
NEWS FROM MCCK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN



VOLUME 30, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2010

**“CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART,
O GOD, AND PUT A NEW AND
RIGHT SPIRIT IN ME.”**

- PSALM 51:10

OPEN OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Betty P. and Sue H. have asked to be relieved of their duties as head of the Fundraising Team. Matthew J. has asked to step down as the MCCK Webmaster. All three have put in a great deal of work for MCCK and we are grateful for their service. If you can help fill their shoes, please contact Dusty in the office by email (office @ mccknoxville.org) or phone (865-531-2539). Or notify anyone on the Administrative Council. If you know of someone who has skills in these areas, please let us know that as well. And of course, if you have an interest in helping with any of our ministries, don't be shy. Speak up!

Fundraising Chairperson - The Fundraising Team usually plans our annual Valentine's Banquet, Church Auction, Harvest or Fall Festival, and Dessert Auction. Their important work provides fun social activities for those who attend while at the same time benefitting the MCCK General Fund. That in turn helps the church meet its many day to day operating expenses. The chairperson of this team recruits and coordinates the various volunteers that help with the various events. If you're good at motivation or delegation, and have a desire to help raise funds for the church, this job is for you.

MCCK Webmaster - The Communications Team's goal is to provide timely communication to our entire congregation. We publish a weekly email, a monthly newsletter, and keep the church website up to date with current events. As part of this team, the MCCK Webmaster maintains the website, troubleshoots technical issues, and performs updates

as needed. If you have technical skills and experience in maintaining a public website, this job is for you.



SPAGHETTI DINNER AND GAME SHOW

Singles and couples alike are invited to attend our Spaghetti Dinner and Game Show on Valentine's Eve, Saturday, February 13th. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. A buffet dinner will begin at 6:30 PM. Following dinner, we'll hold our own version of the Newlywed Game (or Not-So-Newlywed Game, as the case may be). Come see how well five couples from MCCK know each other. It's sure to be a night of good food and fun!

For food planning purposes, please make your reservation with Dusty in the office by Sunday, February 7th by email (office @ mccknoxville.org) or phone (865-531-2539). A recommended donation of \$10.00 per person is asked to be paid in advance, if possible. If you cannot afford to pay, special arrangements can be made. Proceeds of this fundraiser will go to the MCCK General Fund.

Dusty and Cynthia have graciously offered to head up this event and are working on the plans now. Please let them know if you can help with setup, cooking, the show, or cleanup.

POISED FOR GREATNESS

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

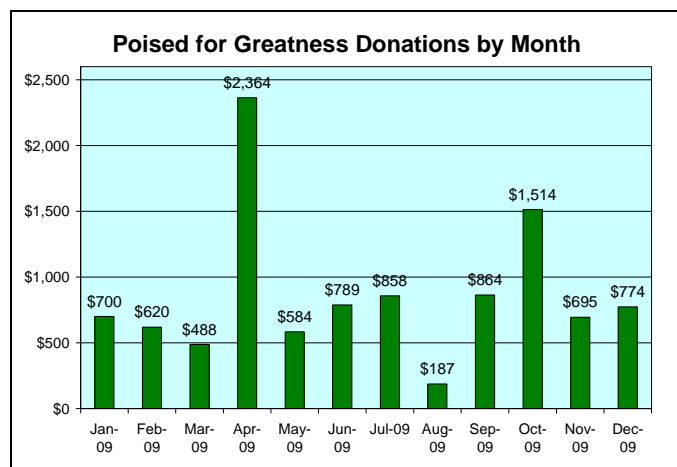
Data through December 31, 2009

The Poised for Greatness (PFG) campaign to pay off the church mortgage has made amazing progress in its first year. Everyone should feel great pride in what has been accomplished so far and inspired by what remains possible to do.

If you have not participated in the campaign, there are ways for everyone to be involved.

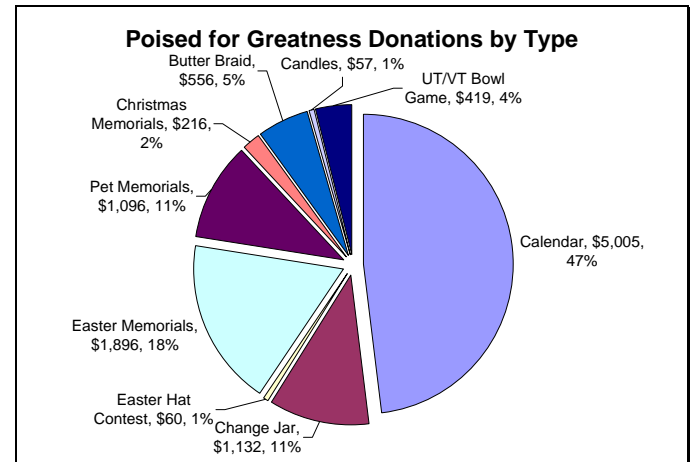
- Drop your loose pocket change in the Change Jar located near the altar each week.
- Contribute an extra day (\$29), week (\$203), or month (\$882) of extra principal using the color coded envelopes on the PFG easel. Drop your envelope in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Of course any amount you choose is gratefully accepted.
- Participate in other PFG fundraisers through the year.

Although our official kick off was in March 2009, some on the Finance Team made contributions prior to that. Through December 2009, \$10,437 has been raised by the PFG campaign. The church also made \$1,112 in extra principal payments earlier this year.



The majority of donations were from individuals who selected to donate a day, a week, or a month of

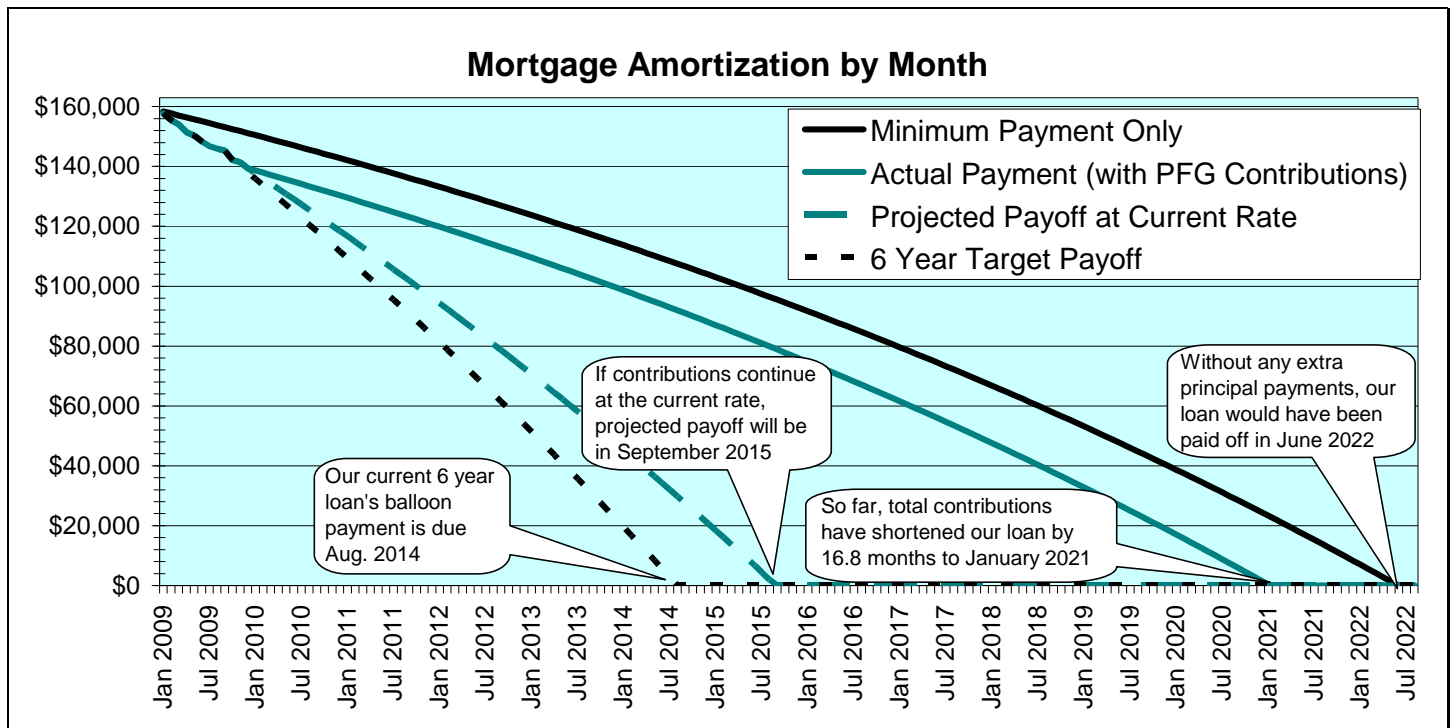
extra principal. Easter, Pet, and Christmas Memorials were the next largest amount. Donations to the Change Jar and through other fundraisers made significant contributions as well.



Extra principal payments totaling \$11,548 have been deposited to date. Over the life of our loan, **this has saved us \$12,536 in interest. It has shortened our loan by 16.8 months or \$24,226.** The effect can be seen on the *Mortgage Amortization By Month* line graph as the gap between the *Minimum Payment Only* and *Actual Payment (with PFG Contributions)* lines.

Looking ahead... on average, we have paid an extra \$962 per month toward principal. Based on that, **we are on pace to pay off the mortgage in September 2015. This would be 81 months early; avoiding \$116,796 in future payments.** This is shown on the graph by the dashed *Projected Payoff at Current Rate* line.

The graph also includes a dashed *6 Year Target Payoff* line. It shows that extra principal payments of \$1,395 per month can pay off our loan by its August 2014 due date. At that time, we will owe the remaining balance and have to refinance the loan. While paying the loan off by that date would be fantastic, our goal is to lower that balloon payment as much as possible. As you can see, we've made a significant dent in it.



Note: All calculations are based on a minimum mortgage payment of \$1441.93. They assume the interest rate remains fixed at 6% for the life of the loan. The rate will likely adjust at the loan's 3 year point, in August 2011.

Every cent of every dollar goes directly to the mortgage principal. A \$5 donation today reduces our future payments by over \$10!

THANK YOU to those who have generously donated their time and/or money to this campaign. You have allowed us all to benefit from your generous efforts. We ask every one, firstly, for your prayers and secondly, for your one-time or recurring donations.

OUR SUFFICIENCY IN CHRIST

(Pt. 2)

By Wayne Sacchi

We continue our discussion looking at why we are sufficient in Christ. Last month we introduced the Colossian problem and the false teachings that "religion" often adds to one's relationship with God -- and we will delve into these ideas in the coming months. We will discuss today the MAIN point why we are Sufficient in Christ that Paul addresses - WE ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST BECAUSE CHRIST IS COMPLETE IN GOD because CHRIST IS GOD!

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones

or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (COL 1:15-20 TNIV)

The apostle gets very excited and breaks into a hymn about the majesty of Jesus Christ. Some have speculated that this was part of an early Christian hymn. What was missing in the Colossian philosophy is summarized in these few verses - Christ is supreme in both Creation (vs. 15-17) and in our Salvation (vs. 18-20). The major problem the Colossians were having was an inadequate view of the person of Christ. Let's look at this closer:

v. 15 the image of the invisible God

The term image is the Greek word for icon -- an exact representation. Paul tells us in practical terms -- not just theology -- that Christ is God and therefore, when you have Christ, you have God -- and that's all you need. Since Christ, by nature, is God, Christ reveals God, who is otherwise invisible (I Tim 1:17). Both these thoughts are found in the opening of John's Gospel (John 1:1-18) and Hebrews 1.

v. 15 the firstborn over all creation

Paul is not using this term chronologically. Jesus is also the "firstborn" from the dead -- and Christ was not the first one resurrected, but he was the one who is preeminent over death! In the Old Testament, a firstborn son (in a patriarchal society) would be the principal heir of the estate. In reference to Christ, "firstborn" means that He has such honor and dignity, not that he was the oldest child in the family. Christ is loved by Abba God and all things were created in Christ, by Christ, and for Christ!

v. 16 All things were created through Him and for Him

Christ is both the origin and the goal of creation. Christ is the Sovereign over the angelic realm which the Colossians feel in debt to. If you are in Christ, who is the maker of all things, then why are you worshipping angels -- created beings -- when you are united to the Creator! Notice that it says: ALL things were created by Christ -- not all OTHER things.

v. 17 He is before all things and in Him (Christ) all things hold together

The apostle is reiterating the truth that Christ existed before all creation. Christ is not created - Christ is the Sovereign Creator! Christ also holds the universe together -- a pretty big task if Christ was just a Mega-angel or "a god."

v. 18 head of the body, the church

If Christ is the Sovereign of the Universe it only follows that he is the sole leader of the Church. You got the Creator who bought a people for Abba God from among all the peoples of the world -- the rich, the poor, all colors, all races, all

creeds, all sexual orientations -- why do you need another philosophy or Leader?

v. 18 the beginning, the firstborn from the dead

As I said earlier, Christ was the beginning, the preeminent one over death. He was the first one ever to conquer death. Christ's resurrection is the first fruits and an anticipation, with a guarantee of the resurrection that all His brothers and sisters will receive -- both spiritually and someday physically! Jesus Christ is Lord of this Universe that He created, that Christ sustains, and which he has redeemed through His death. Beloved, to whom could you go that can give you all this?

The reality that we often forget is that our source of life is from the giver of Life. God has made our joy and reason for living all bundled in that Babe that came 2,000 years ago. We do not need to climb mountains or dig to depths underground. "Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But the word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. (Romans 10:6-8) Christ is here -- just as close as the air we breathe and YOU, my brothers and sisters, are complete in Christ!

DEACON'S PANTRY FOOD COLLECTION

Contributions of groceries and money are collected for the Deacon's Pantry on the third Sunday of every month during the morning worship service.

Bring non-perishable groceries from the list below and leave them at the altar table for a special blessing.

For those who don't have time to shop, the deacons will shop for you. Monetary donations for the deacon's benevolence fund should be placed in envelopes located on the round table and placed in the weekly offering.

Suggested Grocery List

(Minimum sizes are listed. You can get larger sizes.)

- Chicken Noodle Soup - 10.75 oz. can
- Tuna - can
- Tomato Soup - 10.75 oz. can
- Vegetable Soup - can
- Diced tomatoes
- Chicken Noodle Soup - can
- Macaroni and Cheese Dinner - 6 oz. box
- Pasta and meat (like canned spaghetti and meat sauce or just pasta noodles and jar of sauce)
- Rice
- Corn bread or Muffin mix - 8.5 oz. package
- Saltine crackers (low fat) - 1 lb. box
- Canned fruits
- Fruit juices or tang
- Whole Grain Cereal - 14 oz box (such as All Bran, Bran Flakes, Cheereos, Wheaties, Wheat Rice or Corn Chex, Grape Nuts, Cream of Wheat, Kix, Shredded Wheat)

... or most anything non-perishable

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL CLUB

The Friday Night Social Club meets in the church on the 4th Friday of each month from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM. Join us for an evening of gentle fellowship and fun! Coffee, soft drinks, and snacks will be available.

This is an evening to build new friendships, to spend time with friends old and new and to build a Christ-Community together. We hope you will consider joining us!

We usually have board games and cards for the adults and some children's board games for them too. Feel free to bring your own. Suggestions for other activities are welcome.

Help will be needed for setup and clean up. Contact Lois and Vicki with questions or to volunteer to help.

GAY MEN'S GROUP TOPICS

Feb. 1 – Open discussion

Feb. 8 – Romance is in the Eye of the Beholder

Feb. 15 – Long-Term Relationships

Feb. 22 – Making Connections via the Internet



Calendar of Events


Event	Date
Bible study: REVELATION	Tuesdays, beginning Feb 2, 7 p.m.
Bible study: REVELATION	Sundays, beginning Feb. 7, 9:15-10:30 a.m.
Deadline for Reservations for the Spaghetti Dinner & Game Show	Sunday, Feb. 7
Spaghetti Dinner & Game Show	Saturday, Feb. 13, 6:00-10:00 p.m.
Valentine's Day	Sunday, Feb. 14
Deadline for March newsletter	Sunday, Feb. 14
Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)	Tuesday Feb. 16
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday Feb. 17
Administrative Council, regular meeting	Thursday, Feb. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Deacon's Food Pantry collection	Sunday, Feb. 21
Friday Night Social Club	Friday, Feb. 26, 7-9:30 p.m.





Lectionary


February 7 - Fifth Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13), Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11
February 14 - Transfiguration	Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2, Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)
February 21 - First Sunday of Lent	Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13
February 28 - Second Sunday of Lent	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philipians 3:17 - 4:1, Luke 13:31-35

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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

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**Metropolitan Community
Church Knoxville**

Rev. Bob Galloway, Pastor

Sunday Worship: 11:00AM & 6:00 PM

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E-mail: MCKK@mccknoxville.org
Web Site: www.mccknoxville.org
Newsletter: newsletter@mccknoxville.org
* GLBT Helpline 7 to 11 PM staff permitting

Directions to MCC Knoxville

1. ***From I-40 west bound***
 - Take Exit 380 (West Hills)
 - Continue through the first stop light (West Town Way)
2. ***From I-40 east bound***
 - 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)