
NEWS FROM MCCK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 10



DECEMBER 2009

“THE PROMISE OF LIGHT” ***ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT***



This weekend (Dec. 5 and 6), the choir presents “The Promise of Light,” an inspiring celebration of the mystery and joy of Christmas. The narrated piece combines favorite traditional carols with modern harmonies that express the “thrill of hope for a weary world”.

Saturday’s performance is at 7 p.m., and Sunday’s is at 6 p.m. A highlight is the 4-hand piano score that will be played by Dale Jolley and Trent Gilmore. Soloists Joe Jackson and Connie Beebe will join instrumentalists Dale Watermulder and Von Vaughn.

The choir has been working on the music since September, and you won’t want to miss it!



THE ANGEL TREE IS UP

Angel Tree selection began Nov. 22 to share Christmas with kids who don’t have much.

Important Dates:

Dec. 13 Return all gifts to the church UNWRAPPED

Dec. 19 Wrapping Day at the church –

WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 20 Appalachian Christmas services begin at 11 a.m.

Children will open presents after the morning service.

NOTE: Presents will be given out at the morning service.

What if I don’t like to shop?

You can choose an angel from the tree and put a donation and the angel in the MCCK Angel Tree envelopes and someone will buy the gift for you. Or you can make a general donation in the MCCK Angel Tree envelopes. General donations will be used to purchase gifts for angels remaining on the tree and to little gift for children visiting during the Appalachian Christmas service.

MCCK Angel Tree Donation envelopes can be placed in the small wrapped box on the table by the Angel Tree or dropped into the offering plate.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Honor or memorialize those who have had an impact on your life with a donation to the Poised for Greatness campaign. Give someone special recognition as you help the church reduce its biggest debt. All contributions will be applied to the mortgage and are tax-deductible.

Donations may either be placed in envelopes from the PFG easel in the sanctuary or mailed to the church office. All memorials & honorariums received by year’s end will be listed on the PFG easel on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010.

Who’s touched your soul?

“PFG”: PT.2

The campaign to pay off the church mortgage has made amazing progress in its first 10 months. Through October, extra principal payments totaling \$10,080 have been deposited. Over the life of our loan, this has saved us \$11,385 in interest. It has shortened our loan by 15 months or \$21,606. Looking ahead... on average, we have paid an extra \$1,008 per month toward principal. Based on that, we are on pace to pay off the mortgage in July 2015. This would be 83 months early, avoiding \$119,680 in future payments.

Thanks go out to all who have worked so hard and to all who have given so generously. This campaign is so successful because of YOU! For a more detailed report with graphs, check out the Poised for Greatness page on our website (www.mccknoxville.org/Greatness).

MYERS FAMILY HOSTS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Join Barry, Michael and the kids for their annual holiday celebration on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. It’s been a difficult year, and Barry says they look forward to relaxing and re-connecting with their MCCK family. Location: 9704 Tallahassee Drive, Knoxville, TN 37923. If you need help call 865-851-7790.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW THE CHRISTMAS STORY?

Two remarkable stories are told in the Scriptures about the birth of Our Lord. One is the Three Wise Men. But the truth is there were three gifts, not three wise men. Following a sign in the heavens (we are told “Star”) these Magi led a caravan toward Israel -- perhaps from Babylon (which is present-day Iraq) or Susa (which is present-day Iran). Many have assumed these “wise men” were astrologers making this thousand-mile trek to Jerusalem. They were more likely philosophers who were well aware of the Hebrew Scriptures. When Daniel was in captivity, he was put in charge of the magi of Babylon (we get the word magic from magi) -- these were the wisest sages of their day who studied everything from philosophy to stargazing. Magi often served kings as counselors and advisors. Past records show these magi traveled in groups of thousands and were often associated with coups and king making. So it’s no wonder that when the magi arrived in Jerusalem, the Scriptures tell us that Herod was in fear and all Israel with him.

What Star did these “King Makers” see? Theories include:

A comet or a supernova that the Chinese observed during March or April in 5 BC.

The timeline would be right since most Bible scholars say Jesus was born between 7 and 4 BC. However, it says in Matthew that “the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.” (Matthew 2:9) Comets and supernovas would burn up the earth and destroy all life if they ever came down!

It was Halley’s Comet, visible in 12 BC.

Early Church leader Origen, writing in AD 200s, hinted that this was a comet which occasionally occurred and not an ordinary one. Problem with this view is that Jesus was not born this early; 7 BC is the earliest likely date of Christ’s birth. This leads to another view that has gained popularity:

It was Halley’s Comet in AD 66.

Modern scholars say that Matthew was following a style of writing called *madras*. It fills in the gaps by adding something to the story. Matthew is the only gospel that adds the “star” story. Since Matthew was written around 66 AD, Matthew embellished the story by adding the Star and the Magi motifs. Also, Roman records confirm that a group of magi made a long trek to Rome in AD 66 guided by Halley’s Comet. If Matthew “borrowed” this Roman story, he used the point not only that Jesus is the Messiah, but also that Jesus -- not Nero -- is God. With the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, this would have been on Matthew’s mind as a “sign” of judgment on the Nation. Problem with this view is that it adds a fictitious aspect to the Advent of Christ when so much can be verified from other sources.

An unusual conjunction (alignment) of Jupiter and Saturn in the Pisces constellation in 7 BC.

In simplest terms, Jupiter -- the largest planet -- represented kings. Saturn represented Jews. This is confirmed by the first-century Roman historian Tacitus. The constellation Pisces (meaning “fish”) represented the land of Israel. This rare triple conjunction may have led the Magi to Israel looking for a newborn king. Again, although a nice theory, Matthew’s account says that the star moved and there was some type of “astral” projection. Babylonian records did not deem this conjunction important enough to mention. So what was this “star”? This leads me to suggest that this wasn’t a star at all, but:

An astral phenomenon, perhaps a group of Spirit beings (angels), perhaps like the pillar of light that led Moses and the Israelites, the very Shekinah glory of God.

The Greek word for star is “astir”; we get the word astral and astronomy from this. The Hebrew equivalent of this word is Esther, which means “glory” or “star.” What the Magi saw was the shekinah glory of God. Bible writers sometimes used the word star as a metaphor to describe angels. Revelation, Job and Daniel refer to stars as angels. Also early Christian and Jewish writings often

describe angels as guides or mediators delivering messages or revelation.

Wise men (and wise women!) still seek Him (Christ)\, drawn "...as to a light shining in a dark

place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." (2 Peter 1:19b) May God richly bless you this holiday season!

--Wayne



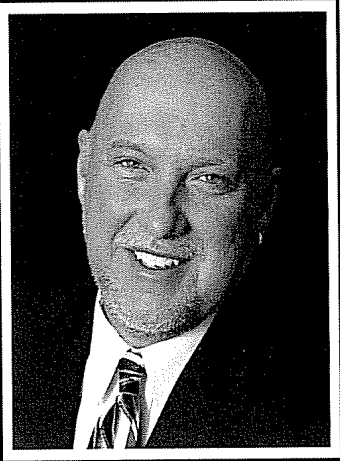
Calendar of Events

Event	Date
World AIDS Day	Tuesday, Dec. 1
"Promise of Light" Christmas Concert	Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.
Deacon Installation	Sunday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.
Administrative Council Meeting	Thursday, Dec. 10, 6:30-9 p.m.
Myers Family Holiday Open House	Saturday Dec. 12, 6-9 p.m.
Deadline for next newsletter (January)	Sunday, Dec. 13
Deadline to turn in Angel Tree gifts	Sunday, Dec. 13
Angel Tree gift wrapping party	Saturday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. to noon
Angel Tree gift presentation	Sunday, Dec. 20, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Appalachian Christmas Worship	Sunday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m.
Family Christmas Eve Worship	Thursday, Dec. 24, 6-7:30 p.m.
Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship	Thursday, Dec. 24, 11 p.m.
Christmas Dinner at St. Ninian's	Christmas Day, 12:30-7 p.m.
Friday Night Social Club	(on hiatus until January)

Lectionary


December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent	Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6
December 13 -- Third Sunday of Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18
December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent	Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:47-55, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55
December 27	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

This Month's Newsletter Sponsors



GREG McINTYRE
REALTOR®, Million Dollar Producer




(865) 693-1111 BUSINESS
(865) 694-1774 FAX
(800) 489-1118 TOLL FREE
(865) 661-4545 CELL
greg.mcintyre@coldwellbanker.com



**WALLACE & WALLACE,
REALTORS®**

124 N. Winston Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37919

www.cbww.com/gregmcintyre

Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.

The James A. Dick
MIGHTY MUSICAL MONDAY
 1st Monday of each month
 at the
Historic Tennessee Theatre
12:00 NOON
Admission is FREE!

TENNESSEE

Dr. Bill Snyder on the Mighty Wurlitzer

www.tennesseetheatre.com

WVK FM 107.7
 NEWS SENTINEL
 LAMAR



Want to buy an ad in this newsletter for your business? Rate is \$60 a year for 12 issues. Let us know at newsletter@mcknoxville.org.

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

Published by:
MCC Knoxville
7820 Redeemer Lane
Knoxville, TN 37919
NEWS from MCKK

<p><i>Non-Profit</i> <i>U.S. Postage</i> <i>Paid</i> <i>Knoxville, TN</i> <i>Permit No. 226</i></p>
--