



# THE MESSENGER

For the congregation of Metropolitan Memorial

August 8, 2008  
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## Special Open House Issue Fall - Winter 2008



This special edition of *The Messenger* will provide you with a snapshot of many of the ministries and the programs that help us grow as Christian disciples in the vibrant community of faith at Metropolitan Memorial UMC. From the youngest children to the most mature adults, Metropolitan provides a wide variety of opportunities to connect with one another in fellowship, to engage in thought-provoking study and spiritual growth, to lend a helping hand through Christian service and advocacy, and to participate in community during outstanding worship experiences.

As you read through the pages of this issue, you might be surprised at all the “behind the scenes” activities that go into creating our worship services, or you might find a study opportunity that satisfies your interest in learning more about what it means to live as a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

If you’ve been interested in finding a way to put your faith into action, we’ve got local ministries that serve the Metropolitan area, as well as those that take you to different places and cultures around the world. Maybe you’ve always had a passion for justice and a desire to tackle systemic change – check out our thriving Advocacy Team. A love of the arts? We at Metropolitan embrace God’s creation as experienced through a diversity of creative expression including art, dance, music and theater. We also understand that being a part of community is supporting one another through any number of life’s transitions - helping one another to find wholeness in mind, body, and spirit through the efforts of our congregational care ministries. And you are sure to feel welcome at any number of our small group and fellowship ministries – there’s a place at Metropolitan for everyone!

To find out more about any of the opportunities found within the pages of *The Messenger*, check out our website [www.nationalchurch.org](http://www.nationalchurch.org), get in touch with the contact person listed, or stop by our Open House Ministry Fair that will be held the morning of Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> between the services from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., and after the second service from 12:15 p.m. until 1 p.m.

We look forward to the coming months as we worship, study, serve, and join in fellowship together, and hope that if you haven’t already, you’ll consider calling Metropolitan “home.”

*Rev. Sandy Reetz*

### Fall Schedule

#### Partial List of Upcoming Special Events at Metropolitan:

- Sept. 7** Open House Sunday  
Volunteer Ministry Displays & Free Brunch  
Sunday School Begins
- Sept. 12** 7:30 p.m. Kim Capps Blues Concert
- Sept. 14** 10:10 a.m. Discussion  
“Termites of Estate Planning”  
5 p.m. Youth Fall Kick-off Celebration
- Sept. 21** New Member Sunday  
4 p.m. Exhibit Opening & Reception,  
Watercolorist Peggy Williams
- Sept. 28** 12:15 p.m. Picnic on the Lawn,  
Sponsored by Children’s Ministry
- Oct. 5** Guest Preacher,  
Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson,  
President of Wesley Theological Seminary
- Oct. 19** 10:10 a.m. Help the Homeless Walk  
12:15 p.m. Help the Homeless Walk
- Oct. 26** Harvest Festival & Spaghetti Dinner
- Nov. 2** 10:10 a.m. Discussion  
Volunteers in Mission: Report on Nicaragua  
& Mississippi Mission Trips
- Nov. 8/9** United Methodist Women’s Annual Bazaar

## September Sermon Series: “Three Simple Rules”

Based on the book “Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living”  
by Bishop Rueben P. Job



**September 7**

**Rev. Dr. Charles Parker preaching**

**Sermon Title:**

**“Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living”**

**Scriptures: Philippians 3: 7-16**

**Theme:** As an introduction, we will focus on the fact that John Wesley was clear that what made a Methodist was not a set of doctrines or beliefs, but a way of life. Our faith journey is, in fact, a journey towards “perfection in love,” and the first sermon in this series will lay the groundwork for the “three simple rules” that help us to grow in perfection.

**September 14**

**Rev. Jimmy Sherrod preaching**

**Sermon Title: “Three Simple Rules: Do No Harm”**

**Scriptures: Matthew 5:38-48**

**Theme:** A look at the first of John Wesley’s three simple rules: Do No Harm. God’s grace can transform our actions and reactions from destructive practices to a realignment of our hearts and attitudes with those Jesus embodied.

**September 21**

**Rev. Sandy Rector preaching**

**Sermon Title: “Three Simple Rules: Do Good”**

**Scriptures: Romans 12:9-21**

**Matthew 22:37-40**

**Theme:** The second of Wesley’s rules: Do Good. The love of God and neighbor is the foundation from which we are empowered to do good. Like Jesus, we, too, are anointed by the Holy Spirit and sent forth to do good in the midst of the suffering found in home, community, and throughout the world.

**September 28**

**Rev. Dr. Charles Parker preaching**

**Sermon Title:**

**“Three Simple Rules: Stay in Love With God”**

**Scriptures: Psalm 105: 1-4 and Colossians 2: 6-12**

**Theme:** The final sermon in the series on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Wesley’s rules: Stay in Love With God. We will focus on what John Wesley called the “means of Grace,” the tools that God gives us to continue to be shaped and molded by the Spirit. These include (from Wesley’s perspective): public worship, the Lord’s Supper, family and private prayer, Scripture study, and fasting.

\*If you are interested in reading a copy of Bishop Job’s book,  
please contact the church office or one of the staff, 202.363.4900.

## An Invitation to Membership



Metropolitan Memorial extends an invitation to membership to any person ready to commit to the joys and challenges of being part of a community of faith. Persons from all denominational backgrounds and persons with no previous church affiliation are always welcome.

Individuals who join the church are asked to support the church with their prayers, presence, gifts and service. Taking these vows is often the first step in a more deliberate relationship with God, a more fulfilling spiritual life, and more meaningful involvement in the church. However, not everyone is ready to make the commitment to church membership. Regardless of whether you become a member, we invite you to journey alongside us as you explore ways to develop and nurture yourself and serve God through this community of faith.

New members will be received into the church on Sunday, September 21, during either service of worship. If you are interested in joining the church on September 21, please contact Jeff Clouser at 202.363.4900, ext. 22.

The decision to join a church is but one step in a life-long process of growth and discovery in relationship with God. We invite you to discover and claim God’s promise of abundant life through a commitment to the community of faith that is Metropolitan Memorial.

## Participate In Worship

•**Acolytes** Young persons in grades 6 - 12 process, light candles, assist with the sacraments and perform other ceremonial duties. Contact Mary Golladay, 301.320.3194.

•**Communion Servers** provide the elements and assist in the administration of this sacrament. Contact Pat House, 202.363.4900, ext. 23.

•**Greeters** welcome our members and guests as they arrive. Contact Martha Turner, 202.863.0642.

•**Lay Readers** proclaim the Word and stories of God through scripture texts and special readings. Contact Pat House, 202.363.4900, ext. 23.

•**Liturgists** help to create and lead our worship and prayers. Contact Pat House, 202.363.4900, ext. 23.



•**Liturgical Dancers** enhance the worship experience with expressive movement. People of all ages, with and without prior dance experience, are welcome to

participate. Contact Barbara Gaskill, 202.244.3635

•**Sound Technicians** facilitate our worship with amplification, mixing music, and recording sermons. Contact David Sproul, 301.320.2665.



•**Handbell Choir** rehearses Sunday evenings. Contact Susan Staines, 703.524.2533.

•**Chancel Choir** sings at the 11:15 a.m. service and rehearses Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Contact Bruce Caviness, 202.363.4900, ext. 15.

•**Dayspring Choir** provides music for the 9 a.m. service. Beginning this September, Dayspring Choir will hold rehearsals on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room. All ages and skill levels are welcome in this fun-loving, energetic choir! Contact Casey Elliott, [celliott@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:celliott@mmumc-dc.org).

•**Children's Choirs** gather at 9:20 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Contact Pam Settlage, 301.765.2091.

•**Piano or Instrumental Accompanists.** Contact Bruce Caviness, 202.363.4900, ext. 15.

•**Worship Ministry Team** provides leadership, guidance, and logistical support for our services. Contact John Tate, 202.363.5950.

•**Ushers** welcome church members and guests, collect the offering, assist with registration of visitors, and care for special needs. Contact Derek Stone, 9 a.m. Service, 301.564.0595, and Paul Norian, 11:15 a.m. Service, 301.299.2825.

•**Flower Arrangers** working in pairs, create an arrangement for the altar each week. If you like working with flowers, or think you might like to try, consider becoming a member of Metropolitan's Flower Committee. Special events include decorating the sanctuary for Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. Brief meetings are held three times each year to plan the upcoming calendar. You do not need prior arranging experience, just a desire to participate. Contact Carol Tippett, [tippett\\_c@msn.com](mailto:tippett_c@msn.com) or 301.229.8944.



## The Creative Arts

•**The Arts Council** serves as a catalyst for visual art and a range of artistic expression in the ministries of Metropolitan Memorial. The Art Selection Committee is involved with Gallery Exhibitions of paintings, drawings, sculpture, photography and crafts, scheduled throughout the year. Concerts are often scheduled to coincide with the opening art exhibitions and receptions. Contact Marilu Woods, 202.667.3620.

•**The Creche Exhibit** is an annual event where members of the church display their family creche at church. The collection is planned for this year on Sunday, December 7.

•**The Ballet Studio**, founded in 1992, is an outreach program serving inner-city children through professional caliber ballet training as well as a broad range of dance-related arts and literacy activities. Contact Barbara Gaskill, 202.244.3635.

•**The Metropolitan Players** provide opportunities for study and encourage the personal and spiritual growth of its active participants. And they reach out to the local community through the theater arts. The Players produce several shows annually, in a range of styles and venues. Contact Kevin Settlage, 301.765.2091.



## Small Groups & Fellowship Opportunities

•**Coffee Hour in the Foyer** is a time to drop in for a snack and fellowship before the 11:15 a.m. worship service, or after the 9 a.m. service on Sunday Mornings. Hosted by a different ministry group each week.

•**United Methodist Women.** Over 200 women of all ages are members of the United Methodist Women of Metropolitan Memorial. We meet monthly in small circles for fellowship, study, devotion and mutual support. The UMW also provides programs for women at various times throughout the year, and supports mission work in our community and throughout the world. Contact UMW President, Anne Brown at 202.257.9431 or by e-mail at [annebrown@hotmail.com](mailto:annebrown@hotmail.com).

•**Sewing Circle** - meets in Room 101 every Tuesday morning at 10a.m. from late Spring till November. They meet to create crafts for the annual bazaar. Crafts include the Raggedy Ann and Andy Dolls and Teddy Bears. Join us even if you have no sewing experience! Contact Margaretha Sawyer, 301.933.0894.

### •Looking for a Way to Connect? Plan to Play!

In the hustle and bustle of DC life, are you looking for a way to connect to other members and friends of Metropolitan? This fall we will be starting a monthly "play group" for adults of all ages and stages - all are welcome! We'll join in fun and fellowship while enjoying some of the wonderful sights, sounds, and events around the DC Metro area. Museums, monuments, dining out, the zoo, cheering on our local teams - the possibilities for exploring our town and growing together in community are endless. Please contact Rev. Sandy Rector ([srector@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:srector@mmumc-dc.org)) if you'd like to hear more, or share ideas about places to go and things to do. Keep an eye out for **Plan to Play** event announcements coming soon.

•**TABLES OF 8** members are assigned to dinner with 7 others in member's homes once a month between February and May. This ministry brings together Metropolitan members who make new friends and strengthen old friendships, & offers food, fun and fellowship with participants that span generations. Contact Kris Oberdick, 202.362.9405 or [koberick@verizon.net](mailto:koberick@verizon.net)

## Ice Cream Social Sunday, August 24



UMW will be hosting an ice cream social in the Great Hall on Sunday, August 24 at 11 a.m. Come and mingle with friends while enjoying your favorite flavors of ice cream.

## Church Library

Metropolitan's library has valuable resources for your personal study, including reference materials, lectures on cassettes, and an extensive collection of volumes on theology, social issues, Methodist history, faithful living, and personal needs, such as grief. The library also has books for children. Open Sundays 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Contact Rachel Rogers, 703.437.8255.



### Come and Get it!

Is something missing from your life? (Not the "something" that Dr. Parker talks about). Lost and misplaced eye glasses, jackets, gloves and you won't believe what else have been collecting in the Metropolitan Lost & Found Box. After one year of residence, these items are given to charity. After Labor Day (Monday, September 1), all items not claimed will be removed for donation. Here's your last chance!

## Ministry with Seniors



IONA Senior Services is a nonprofit community organization located in northwest Washington, DC. IONA is dedicated to enabling older people to live with dignity and independence. Through its professional staff, corps of volunteers and close collaboration with other organizations, IONA provides services and access to programs designed to meet the needs of seniors and their families. IONA educates and advocates to achieve a deeper understanding of and a strong community commitment to seniors. IONA offers individual and group counseling for seniors and family members. Support Groups on a variety of health and aging related topics are also available. IONA has a variety of Alzheimer's care programs to support individuals in all stages of dementia and enable them to remain as independent and involved in the community as possible. **IONA has volunteer opportunities for people of all ages!** Friendly visiting, meal delivery, medical appointment escorting, fund-raising, technology support and administrative assistance are but a few of the many volunteer opportunities available with IONA. Internships and service learning are also available to students. For more information, contact our church's representative, Irving Biscomb 202.966.4430.



**AARP** for retired persons in our congregation. Meets monthly in the Vestry. Please join us on Monday, September 15 in the Vestry as we begin our fall season of events. Marion Gurfein, poet and author, and Lucille Frohling, actress, will be reading poems from Marion's book entitled "OLDER and BOLDER." The book applies a marvelous sense of humor to the many aspects of aging. Social time is at 12:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Contact Bobby Turnbull, 301.320.4154.

## Congregational Care Ministries

Our Mission: As a community of followers of Jesus Christ, the Congregational Care Ministries seek to live out his commandment "that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12 NRSV) by hearing and responding to the care related needs of the congregation.

•*Ours is an approach that considers wholistic needs including physical, mental, spiritual, social, and living in relationship with God, one another, and the whole of creation.*

•*While each care ministry committee addresses specific needs, they conduct their ministry in a spirit of collaboration and coordination with the pastors and with one another to enhance and unify our ability to reach out and nurture the congregation.*

All these Congregational Care ministries are welcoming of and in need of new members now and throughout the year. Stop by our Open House table to sign up for an upcoming event and to learn more about how your gifts and talents can help these ministries.

•**Stephen Ministers** are assigned to people in need of support and meet with their care receiver about one hour a week. Stephen ministers meet with the Stephen leader regularly for supervision & continuing education. They must undergo extensive training to prepare for this confidential ministry. Contact Rev. Sandy Rector, 202.363.4900, ext. 19.

•**TABLES OF 8** members are assigned to dinner with 7 others in member's homes once a month between February and May. This ministry brings together Metropolitan members who make new friends and strengthen old friendships, & offers food, fun and fellowship with participants that span generations. Contact Kris Oberdick, 202.362.9405 or koberick@verizon.net

•**Visitor Corp** makes visits to church members who can't get out and would enjoy a visit. This volunteer group calls on church members once a month. They share news of the church and the bounty of the altar, delivering a poinsettia at Christmas and a lily at Easter. Making calls to our members through the Visitor Corps is a rewarding experience. Children are often welcome partners on these visits, making it a great way to show our young people the importance and joy of reaching out to others. New volunteers are always welcome, and there is a pressing need now for visitors for both short term and long-term visitation. Contact Rev. Sandy Rector, 202.363.4900, ext. 19 or srector@mmumc-dc.org.

•**Wellness Committee** meets monthly to assess & plan activities related to the wholistic health needs of the congregation. Watch for our upcoming CPR training scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2008, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. This commit-

tee welcomes both new long-term members and short-term volunteers who would like to help with special projects. Contact Susan Roach, 202.686.1926 or susanroach@verizon.net.



•**Prayer Shawl Ministry** members knit or crochet beautiful prayer shawls for our fellow Christians who are in need of comfort or who need to be reminded of God's love. Members also make baby blankets that are presented to the new babies in the church. Members

are delighted to assist beginners & share techniques, and meet monthly on both the third Tuesday and Sunday. The next meeting times are Sunday August 17 at 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday August 19 at 1:30 p.m. Contact Annette Fletchall, 202.363.9231.

•**Seasons of Sympathy** Grieving can be a long and difficult process, taking time, patience and support. We invite those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to join with others who are grieving for a time of fellowship, reflection, and comfort. Seasons of Sympathy is a quarterly outreach sponsored by the Congregational Care Ministry and Stephen's Ministers, and is supported by our pastoral staff. The next session is scheduled for Sunday, November 2, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, please contact Rev. Sandy Rector. 202.363.4900, ext. 19.



### Upcoming Events

•**CPR/AED Training, Saturday, November 1, 2008, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Learn the new techniques for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an AED. Cost is \$58 and includes books, materials and certification cards. Please pre-register for this class.

•**Seasons of Sympathy Tea on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.**

For persons who have lost a loved one and wish to reflect in the company of others who offer a supportive presence. Sponsored by Stephen Ministry, Visitor Corp and Wellness. Contact Rev. Sandy Rector, 202.363.4900, ext. 19 or srector@mmumc-dc.org or Susan Roach, 202.686.1926 or susanroach@verizon.net.

## Ministries of Service & Advocacy

• **Advocacy Ministry Team** – The advocacy ministry team focuses on issues of social action and justice. Continuing in the tradition of effective social witness that has long characterized our congregation and our denomination, the team seeks ways to speak for peace and justice in the name of the Gospel and works to educate and activate congregants about issues of Christian concern. Current initiatives include 1) participation in the Washington Interfaith Network, a grassroots coalition of DC churches working on issues of affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization and 2) efforts to make both church and society more open to gays and lesbians. Contact Ann Michel, 202.244.2977 or [amichel@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:amichel@wesleyseminary.edu).

• **Community Council for Homeless at Friendship Place** helps homeless individuals in upper northwest Washington with health services, job counseling, housing referrals and securing benefits. Contact Dick Schleicher, 301.229.2385.

• **Metropolitan House** shelters homeless men in the winter months & homeless families at other times of the year. Contact Dick Schleicher, 301.229.2385.

• **Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)** is a coalition of over 50 congregations including Metropolitan, who along with community associations, schools, tenant organizations and unions, address community issues in the District of Columbia, working for affordable housing, fair wages, and better schools. Contact Ann Michel, 202.244.2977 or [amichel@wesleyseminary.org](mailto:amichel@wesleyseminary.org).

• **Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April.** Each spring, a team of volunteers from our church renovate a home in Washington, D.C. Check future newsletters and website for time and location.

## Friendship Place Expands Permanent Housing

Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place is pleased to announce that we have been selected to participate in Mayor Fenty's plan to provide permanent housing and supportive services to 800 chronically homeless adults. The DC Department of Human Services has awarded a contract to Friendship Place to provide supportive services to help 35 adults move from the streets into housing. By October 1, we will open a branch office and hire three new caseworkers to launch the program.

Friendship Place Executive Director Jean-Michel Giraud shared that he is "thrilled to be partnering with the city on this new project. It will provide the opportunity to reach out to highly vulnerable people on the streets, those with multiple medical and psychiatric conditions. Some of the homeless people to be served by this program are older and all are living without adequate care—there's a great urgency to help."

Since his 2006 campaign, Mayor Fenty has worked with Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) on housing issues and shown a strong commitment to providing affordable housing and ending homelessness. The mayor's 2009 budget, announced March 31, committed \$19.2 million for this new program: "This Fund will enable the District to embrace a 'housing first' approach to addressing homelessness by immediately aligning resources essential to quickly mobilize to meet the service and housing needs of people who are homeless... [This] makes real the District's commitment to implement the Homeless No More Plan, while also creating the infrastructure to engage in public-private partnerships that will grow the pool of resources necessary to meaningfully address homelessness."

Founded in 1992 as a grassroots community response to homelessness, Friendship Place helps homeless and formerly homeless adults in upper northwest Washington, D.C., to rebuild their lives with the involvement of the community. For more information, visit [www.cchfp.org](http://www.cchfp.org).

## World Missions

• **UMCOR** The United Methodist Committee on Relief responds to disasters and needs at home and abroad with relief supplies and financial aid. Contact Rev. Sandy Rector, 202.363.4900, ext. 19.

• **Heifer International** is a non-profit organization whose goal is to help end world hunger and poverty through self-reliance & sustainability. Join in planning for this by contacting Rev. Sandy Rector, 202.363.4900 ext.19.

• **Volunteers in Mission** VIM encourages and enables Christians to exemplify "Christian Love In Action." Our aim is to achieve the Great Commission through providing short-term mission opportunities for everyday Christians. VIM provides opportunities for service by developing and nurturing relationships with domestic and international leaders.

Since 2003, Metropolitan has supported short-term foreign and domestic mission trips. Plans for 2009 mission trips are underway. Contact VIM program coordinator, Anne Brown at 202.257.9431 or [annebrown@hotmail.com](mailto:annebrown@hotmail.com).

• **Africa University**, a Methodist-related institution in Zimbabwe educates leaders from many African nations. Metropolitan Memorial sponsors a scholarship annually. Contact Barbara Gaskill, 202.244.3512.

• **Amnesty International Freedom Writers** Be an agent of change. Join Metropolitan's freedom writers. We write requests for the release of prisoners of conscience throughout the world. Founded in London in 1961, AI is a Nobel Prize-winning grassroots activist organization with over 1.8 million members worldwide. AI undertakes research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights. Such an action can help bring about a prisoner's release, secure vital information, launch an investigation, or even save a life. Each month, members of Metropolitan's Freedom Writers Network take action on three selected human rights cases. If you would like to have AI letters mailed to you each month, which you can then sign and mail, please contact AI project coordinator, Anne Brown at 202.257.9431 or by e-mail at [annebrown@hotmail.com](mailto:annebrown@hotmail.com).

## Adult Study Opportunities



Metropolitan Memorial offers a variety of learning opportunities for adults during the Sunday Morning “Study Hour” (10:10 a.m. – 11 a.m.) and at other times throughout the week. For more information on any of these, please contact Rev. Sandy Rector at 202.363.4900, ext. 19 or [srector@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:srector@mmumc-dc.org).

•**Great Hall Lectures** are held weekly on a diversity of topics ranging from the intersection of faith with social issues, daily living, and Biblical, theological, artistic, historical, and seasonal explorations. Check *The Messenger*, Sunday bulletins, or [www.nationalchurch.org](http://www.nationalchurch.org) for upcoming topics. Sundays, 10:10 a.m. in the Great Hall.

•**Living Faith** Sunday School class seeks to develop faith, worship God and build community both within our own group and in outreach to others. This diverse small group conducts Bible study and related literature lessons through videos, books, Scripture reading and other means. Please join us this Fall for a 10 week study of the New Testament followed by a focus on St. Paul. Class meets Sundays at 10:10 a.m. in the Christie Room. Contact: Pat Simpich, [Pat.Simpich@FTA.DOT.gov](mailto:Pat.Simpich@FTA.DOT.gov) or 202.966.1566, or Nancy Wolfe, [nwolve26@adelphia.net](mailto:nwolve26@adelphia.net) or 301.668.7049.

•**Questions of Faith** is a class that explores issues of faith and faith development through social issues and current topics. The class utilizes a blend of video presentation and open forum discussion to better understand the world we live in. It is open to all and meets Sundays in the Conference Room (located in the church offices) at 10:10 a.m.

•**Science and Religion** explores what it means to be a person of faith in the age of science. The class utilizes a blend of guest lecturers, books and other writings by scientists and theologians (and scientist theologians!) to discuss how God and science not only coexist but compliment one another. Meets in the Parlor at 10:10 a.m. on Sundays. Contact Dr. Maynard Moore at [maynardmoore@onebox.com](mailto:maynardmoore@onebox.com) for more information.

•**Couples Class** Join together on Sunday mornings with others seeking to connect while balancing faith, family and career in their lives. Fall schedule and location to be determined, contact Rev. Sandy Rector for more information. 202.363.4900, ext. 19.

### Coming this Fall!

Keep an eye on future bulletins and editions of *The Messenger*, as well as our website ([www.nationalchurch.org](http://www.nationalchurch.org)) as we finalize the schedule for our weeknight short-term study opportunities which will include a series on **Heaven and Hell**, an examination of our understanding of both “places” through scripture, doctrine, and culture; and a series on **World Religions**, which will explore other major faith systems around the globe, including the similarities and differences with Christianity.

### Connecting With Others

Dialogue for the 21st Century, Led by Rev. Dr. Tony Gattis  
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. beginning October 7

*The Beatles* sang about “all the lonely people” in 1966. In 2000, Dr. Robert Putnam documented the collapse of American community in his work, *Bowling Alone*. If not us, all around us are people experiencing loneliness and varying degrees of estrangement and alienation. Even among the well-connected - people working with others every day - many report unmet needs for a mutual, collaborative understanding.

Yet, as soon as we reach out to make connection, we encounter difference, disagreement, and painful misunderstanding. Many viewpoints separate us arising from different faiths, different world views, different political commitments, and different basic values. Even our beliefs within the same denomination and in specific congregations can separate us. We expe-

rience controversy, conflict, and disagreement. We know that we live in an age of profound cultural differences, but we are not able to productively engage those differences. In this predicament, **dialogue** has become the buzzword (or watchword) for the 21st century. **Do you know what dialogue is? Do you know when you experience it? Do you know how to practice it? Are you good at it?** Frequently, exchanges are referred to as dialogue or a good dialogue when they fall far short of any working definition. It is time to know the difference?!

Join Rev. Dr. Tony Gattis for a six-week study of dialogue. He is seeking 12-20 participants interested in examining the art and practice of dialogue and how its practice at MMUMC can be expanded. There are two goals for this study. The first is to

examine how each individual can understand and use dialogue more effectively in his or her own life. The second is to encourage the practice of dialogue in our congregation. While we will look at a range of options for using dialogue at MMUMC, one program will be examined more specifically: The InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFCMW) provides materials for interfaith dialogues and will be organizing groups throughout 2009. This organization includes the **Baha’i, Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Latter-day Saints, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Sikh, and Zoroastrian faith communities**. The course is offered on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the conference room. If you have questions about the study contact Tony at [tgattis@vzavenue.net](mailto:tgattis@vzavenue.net) or 703.920.3107.

## Campus Ministries

### Introducing American University Campus Outreach

We welcome to Metropolitan, J. Cody Nielsen, who is our new Associate for Campus Ministry! Cody is a first year seminarian at Wesley Theological Seminary. He will be working with our congregation to build bridges with the established campus ministries at American University. He states, "I am excited to be working at Metropolitan. I, along with all of you, will be working to establish activities for the students to become engaged at Metropolitan. These ideas are not determined as of yet but may include a book study, working to help international and graduate students with housing, special worship services, and many others. Take care and I look forward to meeting all of you this year." If you are interested in helping, please contact Cody at [cnielsen@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:cnielsen@mmumc-dc.org) or 319.759.9688.



### Housing Aid to New AU Grad Students

Metropolitan Memorial is looking for AU alums or other volunteers to temporarily house new AU graduate students while they are in search of permanent housing. Since AU does not provide any housing to its graduate students, Metropolitan Memorial would like to launch a service program, which would be part of our ministry to AU students, and at the same time provide tangible assistance to young adults new to the Washington metropolitan area. If you are interested in participating, please contact J. Cody Nielsen at 319.759.9688 or [cnielsen@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:cnielsen@mmumc-dc.org).

## Youth Ministries



Youth activities at MMUMC include worship, study, service and fellowship on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings at Youth Connection, and many special activities throughout the year. Contact Rev. Jimmy Sherrod at 202.363.4900, ext. 24 or [jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org) or text or call him on his cell phone at 865.805.5373.

•**Middle School and Senior High Sunday School \*Please note the room change.**

(7th and 8th Graders) meets at 10:10 a.m. in Room 204  
(9th thru 12th grade) meets at 10:10 a.m. in Room 206

•**Confirmation Class** We are in the process of working out the details for a confirmation class. Please look for information later this fall. If you have questions about confirmation, contact Rev. Jimmy Sherrod, 202.363.4900, ext. 24.

•**Youth Connection**, for 7th - 12th grades. Youth Connection meets every Sunday from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise announced ahead of time). Evening activities will include a snack supper, interactive games and activities, worship, and faith-building learning and service opportunities. During this time, we will explore the God's gift of play as well as what it means to be in relationship with Jesus and each other.

•**Acolytes**. Young persons in grades 6 - 12 are invited to participate in worship as acolytes. Interested persons please contact Mary Golladay, 301.320.3194.

•**Appalachian Service Project**. Each summer, Senior High and College-age young people participate in ASP - a home repair mission in Appalachia. During this week-long mission trip, the young people and their adult sponsors live and work on-site. Interested youth and adults should contact Rev. Jimmy Sherrod, 202-363-4900 ext. 24.

•**Scouting**. Metropolitan Memorial sponsors Boy Scout Troop 666. Contact Richard Tilley at 301.986.5578.

**Exciting possibilities!** We are exploring opportunities for youth to be involved in worship in a variety of ways. Please be in prayer about the following: youth choir, drama team, youth worship band, and youth interested in working with multi-media in worship. Youth are encouraged to inquire about any of the above opportunities. We are also planning additional service opportunities throughout the year. If you are interested, please talk with Jimmy Sherrod, 202.363.4900, ext. 24 or [jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org).

### Adult volunteers!

We will have some separate activities for junior highs and senior highs and as our youth program grows in numbers, we need to have more adult volunteers to help with many aspects of this ministry. If God is calling you to help our youth as an adult volunteer, please contact Rev. Jimmy Sherrod ([jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org)).

## Children's Ministry



“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”  
Mark 10:14

### Open House Month at Metropolitan

The Children's Sunday School program will kick-off on **Sunday, September 7**. Parents and students are invited to meet their teachers and explore their new Sunday school room during the study hour. I hope you can join us as we kick-off another wonder-filled year of Sunday School! Choir resumes this date as well – so warm up your voice and come sing with us!

**Sunday, September 14** - Third Grade Bible Presentation Sunday. The third graders and their families are invited to join Kay Jacobi, Children's Ministry Director, and the ministers for brunch before the 9 a.m. worship service. We will meet in the Parlor at 8:15 a.m. – family and friends welcome! Third graders watch your mail for more details!

**Sunday, September 28** - The Children and Youth Ministry Team are sponsoring our third annual church and community picnic on the front lawn. **Mark your calendars now for this church community-building event.** It will be an old-fashioned event, with hamburgers and hot-dogs and folks bringing picnic side dishes to share. We will have a steel drum band and, of course, a moonbounce, along with a cotton candy machine, face painting, balloon animals, and an old-fashioned popcorn machine! We will start immediately following the 11:15 a.m. worship service. So plan on eating with your friends at Metropolitan on September 28!

### Third Grader Bible Order

If you would like to receive a personalized Bible this fall, please contact Kay Jacobi at 202.363.4857 or [kjacobi@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:kjacobi@mmumc-dc.org). Please include the spelling of your name in your message. Bibles not previously ordered will not be ready for the presentation ceremony on September 16. **However, we still want you to have your own Bible, so call Kay Jacobi soon!**

## Fall Children's Events Calendar

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>September 7</b>  | Open House Sunday (Choir and Sunday School begin)   |
| <b>September 14</b> | Third Grade Bible Presentation during the 9 a.m. worship service<br>Brunch for all Third Graders & their families at 8:15 in the Parlor |
| <b>September 28</b> | Church Wide Picnic on the Lawn, sponsored by the Children & Youth Ministry Team   |
| <b>October 19</b>   | Walk-A-Thon during the study hour   |
| <b>December 7</b>   | Annual Children's Advent Workshop in the Vestry   |
| <b>December 17</b>  | Metropolitan Nursery School Christmas Concert at 9:30 a.m.  |

## Sunday School Teachers and Greeters Still Needed

I still need several volunteers to serve as greeters and teachers in our Children's Sunday School on Sundays for the upcoming year. Teacher and greeter volunteers typically volunteer 2 Sundays per month, leaving 2 additional Sundays each month to participate in other study opportunities. Schedules are made ahead of time and volunteers set the dates they choose to work with the children.

I hope you will prayerful consider serving Metropolitan's children this year and join one of our 5 Godly Play teaching teams. Call me and let's talk about the many ways for you to get involved! Kay Jacobi 202.363.4900 or [jacobi1@erols.com](mailto:jacobi1@erols.com)

## Metropolitan Weekday Nursery School



The Nursery School has provided quality children's programs since 1966 for the children of the church and the community. Our preschool program is open to children ages two through five and begins on September 10 with a parents coffee. Metropolitan's founding philosophy is that young children thrive best in a small, family oriented and nurturing environment. For more information contact Linda Smith, Director, 202.362.8746 or [lsmith@mmumc-dc.org](mailto:lsmith@mmumc-dc.org).

# Sunday Mornings for Children

## What Does a Typical Sunday at Metropolitan Look Like for My Child?

***Children are an integral part of our Sunday mornings and are invited to participate in worship services, choir, Sunday school and all other aspects of our worship experience!***

**9 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service** – Children are welcome to attend our first worship service of the morning. About 15 minutes into the service, children are invited to sit at the altar for the children's sermon, which includes a short spiritual story or bible lesson.

·Following the children's sermon, children may return to their seats, go to the nursery if they are under the age of 4 or join one of our children's choirs.

·*The Cherub Choir* is for children age 4 through second grade and meets in the choir room on the first floor. *The Morningstar Choir* is for children in third grade through sixth grade and meets in the music office on the first floor. Both choirs rehearse and sing until 10:00 each Sunday.

**11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship Service** – This traditional service is also child-friendly. About 15 minutes into the service, children are invited to sit at the altar for the children's sermon, which includes a short spiritual story or bible lesson.

·We welcome children to return to sit with their parents for the remainder of the worship service or go to the nursery if they are under the age of 6.

**10:10 a.m. Sunday School** – We offer Sunday School classes for children six months through sixth grade. Yes, that's right; our Sunday school starts as young as six months! Our two youngest classes follow the Early Christian Awareness (ECA) curriculum and our other five classes follow the *Godly Play* and *Young Children in Worship* curriculum.

In the winter of 2005, MMUMC began a special program on Sunday mornings for babies and toddlers. ***Early Christian Awareness*** (ECA) is a curriculum that embraces the idea that even our littlest children can benefit and grow from a special program designed to teach them about God's love. Teachers of ECA use song, finger play and materials that the children can touch to convey God's love. Through this program, children become aware of their importance as children of God, their relationship to others and God-created beauty of the world. Special equipment and materials have been assembled for this new class.

- ECA I –for 6-18 month olds in Room 100
- ECA II – children 18 - 36 months in Room 102

***Godly Play*** attends to the spiritual development of children, seeking to help children know and experience God rather than simply knowing things about God. The curriculum centers in the sharing of Biblical stories and the patterns of worship and liturgy. ***Godly Play*** calls forth the child's response to God, encouraging a sense

Childcare is provided throughout the morning (8:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.) for infants to pre-walkers in room 100 and walkers to 3 year olds in room 102. We also offer childcare during the 11:15 a.m. worship service for 4 and 5 year olds in Room 102.



of awe and wonder in the presence of the Holy. It cultivates reverence for sacred space and respect for one another. It assists the child in the art of using religious language to help interpret what happens in their daily life.

- Little Wonders – 3 and 4 year olds (Room 200)
- Godly Players – children enrolled in pre-K & Kindergarten (Room 202)
- Young Disciples - 1st and 2nd grade (Room 201)
- Joyful Spirits - 3rd and 4th grade (Room 101)
- Bible Explorers - 5th and 6th grade (Room 203)

**GAME NIGHT!!**  
**Wednesday,**  
**August 20,**  
**6:30-8:30pm**  
**Meet in the Vestry**



Bring your favorite game to play and dessert to share!  
If you have questions, contact Douglass Anne Cartwright 202.230.6565

\*FYI: Movie Night on August 13th has been cancelled.



Join us on the front lawn under the big tent for our annual picnic on the Lawn on Sunday, September 28 at 12:30 p.m.! The Children and Youth Ministry Team are sponsoring the picnic and we hope you and your friends will join us for a day of fellowship and fun. We will start immediately following the 11:15 a.m. worship service. So plan on eating with your friends at Metropolitan on September 28!

The Children and Youth Ministry Team will provide the hotdogs and hamburgers, veggie burgers and chips, all the fixings, the lemonade and water. We hope you will help provide the rest. To avoid too many salads and to make sure we have some yummy deviled eggs, we ask that you follow these guidelines:

- If your last name begins with the letter
- A – I, please bring deviled eggs
- J – O, please bring some type of salad. Any salad will do – be creative, show off your Southern side, or simply stop by Balducci’s on the way to church! Think potato salad, green salad, fruit salad
- P – Z, please bring cole slaw. Again, be creative or simply choose an old favorite recipe!
- Some of you may be concerned... there has been no mention of dessert – have no fear, UMW circle 10 and circle 3 have agreed to provide us with sweets for the picnic! Thank You!



## United Methodist Women Prepare for November 8 Bazaar

The annual tradition of a fun and festive fall bazaar continues again this year on November 8 and 9 at Metropolitan UMC. On Saturday, doors will open at 8 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. The event will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, with lunch available after the second worship service.



The bazaar is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our church and welcoming congregation to the neighborhood and wider Washington community. It’s a time of fellowship and good bargains – all for a good cause. Last year, more than \$16,000 was raised from the event and given to local and international charities, including Metropolitan House, Red Bird Mission, and Africa Action.

UMW members and friends are busy sewing, sorting and planning for the event, with Anita Seline serving as bazaar coordinator. But the success of the bazaar truly depends on the support of the entire church. Here’s where you can help in the coming weeks:

**Donate.** Place your books, kitchen items, attic treasures, Christmas decorations, recycled new gifts, videos, etc .in the UMW closet on the lower level of the church. (No toys or clothes this year, please.) During the week, jewelry may be left at the front desk in the office with whomever is in charge that day. Donated jewelry can be left on Sunday with the librarian in the library.

**Sorting and pricing.** Come join in the fellowship as groups organize and price contributions: Every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to noon. Find us in the Terrace Room near the UMW closet. Contact Bobby Turnbull if you have any questions at 301.320.4154.

**Spread the news.** Flyers for the bazaar are available in the church office. Please pick up a few and post at your local library, neighborhood store, workplace, etc.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer, contact Anita Seline at [amseline@aol.com](mailto:amseline@aol.com) or 202.237.5505.