
NEWS FROM MCCK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 4



APRIL 2010



FROM THE PASTOR

“Forget about what’s happened; don’t keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it?”
Isaiah 43:18-19a

My first sermon of 2010 was that God had something new in store for MCCK. Change can be hard, divisive, and/or growth producing. I want you to know of a change that we will be starting this year. I will be moving to half-time as pastor Aug. 1. The Administrative Council will be starting a pastoral search.

My decision has been reached through much prayer, consultation, and evaluation of both my and the Church’s health. My health has left me unable to do the pastoral duties that we need as a growing and thriving Church. Moving to half-time will create less expectation on my duties, so that I can focus on preaching and teaching. If I still am unable to fulfill those two duties then I will resign.

The new pastorate will be a team pastorate. The search committee will be looking for a person with strong congregational pastorate skills to serve as fulltime pastor, while I will continue my responsibilities of teaching and preaching. There will not be a senior pastor but rather co-pastors... There will be opportunities for the congregation to give input to the search committee as we advance through this process. I thank you for your support, questioning, help, and encouragement of these last 10 years. And I wait on tiptoes to see what God is going to do next.

Bob Galloway, pastor

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 18th

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 18th during the Potluck Lunch and will begin after all have been served. This will be an opportunity to discuss what qualities we want in our recently proposed pastoral team.

We will be voting to elect four members to the Pastoral Search Committee. These four, along with the seven lay members of the Administrative Council, will make up this important committee. If you have an interest in serving, please notify the office or anyone on the council.

Note that only active members may vote. An active member is one who has completed the membership class, signed the membership form, and been inducted into membership in a worship service. Inactive and former members are not eligible to vote.

LAST CALL FOR SPRING RETREAT!

What: Weekend Retreat

Where: Cumberland Falls

When: May 14-16

Includes 2 nights’ stay, Friday night campfire, Saturday breakfast and communion; 10 a.m. seminar with Candace Chellew-Hodge, author of “Bullet Proof Faith”; prayers (individual and group), mediation services, afternoon snacks, dinner buffet, healing services, Saturday children’s activities (hike to Pinnacle Knob Fire Tower and For Goodness Snakes), Sunday service and communion. **Cost is \$101.60 per person; deposit of 50% due this Sunday, April 4. Sign up at the front of the church or contact the church office: office @ mccknoxville.org or 531-2539.**

OUR SUFFICIENCY IN CHRIST

(Pt. 4)

By Wayne Sacchi

(Author's note: This is my study on this subject. My intention is more to encourage those struggling with "religion" and to give many hope who feel that somehow they are outside the Church [and more importantly Christ] because of their sexual orientation.)

We now look at the specific issues that the Apostle deals with starting with Ceremonialism/Legalism. The Colossians held to strict rules about the kinds of permissible food and drink, religious festivals (2:16–17) and circumcision (2:11; 3:11). All these clues point to a sect of Jewish Christians who wanted to impose and add some of the ceremonial laws of Judaism. It is often thought that Paul mentions circumcision in the same way as he corrected the Judaizers in Galatia, but the issue is different. In Galatia, these Judaizers said that "Circumcision is necessary for Salvation" (which Paul blasts vehemently), but the Colossian error was adding this ritual because these false teachers promised them that they would have "power over the flesh," which the Apostle says is already theirs by their relationship with Christ.

As I already mentioned earlier, legalism is a way to impose some power over one's self in order to make someone acceptable to God. Paul actually says: "These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh." (Col 2:23 NKJV) What was the purpose of circumcision and why does this issue come up over and over again in the first-century church? In the Old Covenant (which was a patriarchal society -- and also in Paul's day), circumcision was the initiation rite to be part of the community. It signified cutting away sin, undergoing a change of heart, and being included in the household of faith. (Deut 10:16; 30:6, Jer 4:4, 9:25-26, Ezek 44:7,9)

Paul says, in a very poetic and dramatic way, that by their baptism into Christ and into Christ's body these Gentiles have already been circumcised.

Baptism is the "Circumcision of Christ" and it signifies the washing away of sin, the regenerating of the Spirit, and membership into Christ's body. The meaning of baptism is to dip, dye or immerse for the purpose of washing. The initiation rite of baptism has more to do with the results (outward washing of the body and association with God's people) and not the mode of how it is to be done -- the Scriptures nowhere teach on how to baptize! (Col 2:12, Acts 2:38, Rom 6:4, I Cor. 12:13, Titus 3:5, I Pet 3:21) Just like in the Old Covenant, Abraham was justified by faith (Gal 3:5-8) before circumcision was instituted, in the same way we are saved by faith in Jesus, apart from baptism.

There is a beautiful unity between the Old and New Covenants. In a nutshell, Gentile believers are not expected to follow the old covenant mode of identification with God and God's people (Acts 15 - the Jerusalem Counsel and testimony by Peter, Paul, and James' verdict). Our faith in Christ has made us as much a part of the Children of Abraham as if we were ethnic Jewish believers (Rom 2:28-29; Gal 3:26-29; Phil 3:3).

Paul teaches that we are saved through faith in Jesus. Nothing else. Period. These Jewish Christians insisted that Christians needed to follow ancient Jewish laws, becoming "Jewish" first and a Christian second. Paul explains, "when you came to Christ you were 'circumcised' not in a physical procedure" (which doesn't change your heart like any self imposed ritual - my version), "but Christ performed a spiritual circumcision -- the cutting away of your sinful nature" (Col. 2:11).

Paul adds that the Jewish rules were only shadows of the reality coming -- and that reality is Jesus. Dear Brothers and Sisters, I want to proclaim to you again -- not to let any system, religion, denomination, or any society to deny you the One who has all you will ever need! When you have Jesus, you have it all and that is enough!

FINDING TIME FOR PRAYER: “GAME WITH MINUTES”

By Steve P.

If you’ve ever tried to implement Paul’s command to pray without ceasing, you know how noisy and hectic our lives are. It seems impossible to pray continuously without moving to a cabin in the mountains: We are interrupted probably every five minutes! Besides, we have important responsibilities: our partners, children, neighbors, friends and colleagues all depend on us. How can God possibly expect us to leave them behind for prayer?

Yet Jesus also lived amid the bustle, and he seemed to know how to pray through it all—through every encounter, every event, whether common or exalted. He made his entire life a prayer to God. So, what can we do?

A 20th century American missionary named Frank Laubach came up with one solution: a game that he called the Game with Minutes. The idea is simple: Can you think of God for at least one second every minute?

Try it for an hour at work or at home: Take a post-it note and make a tick every time you think of God.

How many did you get? Can you improve your score each day? You may find it helpful to have something to look at: a scripture verse, an image of Jesus or the cross, a Bible—anything to bring you back to God for one second each minute.

The goal, of course, is that eventually you will think on God throughout the day, in the midst of all your activities: meetings, meals, traffic, television, etc. In the process, you may find that you move from thinking of God to actively praying. How great would it be if you could turn every event in your day over to God’s loving care and wise counsel! Believe that God sees all your work and is eager to help, recalling the promise that if we abide in Christ, we shall be fruitful in all we do. May it always be so. Amen!

GAY MEN’S GROUP TOPICS

April 5 – Open Discussion

April 12 – “Ask a Lesbian” – Guest Panel

April 19 – Getting Personally Involved in the LGBTQ Movement

April 26 – Negotiating for Safer Sex

Lectionary



April 4 – EASTER	Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18
April 11	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31
April 18	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
April 25	Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30




Calendar of Events

Event	Date
Maundy Thursday Sedar Meal at St. Ninian's	Thursday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.
GOOD FRIDAY Tennebrae Worship	Friday, April 2, 7-8 p.m.
Children's Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 3, noon
EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP at Fort Dickerson	Sunday, April 4, 7:00-8:00 a.m.
Breakfast at MCKK	Sunday, April 4, 8:30 a.m.
EASTER MORNING CHOIR CONCERT	Sunday, April 4, 11 a.m.
Last day for Easter Memorials and Honorariums to benefit Poised for Greatness	Sunday, April 4
Administrative Council Meetings	Thursday, April 8 & 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Rev. Delores Berry Concert	Saturday, April 10, 7 p.m.
Worship w/ Rev. Delores Berry	Sunday, April 11, 11 a.m.
Personal Finance Workshop	Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m.-noon
Congregational Meeting (vote for Pastoral Search Committee members)	Sunday, April 18, 1:00 p.m.
Friday Night Social Club	Friday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.
Spring Retreat @ Cumberland Falls	May 14-16

<p>Metropolitan Community Church Knoxville</p> <p>Rev. Bob Galloway, Pastor</p> <p><i>Sunday Worship: 11:00AM & 6:00 PM</i></p> <p>Phone: (865) 531-2539 *</p> <p>Toll Free: (866) 531-2539 *</p> <p>Fax: (865) 531-6190</p> <p>E-mail: MCKK@mckknoxville.org</p> <p>Web Site: www.mckknoxville.org</p> <p>Newsletter: newsletter@mckknoxville.org</p> <p>* GLBT Helpline 7 to 11 PM staff permitting</p>	<p>Directions to MCC Knoxville</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>From I-40 west bound</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take Exit 380 (West Hills) - Continue through the first stop light (West Town Way) <i>From I-40 east bound</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take Exit 380 (West Hills) - Turn right at the first stop light (heading to Montvue Rd.) 2. Turn left at next stop light (Kingston Pike) 3. Turn right at the second stop light (Morrell Rd.) 4. Continue straight through the next five stop lights (1.3 miles, finally crossing Westland Dr.) 5. Turn right at the next 4-way stop (Nubbins Ridge Rd.) 6. Continue 3 blocks 7. Turn left on Tranquilla Dr. (at crest of hill) 8. Turn right on Redeemer Lane 9. Parking lot is at the top of the hill (through red brick gateposts)
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