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# NEWS FROM MCCK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN



VOLUME 30, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2010

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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

Our semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 21st during the Potluck Lunch and will begin after all have been served.

We will be voting to elect three members to the Administrative Council. These are the two-year positions currently held by Lisa J., Donna K., and Cyndi S. They are allowed to run for re-election. Nominations for other candidates will also be taken from the floor. Persons seeking positions on the council must be Members-in-Good-Standing for at least 6 months and not be related to another council member. Employees of the church and clergy candidates cannot serve on the council.

We will hear reports from our pastor, administrative council, treasurer, deacons, ministry teams, and conduct other business. This will also be an opportunity to hear the results of our Congregational Survey taken in December 2009.

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.

## SURVEY WORKSHOP TO ADDRESS ISSUES

Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

Issues raised by our Congregational Survey and ways to address them will be discussed Sunday, March 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

## HEALING OILS OF THE BIBLE

### SEMINAR

Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

What did Mary pour on Jesus' head when she knew he was her lord? Just what was frankincense? What was myrrh? Come learn, enjoy, share and experience these holy healing oils on Saturday, March 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. Come and be anointed. Bring your Bible. For planning purposes, please register by Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup>, on the signup sheet on the table at the front of the church. Or contact Dusty in the office by email (office @ mccknoxville.org) or phone (865-531-2539). This is a special workshop designed by Lois W and guest speaker Kate Petree.

## *FINDING TIME FOR PRAYER*

### *IN THE 9-TO-5*

*By Steve P.*

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul tells us to pray without ceasing. But for many of us, the idea of non-stop prayer seems too difficult, if only because our schedules won't allow it: We have jobs and responsibilities that distract us from prayer — meetings, appointments, interruptions. How do we fit prayer into all the events we already have? One way is to look for what I call the "betweens." Think of how much of our life is taken up with being between places or events: either in transit or (once we arrive) waiting our turn. The betweens are the times in traffic, in parking lots, in elevators, in waiting rooms. And there are plenty of them in every day.

- What if we could use these between-times to reconnect with God? What if, instead of spending our time in traffic complaining about other drivers, we used that time to

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pray for the people in the cars around us? Or to pray for our city and its leaders?

- What if we used the time walking from the parking lot to the office to give the day (and ourselves) to God? To ask God to use our work to help others and to help us embody Jesus' love? To remind ourselves that we go to our jobs for God, not for the paycheck?
- What if we used the time before an appointment or meeting to meditate on how patiently God waits for us? To thank God for the many blessings we have received? To pray for the other people in the room with us?

We will never be rid of all the demands and distractions of our lives. But we can change the way we respond to those by making them opportunities for prayer. And as we start to notice how much between-time we have, we realize how much time God has already given us for prayer!

## ***OUR SUFFICIENCY IN CHRIST***

(Pt. 3)

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 continue our study by looking at "additions" to our faith that distract from our completeness in Christ. We have already seen the main problem the Colossians had -- it was their low view of Christ, which led them to seek other ways to seek God. We will see in the coming months that "religion" is the biggest hindrance to a relationship with God! Here is a sample of what we will be covering. We will first look historically at the problem that the Apostle was dealing with and then we will make an application for our lives in this modern world. Not much has changed in 2,000 years!

**Ceremonialism and Legalism.** It held to strict rules about the kinds of permissible food and drink, religious festivals (Colossians 2:16–17) and circumcision (2:11; 3:11).

We will look at this next month — humans throughout history have tried many ways to make themselves acceptable to God. Legalism takes a set of behaviors and makes the expression outward instead of bringing the reality inward. People simplify the truth in a set of rules or rites without seeing the reality of what is behind the rite. The Colossians misunderstood circumcision from the Old Covenant. We will also look at baptism and how Paul equates the two rites.

**Asceticism, Ritualism, Monasticism.** "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!" (2:21; cf. 2:23).

This is the religion of self-denial — it is usually a self imposed religion that originates from the person who practices it as a way to bring about a relationship with God. I call this the OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) of religion — what pattern and ritual do I need to perform in order to bring about my sanity.

**Mysticism Ex: Angel worship.** See 2:18.

Mysticism is the opposite of dead-orthodoxy. Abba God is seeking people to worship in both Spirit (fervency and earnestness in the Holy Spirit) and in Truth (as revealed in the Scriptures). See John 4:21-24. We see in our present day how people are attracted to ministries that cater to the "flesh" with health and wealth, miracles and other emotional expressions.

**Depreciation of Christ.** This is implied in Paul's emphasis on the supremacy of Christ (Colossians 1:15–20; 2:2–3,9). We discussed this in great detail in Part 2.

**Secret knowledge.** The Gnostics boasted of this (see 2:18 and Paul's emphasis in 2:2–3 on Christ, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom") and reliance on human wisdom and tradition. See 2:4,8.

We will examine this more closely in coming installments. In 1 Timothy 6:20-21 Paul warns Timothy, saying “what is falsely called knowledge (Grk: gnosis) — by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith.” Although Gnosticism wasn’t fully blown until the 2nd Century, we see the seeds forming. In a nutshell these teachers said, Christ is the “first step” along the road of “knowledge” and that you needed to be initiated into a “knowledge” reserved for a few.

The truth of the Gospel is that Christ is sufficient for all — when Christ embraces us we have everything we need for our spiritual salvation. It is Christ plus ... nothing else. Our Christ embraces us as we are — no need for “religious” baggage to add to His redeeming grace. No denomination, ritual rite, or any other thing can compare to what Christ IS and what He has done for US. AMEN!

## FACES OF MCKK

*By Sarah Frazier*

**Kendall L. Crutchfield,** 65, is one of our gifted readers of the Scriptures during worship services. He attended Eden Seminary outside St. Louis and was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1969. He carries out a ministry of helping people understand their sexuality, and the spiritual component of their sexuality. “Sexuality is spirituality” and vice versa, he said. He’s been a member of MCC since 1980 (through four moves by the church), and though he is originally from Massachusetts, he grew up mostly in Louisville, Ky.



**Amy MacDougall** is from Jefferson City and lives in Maryville. She has been “very deeply religious” all her life and intends to carry that into the seminary, through a three-year online program at Erlhem School of Religion in Richmond, Ind. She says she first felt the calling after graduation from Carson-Newman. Amy



also writes all the time: poems, short stories, short novels, and two unpublished novels. She found MCC two years ago through a connection with Ray and was “blown away” on her first visit. She had the feeling that “I’m home.” Amy has three children and four grandchildren.

## GAY MEN’S GROUP TOPICS

- March 1 - Open Discussion – Free HIV Testing at 8:30
- March 8 – Dating Disasters
- March 15 – HIV/STD Update from Knox County Health Dept. guest, Judy
- March 22 – Finding Allies in the LGBTQ Movement
- March 29 – Beyond Wallflowers

## Lectionary

March 7 (third week of Lent)	Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9
March 14 (fourth week of Lent)	Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
March 21 (fifth week of Lent)	Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14
March 28 (Palm Sunday)	Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56




## Calendar of Events



Event	Date
Deadline to register for the "Healing Oils of the Bible" seminar	Sunday, March 7
"Healing Oils of the Bible" seminar	Saturday, March 13, 1-3 p.m.
Daylight Saving Time begins ("spring forward" one hour)	Sunday, March 14
Deacons' meeting	Wednesday, March 17, 6:30-8 p.m.
St. Patrick's Day	Wednesday, March 17
Administrative Council meeting	Thursday, March 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Deadline for April "News from MCKK"	Sunday, March 21
Friday Night Social Club	March 26, 7 p.m.
Palm Sunday	March 28
Congregational Survey Workshop	Sunday, March 28, 1-3 p.m.


<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Metropolitan Community Church Knoxville</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rev. Bob Galloway, Pastor</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Sunday Worship: 11:00AM &amp; 6:00 PM</i></b></p> <p>Phone: (865) 531-2539 *</p> <p>Toll Free: (866) 531-2539 *</p> <p>Fax: (865) 531-6190</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:MCKK@mccknoxville.org">MCKK@mccknoxville.org</a></p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.mccknoxville.org">www.mccknoxville.org</a></p> <p>Newsletter: <a href="mailto:newsletter@mccknoxville.org">newsletter@mccknoxville.org</a></p> <p>* GLBT Helpline 7 to 11 PM staff permitting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Directions to MCC Knoxville</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><i>From I-40 west bound</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take Exit 380 (West Hills)</li> <li>- Continue through the first stop light (West Town Way)</li> </ul> </li> <li><b><i>From I-40 east bound</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take Exit 380 (West Hills)</li> <li>- Turn right at the first stop light (heading to Montvue Rd.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Turn left at next stop light (Kingston Pike)</li> <li>3. Turn right at the second stop light (Morrell Rd.)</li> <li>4. Continue straight through the next five stop lights (1.3 miles, finally crossing Westland Dr.)</li> <li>5. Turn right at the next 4-way stop (Nubbins Ridge Rd.)</li> <li>6. Continue 3 blocks</li> <li>7. Turn left on Tranquilla Dr. (at crest of hill)</li> <li>8. Turn right on Redeemer Lane</li> <li>9. Parking lot is at the top of the hill (through red brick gateposts)</li> </ol>
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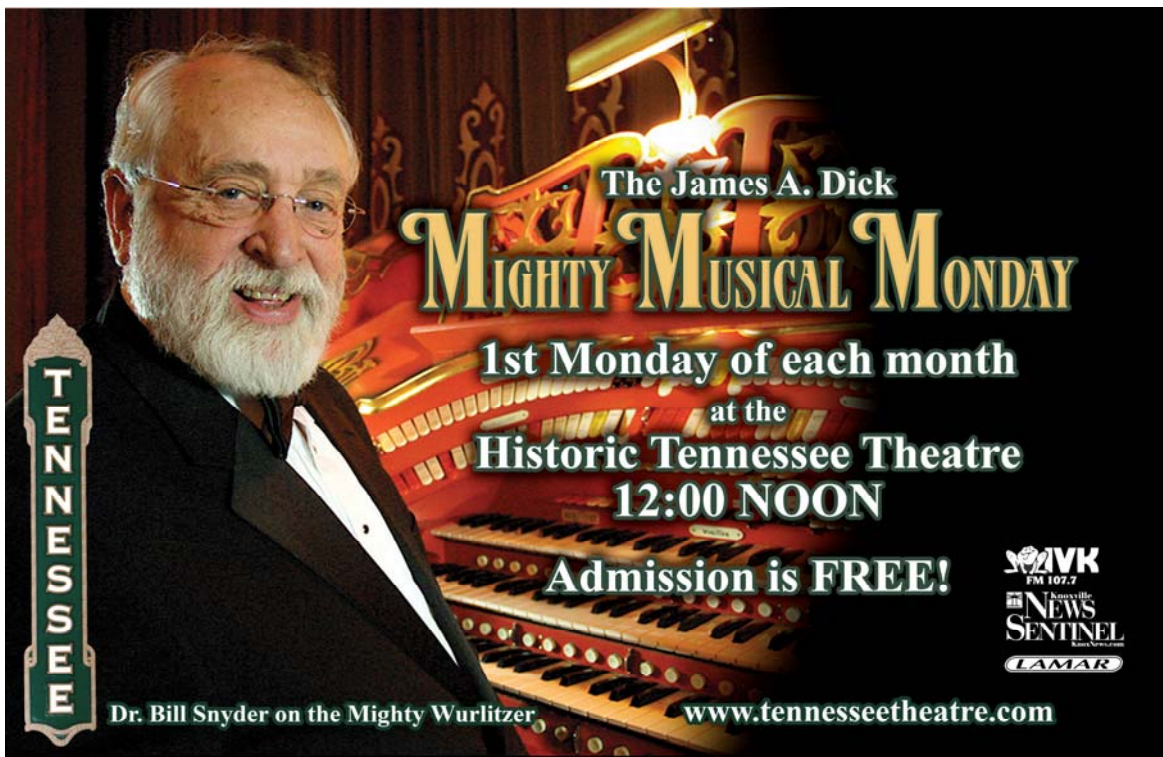
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**The James A. Dick**  
**MIGHTY MUSICAL MONDAY**  
1st Monday of each month  
at the  
**Historic Tennessee Theatre**  
**12:00 NOON**  
**Admission is FREE!**

**TENNESSEE**  
Dr. Bill Snyder on the Mighty Wurlitzer

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