

---

# NEWS FROM MCCK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 7

JULY 2011

---



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*Monday, July 18-Friday, July 22, (6-8:30 p.m.)*

The theme of this year's Vacation Bible School is *Shake It Up - Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe*. We will have a dinner on Friday night prepared by the kids. Graduation and special singing will be on Sunday, July 24 during the 11 a.m. worship service.

We also would like for everyone to send us their favorite "easy" recipe that kids can make. The kids will get a recipe box which includes the easy recipes so they can Shake It Up at home.

Please let Head Chef Lisa J. ([children@mccknoxville.org](mailto:children@mccknoxville.org)) know if your child would like to attend. Volunteers to help out are always welcome!

## ACT GROUP SUMMER MENU

The June 11, 2011 ACT Group meeting saw many things accomplished. A draft Statement of Purpose was reviewed and approved, the schedule for July, August and September was set, and a meeting structure was adopted.

The Statement of Purpose reads:

"The ACT Group is a Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville program based in Acceptance, Compassion and Tolerance, with the fluidity to serve within and outside our community as the Holy Spirit leads. Open to all, ACT gatherings vary as to format, but always open and close with prayer. The group's overall goal is Spirit-led fellowship and interaction through offshoot ministries and other programs. Meeting plans include things such as discussion panels, book studies, seminars on various topics, and gatherings to plan both outreach and in-reach support. The meeting schedule is also flexible to avoid conflict with special events, but includes at least one Saturday-evening meeting per month, with specifics published in the Sunday bulletin, on Facebook, through the MCCK website, weekly email, and monthly newsletter when possible."

Unless overtaken by other activities, ACT is set to meet at the church from 5 to 7 p.m., July 9, Aug. 6, and Sept. 10.

As part of the adopted meeting structure, responsibility for guiding or facilitating the meetings will alternate among members, and topics and activities will vary. Ryan W. is on deck for the July 9 meeting and the activity will most likely be a seminar covering prayer and meditation. The Aug. 9 meeting, Lois W. will take the lead, and Bert K. is set to handle the Sept. 10 meeting. Topics for August and September will be announced as plans solidify. Watch the bulletins, etc., for further information. In addition, it was decided that instead of a full potluck meal each time, finger foods and desserts will be enough.

As of this writing, there are 34 members on the ACT email list. Anyone who has been receiving the email who no longer wants to, should contact Cynthia H. at [clhalltn01@aol.com](mailto:clhalltn01@aol.com) or just tell her when you see her. By the same token, if you know of someone who wants to be included and has not been, please tell them to contact Cynthia.

---

## THE DIVINE BLESSEDNESS OF AN 'ABOMINATION'

by Wayne Sacchi

### 1 Peter 3:15

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

Getting an "Abomination" letter can be a blessing. As a rule, most hate-mongers should be ignored since you cannot reason with ignorance, but when you get a letter from a sincere person who is "concerned about your eternal soul" then you should respond, in love, and to the point. I received this "gracious" letter from John MacArthur, my pastor when I was a member of Grace Community Church (1981-1986). He is probably the most noted Bible teacher and author today and very militant anti-GLBT crusader. I worked in the Seminary Library and Tape Ministry for about 2 years where I attended Bible School. I am embarrassed that he would misquote the passage in Hebrews (which is talking about going back into Judaism after coming to salvation in Christ and equating being a homosexual as one who "abandoned the faith.") My dear mother has come a long way from when this letter was written. Put on your asbestos glasses...here it comes:



*Hellfire*

October 14, 2008

Dear Wayne,

I had occasion to talk with your mom the other day and that was really a delight. In the process of our conversation, she unloaded the deep agony of her heart over your involvement in homosexuality and The Metropolitan Community Church of Christ. I

was stunned and grieved. I understand why she can find no rest in her heart.

First Corinthians 6:9 is crystal clear that homosexuals do not inherit the kingdom of God. If that is your personal lifestyle, you are headed for an eternity without God and an eternity of punishment. For all the years of your eternal soul, that punishment will be more severe because of the truth you have known. Hebrews 10:29 says:

"How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the spirit of grace?"

It is hard for me to understand why you would sacrifice your eternal future on the altar of your immediate pleasure. Your mom told me that she gave you the series on homosexuality to listen to. Please listen and reconsider!

I'm sending you a recent paper for the fall issue of *The Master's Seminary Journal* which focused on this very topic. You need to expose yourself to this. Only the Lord can deliver you from this. I'm praying

He will do that.

I have wonderful memories of your time here at Grace Church and my heart is deeply grieved. Just know I will be praying for you and for God's saving power in your life.

Love in the Truth,  
John MacArthur  
Pastor-Teacher

*Sunday, November 8, 2008*

*Dear John:*

---

*Thank you for your kind letter and the compassion shown to my mother. It has been very hard on her, but I am still the same loving and dedicated son. I do not believe that the Bible is talking about sexual orientation because I have always known that I was a homosexual from my early years. The Christian church in general needs to deal with the need for intimacy for gay Christian members – and stop with all the condemning. I have put myself down for many years even when I never “did” anything! God never intended for everyone to be celibate a lifetime because of their sexual orientation. When I decided to seek a mate at 47 years of age, it was not because of lust, but because I was going to die without being loved and held – something that most people take for granted whatever their sexual orientation is. My relationship with Christ never changed; in fact, He was the one that carried me through this ordeal. The pain was more with my family reacting to this news, which was hardest for me.*

*I have come to the point where I just say that I love you and will kindly say I disagree with you. I will read your article – in fact, I have read many articles! My hope is still on Jesus who gave himself for me and the Father will not condemn me because of what Jesus has done. I need no other argument...I need no other plea...period! If I am wrong and that I am an abomination for being a homosexual, then I need not worry because I am saved by grace and when God sees me.....he sees Jesus who died for this homosexual. I have adopted a little slogan....you should try it sometime:*

*“I Would Rather Be Happy and Loved....than to be Right!”*

*So, I will not proof-text you, or argue, and I will say, “Thank you from the bottom of my heart,” for your concern and love.*

*Remember, my dear Pastor, that Evangelicals have been wrong on many things using the Bible to prove their agenda:*

*1) Obesity is a sin....the Bible condemns gluttony, not obesity. There is now evidence that there is a “fat” gene. It’s been proven...case closed.*

*2) Alcoholism is a sin...the Bible condemns drunkenness. Alcoholism has been proven to be a disease. There is evidence that alcoholics are allergic to alcohol. Again, the mainline churches are wrong.*

*3) The Earth has been hit with asteroids. It is a proven fact, yet Evangelicals still say that the Earth is only 10,000 years old. The Bible nowhere says that the Earth is 10,000 years old – maybe the interpretation of Genesis 1 is wrong? I got the facts and was mocked and ostracized by other fundamentalists.*

*4) I recall that Grace Community Church started a ministry under Gary Ezzo called, “Growing Kids Up God’s Way” (such a humble title), which turned out to be a cult using the Bible to prove their agenda based on unscientific facts which were found to be hurtful to children. I recall the arrogance of your staff saying: “This is based on the Bible, etc.” As usual, Grace Church never renounced it until it was many years later with many infants in emergency rooms!*

*I am frankly tired of having the Bible used as a weapon to hurt homosexuals – not all of us dance on floats with g-strings doing indecent acts. The mainline Christian church has not reached out to us with the love of Christ and examined the issue of same-sex attraction. Many of our people are transgendered and have physical anomalies that can’t be dealt with by “Exodus” programs. So many of our people need Christ and are hungry to be embraced and told that God can save them and that He is only a breath away. (Rom 10:9,10)*

*Why are abortion and homosexuality the two topics that mainline Evangelical churches love to bombast? It was only 10 years ago that the “Christian” right hated McCain because he was too liberal, and yet they followed him down the primrose path last week because they hated Obama more. What kind of testimony is this to the lost? Why can grace cover all our sins, except for homosexuality (which I believe is not a sin)? The church is loaded with fornicators galore – and nothing is ever said. I was told that this is normal*

---

*sexual sin LOL!* (At this point I gave him a list of Gay Christian resources including [www.wouldjesusdiscriminate.com](http://www.wouldjesusdiscriminate.com))

I hope by sharing this with all of you, that you would take any “abomination” letter as a way to share that hope that is within you. Don’t get angry and take a deep breath. It’s alright to cry for a little while, in fact, I cried at my sink while washing the dishes. I was distressed, not because of what I am, but because John was “so grieved” that my soul was damned. When the rich young ruler came to Jesus the Scripture says that “Jesus loved him” when he replied to Jesus that he kept all the commandments “from his youth.” The rich young ruler could not see that his god was coveting of money that was holding him back. When people cannot see the truth of what we really are as GLBT and that a majority of us are all people in the same “Human Comedy” of life – all we can do is “love them.”

Also keep in mind, that the Bible is our friend. Its words bring us to the one who will never cast us away. I Corinthians 6:9 is not talking about “homosexuals,” but male abusers. The cultural context is talking about male temple prostitutes and those who traffic them. The problem we have is not with the Bible, but with those who “proof text” without understanding the historical and cultural context of the passage. Finally, we must understand that many just don’t understand us. I found the most objectionable part of John’s letter was that “it is hard for me to understand why you would sacrifice your eternal future on the altar of your immediate pleasure.” Why do many assume that sexual orientation has to do with lust? My coming out of the closet was because of life and being a whole human being, not lust. My spirituality with God is tied with my humanity – the way God created me to worship God. What God has created is “very good.”

## **GAY MEN’S GROUP TOPICS**

July 4 – Independence Day holiday – No meeting  
July 11 – Open Discussion  
July 18 – Show and Tell (bring an object to tell a story about yourself)  
July 25 – How Much Am I Willing to Give Up for a Relationship?

## **DEACONS’ PANTRY FOOD LIST**

You can help serve the needy in our area by contributing to the food pantry. On your next grocery trip, why not pick up some of the following items:

Chicken Noodle Soup - 10.5 oz. can  
Tomato Soup - 10.5 oz. can  
Vegetable Beef Soup - 10.5 oz. can  
Stewed Tomatoes  
Canned vegetables – corn, green beans, peas  
Canned beans (pinto, black, kidney)  
Canned Fruit  
Apple Sauce  
Tuna Fish or some other canned meat  
Peanut butter (try for organic)  
Canned pasta and meat (i.e., Beef-a-Roni)  
Dry Milk  
Instant Mashed Potatoes  
Rice  
Dry beans: Pinto, Navy, etc.  
Spaghetti & Sauces  
Macaroni & Cheese Dinner – 6 oz. box  
Corn bread mix or muffin mix – 8.5 oz. package  
Saltine Crackers (low fat) – 1 lb. box  
Whole Grain Cereal 14 oz. (may pick from following list: All bran, Bran Flakes, Cheerios, Whites, Wheat, Rice or Corn Chex, Grape Nuts, Cream of Wheat, Kix, Shredded Wheat)  
Fruit juices or Tang

Cat & Dog Food (Dry) – adding this as an outreach for people who will cut their rations by half or more to minister to the needs of beloved pets

Anything adaptable to summertime eating habits

## GO TEAM MINISTRY MEMBERS WANTED

If you would like to be a part of a ministry to members of the congregation who need temporary assistance with simple chores due to an illness or injury, this ministry is for you. Paul reminds us that God is present with us always, and sometimes that may mean present in our own willing hearts, hands, feet and wheels. If you are willing to help someone mow the lawn, take out the garbage, drop off a bill payment, put flowers on a grave, or any other simple chore, please prayerfully consider being a contact for the GO TEAM ministry.

We are not asking for members of the team to be professional workers, nor are we asking for money to be exchanged in any way for other professional

services. We are looking for caring members of this congregation who are willing to help out in a temporary situation, situations that we all find ourselves in from time to time.

In truth, Paul says, God is not far from any of us (Acts 17:27-28). The GO TEAM ministry members are there to remind us that we are not alone.

If interested, see Rebecca M., Donna S., or Pastor Jill. Or email:

GoTeam@MCCKnoxville.org

## MCCK OFFICE HOURS

**Dusty's office hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Rev Jill's office hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and by appointment.




## Lectionary

July 3	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 10	Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 17	Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 24	Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
July 31	Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21



## Calendar of Events

Event	Date
St. Ninian meal and worship	Fridays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 @ 6:30 p.m.
Walking Group (Lakeshore)	Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 6 p.m.
Bible Study: Uppity Women of the Bible (Esther)	Sundays, July 3,10,17, 24 @ 9:15-10:15 a.m.
 <b>Independence Day</b>	<b>Monday, July 4</b>
Bereavement Support Group	Tuesday, July 5, 6:30-8 p.m.
ACT Group meeting	Saturday, July 9, 5-7 p.m.
Friday Night Social Club	July 15, 7-9:30 p.m.
Deacons' Food Pantry collection	Sunday, July 17, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Potluck lunch	Sunday, July 17, 12:30 p.m.
Healing Service and potluck dinner	Sunday, July 17, 6-8 p.m.
Handmade Artwork and Jewelry Sale for Kenyan MCC	Sunday, July 17, 12:30 p.m.
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	Monday-Friday, July 18-22, 6-8:30 p.m.
Deacons meeting	Thursday, July 21, 6:30-8 p.m.
Monthly Newsletter Deadline	Sunday, July 24
Board of Directors meeting	Thursday, July 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
St. Ninian Fun Night	Friday, July 29, 6:30-9 p.m.
Bible Study: Uppity Women of the Bible (Judith)	Sunday, July 31, 9:15-10:15 a.m.
All-Music Worship – Gospel Singing	Sunday, July 31, 6-7 p.m.

---

# MCC at Pride

June 25, 2011



---

## Pride picnic, June 19



## This Month's Newsletter Sponsors

**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

**WKRN**  
FM 107.7  
**NEWS SENTINEL**  
Knox News.com  
**LAMAR**

[www.tennesseetheatre.com](http://www.tennesseetheatre.com)

## This Month's Newsletter Sponsors (cont.)

Compassionate Hearts: Well-Trained Hands

### Touch Therapy Center

Featuring the healing hands of:

**Lois Williams**, Licensed Massage Therapist,  
Certified Clinical Aroma Therapist, Owner *and*  
**Fanita Overstreet**, Licensed Massage Therapist

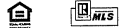


We offer more than 20 years combined experience in therapies such as Swedish Relaxation, Deep Tissue, Hot Stone & Pregnancy Massage, and Reflexology.

6311 Kingston Pike Suite 1-E, Knoxville TN 37919  
Call 865-909-9998 (Evening & Saturday appointments available)



**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



Each Office Is Independently  
Owned And Operated.

[www.cbww.com/gregmcintyre](http://www.cbww.com/gregmcintyre)

### N. David Roberts, Jr. Attorney at Law

119 W. Summit Hill Drive, Ste. #315  
P. O. Box 2564  
Knoxville, TN 37901-2564  
Ph: (865) 566-0538  
Fax: (865) 566-0541

Independent

**WRITER'S  
BLOCK**

Performing Songwriters

With Host  
**Karen E. Reynolds**

*All Independent, All Original,  
All The Time!*

Wednesdays, 10pm on WDVX  
89.9 & 102.9fm.  
Simulcast on the net!

[www.WritersBlockOnline.com](http://www.WritersBlockOnline.com)

---

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

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

---

**Metropolitan Community  
Church Knoxville**

**Rev. Jill Sizemore, Pastor**

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

Phone: (865) 531-2539 \*  
Toll Free: (866) 531-2539 \*  
Fax: (865) 531-6190  
E-mail: [office@mckknoxville.org](mailto:office@mckknoxville.org)  
Web Site: [www.mckknoxville.org](http://www.mckknoxville.org)  
Newsletter: [newsletter@mckknoxville.org](mailto:newsletter@mckknoxville.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)