

# NEWS FROM MCCK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 7



JULY 2010

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL “GALACTIC BLAST – AN ADVENTURE IN PRAISING GOD”



If it's summer, it must be Vacation Bible School time. More than 20 kids have already signed up for VBS Space Camp, which lands this week, July 5-9, at MCCK. Activities are Monday-Friday, 6 to 8:30 nightly.

The fun includes a weenie roast on Friday night the 9th. Graduation and special singing will be part of the morning service on July 11.

Please let Camp Director Lisa Johnson know if your child would like to attend. Volunteers to help out are always welcome! 523-0339 or [johnsonld3@hotmail.com](mailto:johnsonld3@hotmail.com)

## MCCK CHOIR REUNION WEEKEND JULY 31-AUG. 1

In the 16 years that Ray has been our choir director, almost 200 people have sung or played in the music ministry here. Ray wants to know what we'd sound like if we all got back together. He's sent out invitations to every current and former choir member for the reunion, July 31 and Aug. 1.

"It is truly amazing how God has blessed this ministry and used our choir to bless others," said Ray. "They have sung at churches in Knoxville, Charlotte, Chattanooga, Atlanta, and Houston. They have performed at regional and cluster conferences."

A rehearsal will be held on Saturday afternoon, July 31. It will be followed by a light supper and then more rehearsal if needed. The choir will attend our morning worship service on Sunday, Aug. 1 at 11 a.m., which will be followed by a potluck lunch. The choir will perform a concert that afternoon at 3. Because of the concert, our usual evening worship service at 6 p.m. will not be held.

Please notify Ray E. if you can participate in the special weekend of events. Copies of the music are available prior to the weekend upon request.

Ray is "hoping that we will have such a wonderful response that we will have to find an outside venue to actually hold the crowd."

## BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

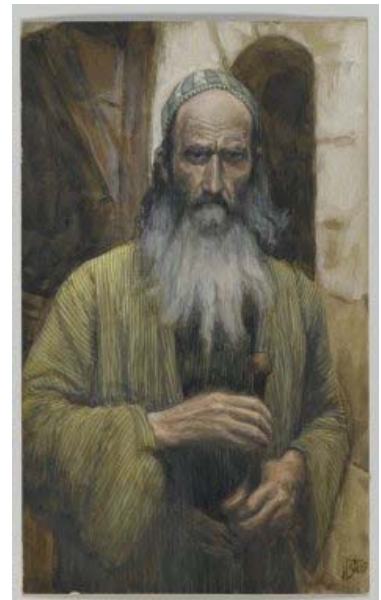
After a break while Pastor Bob was at general conference in Mexico, Bible study – a history of the church from an Eastern perspective – resumes Sunday, July 4 at 9:15 a.m. and Tuesday, July 6 at 7 p.m.

## THE APOSTLE PAUL: HIS LIFE AND TEACHINGS

### Pt. 1

By Wayne Sacchi

I thought I would start a series on the Apostle Paul. No figure in all of Scripture has been so maligned by the gay community than this man. I hope to set the record straight, no pun intended, and propose to you that this man is the perfect model of God's grace as the supreme example to all of us. In order to understand Paul, we must understand the patriarchal and Jewish society he was a part of and the gospel of grace he championed. Paul was neither a homophobe nor a woman hater as I will present in coming installments.



*There are myriad renderings of Paul, but no one knows what he really looked like. This is how the French artist James Tissot (1836-1902) envisioned Paul.*

Before we begin, it is important that we understand a few points:

1) Paul was part of a patriarchal society and therefore, we need to understand what he is saying in that context. There is no denying that the church was controlled by men – you can't get around it. For example, if you read the Pastoral epistles (and I believe they are Pauline), without an understanding of

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the Jewish religious system and the Greek-Roman culture at that time, you might jump to conclusions that Paul looked down on women. The modern church has been debating this for years and I don't want to get into this controversy. When it comes to comparing the Jewish religion at that time with the foundations of the Christian faith as espoused by Paul, he was radical and very inclusive. It is very important when we read the epistles that we see first WHO he is addressing, the historical background, the time frame of the epistle (is it written earlier or later), and the point he is making. Take your application from his writings after correctly understanding what he is saying.

2) The gospels and all the New Testament are to be read as a whole. Some would disagree with me on this, but it needs to be said. I don't like red-letter edition Bibles because it makes the reader think that the words of Jesus are more important than all the rest of Scripture. There are no words of Jesus in the Bible – it is the gospel account according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John! They record what Jesus said. Even in the book of John it is sometimes difficult to determine if Jesus is speaking or John making a comment in the narrative. With the epistles of Paul and the New Testament we have a fuller understanding of Our Lord's teaching and the Good News.

3) The Church is built “on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.” (Eph 2:20)

The Christian faith, as we know it, is based on the Prophets (the Old Testament revelation – some see this as the New Testament prophets but I think the church existed since Adam and Eve) and the Apostles (this is the traditions laid down by the first century Apostles – Paul, Peter, James, John, etc.) Notice that the foundation was already laid and is not being laid again in the 21st Century. Jude tells us that the “faith was once for all delivered for the Saints.” (Jude 3) My point is that our common faith works from the teachings of the gospel and the writings of the Apostles. Without Paul's insights on many subjects such as law and grace, the sovereignty of God, justification by faith alone, marriage relationships, ceremonial laws – we would have an incomplete revelation. The doctrine of Adoption, becoming joint heirs and actual children of God because of Jesus – is taught only by Paul and is probably the most INCLUSIVE doctrine in the whole Bible!

Let me also say, to be perfectly honest, that no one in all of the Bible and in all modern history was as depraved morally, before his conversion, then the Apostle Paul! He was a religious zealot, a blasphemer of Jesus and a heartless killer of Christians. Here is what he says:

*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full*

*acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*  
(I Timothy 1:12-17 TNIV)

Notice that he says that God showed Paul grace, the worst of sinners, so that he would be an example of the grace of God to others! He says simply, “Hey listen people – if God can save me, a vile killer and reprobate, how much more can he save you!” Beloved, this should make all of us dance with joy because of the immense grace of God. Remember this next time someone in the “mainline” Christian church says that God can't save us because of our sexual orientation. Let them know that the Apostle Paul, the worst of sinners and a killer of Christians, was saved on a mission to destroy God's people. To my knowledge, no one in our congregation are mass murderers like Paul, and if he, thank the matchless grace of God, could be shown mercy, then how much more can we be shown mercy from a condemning religious right who puts Paul on the pedestal of militant anti-GLBT hatred!

## **MEMBERSHIP INQUIRERS' CLASS**

**Sunday, July 11 (1:30 - 4:30 p.m.)**

On July 11, Pastor Bob Galloway will present a regular seminar for all people who want to know more about the beliefs and ministries of Metropolitan Community Church. The Membership Inquirers' Class, also known as the New Members' Class, is a requirement for membership. Grab a quick lunch after worship service and then return for the seminar at 1:30.

The class will address such topics as the history, beliefs, denominational affiliation, governance, missions and ministries of MCKK. When was MCKK founded? How long have we been at our current location? How long has Pastor Bob served our congregation?

All are welcome. Those who complete the class and sign the membership form are normally inducted into membership during the following Sunday morning worship service.

## **GAY MEN'S GROUP TOPICS**

- 5 – Independence Day holiday – no meeting
- 12 – Open Discussion (Free HIV Testing at 8:30 PM)
- 19 – My Favorite Gay Myth
- 26 – “Speaking Out or Silent” – video/discussion

Daily Lectionary



# Lectionary

July 4	2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 11	Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
July 18	Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
July 25	Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13



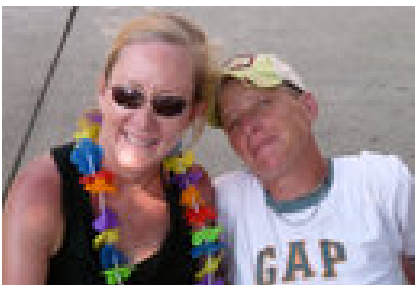
## Calendar of Events

Event	Date
 <p>INDEPENDENCE DAY</p>	Sunday, July 4
Vacation Bible School	Monday-Friday, July 5-9, from 6-8:30 nightly
Membership Inquirers' Class	Sunday, July 11, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Deadline for August newsletter	Sunday, July 18
Deacon's Food Pantry collection	Sunday, July 18
Monthly potluck (after services)	Sunday, July 18, 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Healing service	Sunday, July 18, 6-7 p.m.
Deacons meeting	Wednesday, July 21, 6:30-8 p.m.
Administrative Council meeting	Thursday, July 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Friday Night Social Club	July 23, 7-9:30 p.m.
Choir Reunion weekend	Saturday-Sunday, July 31-Aug. 1; socializing, rehearsal and supper Saturday 1:30-7:30 p.m.


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# Knoxville Pride 2010

*Photos by James Finch*



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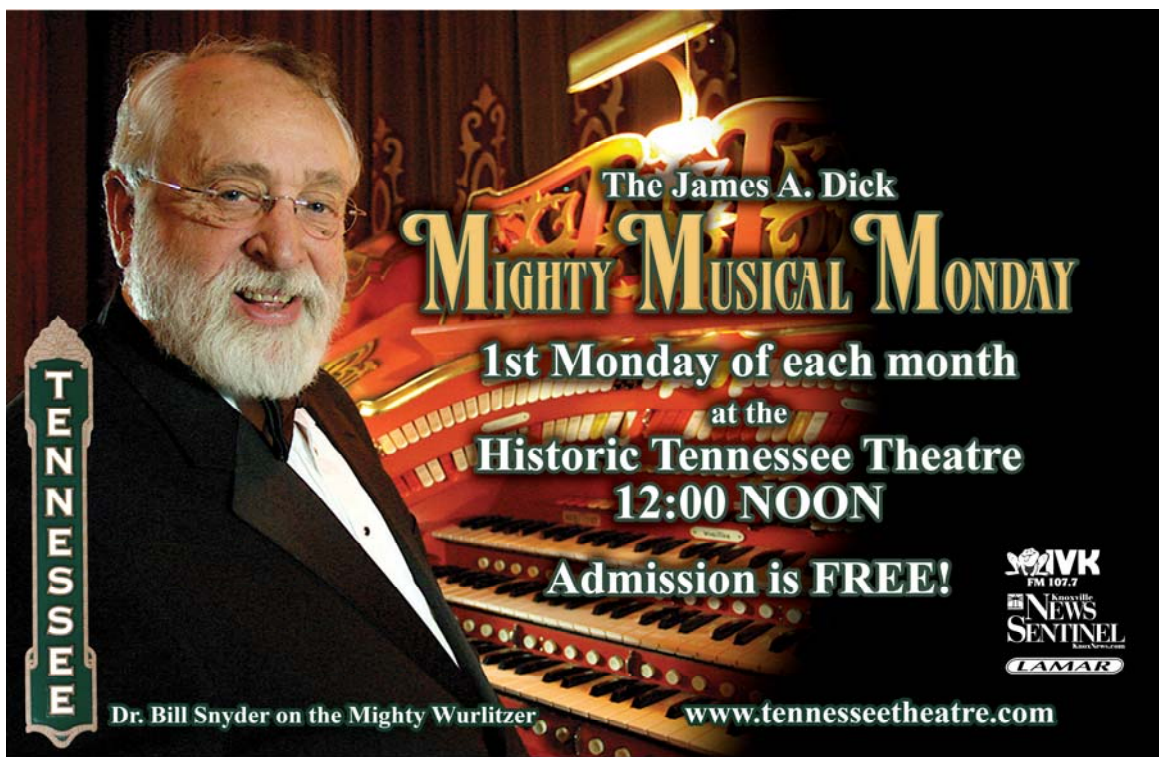
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**Metropolitan Community  
Church Knoxville**

**Rev. Bob Galloway, Pastor**

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

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Newsletter: [newsletter@mccknoxville.org](mailto: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)

***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)

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