



Worship at Metropolitan: *Changing from the Inside Out!*

Worship: Our Engagement with God

When God's people gather to sing, pray, hear the word and offer gifts they expect an encounter with the living God, who descends to us, reminds us of our need and summons our fellowship. It is not we who summon God in worship, but God who summons us. God calls; and we are drawn into a divine fellowship, a holy engagement with God.

Engagement is a wonderful word to use with worship. The root of its meaning suggests a "coming together of two or more disparate parties." It suggests a rendezvous, which is what worship is: a meeting between God and God's people. Engagement also suggests activity and involvement. Worship is a verb and "engagement" helps us keep this in mind.

Worship Styles at Metropolitan

As Metropolitan grows into the future, one of the goals of the Church Council in its visioning process is to offer "a variety of worship opportunities ... including reaching out to our neighbors in the community, at American University and across the city." The Worship Ministry Team and Worship Leaders are actively implementing this priority. Over the summer we have been refining the music and worship leadership of the 9:00 a.m. service. *DAYSRING: A Worship Gathering* incorporates a variety of musical styles including an opening medley of praise songs; the format is comfortable and inviting to visitors and members alike while the order of service remains true to our Methodist roots. The 11:15 a.m. Traditional service incorporates conventional prayers and liturgies and classical music from our organ and Chancel Choir. As we continue to mold our services, be prepared to experience even more prayers, creeds, and liturgy from our rich heritage at our traditional service while stretching ourselves musically and prayerfully at our *Dayspring* Worship.

So, we invite you to ENGAGE yourself at worship on Sunday, STRETCH yourself at worship on Sunday and most importantly, OFFER yourself at worship on Sunday. We have so many gifts and talents here at Metropolitan: our musicians, our choirs, our liturgical dancers, our ministers, our lay liturgists and readers, our youth and children – all a gift from God.

And That's Not All...

Sunday is not the only day to worship! We have a variety of special services offered through the year. We offer special Advent, Lenten, and Easter worship opportunities, as well as occasional healing services and our summer Thursday evening worship. Many of these offer a style of worship that can only be experienced in small, intimate settings. We encourage you to participate in as many worship experiences as possible.

Looking to the Future

Beginning in the New Year, we hope to launch a new Saturday evening Praise service. This new worship service will be under the leadership of Rev. Jimmy Sherrod, whose unique gifts allow us to expand our reach and welcome a new group of worshipers into our midst. If you feel called to join this planning team, please contact Jimmy at jsherrod@mmumc-dc.org or at 202.363.4900 ext. 24. We need musicians, singers, enthusiasts and planners. And, when we open our doors to this new service, we hope that our Metropolitan family will support this new venture with open hearts, open minds, prayers of support and a welcoming smile.



~ The Worship Leadership Team

DANCE, MOVEMENT AND SONG!

A new opportunity for children, youth and adults following the children's message at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday Mornings.

Meet Barbara Gaskill in the choir room — join the fun and learn to move.



Staff Spotlight: Sandy Rector

By Lesli Bales-Sherrod

Austin Rector was about 4 years old when his Christmas Eve “meltdown” over not wanting to go to church changed his mother’s life forever.

At the time Sandy Rector, now Metropolitan Memorial’s Minister of Congregational Ministries, attended church only on Easter and Christmas, as she had grown up doing. But while wrestling an unhappy Austin into his dress shoes - the same shoes he hadn’t worn since Easter - Sandy started questioning the tradition.

““Why are we doing this?”” Sandy recalls asking herself. ““We say we’re Christians, but I don’t even know what that means.””

Sandy and her husband, Clark, made a commitment to go to church as a family and explore their faith. They plugged in at Liberty Grove United Methodist in Burtonsville, Md., near their home in Laurel, but Sandy felt behind.

“I went to talk to the pastor about not knowing about the Bible,” she says. “I asked him if he had something like ‘Bible Basics for Dummies.’”

Sandy’s pastor encouraged her to join a Disciple Bible study, where she spent nine months learning history, context and chronology.

“It helped my head knowledge,” Sandy says, pointing to her temple. “My faith was up here.”

Sandy was filling some leadership roles at the church, including co-chairing the education committee, but it wasn’t until she participated in a women’s spiritual retreat weekend that she felt “it” for the first time - she knew what it meant to be loved by God.

“There was such peace and joy,” Sandy remembers. “It was a life-changing experience for me, powerful, ‘I get it.’”

Sandy felt her motivation shift from doing things in the church because her pastor asked her to, to wanting to share what she had found. As she felt increasingly called to serve in the church, Sandy became frustrated she didn’t have time to do more. She was working in marketing and public relations and raising three children: Austin, now 18, Hailey, 15 and Evan, 13. But she had reached a point of “inner turmoil.”

“Then one Sunday our pastor preached a sermon on being called into ministry as a vocation,” Sandy says. “He said everything I was thinking, feeling and experiencing. This was me.”

As the congregation prayed with heads bowed, Sandy’s pastor asked anyone who was feeling that call to raise his or her hand.

“Clark was nudging me, and I put my hand up,” Sandy remembers. “All our pastor said was, ‘I see that hand.’”

Afterwards, however, 15 people came up to Sandy and asked, “Was that you that raised your hand?”

“They had seen it before I had,” Sandy admits.

Later, her pastor confirmed that he had seen it, too. In fact, he told Sandy he had written the sermon specifically for her.

Still Sandy questioned, “Why me? Why now?” She didn’t feel like she knew enough yet. But the next morning, after learning a friend’s husband had died, she decided not to delay answering the call.

“We never know what life holds,” Sandy explains. “This was not about me and my life. This was about what God wanted to do with my life for others. If God was calling me, I was going to trust this call. And that was my moment of letting go of myself.”

Not that doubts didn’t arise. After being accepted to Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., Sandy overheard her pastor talking to another seminary student. She had “no idea” what they were talking about and felt discouraged by her lack of knowledge. Leaving the meeting, she prayed specifically for affirmation.

That’s when she ran into Bishop Felton E. May in the grocery store.

“I told him I had applied to Wesley, and he said, ‘I met with your pastor this morning. See, your call is already being affirmed,’” Sandy remembers.

Sandy was struck by how the bishop used the very word she had been praying. Finally, she decided to stop worrying. After all, “God doesn’t call the equipped; God equips the called,” she notes.

Sandy earned her Master of Divinity in 2005, graduating summa cum laude and as one of the top students in her class. Metropolitan is her first appointment. She started July 1, 2005, and preached her first sermon two days later, the first Sunday Metropolitan and Eldbrooke met as a merged congregation.

As an associate pastor for the past three years, Sandy has overseen service and advocacy, adult study, congregational care, internal nurture, and worship and the arts. As the staff hones its job descriptions, she will focus more on pastoral care, working on enhancing existing ministries and developing an older adult ministry, both of which Sandy is “really excited about.”

“I think there are a lot of opportunities ahead of us to move in new and exciting directions and reach communities inside and outside our doors,” she says.

Though working in the ministry has its ups and downs, Sandy is confident she’s living faithfully to what God has called her to do. The best part, she says, is “seeing in small ways how God has spoken through me to offer support and encouragement to people in our community of faith, being there through all of life’s journeys, the highs and the lows, helping them to deepen their faith and their spirituality.”

Sandy, now 44, realizes that her life experiences – from starting out as a Christian who attended church only twice a year to watching Austin “leave the nest” for boot camp with the Marines in July – only enhance her ability to minister to others.

“I think there are a lot of people like me,” she explains. “I was living a good, comfortable life, but I had this gnawing feeling in my heart. I knew there had to be something more, something was missing from my life. A lot of people are in that same place, perhaps filling the empty parts of their life with things.”

But Sandy knows the secret isn’t in the “stuff” they can acquire – it is “the fullness of life we reach when we enter into a relationship with God that fills the void.”

Our Community

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

- Tuesday, September 16 at 1:30 p.m.
- Sunday, September 21 at 12:30 p.m.

The Arts Council Presents Piano Recital and Art Exhibit Opening September 21

Last spring, our community had the opportunity to hear a recital by a Russian pianist who had recently arrived in Washington with his family. The more than 300-strong audience was electrified by **Artur Aksenov's** rendering of Beethoven, Wagner-Liszt, and Mussorgsky. One reviewer has described him as "a concert pianist of spectacular talents." On September 21 at 4 pm, we have another chance to hear Artur Aksenov, this time playing an all-Russian program of Scriabin Preludes and Poems, Rachmaninoff Preludes and Songs, and Mussorgsky's majestic Pictures at an Exhibition.

Following the recital, we will adjourn to the Great Hall for a reception and art exhibit opening - *The Angle of Repose: The Spirit of Stone in Watercolor* - by Peggy Williams.

Ms. Williams work can be found in various collection in Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and London, as well as in many collections around the United States. Join us for these wonderful arts events!

UMW Recognition Luncheon Nominations Requested

Each year the United Methodist Women of Metropolitan Memorial hold a Recognition Luncheon honoring women who have made a significant contribution to the church, the nation, and the world. The Recognition Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 7 at 12:30 p.m. We are seeking nominations of outstanding women to honor this year. **Please submit nominations by September 30** by contacting Robin Emery at emerymjon@aol.com or 202.625.9273. In addition to recognizing these special women, we will also celebrate the babies who have been born this year and remember with gratitude those who died this year.

Welcome Back Luncheon

Join us as we welcome Hazel and Robert Terhune, who have recently retired from 40 years of service as missionaries in Japan. Our United Methodist Women have supported the Terhunes with a monetary gift each year. Please join us for a noon luncheon with the Terhunes on Wednesday, October 1 at DeCarlos restaurant (4822 Yuma St NW). Please RSVP to Ann Veatch at veatcha@peoplepc.com or 703.893.1124.

AARP to Offer Flu Shots

AARP will offer flu and pneumonia shots on Monday, October 20 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Vestry. Please consult your physician to make sure you should get the pneumonia shot. Both shots are free for those with Medicare Part B or Bravo (bring your card!), and the flu shots are free for those with Aetna. For others the flu shots are \$30, and the pneumonia shots are \$40. Refreshments will be served.

Bess' Corner



Have you seen the newly decorated area in the Vestry we lovingly call Bess' Corner? The furniture has been reupholstered, a new rug is in place, a new lamp shade and a beautiful new window treatment add up to a very updated look. This corner is where the senior church members, as well as other friends, gather on Sunday mornings to have coffee or tea during the social hour. We want to make them feel special. Come join them and enjoy the beautiful refurbished area. Thanks to Rose Harper, Barbara Morgan, Joan Spencer, Sue Wadel and Jane Cunningham for making this possible.

In the Library...

Coming soon to the Library, "*Living Upon the Way, Selected Sermons of E. Stanley Jones on Self Surrender and Conversion*," a set of 15 one-hour audio CDs plus a 311 page book by Anne Mathews-Younes, author, MMUMC member, and granddaughter of Dr. Jones.

Member News!



Ann Cochran is featured in this month's AARP magazine! Her article features her growing relationship with her father. The article entitled "50 Reasons to Love Being 50+: Because You've Finally Become Closer to Your Parents" can be found online at http://www.aarpmagazine.org/people/50_reasons_to_love_being_50.html.

AU Campus Ministry The Other Six Days Ministry

The social justice ministry of the AU Methodists and the campus ministry of Metropolitan is actively involved in an education project, a service opportunity, and a monthly worship experience on various social justice topics affecting the world and our local area. Each month is a different topic. September's topic is "Gentrification in Washington D.C." October's topic is "Reproductive Rights" with November's topic being "Consumerism in the Midst of the Holiday Season." If anyone would like to get involved in this important aspect of AU ministry, or if you have suggestions for future topics, please contact Cody Nielsen at cnielsen@mmumc-dc.org or 319.759.9688.

Book Study Starting this Month

Are you interested in engaging with college students in a book study? This could be your opportunity! A book study is being formed for students and church members who are interested in getting together once a week to discuss the book, "Jesus for President" by Shaine Claiborne. This book can be best described as a nonpolitical book about politics. It transcends party lines and looks at how Jesus' ministry is in opposition to political movements and ideologies. If you would like to be involved, please contact Cody Nielsen at cnielsen@mmumc-dc.org or 319.759.9688. The study will begin within the next 2-3 weeks and will be completed around Thanksgiving.

Study Ministry

Connecting With Others Dialogue for the 21st Century

Led by Rev. Dr. Tony Gattis

Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 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 experience 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 or 703.920.3107.

Upcoming Great Hall Lectures

Sundays at 10:10 a.m.

September 21 - The Angle of Repose

Artist Peggy Williams on her new GH watercolor exhibit

September 28 - Being a Reconciling Congregation

What’s Ahead: MMUMC’s Advocacy Team

October 5 - Becoming a Calling Congregation

Lecture by David McAllister-Wilson, President Wesley Theological Seminary

October 12 - Faith and Politics

Guest speakers Mike McCurry and Burns Strider

October 19 - Annual Tyler Rusch Walk for the Homeless

October 26 - Religious Fundamentalism

Lecture by Dr. Sathi Clarke, Wesley Theological Seminary

November 2 - Mission Reflection

Nicaragua and Mississippi Volunteer in Mission Teams

November 9 - UMW Bazaar

November 16 - Is Self Development Idolatry?

Lecture by Dr. Tony Gattis

November 23 - No Great Hall Lecture

One Service at 10 a.m. and Commitment Sunday Brunch

November 30 - Handel’s *Messiah*

Lecture by Rev. Barbara Greene

AU Table Talk Lunch Series

Noon Lunch and 12:20 PM Discussion

Kay Spiritual Life Center Lounge

Join us for the Table Talk Lunch Series at the Kay Spiritual Life Center Lounge, where the University community meets to discuss matters of moral, social, and ethical concern.

A buffet lunch is provided free to students. A donation of \$5 each is requested from faculty and staff to help offset the cost of the program. Reservations required. Please RSVP 24 hours before the scheduled event at 202.885.3321 or at kslc@american.edu

Wednesday, September 17

A Threat to the Peace? The Supreme Court & the DC Handgun Ban

Tuesday, September 23

Campaign Etiquette: Can Obama & McCain Change the Way Washington Works?

Wednesday, October 15

Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 60: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

Wednesday, November 19

Iran: Engagement, Isolation, or Invasion?

Wednesday, December 3

US & Mexico Relations: The Merida Initiative’s Effect on Human Rights

Speakers for each event to be announced.

Sponsored by the Office of the University Chaplain
Kay Spiritual Life Center, American University

Service & Advocacy at Metropolitan

Reconciling Ministry Forum

Sunday, September 28, 10:10 a.m., Great Hall

A Reconciling Ministry subcommittee of the Advocacy Ministry team has been established to focus on the next steps Metropolitan might take as a reconciling congregation.

On Sunday, September 28 during the 10:10 a.m. study hour, the Reconciling Ministry subcommittee will hold an open forum in the Great Hall to discuss possible next steps and hopes and desires for the future. All are welcome to participate in this discussion.

We also will be joined by a representative from the Baltimore Washington Area Reconciling Methodists (BWARM) who will address specific actions we might take including Metropolitan's participation in BWARM and the national Reconciling Ministries Network.

For more information contact, Reconciling Ministry subcommittee chair, Anne Brown at annebrown@hotmail.com or at 202.257.9431.

Baltimore Washington Area Reconciling Methodists Conference

Saturday, October 4, 8:30 a.m., Metropolitan Memorial

The Baltimore Washington Area Reconciling Methodists (BWARM) is holding a one-day conference on Saturday, October 4, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Metropolitan.

The keynote speaker for the conference is Rev. Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell who will speak on "Biblical Perspectives."

The focus of the conference is how to extend hospitality to all of God's children including persons who may not have a chance to hear about the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons in the church, persons who may never have been able to share their own stories with their church, and persons who want to know more about how to talk about LGBT issues in the church.

Concurrent workshops will be offered focusing on developing the fruits of the Spirit (Passionate Worship, Radical Hospitality, Developing Faith Formation, and Sharing God's Grace) and exploring "inclusive worship" (talking to children and teens about sexual orientation and gender diversity, inviting young adults back to the church, talking with whom we disagree, and focusing on the language of hospitality and the depth of our churches' welcomes).

As a reconciling congregation, this BWARM conference is a wonderful opportunity for members of Metropolitan to be in fellowship with other United Methodists in the Baltimore Washington Conference working to encourage dialogue and education about LGBT issues.

BWARM's mission is to increase the number of reconciling congregations and to stand in solidarity with all who have been excluded or marginalized by the Church. Members come from United Methodist churches from across the Baltimore-Washington Conference—some are members of reconciling congregations, many are not. We are LGBT and straight people.

Registration is \$35. Lunch is an additional \$12. To register, submit the registration form located on the Web at <http://www.bwarm.org/documents/08-BWARM-Conference-Registration.pdf>. For more information, contact Reconciling Ministry subcommittee chair, Anne Brown at annebrown@hotmail.com or at 202.257.9431.

Tyler Rusch Memorial Help the Homeless Walk

Sunday, October 19

Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in this year's "Help the Homeless Walk!" This annual walk is the principal source of funding for Metropolitan's homeless shelter ministry. Last year's walk raised over \$18,000 dollars! Registration materials will be available soon in *The Messenger* and on-line.

Metropolitan's "Help the Homeless Walk" is part of the Fannie Mae Foundation's Help the Homeless Fundraising Initiative. Not only do individual registrations directly benefit Metropolitan House, but we receive bonus funds from the Fannie Mae Foundation based on the number of people who participate. The more people who walk, the more Metropolitan House benefits.

There will be two start times at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., so you can walk after either church service. Sunday School students will participate with their classes during Sunday School hour. **Persons of all ages are encouraged to take part.** The Mann School Track will be used by the youngest children and anyone else who prefers a shorter walk. There will be a three-quarters mile course through the neighborhood for those who prefer a longer route.

Metropolitan's "Help the Homeless Walk" is held in memory of Tyler Christian Rusch, a young member of the church who was killed in an automobile accident in 2003. Tyler was a frequent volunteer at Metropolitan House shelter for the homeless.



Volunteers in Mission Sunday, October 26

It's time to start considering options for Metropolitan's 2009 VIM trips. On Sunday, October 26 at 12:30 p.m. there will be an information session for persons interested in discussing and determining our 2009 destinations and dates. As we have done in the last three years, there will be two VIM trips: one international and one domestic.

There has been expressed interest in serving in South Africa and returning to the Rosebud Indian reservation in South Dakota. There are other VIM service possibilities as well. The destinations for the 2009 trips have not been chosen, that decision will fall to those interested in serving on a VIM team.

All are welcome to attend the VIM meeting. If you are unable to attend but remain interested in the possibility of participating in VIM, please contact, VIM chair, Anne Brown at annebrown@hotmail.com or at 202.257.9431.

Service & Advocacy at Metropolitan

Support for Metropolitan House

In addition to participation in the annual “Tyler Rusch Memorial Help the Homeless Walk” at Metropolitan on Sunday, October 19, another very beneficial way to support our homeless shelter, Metropolitan House, is the Help the Homeless Partners option. Individuals and many types of organizations can become Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Program Partners. Large corporations, small businesses, government agencies, law and accounting firms, associations, community service groups, faith-based communities, and student groups all have served as Help the Homeless Partners in the past. Partners support beneficiary organizations, such as Metropolitan House, by providing sponsorship fees – along with incentive funds contributed by Fannie Mae, as well as by participating in the Walkathon on the National Mall in November.

Partners receive high visibility in community and promotional materials, including acknowledgment on the Web site (www.helpthehomelessdc.org), the Walkathon poster, T-shirts, and banners. They also receive complimentary registration for all partner organizations’ employee, families, and guest participating in the Walkathon on the Mall.

Interested individuals are encouraged to click on the Partner tab on the above listed Web site for detailed information regarding the Partner Program. Please contact Leigh Rollins at leighs_beads@hotmail.com or at 202.363.2079 if you have any additional questions regarding the program.

Staats Memorial Fund Accepting Grant Proposals

The Margaret Rich Staats Memorial Fund is currently accepting proposals to be reviewed at our fall meeting, for funding in early 2009. The Staats Fund is a committee of the UMW and funds programs and projects that help others, particularly children. Please send proposals to the church office marked “Attention: Staats Memorial Fund” or email Pyper Davis Imperial at pdavis@alumni.princeton.edu.

Attention Marylanders! Stop Slots

United Methodists are being called to take action to oppose a proposal to bring slot machines to Maryland. On Oct. 29, in a special legislative session, state lawmakers will consider a proposal by Gov. Martin O’Malley to bring almost 10,000 state-operated slot machines to Maryland to finance an approximate \$550 million annual shortfall in the state’s education budget. Bishop John R. Schol is calling on all United Methodist to oppose slots. “It is unconscionable that our government would continue to consider and promote slot machine gambling,” he said. The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that “Gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic, and spiritual life, and destructive of good government. As an act of faith and concern, Christians should abstain from gambling and should strive to minister to those victimized by the practice... The Church should promote standards and personal lifestyles that would make unnecessary and undesirable the resort to commercial gambling – including public lotteries – as recreation, as an escape, or as a means of producing public revenue or funds for support of charities or government.” ¶ 163.g. For more information, please go to www.bwcumc.org/content/stop-slots.

Sharing Jerusalem

On Sunday, September 21, “Sharing Jerusalem” will be conducting a prayer service and workshop at Dumbarton United Methodist Church, 3133 Dumbarton Street, NW, at 2 p.m. Sharing Jerusalem is a grassroots movement that educates, organizes, and mobilizes Christian churches in support of a just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the concept of sharing the Holy Land, including Jerusalem, on an equal political and religious basis. For more information go to www.sharingjerusalem.org/events or contact Rev. Monroe Wright, facilitator at Monroe.wright@sharingjerusalem.org.

We Want Your Feedback...

Each fall, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, together with the senior pastor and other clergy, evaluates the performance of the senior pastor, associate pastors, and church staff. Our pastors, staff, and SPRC welcome feedback from the congregation as part of this process.

At the end of this process, as required by our Conference, SPRC makes a recommendation to the Bishop as to whether each pastor should be reappointed. The Bishop considers the recommendation, along with other factors, in deciding whether to reappoint a pastor.

We encourage members of the congregation to provide feedback directly to our pastors and staff throughout the year. We also want to invite members of the congregation to write to the Chair of SPRC, in care of Metropolitan Memorial (there is a separate SPRC “box” in the mail room), or to write to or talk with any member of SPRC with your feedback concerning any pastor or staff. Our policy with regard to confidentiality is the following: SPRC will not consider any unsigned letters. We will, however, respect and agree to requests for confidentiality, if a member of the congregation fears embarrassment or retaliation. We encourage an open dialogue as the most constructive way to address issues of concern, and our goal is to achieve that type of dialogue whenever possible.

Please contact SPRC by October 3 if you wish to have your comments concerning any clergy or staff considered as part of this year’s evaluation process. Members of SPRC are: Marti Cochran (Chair), Anne Brown, Katherine Craven, Suzanne Forsyth, Andy Hershey, Roger Johnson, Megan Lordos, Ken Millian, Bill Roach, Fred Simpich, and Chris Wolf.

Children & Youth Ministries

Sunday School is Back! Come Join the Wonder-filled Fun!

The Children's Sunday school program kicked-off on Sunday, September 7. We had over 60 children in the Vestry on Sunday! It was an unusual start to our new year because of the ongoing construction, but it was lots of fun having all the children together and very energetic!

Please remember we have some room changes this year. If you have any questions, be sure to ask an adult wearing a beaded cross necklace. They are very special persons who have chosen to volunteer with the Children's Ministry Department. They can always help! Also, be sure to look for me, Kay Jacobi! I'll be ever-present in the hallways and would love to answer any questions you may have!

Again, I am delighted that five of our Sunday School classes are exploring and learning through the Godly Play curriculum this year. In addition to periodic updates about Godly Play here in the Messenger, parents be sure to take home a

Early Christian Awareness (ECA)

Our oldest ECA Sunday School class resumed on Sunday, September 7 as well! During the study hour at 10:15 a.m., toddlers meet for musical exploration and learning. ECA is a 20-30 minute class full of songs and puppets, exploration and fun! Parents, please arrive on time! As you can imagine it is difficult enough to get 10 toddlers focused at one time for the Sunday school lesson but to have an eleventh child come in ten minutes late can really upset the whole appletart (so to speak). Thanks for your understanding!



Family Dinner & A Movie

Friday, September 26, 6 p.m.

Bring a blanket or a sleeping bag and perhaps a pillow and come out to enjoy a movie with your friends at Metropolitan. After the movie starts, Kay Jacobi will meet with parents to discuss this year's Sunday school program and answer questions about Godly Play and the children's ministry programs at MMUMC. Hope to see you "at the movies" in the Great Hall!

Children's Choir

Sunday, October 19

The Cherub and Morningstar Choirs are back! Join us as the children's choirs perform on Sunday, October 19! Mark your calendars!

Picnic on the Lawn

Sunday, September 28, 12:30 p.m.

Join us under the big tent for our annual Picnic on the Lawn on Sunday, September 28! 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!

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! Think potato salad, green salad, fruit salad...

P - Z, please bring cole slaw. Again, be creative or simply choose an old favorite recipe!

"Parent Page" each Sunday! I create these each week so that you can know what your child studied in Sunday school and also for you to learn and wonder more about the Godly Play curriculum each week! In addition, each "Parent Page" shares information about upcoming events here at Metropolitan - so be sure to take one home each Sunday!

Our teachers are fabulous and the children really seem to respond to the Godly Play curriculum, but we need you to help integrate the learning at home by wondering with your child about the lesson they heard throughout the week. It only takes a few minutes a day and can make such a difference. Our children's spiritual potential is limitless - we not only need to help support their exploration but, I find, that I learn from my wondering with them as much, if not more, than they learn from me! Let me know how it works for you.

Congratulations!

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119: 105). Congratulations to our 3rd graders who receive their Bibles on Sunday, September 14 during the 9 a.m. worship service! Ben Caudron, Abby Comey, Ann Morgan Jacobi, Lydia Klick, Madison Nowland, Julia Parker, Gracie Pozen, Elena Remez, Please hold these young persons in your prayers this week and throughout the year.

Special Thanks!

Thank you to all the volunteer Sunday school teachers who spent their Saturday with me and Rev. Gina Campbell at an all-day training event at church. It was a wonderful day of faithful learning and collaboration as we prepared for another year with our children. Thanks for all the hard work and dedication!

Children's Ministry Sunday School

2008- 2009

ECA I (6 - 18 month olds) Rm. 100 - Resumes in November
Douglass Anne Cartwright

ECA II (18 - 36 month olds) Rm. 102
Mary Jo Marchant

LITTLE WONDERS (3 & 4 year olds) Rm. 200
Clark Rector, Katie Campbell, Kate Vogt, Tony Brown, & Carlisle Campbell

GODLY PLAYERS (pre-K & K) Rm. 202
Caralee Adams, Patricia Klick, Craig Hukill, & Kristin Rommel

YOUNG DISCIPLES (1st & 2nd grade) Rm. 201
Barbara Green, Holly Hukill, Perry Brody, & Brian Crimy

JOYFUL SPIRITS (3rd & 4th graders) Rm. 101
Karen Strider (solo teacher), Perry Brody, Anita Seline, Geoff Jacobi, & Paul Kleiner

BIBLE EXPLORERS (5th & 6th graders) Rm. 203
Megan Lordos - (solo teacher) & Beth Peters

Don't fear! There are still many opportunities for you! If you'd like to volunteer and get involved, please contact Kay Jacobi at 202.363.4900 or kjacobi@mmumc-dc.org!