
NEWS FROM MCCK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 8



OCTOBER 2009

Words from the Pastor



God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Going through the motions doesn't please you, a flawless performance is nothing to you. I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice. Psalm 51:10, 16-17

(Message)

The last month has been a time of chaos in my life. I seem to be able to do so little, only the minimum. I get irritated at myself for the foot boot that slows me down. I get anxious about the conflicts in the Church. I want life to be perfect. This is a strange wish since I have never really known perfect, except maybe when I'm in denial. And as I breathe in and exhale slowly, I hear the voice say, "Bob, you don't have to be good enough for me. I already love you with an overwhelming love. Put down your guard, let me walk with you. Admit you can't make it and together we will."

I realize that voice is not just for me. If you feel like you're going under, quit fighting and trust in God. God will pull you up and be with you. Together with God, all of us can move into that fresh start.

--Bob

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL AND CAMPFIRE

Join us Saturday, Oct. 17, 6-9 p.m. for chili & fixins, campfire, and more! Get your "honey" and snuggle around the campfire with a bowl of homemade chili. Bring your favorite chili toppings:

cheese, sour cream, chips, etc., or a favorite dessert to share.

This is an evening for you and your loved ones to feel safe and comfortable in a social setting where you can share a pleasant fall tradition.

This is also a FUN-d Raiser for the ministries of the church. A \$5 donation is suggested.

If you can volunteer to help host and cook chili, sign up on the sheet in the kitchen. Please contact Denise L if you have questions.

TRUNK OR TREAT FOR KIDS

On Sunday, Nov. 1 after the morning service, we are going to have a "Trunk or Treat" for MCC kids. Adults are asked to decorate the trunk of their car with Halloween themes and have candy and healthy snacks to hand out. Kids will dress in their Halloween costumes after the service. Homemade soup and sandwiches will be served. We are also planning some other activities for the kids, so invite other families who need an introduction to MCCK. We will have someone available to talk about our children's ministry with visiting families. Get your imaginations working. There will also be prizes for the best "trunk"!

JUSTIN RYAN TO RETURN IN CONCERT!

Justin Ryan, from Nashville, will be singing at the morning service on Sunday, Oct. 18. He will also be presenting a full concert that evening at 6.

Ryan is about to release his debut country CD.

Ryan has visited MCCK twice before and has been well received. Plan now to attend both services!

SINGERS NEEDED!

Work has begun on the choir's Christmas concert. We will be singing "Promise of Peace" on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. Singers for the choir are still welcome to join us in preparation for this concert—all parts are needed!

Mark your calendars now for these two special concerts. This is a great time to invite friends and family who do not normally attend MCC services. Contact Ray Evette if you have questions or need more information.

FROM YOUR GREEN TEAM: REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASES FROM DRIVING

Fuel economy is important for many reasons including:

- It saves you money
- It reduces our dependence on foreign oil
- It reduces the negative impacts that cause climate change
- It may take up to one year for one tree to replace the CO₂ found in 2 gallons of gas.

Here are some suggestions to reduce your use of gasoline.



Buy a bike and use it. With gas prices so high, it will pay for itself. Ride it to work, to run errands, or to have fun. Bikes can be loaded on buses to extend their range.

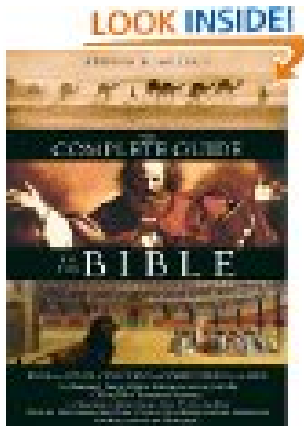
- **Drive sensibly.** Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gas. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town. Sensible driving is also safer.

- **Drive the speed limit.** Gas mileage generally decreases above 60 miles per hour. Use cruise control.
- **Eliminate excess weight from your car.** Avoid carrying extra stuff.
- **Don't idle.** Go inside rather than use the drive-throughs.
- **Walk short distances** rather than drive. It may be convenient to drive, but let's face it, it probably takes longer than walking would, and emits pollutants to boot.
- **Use public transportation or carpool for long trips.** These options may take a little longer, but you can read, listen to headphones, work on computer or craft projects, or talk to people instead of having to stare straight ahead for the length of your commute. There are many carpool and ride share websites on the Internet for both regular and one-time trips, such as craigslist.org for one-time trips.
- **Consolidate your trips.** If you must drive to do shopping, etc., plan to do all weekly errands on one day. It's more fuel efficient to start a car that's already warmed up.
- **Learn more about biodiesel.** This is a diesel made from a percentage of plant and animal fat (in some cases reused fat).
- **Research energy efficient, electric, hybrid and diesel engines** when buying a new car, motorbike or scooter.
- **If you are buying a house,** consider moving closer to your workplace, or vice versa.
- **Ask your boss about telecommuting.** Even one day a week will save on your use of gasoline.

AN ADVENTURE INTO THE BIBLE

(a review)

Let me urge you all to visit www.stephenmillerbooks.com and see the wonderful world of Stephen Miller books. If you have ever had a negative reaction to the Bible (and we all have, right?) – *The Complete Guide to the Bible* will cure that for you and take you on the greatest adventure in reading the “Book of Books”!



Miller gives a scholarly, progressive, and direct overview of all the books of the Bible. He is neither conservative nor liberal and presents the facts without being dogmatic. The

artwork is breathtaking. Each book of the Bible is discussed in great detail from time, place, author, theme, and major sections explored.

Miller has won many awards for his books and praise even from his critics because of his approach. The section on Genesis and Revelation is worth the price of the book alone! (Creation account, Who are the “Sons of God?”, What is 666, Is Revelation about the future?) His sidebars are very interesting - especially his one after Romans Chapter 1 discussing the “Clobber” section used against GLBT people. You will get a new understanding of why Paul said what he did to the churches and what was going on at that time.

Miller says his approach is pretty easy for him because on many of the controversial topics, “I’m as confused as the next guy. But I’m pretty relaxed about trusting God when it comes to the things I don’t understand.”

This would make a wonderful Sunday school curriculum (hint, hint). By the way, fundamentalists beware -- this book might open your eyes to real Bible truth on so many dogmas that are erroneously

held (like a literal six-day Creation and a 10,000-year-old Earth) -- which Miller, with humor and common sense, clearly reveals as ridiculous.

—Wayne S

HI, HOW ARE YA?!

We say it as we greet each other every Sunday morning and night, but do we stop a moment to really listen, to hear if someone might want to say something other than “fine”, before we rush off to greet someone else. Have we ever looked into our sister or brother's eyes to see what's really here? Maybe he wanted to say, “I don't feel good today. I have a headache.” Or, “My best friend's mother died yesterday,” she said. “I loved her too.” Did we notice that sadness in her eyes, but were we in too much of a hurry to rush off to greet someone else we knew a little better? We all agree that we have such precious children in our midst. Did we listen as perhaps one child whispered to his or her mommy or daddy that they missed their puppy who had died a few days ago.

There are people all around us who are perhaps weeping inside and are answering with “fine.” “Fine” does not get it! It is not a “feeling” word. Feeling words describe. Feeling words say, “I’m feeling great! Sad! Happy! Blue! Terrific! Angry! Beautiful! Like a sky full of rainbows!”

Next Sunday, say “Hi, how are ya?” and listen with the ears of Christ. Love and peace.

-- Amy M

THE HEROISM OF SAINT FRANCIS

By Steve P

(This month we remember St. Francis, one of the greatest figures in church history. He is known for calling the church back to its ideals of humility and material poverty, for founding the Franciscan order of monks, and for his many miracles. Many of the stories about him demonstrate the power of his holiness and poverty by showing that even the animals listened to his preaching. This story is one of the most famous of these; it also teaches that the church needs to trust in God's abundance and to give generously to those in need.)

St. Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio

When St. Francis lived in Gubbio, a large wolf so terrorized the city, attacking both animals and humans, that the people feared going outside the walls, even with their weapons. In his compassion, Francis went to meet the wolf, trusting only in God; no one went with him, but watched from a distance. When the wolf ran against him, Francis made the sign of the cross and commanded the wolf in Christ's name to stop attacking the people. Amazingly, the wolf shut his mouth, stopped running, and lay down at Francis' feet.

Francis then said to him, "Brother Wolf, because of your great crimes against God's creatures and against these people, made in God's image, you should be put to death like a murderer. The whole city rises up against you. Yet I shall make peace between you all, Brother Wolf: If you stop offending them, they will forgive you and not seek your death." Francis promised that the people of the city would feed the wolf, since it was from hunger that he had attacked them; however, the wolf had to promise not to attack any more animals or people. The wolf again showed his consent. Francis asked for his pledge and held out his hand, into which the wolf laid his paw.

As word of this miracle spread, the whole town came out to see. Francis preached to the crowd, reminding them that if they feared this single wolf, which could kill only the body, they should much more fear hell, which kills the soul.

The people rejoiced that peace had been made and that God had sent Francis to deliver them. The wolf then lived peacefully among the people, who treated him well and fed him with great pleasure; even the dogs accepted him as a neighbor. When he died of old age two years later, the city mourned, for his gentle presence had been their reminder of Francis' great holiness and virtue.

--from "The Little Flowers of St. Francis," chap. 21
(paraphrased by S. Pearson, 2009)

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS CANCELED

The Oct Membership Class has been canceled as Pastor Bob has to be out of town that week.

FACES OF MCKK



Steve Pearson, an English instructor at UT, gets great satisfaction from teaching, even though it is more than a full-time job. He has a PhD from Georgia in religious literature, with an emphasis on the history of Christian literature (a source of his weekly contribution to "The Word"). His thesis was on how being a Christian means "being a minority" in the world. He's also been active in music and theater, and was music director at MCC in Athens, Ga. He says singing tenor in our choir is a nice break from the academic grind. Steve, who came to Knoxville about a year ago, grew up mostly in Orange Park, Fla., near Jacksonville.



Dale Jolley, who gifts us with such beautiful piano music, grew up playing the piano in a Baptist church in his hometown of Spring City, near Chattanooga. Dale, 37, is a marketing coordinator at Scripps Networks (which brings us HGTV and DIYnetwork.com). In his spare time, he likes to exercise with his Scottish terrier, Angus. Dale has a degree from MTSU and has been at MCC about 3 years. And here's something you might not know: He's a huge "Wonder Woman" fan and collector. "It's just what I grew up with," he said. Actress Linda Carter is very open-minded and an ally of GLBT people, he said.

OCTOBER GAY MEN'S GROUP TOPICS

(Meetings on Mondays at 7:30 at Unitarian Church)

Oct. 5 - National Coming Out Day

Oct. 12 - Open Discussion

Oct. 19 - 17th Anniversary Potluck

Oct. 26 - Dating Protocols



Calendar of Events

Event	Date
Blessing of the Animals	Sunday, Oct. 4 at 6 p.m.
Butter Braid Fundraiser	Sunday, Oct. 11 – Order taking starts Sunday, Oct. 25 – Order form deadline Saturday, Nov. 7 – Order pickup
Fall Harvest Festival and Campfire	Saturday, Oct. 17, 6-9 p.m.
“The Bible Is a Queer Book: Homosexuality and the Bible”	Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



Lectionary

October 4 – Proper 22 (27)	Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
October 11 – Proper 23 (28)	Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
October 18 – Proper 24 (29)	Job 38:1-7, (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
October 25 – Proper 25 (30)	Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22); Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Metropolitan Community Church Knoxville

Rev. Bob Galloway, Pastor

Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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Web Site: www.mcccknoxville.org
Newsletter: newsletter@mcccknoxville.org
* GLBT Helpline 7 to 11 PM staff permitting

Directions to MCC Knoxville

- 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.)
- 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)

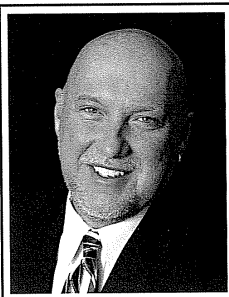
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