Good Friday, from noon - 3 p.m., we are reclaiming a very old tradition of a preaching service on the

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2008 Domestic Volunteers in Mission: Pass Christian, Mississippi

June 21 – June 28, 2008



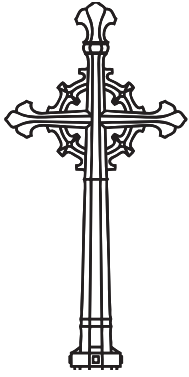
"To those of us who don't live on the Gulf Coast, Hurricane Katrina is a piece of history, a horrific event that occurred almost two years ago. To those who live in southern Mississippi and Louisiana, Katrina is still very much a part of each and every day. Our work seemed like a drop in the bucket compared to all that still needs to be done. But just as each drop of rain contributed to the destruction, each of our "drops" helps with the healing." - Clark Rector, 2007 VIM in Mississippi participant

The Metropolitan Memorial VIM committee is pleased to announce the dates for the 2008 domestic trip to Pass Christian, Mississippi: June 21 – June 28, 2008. We will again return in solidarity to this small community on the Gulf Coast, where all but

500 of the 8,000 homes were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. As we return to Pass Christian, we show our brothers and sisters there that their struggle hasn't been forgotten. We demonstrate the love and support of the greater Christian community. And we labor as the hands and feet of Christ.

There is still so much work to do in Pass Christian. Many new homes are being built to accommodate people whose homes were destroyed. At last count, there were about 300 FEMA trailers in Pass Christian. While these trailers were once a source of relief to homeless residents, more than two years after the storm, they have become a burden—leaky, insect-infested, and potentially toxic. We will partner with the local non-

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The Way of the Cross

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seven last words of Christ. John Tate has assembled a wonderful, ecumenical group of preachers to lead us through this journey. The structure of the service is such that you may be present for a word or two and leave, or stay for the entire three hours. Friday night will be a very dark service focusing on the crucifixion and burial.

Faith Lewis will offer a meditation and Dayspring will offer a beautiful musical selection. Through our partnership with American University, we also have an opportunity to join Rev. Mark Schaefer at the Kay Spiritual Life Center for the traditional Easter Vigil, which will begin at midnight on Saturday night. Mark will also be leading a Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunday on the steps of Kay Spiritual Life Center (after which, I suspect he will collapse and sleep for a week!).

On Easter Sunday, Metropolitan will hold two identical services at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., each followed by our much-anticipated Easter brunch. It will be a fabulous day to cap off an amazing week and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the joy of Easter with our family, friends, and visitors to Metropolitan.

The powerful German theologian Jurgen Moltmann wrote that “the cross is the test of everything which deserves to be called Christian.” I want to encourage all of our Metropolitan community to live through the full experience of the cross this Holy Week by setting aside the time to share in our Lord’s passion and fully prepare to experience the power of the resurrection.

Blessings,

2008 Domestic Volunteers in Mission: Pass Christian, Mississippi

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profit organization “The Grey Hut,” which currently has 25 active projects and many more to come. Tasks will range from skilled construction to painting, sanding, and even office tasks. There is something for everyone to do on this trip, no matter their age or skill level.

The team will be staying at The Village, a temporary housing facility that can hold 138 people. Each of these high tech tents has cots with mattresses, electricity, heat, and Air conditioning. There are seven woman’s and seven men’s showers, and six men’s and six women’s restrooms. The men’s and woman’s bathrooms and showers are separated by the kitchen. The kitchen has a new stove, 3 refrigerators, a washer and dryer, and a couple of barbecue grills. In short, much better accommodations than we’ve experienced during past trips to Pass Christian.

Help us make this trip a three-peat for Metropolitan. Volunteers on the first two trips not only made a real contribution to the health of the Gulf Coast—they also had a great time. We made friends down south, but we also developed a deep sense of community with our fellow Metropolitan volunteers. We would love to have you join us in 2008.



Last year’s Pass Christian, MI VIM team

Those interesting in participating in this trip are invited to attend our initial planning meeting March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room. To learn more about previous VIM trips to MS read our blogs, <http://www.mmumc-dc.org/vim/index.asp>. Please contact Lee Crockett at 301.320.3621 or at leecrockett@verizon.net, or Eliza Hamner at eliza_hamner@yahoo.com for more information.

- Lee Crockett

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST FROM THE CROSS.

This year Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church is renewing an ancient Christian tradition of a service of the *Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross*. There are seven different utterances of Jesus from the cross that have been recorded in the Gospels. Most people are familiar with them. In sequence they are: *Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do*, Luke 23:34; *Today you will be with me in Paradise*. Luke 23:43; *Woman, Behold your son! ... Behold your mother!* John 19:26-27; *My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?* Matthew 27:46b; *I thirst*. John 19:28; *It is finished*. John 19:30; and *Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!*; Luke 23:46. These are thought to be the last words of Christ before he died upon the cross.

Over the centuries the Church has memorialized these words to remind us of Christ's sacrifice for our salvation and us. They also are memorialized to prepare us for the coming of Easter. In earlier years, churches around the world held services that lasted three hours, in which the Words were separated into six segments of half-hour each (two of the words combined in one segment) for meditation, exploration and consideration. In recent time, with the increase of activities and crowded schedules, we have pulled away from this tradition somewhat and used shorter means of remembering Good Friday. After some discussion and consultation, Metropolitan is renewing this Three Hour Lenten Tradition.

The service is broken up into six half-hour segments. There will be six preachers for the service, each taking a "Word." Between each "Word" will be a time of quiet for prayer and meditation. Following that time there will be a hymn and people can come and go as they please during the singing of the hymn. The preachers for the service will be the Rev. Arlester Brown, Metropolitan Memorial UMC; Rev. Gina Campbell, United Methodist pastor; Rev. Gordon Forbes, retired pastor from Westmoreland Congregational; Rev. Barbara Green, Presbyterian, faculty member, Wesley Theological Seminary; Dr. Suthi Clark, Episcopalian, faculty member, Wesley Theological Seminary; and Dr. Amy Butler, pastor, Calvary Baptist, Washington, DC.

There will also be special music and other acts of worship included in this service. Everyone is invited to participate in this ancient and very meaningful service of remembrance and worship as we enter this most holy time of the Christian year.



H O L Y · W E E K

Palm Passion Sunday 9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

The services start on a triumphant note with the waving of palms. Children's choirs sing at both services. The service will turn to the Passion of Christ as he begins the dark journey to the valley of the crucifixion.

Maundy Thursday 8 p.m.

The service will include traditional footwashing and communion along with readings that carry us through to the garden. Rev. Sandy Rector will provide a meditation and the Chancel Choir will enrich us through music.

Good Friday Noon to 3 p.m.

"The Seven Last Words of Christ"

Metropolitan is reclaiming a tradition! This service is a continuum of preaching, music, prayer and meditation. You are invited to come and go as you please or stay for the entire three hours. The word will be shared by an ecumenical group of local preachers.

Good Friday 8 p.m.

The service will take us from the garden and move through darkness to the crucifixion and burial. Rev. Faith Lewis will offer a meditation and our contemporary choir, Dayspring, will offer a moving anthem. We will leave in darkness and silence.

Easter Vigil 12 a.m. at American University

Join with the AU community and Rev. Mark Schaefer at the Kay Spiritual Life Center for a traditional Easter Vigil. If you don't want to stay up late, join Mark for the Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m.

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

Join friends and neighbors for a glorious Easter morning. We will offer two identical services with choirs, bells, and brass. Following both services is an bountiful free brunch.

Remembering Others at Easter



You can remember friends and family this Easter by donating altar flowers in honor or memory of loved ones.

This year, our altar will be graced with an expansive bank of flowers, each given in celebration of someone known and loved by a member of the church.

All donations will be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

I wish to donate # _____ Daffodils at \$25 each
I wish to donate # _____ Easter Lilies at \$25 each
I wish to donate # _____ Gerber Mums at \$25 each
I wish to donate # _____ Tulips at \$25 each

Total Enclosed \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

- I will pick up these flowers following 11:15 a.m. worship
- I am donating these flowers to the church for distribution to our members by the Visitor Corps.

The deadline for gifts is March 12.

Please mail or drop off your form and payment to the church office. Orders cannot be taken by phone.

My Name: _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____	

Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church, 3401 Nebraska Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016

A Great Turn-out for the Great Day of Service



At left, JuliAnna Lewis . Above right, Julia Parker making sandwiches



Rose Kelley and Pam Bisson in the Christie room at Great Day of Service. People learned to knit for the first time. Also, 75 animal-shaped crafts were made for the Heifer Living Gift Market. Thanks to Leigh Rollins for organizing these projects.

Below, youth assemble sandwiches. One hundred eighty sandwiches were prepared for the homeless. Anita Seline purchased the ingredients and Bonnie Edwards delivered the sandwiches to Martha's Kitchen.



It was a busy morning at the Great Day of Service with about 75 people, from toddlers to youth to seniors baking for the homeless in the kitchen, writing on behalf of Amnesty International in the hallway, making cards for the elderly in the Choir Room and knitting prayer shawls in the Christie Room.

After four hours of work, here's what was accomplished:

- 150 UMCOR kits and 14 layette kits assembled. Thanks to Ann Michel who will drive the supplies to Pennsylvania, where they will be shipped to people in need through the United Methodist Committee on Relief.
- 35 gift baskets made for Visitor Corps. Thanks to Eugenia Evans and Helen Latimer who created the origami designed baskets that hold candy and a Bible verse.
- 150 cards for Visitor Corps and others in the church. This project was beautifully designed by Kris Oberdick. Visitor Corps committee members can pick up the completed baskets and cards in the church office for delivery to members in nursing homes and those who are homebound.
- Ten children baked and brought goodies to the Methodist Home, where they then made a craft with a resident. This event was possible thanks to the supervision of Claire McCarthy, Karen Strider and Kristin Rommel.
- Five Sunday School rooms cleaned. Kay Jacobi and Martha Mizroch led the cleaning crew - with lots of help from the children.
- A delicious meal made for Metropolitan House, thanks to the leadership of Laureen Andrews and Anita Seline.
- 148 letters written for Amnesty International. Appreciation is extended to Helen Simon and Suzanne Forsyth for organizing the activity.
- UPC Codes clipped for the Board of Child Care. Barbara Gaskill helped organize this group. (Keep bringing the codes – they do add up for a good cause.)
- Boxes of school supplies were sorted. The youth did a great job of organizing papers, pens and crayons. They will bring the supplies to kids in after school programs at Jubilee House in Adams Morgan later this spring.

Finally, thanks to Bobby Turnbull and Charlotte Walch who provided snacks and lunch for all the workers and to the United Methodist Women of Metropolitan who sponsored and hosted the event.

Our Community



The Arts Council of
Metropolitan Memorial UMC
Presents

Exhibition Opening Reception & Concert
Sunday, March 9, 2008

Acclaimed Pianist Artur Aksenov in Concert
4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Exhibition Opening Reception
Natural Energy: Watercolors by Bonny Lundy
5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Join us for an exhibition opening reception and concert on March 9. The concert by acclaimed pianist Artur Aksenov, features a Beethoven *Sonata*, Wagner-Liszt's *Tannhauser Overture*, and ends with Mussorgsky's monumental *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Following the concert, join us in the newly renovated Great Hall for the art exhibit opening and reception for "Natural Energy," an exhibit of watercolors by artist, Bonny Lundy.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

✂ Sunday, March 16 at 12:30 p.m.
✂ Tuesday, March 18 at 1:30 p.m.

March AARP Meeting



Please join us on Monday, March 17, in the Vestry. Debbie Wooten, manager of the Tenleytown and MacArthur Blvd. H & R Block, will be speaking with us on general tax tips for seniors and will discuss the new tax laws. Social time is at 12:30 p.m., and the meeting starts at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Thank you!

My Husband, Bishop James K. Mathews, wishes me to extend to Metropolitan Memorial his profound thanks and gratitude for the celebration of his 95th birthday, February 10. It was indeed a celebration of the love and caring this congregation gives to its members, and for this he is very grateful. Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist has a very special place for him, for it was in this place he was elected bishop and in this sanctuary he was consecrated bishop, June 1960. Our whole family joins him in thanks.

- Eunice Jones Mathews

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

\$18,565 Raised at Last Fall's Help the Homeless Walk

Thanks to the many members and friends of our congregation who participated in or sponsored last fall's *Help the Homeless Walk* benefiting Metropolitan House. The church recently received a check for \$18,565 which represented the proceeds of the walk plus a generous match from the Fannie Mae Foundation. This fundraiser is the major source of revenue for the Metropolitan House ministry. Mark your calendars for this year's walk on Sunday, October 19.

Pastors invited to Lunch at the Methodist Home



Thanks to Jane Bishop for organizing a visit of the pastors to church members at the Methodist Home on February 26.

Pictured from left to right: Anna George, Charlie Parker, Jane Bishop, Joan Topalian, Faith Lewis, Grace Hudgins, Sandy Rector and Nora Topalian.

Not pictured: Frances Hardy, Wanda Van Vliet and Eugene Seitz

Children's Ministry

Family Movie Night

Join us on Friday, March 7, for dinner and a movie. We will watch last year's blockbuster, Charlotte's Web. We'll start with dinner at 6 p.m. and watch the movie together as we eat popcorn and curl up on the 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!



2nd Annual Children's Lenten Workshop Sunday, March 9 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Join us for the Children's Lenten Workshop on March 9. We will work on crafts, word finds and puzzles, color Easter Eggs and more! It's a wonderfully fun and energetic morning which helps us all prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We will also spend time eating together before we finish up our 'work' at 12:30 p.m.



YES - I still need a few adult volunteers! As always, these workshops could not happen without special people like you, so please consider lending a helping hand on the morning of the 9th.

If you have any questions or are ready to volunteer, please contact Kay Jacobi. (kjacobi@mmumc-dc.org).



Children's Choir

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. Both choirs will sing on Palm Sunday, March 16th, at both services.

I WONDER

During Lent, our children's Sunday School classes are preparing for the Mystery of Easter. Here are a few questions Metropolitan's children have been asking...I encourage you to spend some time with these questions...asking whether you could offer our children an answer?

- ◆ I wonder why it takes longer to prepare for the Mystery of Easter than it does to prepare for the Mystery of Christmas?
- ◆ I wonder why the disciples didn't think the children were important enough to speak with Jesus?
- ◆ I wonder what I would say to Jesus if I met him on the road traveling home?
- ◆ I wonder if Jesus would know my name?
- ◆ I wonder if I would know it was Jesus?



Be on the Lookout For Those Bunnies & Chicks: Marshmallow Peeps, That is!

This year, we will hold our first Marshmallow Peeps Diorama Activity! For those of you who may not know - a diorama is a three-dimensional miniature scene (many people use shoe boxes to display their scenes). We'll be asking you to recreate your favorite Bible stories made entirely out of marshmallow Peeps! This is a fun time for the older children to get creative and have fun!

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.