
NEWS FROM MCCCK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 7



SEPTEMBER 2009



Words from the Pastor

Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.

James 1:19-21 (The Message Bible)

By the time you read this I will have already returned from my time away that I am preparing for while I write. Every year at my birthday, I take a few days to myself in the mountains to listen for God, to evaluate the last year, and discern direction for the next year. I really need this time.

James reminds me to listen and quit shooting from the hip (or the lip). It is so easy to get wrapped up into my righteous indignation. Too easy for me to think I know what needs to happen. I need to back away and let go of all that I think I know. This time is for me to listen – listen to the screams, pain, and hurt that I hide from myself. It is a time to let the part of me speak that is fearful and unsure. It is a time to listen to that part of me that wants to speak of the good I have done and the truth that I lived that too often I have silenced as pride.

So I go aside to allow the Word to landscape me. I want to allow God to pull the weeds from my garden, to prune and shape. I need to allow God to fertilize and water me for growth, and to rearrange and transplant as needed. I too often see myself as a garden too old and overwhelmed with disease ever to be beautiful or productive again, but today I pray that the Gardener will do something beautiful in and with my life. And that is also my prayer for you and this Community of Faith.

Shalom,
Bob Galloway

Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 20, 2009

Our semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held during the potluck following the Sunday morning worship on Sept. 20. We will start the meeting at 1 pm. The two major items of business are the budget for 2010 and a bylaw amendment to enable us to give notice of future meetings through both electronic and postal means (the amendment is in the agenda

below). We look forward to seeing all members and friends at the meeting.

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Determination of Quorum**
- **Minutes of March Congregational Meeting and Actions of Admin. Council**
- **March to Sept Treasurer's Report**
- **Pastor Report and other Reports**
- **Bylaws Amendment**

Article V. Congregational Meeting

Section B. Notification - The Administrative Council

shall notify Members in writing **through postal or electronic mail, and posting on the web site** at least two (2) weeks in advance. **It is the responsibility of members to keep their contact information updated.** [Bold type is the proposed addition to current reading of the bylaws]

- **Budget**
- **Other**
- **Closing Prayer**

Bless Our Pets

Memorials & Honorariums

St. Francis of Assisi (~1182 - 10.3.1226) was a Catholic Deacon and is best known as the Patron Saint of Animals. Many stories surrounding his life deal with his love for animals. Legend has it that on his deathbed, St. Francis thanked his donkey for carrying and helping him throughout his life, and his donkey wept.

He preached to man and beast about the universal ability and duty of all creatures to praise God. He also challenged men to protect and enjoy nature as both stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves. He believed every creature is important.

Corresponding to the anniversary of his death, a ceremony honoring animals is held in early October. *The Blessing of the Animals* is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. As GLBT persons, we often consider our animals our "babies." The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship. The communication between us and our fellow creatures is at its most basic. The love we give to and receive from a pet can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into wonder of our common relationship with our Creator.

Remembering St. Francis of Assisi's devotion to animals and since the Easter Memorials/ Honorariums were so successful, the Poised for Greatness (PFG) campaign will accept

memorials and honorariums for our furry, feathered, and finned friends.

***Dignify a dog. Commend a cat. Glorify a goldfish.
Praise a parrot.***

Give public recognition to true and loyal animal companions. Donations made on behalf of these special creatures are tax-deductible and may either be placed in envelopes (located on the PFG easel) or submitted to the church office. Please include the names of the animals being honored or remembered as all donations received by October 2 will be listed on the PFG easel on Sunday, October 4.

"All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." -St. Francis of Assisi

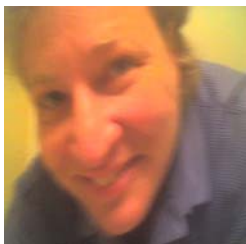
Sold!

The auction and rummage sale held Saturday, Aug. 15 was a good day, raising **almost \$4,000** for the church. Folks had a good time while bidding on more than 200 items. About 40 bidders swooped up bargains:

- A framed print of a tiger cub sparked furious bidding and sold for \$100;
- A 2009 silver dollar brought \$20;
- A one-hour massage from Lois fetched \$85;
- A red Roadmaster tricycle, "test driven" across the carpet by Doug, went for the astonishingly low price of \$11;
- Chicken pot pie – fresh from the oven! – sold for \$70; peanut brittle went for \$40; pineapple upside down cake for \$50; and after bids opened at \$40 for Juanita's peanut butter pie, it sold for \$95.

Mike and Doug presented the items in a stylish and hilarious fashion. At least 10 other volunteers helped move items, take up money and record the transactions. And last but not least was auctioneer Joe J., a true showman.

Faces of MCC Knoxville



Hello all,
With this issue, the newsletter passes to my hands, and with your permission, I'd like to start a new feature called "Faces of MCC." I've been attending only since February, and I'd like to get to know you all better, hear your stories about your families, faith journeys, and what MCC means to you. I'll try to fit in a couple of "Faces" every issue. While I have your attention, here's my story...

I'm a native of Knoxville. I came to MCC by something of a fluke. I'd never heard of this church. But coming off a few rough years, a divorce, loss of career and other wrenching

events, I'd wound up living at my parents' house again for the first time in 23 years. I don't know how the little postcard wound up on their kitchen table, but there it was ... just as I was beginning to come to terms with some pretty heavy things about myself. At MCC, I feel surrounded by love, acceptance, wisdom and understanding. My first Sunday was Ray's last as pastor, and the sermon, which was about accepting ourselves as children of God, was something I needed to hear. I've continued to get much nourishment from the sermons and services. But one thing stood out for me that first day: the laughter. You don't hear that in many churches, especially the ones I've attended.

Sarah Frazier

Bible Study Resumes

Tuesday, September 8, 2009 (7:00 PM)

Sunday, September 13, 2009 (9:15 AM)

Pastor Bob Galloway leads a new DVD-based Bible study series "**First Light, Jesus and the Kingdom of God**" in the annex. A new part is started each Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. The same topic is repeated the following Sunday morning at 9:15. You do not need to attend both.

Gay Men's Discussion Group Topics

Sept.	
7	Labor Day – No meeting
14	Open Discussion – Free HIV Testing 8:30 pm
21	Are You Ready to Date? (Ready Inside & Out?)
28	Show 'N Tell (bring story or object to tell about yourself)

YOUR RENEWAL IS REQUIRED!

To continue receiving your mailed copy of this newsletter, please contact the church office. Email us at office@mccknoxville.org or call us at (865) 531-2539 to continue your subscription.

If you can receive this newsletter by e-mail, please do so. We recognize that some do not have convenient access to the Internet, so this newsletter will continue to be available by mail.

But in an effort to reduce costs and save trees, we'd like to switch to electronic delivery as much as possible. Also, because the church website and weekly emails have been offering more timely information than this quarterly publication could provide, we're changing "News from MCC" to monthly so that the information is more timely.

As always, the most up to date information can be found at our website: www.mccknoxville.org. You can subscribe to our weekly email list from there.

Next Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, September 13, 2009

The next newsletter will be published and mailed at the end of September. This issue will cover October events in the life of the church and our community, **including the next Butter Braid Fund-raiser!**

Articles for October must be received by Sarah (newsletter @ mccknoxville.org) no later than Sunday, September 13th, or your material will not be published. If possible please submit your information prior to this deadline so she will have sufficient time to prepare the issue. Thank you for your cooperation.

Strength for the Journey Retreat *

Mon - Fri, September 14 - 18, 2009

Mon - Fri, October 19 - 23, 2009

Strength for the Journey is a retreat for women and men living with HIV/AIDS. It provides a safe, caring, and healing community that offers an opportunity for spiritual and emotional growth in a supportive and nurturing environment.

It originated over 15 years ago in the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church. In 1977 the Holston Conference hosted the first retreat in the Southeast.

The retreat center is a 30-bed facility with private and semi-private baths, meeting areas, and dining hall all within one building. The center is surrounded by acres of woods and mountains to be explored. It is an alcohol and drug free facility.

The retreat starts with lunch on Monday and ends with lunch on Friday. The cost of \$150 includes meals, lodging, and the program. Scholarships are available to defer most of this amount.

For more information, visit www.sftj.info or contact Ginny West Case, Director, Phone 865-363-1709, Email ginnywc@charter.net

Location: Buffalo Mountain Retreat Center, Jonesborough, TN

* Not an MCCK event

MCCK Green Team

A few weeks ago, Kathy H gave the message at our Sunday morning worship service. She spoke of the importance of being good environmental stewards of the natural resources which God has given to us all.

In the coming months, the MCCK Green Team will begin to show us how we can make small changes in our daily lives

which move us in the right direction. Keep an eye out for the new brochure they are preparing. One step at a time, we can all gradually use less gas and electricity, conserve water, and sometimes even save money in the process.

Volunteers are still needed for this group. Please contact Kathy H if you have an interest in helping with this important new church initiative.

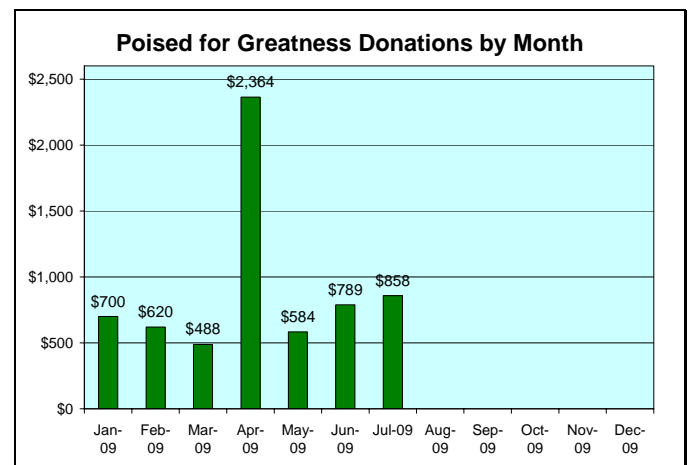
Poised for Greatness Status Update

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

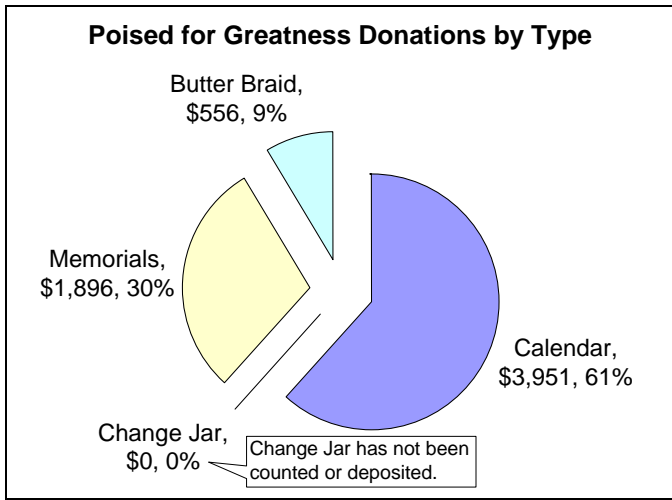
If you have not participated in the campaign, there are ways for everyone to be involved.

- Drop your loose pocket change in the large 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. Then mark the calendar accordingly. 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 July 2009, \$6,403 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 Memorials were the next largest amount. The recent Butter Braid sale made a significant contribution. Donations to the Change Jar will be counted and deposited later this year.



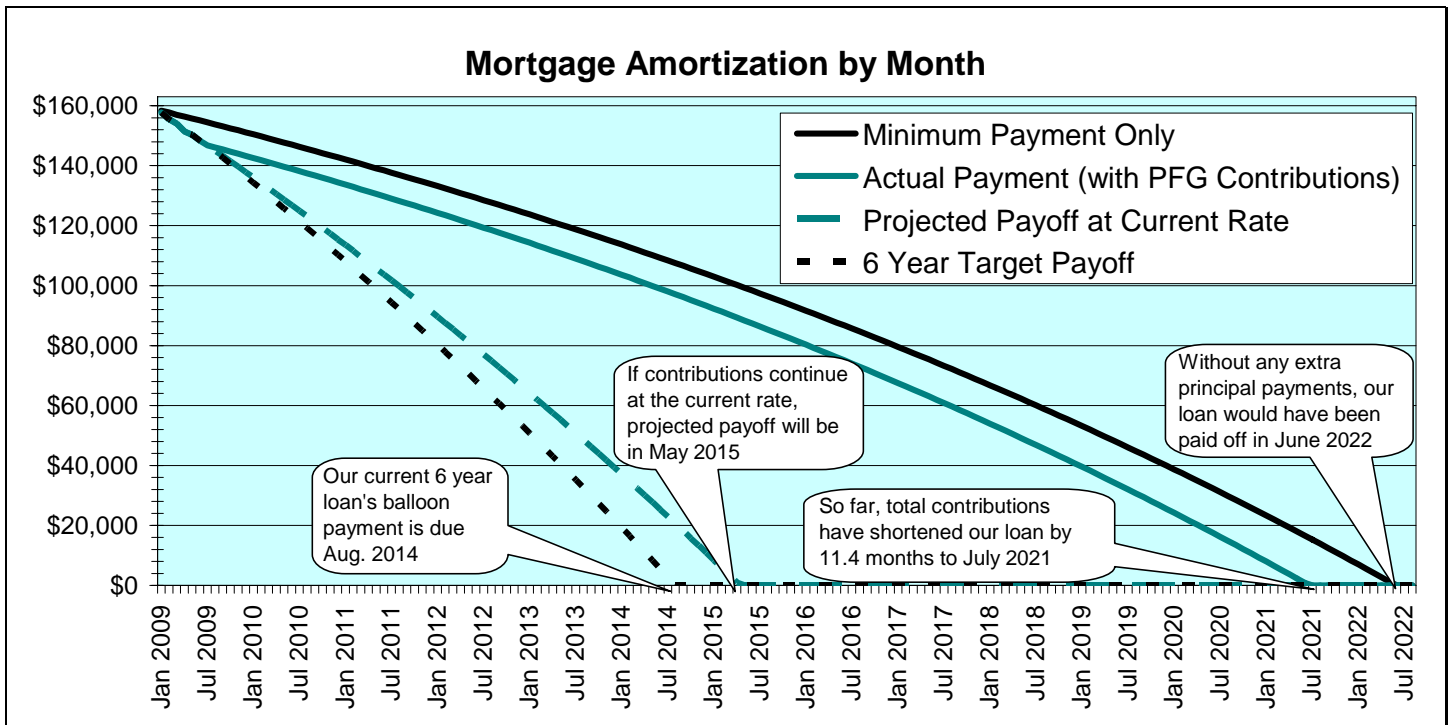
Minimum Payment Only and Actual Payment (with PFG Contributions) lines.

Looking ahead... on average, we have paid an extra \$1,074 per month toward principal. Based on that, **we are on pace to pay off the mortgage in May 2015**. This would be **85.4 months early; avoiding \$123,076 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 \$1,362 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 already 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.

Extra principal payments totaling \$7,515 have been deposited to date. Over the life of our loan, **this has saved us \$8,804 in interest. It has shortened our loan by 11.4 months or \$16,460**. The effect can be seen on the *Mortgage Amortization By Month* line graph as the gap between the



Thanks go out to all who have worked so hard and to all who have given so generously. This campaign is so successful because of YOU! Let's keep up the good work! The Poised for Greatness page of our website tracks our progress and gives information on future PFG events.

Meanwhile, whether it's \$1, \$10, \$50, or more, EVERY dollar reduces our debt. EVERY dollar positively and significantly affects the future of our church. We are reshaping MCKK's destiny... "...together with a freewill offering for the house of God..." Ezra 1:4



Calendar of Events

Date	Event
September 4, 11, 18, 25	Meal and Worship at St. Ninian's (6:30 – 9:00 PM)
September 5, 19	Spectrum Café – TN Valley Unitarian Church (5:00 – 7:00 PM)
September 7, 14, 21, 28	UT Lambda Student Union (6:00 – 7:30 PM)
September 7, 14, 21, 28	Gay Men's Discussion Group – TN Valley Unitarian Church (7:30 – 9:00 PM)
September 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29	Bible Study (Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, repeated Sundays at 9:15 AM)
September 10	PFLAG Meeting - TN Valley Unitarian Church (7:00 – 9:00 PM)
September 14 – 18	Strength for the Journey Retreat (Jonesborough, TN)
September 15	Knoxville Human Rights Group Meeting (7:00 PM)
September 16	Deacon's Meeting at MCCK (6:30 PM)
September 20	Deacon's Food Pantry Collection at MCCK (11:00 AM)
September 20	Potluck Lunch & Dinner follow the 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM services
September 20	Congregational Meeting at MCCK (1:00 PM)
September 24	Administrative Council Meeting at MCCK (6:30 PM)
September 25	Friday Night Social Club at MCCK (7:00 PM)



Lectionary

September 6 – Proper 18 (23)	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37
September 13 – Proper 19 (24)	Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38
September 20 – Proper 20 (25)	Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37
September 27 – Proper 21 (26)	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Metropolitan Community Church Knoxville

Rev. Bob Galloway, Pastor

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

Phone: (865) 531-2539 *
Toll Free: (866) 531-2539 *
Fax: (865) 531-6190
E-mail: office@mccknoxville.org
Web Site: www.mccknoxville.org
Newsletter: newsletter@mccknoxville.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)





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

*Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Knoxville, TN
Permit No. 226*

This Month's Newsletter Sponsors



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
www.cbwww.com/gregmcintyre

Each Office Is Independently
Owned And Operated.

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

Email: davidroberts@cavtel.net



Nicole Jeannine Maikish

Vocal Lessons

Ph: 865-329-0485
njmaikish@mystudiolessons.com
www.mystudiolessons.com