



Monarch Messenger

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In many ways, America is the land of plenty. But for 1 in 8 Americans, hunger is a reality. Many people believe that the problems associated with hunger are confined to small pockets of society, certain areas of the country, or certain neighborhoods, but the reality is much different.

Right now, millions of Americans are struggling with hunger. We all know and are in contact with people affected by hunger, even though we might not be aware of it.

Proper nutrition is vital to the growth and development of children, particularly for low-income children. Approximately 500,000 children in Ohio are currently hungry or at-risk of hunger. That's the third highest rate of "food insecurity" in the nation

Studies show that hungry children: Have more health problems, exhibit more disruptive behavior, are more likely to be tardy or absent from school, and score lower on achievement tests.

Today, 9.4 percent of elderly persons (over age 65) live in poverty, according to Census Bureau data for 2006; and 2.5 percent – nearly a million seniors – live in very severe poverty (with incomes below 50 percent of the poverty line).

Good nutrition – enough food, and health-sustaining food – is important to everyone in our society, but it is especially important when people are particularly vulnerable to disease, like children and the elderly.

As we have seen before, our church's neighborhood has one of the highest rates of children and elderly living in poverty in the County. Food banks that are suffering from loss of funding and the rising cost of food items serve these at risk populations.

South Side Community Ministries [SSCM] Food Pantry is one such resource for residents of the South Side of Columbus. During the month of October we will begin the last quarter of 2009. Our focus for the quarter is hunger in the U.S. and around the world. And we will be specifically supporting SSCM pantry with donations of food items.

During the month of October we invite you to help with breakfast foods. We will be collecting non-perishable foods suitable for breakfast, often labeled the most important meal of the day. Join us in helping the people of our neighborhood get their days off to a good start.

Bring items to church or take them to St. Paul UCC at 225 E. Gates St., Columbus, OH 43206. Contact Eva Moore at [614] 444-1311 or email sscm43206@yahoo.com.

Think Breakfast: Boxes of breakfast cereal – hot or cold, Cans/bottles of juice, drink mixes [e.g. Tang], cocoa mix, instant milk, pancake mix, syrup, etc.

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Our Mission Statement

New Creation MCC:
founded in and reaching
beyond the GLBT
community, showing
Christian love to all!



**Tearing Down Walls
Building Up Hope**

MARGARET'S MINUTE:



“Cast all your anxiety on [God] because [God] cares for you.” - 1 Peter 5: 7

The amplified Bible stretches this simple verse out in two ways. First, it expands the admonition to cast all your anxiety on God by explaining that all anxiety, all worries, and all concerns, should be given up once and for all. Give God “the whole of your care.” Then it goes on to expand the notion of God care by saying that God “cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.” I can only hope the translation team for the Amplified Bible got that expansion from their linguistic work. Assuming they did, I will proceed.

Like many folks, I’ve heard this proverbial saying many times as if it was advice from a good friend about a loving relative. Like an old granny who loves us no matter what, we can tell her everything and anything knowing that her care for us will temper her advice. She won’t fly off the handle and ask how we managed to get in such a fix. She won’t shame us or “tsk, tsk” at us. Because she loves us, this wise and caring woman will hear us out, let us tell the whole sordid truth, and with love in her eyes and strength in her voice help us figure out what to do next. This image is reinforced for me by the Amplified’s use of the phrase “cares for you affectionately.” God really does love us and wants for us to be whole, balanced, and at peace knowing that we can take everything to God in prayer - even the stuff that’s our own stupid fault – and God will not think us stupid, unworthy or irredeemable. This is good news in a nutshell if ever there was some.

The Amplified Bible goes on to expand the phrase by saying that God also “cares about us watchfully.” Cares about us watchfully...like a father, perhaps, who has just let go of the bicycle seat for the first time and watches his child wobble along the sidewalk under the power of two little legs new to the task of pedaling. All along, God has been watching out for us – like the big brother watching his little sister leave on her first date and knowing that if the date turns out to be a jerk, he’ll have to answer to someone for it. God cares enough about us to watch over us even when we may be on the brink of a tumble. God is protective, but not overbearing. God knows there will be hard knocks in our lives and that we can’t be saved from them all. God can, however, watch what’s going on so that when we fall, God’s not ignorant of it, or far away. And even when the fall is “our own stupid fault” God still will not think us “stupid, unworthy or irredeemable.” That’s good news in a double nutshell!

God cares for us affectionately and watchfully. The “enemy” prowls around looking for someone to devour, but our God is different. Our God is not waiting to catch us screwing up in order to condemn or berate us. God’s watchful affection is meant to strengthen our trust and make us more willing to cast our cares on to the shoulders that can really bear any load and find a solution to any problem. Sometimes the only fix is forgiveness, but in the end that may be the best fix of all.

These Days

These Days with Our Fellowship, *by lay delegate, Carol Dlwgosh*

I love autumn, it is my favorite time of year (except for spring when I love spring best). I love the cooler days, blue skies with leaves turning bright gold, and red. The grass does not need cut so often, though garden still needs tending. You know, ...the whole cycle of life making another turn. A number of our church family members, as well as our church as a whole, will be making this turn without some familiar faces this fall. And then again, as the crisp clear cool days go by, gifts from God, new faces, new people, will be enriching our lives, giving us cause for ongoing heart-felt celebration.

And attendance at church will be up; lets hope the Sunday giving also goes up!

The first Sunday in October is Fellowship Sunday. This year the emphasis will be on developing leadership within the UFMCC framework, i.e. providing training opportunities for us at local church levels, the regional & international level. Developing leadership skills for lay leaders & clergy alike is essential if we, as a LGBT Christian church are to grow out of the confines of that definition, and move on to being a vibrant church working for the 'human rights' of all of God's children. Pray for this work, please.

Do you know about the October 10-11, 2009, National Equality March in Washington D.C.? Two of our UFMCC Elders,, Rev. Elder Lilly Brock and Rev. Elder Darlene Garner,(along with her spouse of 20 years, Rev. Candace Holmes,) will be with the UFMCC contingency at this march. You are welcome to join them and the thousands of other Americans marching for our equal rights. They will appreciate your support, your prayers. While it will be interesting to see how much attention this gets from the media, you can learn a little more by going to www.mccchurch.org. By going to Moderator Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson's blog you can read her letter to President Obama. (Rev. Garner is originally from Columbus!)

Pray for the safety of all marchers (and protesters), the March workers & leaders, make it a prayer for healing progress.

The UFMCC regional conferences are over, and the next one is the General (International) conference in Mexico in July 2010. While the site sounds wonderful, the workload will be great. I'll have more about this next month.

Respectfully, Carol --- lay delegate

NEWS FROM UFMCC

As we approach October, and MCC's 41st anniversary, on behalf of the Board of Elders, I am inviting all our churches, all our pastors, members and friends of MCC to take the month of October and allow it to become our "**Season of Gratitude**." There is nothing like a spiritual "attitude of gratitude" to turn the tables on everything from the roller coaster news about the economy, protracted struggles for civil rights, or those challenging situations faced by every local church, no matter how large or small!

I am taking a cue from MCC Las Vegas, where they entered into a special "Season of Prayer," recently, which energized and revitalized their ministry. Sometimes, it is the simple things, the basic things, like prayer, that call us to our roots, and to our destiny as the people of God. In these times of great challenge, of a National March on Washington in the US; of continued homophobic violence in Jamaica, and in many places; when the HIV infection among young people in the Ukraine and in Washington, DC is reaching unprecedented proportions; and when the question, "Would Jesus Discriminate?" is still very controversial, I am grateful for Metropolitan Community Churches! *If, as the Psalmist says, "God dwells in the praises of the people," then let us draw near to God as we praise the Creator of the Universe for the miracle of MCC.*



I want to encourage you, as individuals, and as churches, to focus on, to "stand on" gratitude this October, especially gratitude for the privilege of serving the God of Jesus Christ through the vehicle we call "MCC." Imagine how we will be unified and blessed as we join together in this moment!

I am grateful:

- For the thrill of being able to preach a radically inclusive gospel that I believe in as passionately today as I did 37 years ago when I found MCC.
- For our Founder, Rev. Troy Perry, who continues to preach that gospel and carry the banner of liberation, true to his original vision
- For being able to "*tear down walls and build up hope*" as the Human Rights Church, in more and more places around the world, where there is such hunger for liberation
- For fellow Elders and leaders in MCC who are bold, devoted and brilliant
- For the wave of a new generation of leaders that are emerging every day, dreaming new dreams, starting new churches and ministries. . .
- For increasing numbers of families with children who are finding a spiritual home in Metropolitan Community Churches
- For our emerging partnership with The Fellowship, and Bishop Yvette Flunder and her partner, Mother Shirley, and a new day of collaboration in this work that is bigger than any one church!
- For my partner of 32 years, Paula Schoenwether, whose support and love for MCC touches me every day

Blessings and Happy Anniversary MCC!

+ Nancy

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
Moderator
Metropolitan Community Churches

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | |
| | 3 | | | | | | | 8 |
| | 6 | | | 5 | | | | 7 |
| | 7 | | 3 | | 2 | | | 4 |
| | 9 | | | 6 | | | | 3 |
| | 5 | | | | | | | 9 |
| | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | |
| | | | | | | | | |

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/2/2009

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 1 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

077

WORD SLEUTH ● — CHOCOLATE

N P M J H E B Y V T Q O L I I
 G D B T Y W R T R P M K I F L
U N S W E E T E N E D D B Y L
 W U S Q O E M K T I F D B Z E
 X W U S Q O W I N T G F C N D
 K R A D L J H S H N I O A A R
 F D C A I W G N I K A B D I A
 Y W V T S L I K L M Q A B G R
 P N L K T A O I I H E L U L I
 F E C B L O M S Y E H S R E H
 Z Y W P C V H U S R Q P Y B G

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
 Friday's unlisted clue hint: **Chocolate of a Different Color**

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Baking | Cooking | Hot | Slab of |
| Belgian | Dark | Milk | Solid |
| Bitter | Ghirardelli | Plain | Unsweetened |
| Cadbury | Hershey's | Semisweet | |

October 2009

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Potluck | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Straight Talk | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 BOD Mtg Pastor's Vac thru the 25th | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

REMEMBER: *We need people for fundraisers at Nationwide and there are two more training dates in September. This is the time we really, really need your help. So dig deep into your soul (not your pocket) and ask yourself if you can do this fundraiser for the church.* Please contact Renee Ray at Renee.Ray@Talx.com or cell phone 614-596-1783

CRAFTY NCMCC'ers HAVE A REQUEST

Several of our congregants are making jewelry to sell at bazaars in the next few months to benefit the church. We'd like to have small jewelry gift boxes for necklaces, earrings, and bracelets, as well as larger flat one's for box sets. If you have any clean jewelry gift boxes you could donate to the cause, please bring them to church and give them to Shirley, Carol, or Lucinda.