
NEWS FROM MCKK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN



VOLUME 30, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2010

PASTOR CANDIDATE COMING FOR VISIT SEPT. 19-26

The Pastoral Search Committee, after much prayer for discernment, advice from the Rev. Elder Ken Martin, and an intensive pastoral search, has chosen a pastoral candidate to present to the congregation.

The Pastoral Candidate will be at MCC Knoxville from September 19-26. During that time, the pastoral candidate will be preaching on both Sundays and meeting members and friends of MCC Knoxville throughout the week. There will be ample time for everyone to meet and get to know the candidate during our Sunday potluck lunch and dinner and also at a special BBQ dinner that is planned for Thursday. On Sunday, September 26, 2010, there will be a congregational meeting where the MCKK membership will vote on calling the candidate as our pastor. (Rev. Bob Galloway will remain in a half-time role).

The events related to the candidacy period are included in Calendar of Events on page 5 of this newsletter.

Additional information will be announced at church and also sent to our email distribution list. If you are not already receiving weekly emails from MCKK, you may want to sign up now. This will ensure that you have the most timely information about the Pastoral Search process. Visit our website, www.mckknoxville.org, and enter your email address in the lower left corner where you see *Sign up for our Email Newsletter*.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING/VOTE ON PASTOR CANDIDATE

Our semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, Sept. 26 during the potluck lunch after worship and will begin after all have been served.

We will vote on calling the Pastor Candidate to serve MCKK.

We will also be voting to elect two members to the Administrative Council. These are the three-year Lay Delegate positions currently held by Roy C. and Dustin E. They are allowed to run for re-election. Nominations for candidates will be taken from the floor. People 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.

The Administrative Council will present the 2011 budget for review, amendment and approval.

All MCKK members are expected to attend and be a part of the decision-making process. 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.

THE APOSTLE PAUL: HIS LIFE AND TEACHINGS

Pt. 3

By Wayne Sacchi



The Stoning of St. Stephen (Rembrandt, 1625)

We now come to what I believe was the turning point in Paul's life – the stoning of Stephen. The conversion on the road to Damascus was his spiritual regeneration, but the murder of Stephen was his confrontation with his "religion" of hate. Many of us know about religious systems that use dogmas, and even the Bible, to justify their actions. We sit idly by because we are in an "organization" that tells us how to think and respond – we follow the letter of the law and use that to justify our actions without ever allowing the spirit of God to lead us.

The mark of any true healthy church is in its behavior, not always in its doctrine. Sound doctrine is mentioned quite a bit by Paul in his letters, especially to Timothy to "preach sound doctrine" (I Tim 1:3-11); the Apostle Peter adds another test that is most obvious to any unhealthy religious system – the behavior of its leadership. You can judge a true move of God in what is produced in fruit – no matter how "sound" they claim their theology is.

1But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on

themselves. 2Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

13They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. 14With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! 15They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. 16But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

17These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them." 20If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. 22Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud." (2 Peter 2:1-3, 13-22)

Does Christ shine through in what is preached? How have its members' lives changed? Is there fear or grace? Is there joy or dissension? Are we to conform to Christ or one another? The Apostle Paul was in such a system – one that blinded him and kept him prisoner. Stephen was a man filled with the spirit of God. We have the longest recorded sermon in the Bible that recounts the whole history of Israel. Why was this long recounting recorded? To the Jewish scholars and scribes it was necessary to prove a very important point – that the history of Israel and God's Covenant people always rejected God and God's messengers. People have always loved their religion over God and their wicked behavior over God's Covenant – to the point that they will stop and silence anything that stands in their way. The opening chapter of Romans actually hints that if

people could they would pull God off the throne and kill God! Any religious system based on misguided zeal instead of the Holy Spirit is a lost cause for humanity to solve – only the grace of God can bring humanity back to a new creation.

The noted theologian and expositor Donald Gray Barnhouse once preached a sermon, after which a person went up to him and said, “I just gave my heart to Jesus!” Barnhouse replied, “What does Jesus want with that dirty thing!” The point he was making is that God doesn’t want our heart because of our religion, but that God gives us a new fleshly heart by grace. God does the repair work (and it’s a general overhaul), and we receive it without cost or piousness.

One of the pivotal themes of this long narrative is the idea that “this is a witness against you.” Paul (who is called Saul at this time), despite being a slave to his Pharisaical religion, knew that the history of Israel showed that the leaders never listened to God through God’s prophets and messengers. This fact was true and Saul knew it was true. Religion is such a heavy yoke to carry. Oh thanks be to God, that Jesus’ yoke is light and He gives us rest from our religion!

When Stephen died, he mentioned that he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God, which caused his murderers to go into a frenzy. When Christ completed his work of redemption, we are told by the writer to the Hebrews, “that he sat down at God’s right hand.” (Heb. 10:12; Rom. 8:34; Col. 3:1) Christ’s work was accomplished for our salvation; when it comes to God’s people, Christ is always welcoming His people, so Christ is standing with open arms! What the world does to Christ’s people, they do to Christ Himself. We are never alone, for Christ always has his hands ready to embrace us. This section ends with the statement that Stephen fell asleep (died) and prayed that the Lord “would not charge them with this sin.” Our Lord prayed the same prayer from the cross. We are told at the end of Acts 6, before Stephen’s speech in Chapter 7, that the “council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.” (Acts 6:15) There is no fear of death, God gives us grace when we need it and we are at peace

with God. The face they saw was the light of Christ shining through, a transforming presence that no religious system can produce – only Christ, as Paul would soon experience on his road to Damascus.

HOW TO EARN GOD’S LOVE: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

By Steve P

Having lived in six cities as an adult and having been part of numerous churches and other ministries, I’ve noticed a few common traits that link Christians together, no matter how different their cultures are. And one of the most important is this: most of us truly want to know how to win God’s love. We want that forgiveness, we want that salvation, and we want to know what we have to do to get it.

So I’ve put together this easy guide to tell you how you can earn God’s love. Get ready, because here it is:

You can’t.

That’s right: you cannot earn God’s love. Even if you lived perfectly the rest of your life—even if you devoted yourself to good works and became the next Mother Teresa, with churches around the world holding you up as an example—you will never be good enough to earn God’s love. You cannot do it.

Okay, calm down. It’s not as bad as it sounds. Why? For this simple reason:

You already have it.

That’s right: you already have God’s love. You can’t earn it, since God has already given it to you as a gift.

When God sent Jesus into our world, it was God’s greatest act of love. In Jesus, God became human, lived a human life, suffered all of our joys and pains—even death—because God loved us that much. And through Jesus, God makes us a promise—a promise of forgiveness, of healing, of salvation, of eternal life breaking into our daily work—a promise of boundless love and radical freedom. (*continued on next page*)

All we have to do is take God up on the offer. Believe God—don't just believe in God, but trust in the promise that God makes to us (like Abram in Genesis 15). God is ready to embrace us, if we will allow it.

Trying to earn God's love is like trying to earn a birthday present. All we need to do is to accept it.

Can you do that?

FACES OF MCCK



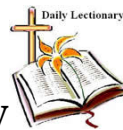
“When I was growing up, everyone told me I would be a preacher,” says **Clarence Scott**. But now he’s “Sister Mary Clarence,” a very special calling. He is a deacon, choir member and a true pillar of the church. He served on the Board of Directors (now the Administrative Council) when the church purchased

its current building. He also served on the last pastoral search committee that brought Bob Galloway back as senior pastor. Not to mention: “I’ve hosted the Clarence E. Scott ‘Anyal’ Christmas birthday bash and stuff for 8 years. ...

Plus I love a good bourbon.” Clarence is a Human Resources/Employment attorney at Express Employment Professionals. As a kid he played sports and participated in ROTC, but “I ‘grew up’ in Atlanta while attending Emory Law School.” Clarence’s family consists of his dog, Maxx, and his mother and father, two brothers, a sister and lots of nieces and nephews. He likes staying up to date on current events and watching news shows. Asked about how he came to MCCK, he said, “Let’s just say I was looking for men to date. We’ll leave it at that.”

GAY MEN’S GROUP TOPICS

- Sept. 6 – LABOR DAY; no meeting
- Sept. 13 – Open Discussion
- Sept. 20 – Organ Donation Now Open to Gay Men
- Sept. 27 – Coming Out to Friends, Family, Co-workers



Lectionary

September 5	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33
September 12	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10
September 19	Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1 Psalm 79:1-9 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13
September 26	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31



Calendar of Events

Event	Date
Labor Day	Monday, Sept. 6
Bible study resumes	Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 7, at 7 p.m. and Sundays, beginning Sept. 12, at 9:15 a.m.
Deacons' meeting	Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6:30-8 p.m.
Food Pantry collection	Sunday, Sept. 19
Deadline for submitting items to October newsletter (newsletter@mccknoxville.org)	Sunday, Sept. 19
Pastor candidate preaches at morning and evening services, followed by potluck meal	Sunday, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Pastor candidate meets with Administrative Council	Monday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.
Pastor candidate meets with Deacons	Tuesday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m.
Pastor candidate meets with the Choir	Wednesday, Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m.
BBQ dinner and Q&A with the Pastor candidate	Thursday, Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Friday Night Social Club	Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
Pastoral candidate preaches	Sunday, Sept. 26, 11 a.m.
Congregational Meeting and Potluck lunch	Sunday, Sept. 26, 1 p.m.
Administrative Council meeting	Thursday, Sept. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Metropolitan Community
Church Knoxville**

Rev. Bob Galloway, Pastor


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

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Fax: (865) 531-6190
E-mail: MCCCK@mccknoxville.org
Web Site: www.mccknoxville.org
Newsletter: 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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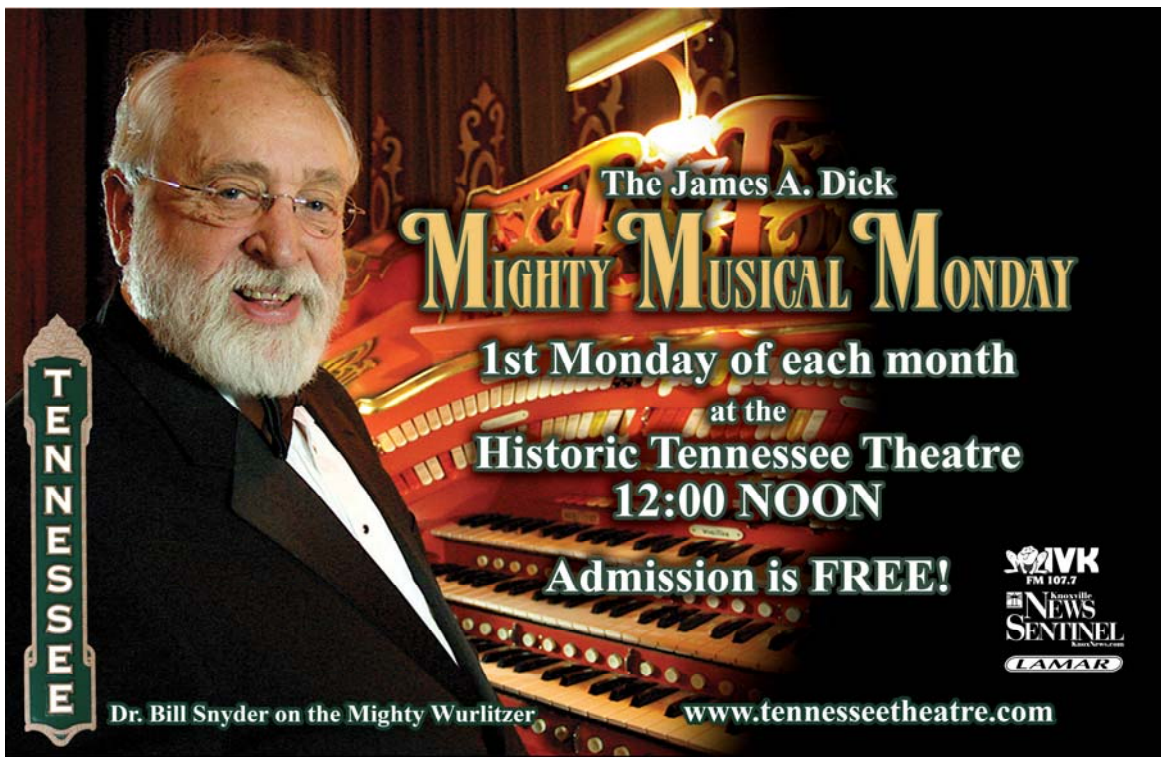
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