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# NEWS FROM MCCK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2011

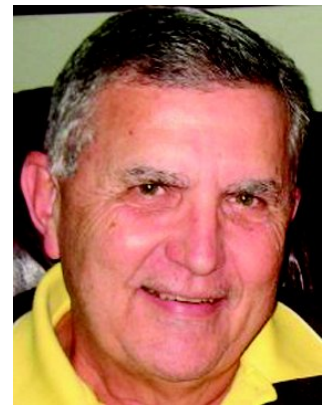
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*"No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."*

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Prayers for all those looking for work this Labor Day

Gene, retired United Methodist pastor and friend to many at MCCK, had a ministry to outlaw motorcycle gangs in the Cincinnati and northern Kentucky area from 1969 to 1972. He has written a book about it entitled *Wear Your Collar*. He was engaged in this ministry while serving as pastor of the Northside United Methodist Church, an inner-city church located in the second-highest crime area in the city. Gene was beaten by two members of the Brothers In Arms motorcycle gang, and had to decide whether he was going to become involved with the gangs or not. Getting involved meant also having his church become involved. Several church members left rather than associate with such outcasts of society. Many members stayed and embraced this mission to the marginalized. Bishop Emerson Colaw of the United Methodist Church wrote the foreword to Gene's book and said, "Our denominational numbers continue to decline because our constituency (middle-class whites) is declining and we need to learn how to be comfortable with the marginalized. That was Jesus' crowd! *Wear Your Collar* might be a needed encouragement in this endeavor."



## VISITORS COMING TO MCCK

On consecutive Sundays, MCCK will be visited by three people who have shared the love of God with others in unique ways.

**On Sept. 11, Rev. Gene Skipworth will talk at the morning worship service, 11 a.m. He will share his story about his ministry to more than 20 outlaw gangs.**

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**On Sept. 18, Justin Ryan will perform during morning worship at 11 a.m. and will present a concert that evening at 6.**



Justin has shared the stage with contemporary greats such as the Nelons, Matchbox 20, the Dixie Chicks and the late Vestal Goodman. He has a natural ability to teach children, with a remarkable history as a youth director and coordinator of programs and events. Justin has also composed and recorded jingles for both television and radio.

For Justin it has been a journey of raw faith, trusting in God and leading others to Christ. Being able to minister through his experiences of heartache and joy, he has given others the hope that they, too, can make it, not just in music, but in life.

For more information about Justin, visit [www.justinryanonline.com](http://www.justinryanonline.com).

**On Sept. 25, Rev. Tessie Mandeville will visit MCCK.** An ordained minister with Metropolitan Community Churches, she currently serves Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta as a staff chaplain and member of the heart transplant team. She has a Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif., and has

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served churches in Oklahoma, California, Georgia and Tennessee. Before becoming a professional minister, Tessie worked as a mental health counselor with children and adolescents in residential treatment settings.

Tessie brings to her work a passion for social and economic justice. She believes in advocating for the voiceless while helping them find their own voice. She believes in the power of restorative justice and healing, and she has a heart for bearing compassionate witness to others' lives wherever they find themselves on their spiritual journeys. While here, Tessie will also be leading the Board of Directors' spiritual retreat.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

### **TO FILL BOARD POSITION**

**Sunday, Oct. 9 (1-3 p.m.)**

Our semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 9 during the potluck lunch and will begin after all have been served.

Cassi W. has resigned from the Board of Directors. We are thankful for her many years of dedicated service. We will be voting to elect someone to fill this vacancy (term ends Spring 2013). Nominations for candidates will be taken from the floor. People seeking the position must be members in good standing for at least 6 months and not be related to another board member. Employees of the church and clergy candidates cannot serve on the board.

We will hear reports from our pastor, board, treasurer, and conduct other business. The 2012 budget will be presented for your review, amendment and approval.

Additional agenda items for the meeting must be submitted to the Board of Directors by Sept. 25 in order to be considered.

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 covenant and been inducted into membership in a worship service. Inactive and

former members are not eligible to vote but are encouraged to attend and participate in discussions.

## **GAY BOWLING LEAGUE FORMING**

**Organizational meeting: Sun., Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m.**

**First game: Sun., Sept. 25, 6 p.m.**

The Knoxville Gay Bowling League, the Smokey Mountain Rollers, starts its season in September. Come out and join the fun at Strike & Spare Western Ave., 5700 Western Ave., Knoxville, TN.

Three member teams play for 20 weeks (with breaks for Christmas and New Years this year). Substitutes are allowed and needed for when someone cannot make a game due to their work or travel schedule. Last year the cost was \$12 for 3 games each week plus a nominal league membership fee. The season ends with a party where there are cash prizes for league champions and individual honors.

An Organizational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 11th at 6:30 PM at the lanes. Come with your three person team pre-selected or come individually and form your team that night.

The first games of the season will be on Sunday, September 25th. The lanes are available to warm up at 5:45 PM. Games start at 6:00 PM.

Contact Greg M. for more information.

## **A.C.T. GROUP HELPS HIV/AIDS GROUP; YOU CAN HELP**

The monthly meeting of A.C.T. (Acceptance, Compassion, Tolerance) will be Saturday, Sept. 10 at 5 p.m. at the church. The meeting will be led by Bert K., whose topic is "Changes." Please bring finger foods and desserts to share.

The A.C.T. group, known for its prayer-blanket ministry to people who are hurting or sick, is reaching out to help more people by working with Strength for the Journey, a retreat for men and women living with HIV/AIDS. For the retreat scheduled in October in Jonesborough, A.C.T. is assembling bags of toiletries and other items for

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each of the 32 participants. These are items they may not be able to afford themselves. "Some of these folks live on less than \$500 per month," said Roy C., retreat planning group member. "They often have to choose between food or medicine and personal items, which is why we provide as much as we possibly can at the retreat."

In order to fulfill its promise to help, the A.C.T. Group is seeking donations from our congregation. Tonya R. has redecorated the school supplies donation box with Christmas paper, as Christmas is the theme for this retreat. "We need to fill the box with at least 32 of each item," said Cynthia H. Items needed are normal-sized (not travel-sized) shampoo, toothpaste; toothbrushes, gum, breath mints, bar soap, small paper notebook, pens, emery boards, either body or hand lotion, and whatever other personal items donors can think of to enhance the dignity and comfort of the attendees at the Buffalo Mountain Retreat Center.

Items should be appropriate for either a man or woman, where applicable. "Those who can't or don't have time to shop, but would like to donate, can give us the funds and we'll go shopping," Cynthia said. "Donations of either kind will be gratefully accepted through Sept. 25." Plans are to bag up donations that afternoon between the morning and evening services.

Contact Cynthia H. with any questions or to learn more about the A.C.T. group.

### **A NOTE OF APPRECIATION**

*By Cynthia Hall*

As I watched a continuous stream of hard work pass before me July 31, I felt two things: sad, because my physical restrictions left me only watching, and extremely blessed to be part of MCKK. Eleven people gave up their Sunday afternoon to help Marilyn H move from one home to another, thereby ensuring she would sleep in her own bed in a safe place that night and thereafter. They even made that bed so she wouldn't have to, and some returned to her old apartment to sweep, mop and vacuum. Although they weren't "having fun," they pressed

on until the last item was set in place at Marilyn's new apartment.

Those who gave their time, labor, trucks, trailers and much more were: Deacon Sharon U, Board members Dustin E and Steve D, and Sam G, Tonya R, Vicki V, Gary, Rex, Steve G, Dusty and Micky. Marilyn kept saying, "I don't know how I'm going to thank all these people," so I decided to help her do it. Many thanks to all who helped her! Bless you all!

### **AUCTION RAISES ALMOST \$3,000**

The MCC Yard Sale and Auction, our biggest fundraiser of the year, took in a total of \$2,745 on Aug. 13. Thanks to all whose hard work and donations made it possible! In particular, Denise L. and Mike H.; Karen H., for rounding up auction items and publicity; Ron C., whose refreshments brought in additional cash; and Dustin E., who did a great deal behind the scenes.

Top sellers at the auction included:

- A 5-course dinner for four at Donna & Kathy's home .....\$140
- Juanita's Peanut Butter Pie .....\$100
- Keurig Coffee Maker .....\$85
- CJ's brownies..... \$75
- Whitewater Rafting Adventure for 4 .....\$70
- Gift baskets from Panera Bread, gourmet breads, teas, gift card ..... \$70 each

### **MEN'S GROUP\* TOPICS**

- Sept. 5 – Labor Day, no meeting
- Sept. 12 – Open discussion, free HIV testing at 8:20
- Sept. 19 – Transgender issues: guest, Saroj Chand
- Sept. 26 – When I knew I was OK

*\*Meetings each Monday 7:30-9 p.m. at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike*



## Calendar of Events

Event	Date
<b>LABOR DAY</b>	Monday, Sept. 5
St. Ninian meal and worship	Fridays, @ 6:30 p.m.
Walking Group (Lakeshore)	Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays @ 6 p.m.
Taize worship service	Sunday, Sept. 4, 6-7 p.m.
ACT Group	Saturday, Sept. 10, 5-7 p.m.
Rev. Gene Skipworth speaks at morning worship	Sunday, Sept. 11, 11 a.m.
New members' class	Sunday, Sept. 11, 2-4 p.m.
Board of Directors meeting	Thursday, Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Deacons meeting	TBA
Justin Ryan performs at morning worship	Sunday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m.
Deacons' Food Pantry collection	Sunday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Potluck lunch	Sunday, Sept. 18, 12:30 p.m.
Justin Ryan in concert	Sunday, Sept. 18, 6 p.m.
Potluck dinner	Sunday, Sept. 18, 7-8 p.m.
Monthly Newsletter Deadline	Sunday, Sept. 18
Board of Directors retreat	Friday-Saturday, Sept. 23-24
Friday Night Social Club	Sept. 23, 7-9:30 p.m.
St. Ninian's Dessert Buffet	Saturday, Sept. 24, 6-8 p.m.
Rev. Tessie Mandeville speaks at MCKK	Sunday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m.
Healing service	Sunday, Sept. 25, 6-7 p.m.
<b>Congregational meeting</b>	<b>Sunday, Oct. 9, after potluck</b>



# Lectionary

September 4	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20
September 11	Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35
September 18	Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16
September 25	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32

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## This Month's Newsletter Sponsors

Compassionate Hearts: Well-Trained Hands

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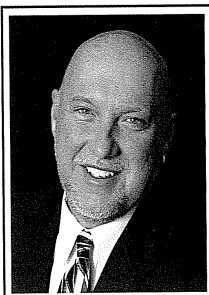
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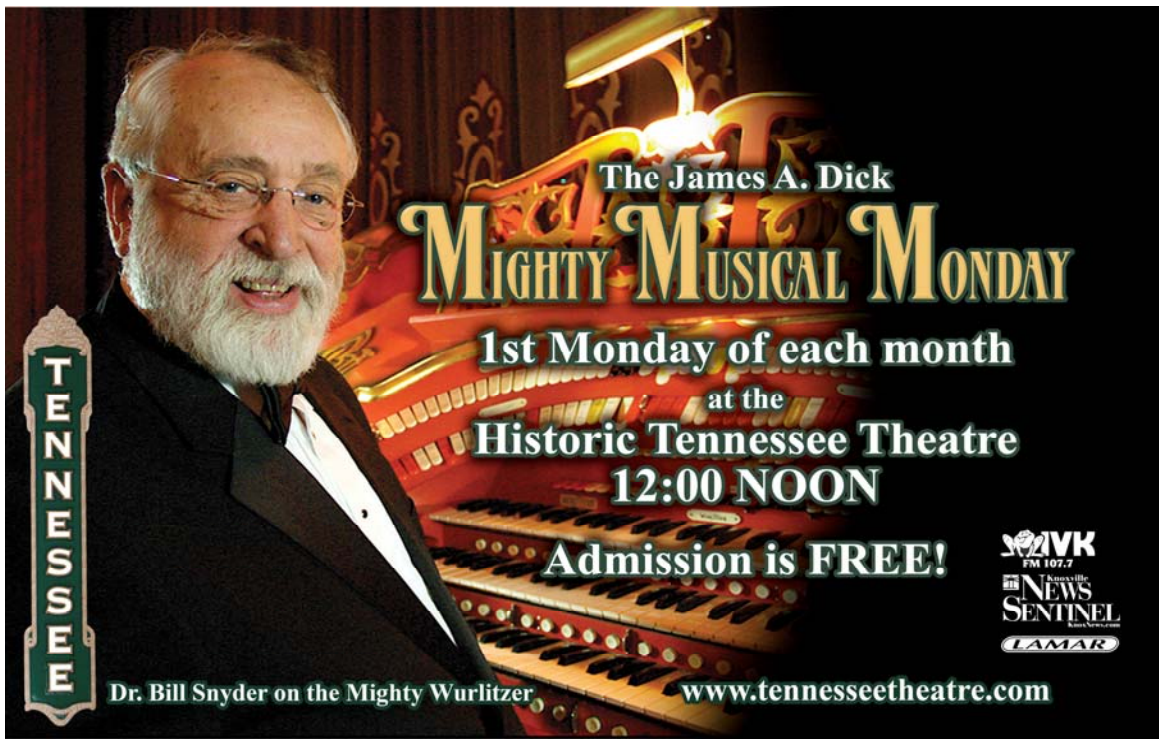
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*NEWS from MCKK*

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<p><b>Metropolitan Community Church Knoxville</b></p>	<p><b>Directions to MCC Knoxville</b></p>
<p><b>Rev. Jill Sizemore, Pastor</b></p>	<p>1. <b><i>From I-40 west bound</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>Sunday Worship: 11:00AM &amp; 6:00 PM</i></b></p>	<p>- Take Exit 380 (West Hills)</p>
<p>Phone: (865) 531-2539 *</p>	<p>- Continue through the first stop light (West Town Way)</p>
<p>Toll Free: (866) 531-2539 *</p>	<p><b><i>From I-40 east bound</i></b></p>
<p>Fax: (865) 531-6190</p>	<p>- Take Exit 380 (West Hills)</p>
<p>E-mail: office@mckknoxville.org</p>	<p>- Turn right at the first stop light (heading to Montvue Rd.)</p>
<p>Web Site: www.mckknoxville.org</p>	<p>2. Turn left at next stop light (Kingston Pike)</p>
<p>Newsletter: newsletter@mckknoxville.org</p>	<p>3. Turn right at the second stop light (Morrell Rd.)</p>
<p>* GLBT Helpline 7 to 11 PM staff permitting</p>	<p>4. Continue straight through the next five stop lights (1.3 miles, finally crossing Westland Dr.)</p>
	<p>5. Turn right at the next 4-way stop (Nubbins Ridge Rd.)</p>
	<p>6. Continue 3 blocks</p>
	<p>7. Turn left on Tranquilla Dr. (at crest of hill)</p>
	<p>8. Turn right on Redeemer Lane</p>
	<p>9. Parking lot is at the top of the hill (through red brick gateposts)</p>