



Monarch Messenger

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010
TO ALL FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF
NEW CREATION MCC

Let's introduce New Creation's Board of Directors for 2010

Frank Benline, Barb White, Chris Wilds, Chris Finnegan,
Byron Yaple, and our two newest members to the Board:
Gene Baugh and Mark Lowe.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU!

Our first Board of Directors meeting will be January 17th at
1:30pm. Come and meet the board, see what will happen in
2010 for New Creation.

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Our Mission Statement

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

Happy New Year ♡ *Happy New Year* ♡ *Happy New Year*



**Tearing Down Walls
Building Up Hope**

MARGARET'S MINUTE:



“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ [give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping] and you will be saved.”

Acts 16: 31 Amplified Bible

Jailed on flimsy charges following a flogging, Paul and company sat in prison - in stocks no less - and sang songs of praise to God. Like little Jessica in the well, they sang the songs that gave them comfort and courage. They sang the songs that kept them in good spirits and reinforced their sense of connection to all that's right and true and good – which was a wise plan in the face of their circumstances. Then an earthquake hit, opening all the cell doors and releasing all the chains, yet Paul and the others did not rush out into the night. We don't know why they didn't run, but when the jailer was sure he would be punished for “losing” all the prisoners, Paul shouted out that they were still there. The jailer was amazed and came to the conclusion that Paul had connections to a powerful God. The jailer saw that Paul and his friends were alive and safe no matter what the powers of the government had done to them, or the powers of the earth itself. He wanted the protection of that kind of power. The Amplified Bible makes an interesting choice of words as it relates Paul's response: telling the jailer (into whose keeping all manner of prisoners were given) that he needs to give himself into the keeping of someone stronger and more powerful than anyone or anything he's ever known. Then he, too, will be safe and saved. It's a play on words and images, and it works rather well.

The way the translation team at the Amplified Bible explains the word “believe” makes for good reading. It's a fun turn of the phrase, to tell the jailer to take himself out of his own care and implying that he needs a jailer of his own and a Divine One at that! My basic Greek dictionary defines this particular Greek word this way: “to believe, put one's faith in, trust, with an implication that actions based on that trust may follow.” So, indeed, the jailer needs to entrust himself to another. What the Amplified doesn't stress here is the need to follow that trust up with actions.

I think for many people, this notion of being “saved” relieves them of the obligation to struggle with the big issues in life. They give their lives into Christ's keeping and that's that. End of story. “I'm going to heaven and I can relax now.” We all know many professing Christians, I'm sure, who are still poor parents, unfaithful spouses, cheaters when it comes to their taxes, etc. And there's the rub! That Greek word used in this passage implies that believing in Christ, entrusting our lives to Christ, will include “actions based on that trust.” It's not about being pampered, protected and kept safe for eternity by a benevolent, heavenly jailer. It's about trusting Jesus with all that you have and all that you are, and living accordingly. It's about listening to Jesus' teachings, and putting new truth to the test. It's about experiencing the compassion of Christ, and then loving others more than you have up till now. It's about watching Jesus work for justice and committing yourself to acts of kindness and justice, too. It seems to me that we need to entrust ourselves into the care of a Divine tutor, guide, mentor, and/or rabbi, not a jailer; one who calls us together and sends us out; a “discipler” who equips the students for work, not someone who just fills their heads with creeds and slogans.

As we begin 2010, let's commit ourselves once again (as individuals and as a congregation) into Christ's keeping and look for new ways to put our faith into action!

These Days

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

These days, as a UFMCC congregation, we are getting ready for a new year.

1-We have a new board, with two new members to welcome and congratulate, Gene and Mark. Pray for these board members, and their work for the life of our church. And while you are at it, plan to attend a few board meetings. You can watch them in action, AND voice your opinions and express your support

2-We have a new office "staff," with Byron and Lucinda volunteering hours to assist with the flow of office work. (Cash resigned to have more time for graduate studies...)

3- We will be having even more adult Christian education classes- watch for the dates and times!

4- Committees forming and re-forming---and this means we'll be needing joy-filled hearts and hands to participate in God's gracious work. Pray for those who will be leading these committees.

5- This spring we will have the opportunity to attend our second cluster conference, at Elizabethtown MCC, Elizabethtown, Kentucky. You'll be notified when as soon as we get the dates.

6- We have a new building manager, B.J. (bless her heart), and we can look forward to an improved and consistent care for our building and grounds.

7- This year the General Conference will be in Acapulco, June 28 to July 2. You will be hearing more about this as the conference draws near. Keep an eye open for articles in the Monarch, and info in the bulletin and on the board, as it is all of you who will be giving the lay delegate (me) direction for voting on such matters as the restructuring of the church, financial planning to give us (this is an *international us*) a solid foundation, looking to increase our global justice work, and examining our place(s) as a Christian/LGBTI church.

This year, *these coming 365 days*, will be interesting & challenging. We can make them fun, productive and blessed. These coming days can be some of our best! To this point I refer back to item #4 - yup, the one about our church committees. Please do pray for God's guidance, as you contemplate how your participation in the life, work and celebration of our church fits into God's plan for you, in 2010. Opportunity will appear, over and over, sort of like how angels do.

Respectfully, and with solid expectations,

Carol, Lay delegate



IN AND AROUND NEW CREATION

Fund raising and a bit of fun raising for 2010.

This coming a few months we have some specific fund raising (fun raising being a component) activities coming, and you can help as early as now!!

This late spring/early summer, as in the past, we are planning a garage sale, to benefit the church's general fund. Do save up your duplicate gifts, those crock pots & chia pets, candle holders and fondue forks! Hold on to the old lamps, cuff links, cameras and printers you now have replacements for. We will cherish (and sell), them all.

We will hold special all of those old Christmas ornaments, lights (that work), decorations, books, table cloths, mugs, wreaths, greenery, et cetera, and provide them new homes come time for this sale. So pack it up and mark it for the MCC Spring/summer sale!

Check with your friends and get a hold of their unwanted stuff (both holiday and general use items). Recycling items to benefit the life of the church, and clearing out space at home at the same time. It will be a nice event!

Watch for further announcements about this and other church related fund/fun raising in the church bulletins and future Monarchs.

Respectfully, Carol, fund raising chair for 2010

"And the walls come a-tumblin' down!"

In early 2010, New Creation MCC will see some walls come tumbling down. Well, one wall anyway - the wall between the two fellowship rooms. Many folks have said that having one big room instead of two small ones made sense to them, and the Board has agreed! Having one larger space will make it more suitable for meetings and gatherings and we might even be able to start scheduling two things in the building at once - one meeting in the sanctuary and one in the fellowship room!

"Trading Spaces - clergy edition"

After much prayer and consideration, a decision has been made to "trade spaces" and switch the locations of the children's room and the pastor's office. Actually, it's a bit more complicated than that. Pastor's office will move into the children's room, but the children's room won't fit in the pastor's office. So...the pastor's old office will become a storage room. Everything that's in storage behind the "wall" in the children's room will be moved along with some of the items from the fellowship rooms and even some of the children's items. Other portions of the children's materials will go into the fellowship rooms so they're easily accessible when children visit. So, all of our storage items will be in one space, the pastor will have a larger office with room for a prayer space, work space and maybe even a pair of chairs so there can actually be private conversations with her, and the children's activities will be merged into the fellowship room. Now, what to do with that great big black board...

Ministry of Compassion

Ministry of Compassion 2010:

Homelessness is an increasingly serious problem, not only locally but around the world. There are many ways people become homeless. In Ohio the largest number of homeless are the result of financial crises that became insurmountable.

During the months of January, February, and March we will explore various conditions of homelessness while we collect items needed for the homeless of Columbus in support of the New Life UMC Homelessness Program and South Side Settlement House Community Shower Program.

South Side Settlement House provides showers for those persons with inadequate bathing facilities. They need clean towels and washcloths [not necessarily new], travel sized soap, shampoo, rinse, etc.

New Life Currently is serving anywhere from 2300-2800 neighbors a month. Each month they average 100 new neighbors. The clothing room becomes quite crowded on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Thus the supply of underwear, socks and personal hygiene items diminishes rapidly. They also need: shaving cream, aspirin, Tylenol, Q-tips, socks and underwear, Sanitary napkins, foot powder, large and small shampoo, deodorant, large and small toothpaste, toilet tissue, disposable razors, diapers, new washcloths, white crew socks for men and women, large and travel size lotion, men's and women's winter clothes [especially extra large sizes], aspirin, facial tissue. A list of items will be posted on the bulletin board and in our bulletin. They also need volunteers for work in the clothing room on Wednesday mornings. Contact Vickie Moseley at 586-2101 or VickieMoseley@wowway.com to volunteer.

Bring your donations to church and we will see that they are delivered. Or you can take your donations directly to the sites. South Side Settlement House is located at 310 E Innis Ave, Columbus, OH 43207, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. New Life UMC is located at 25 West 5th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201, receiving donations Tuesday and Wednesday mornings before noon.

2009 RECAP






2009 was an amazing year. The congregation has shown their compassion with generosity of spirit that embraced not only financial giving but also labors, hours, prayers, and interest. We have reached out to people, agencies, and organizations that didn't know we existed.

1. We baked and donated cookies to the YMCA Homeless Family Shelter, Huckleberry House, and two homeless shelters;
2. Throughout the year personal hygiene items, clothing, blankets, and other items have been donated to New Life UMC, establishing us as a giving church in the city;
3. Walking Rainbows respond to referrals from the Columbus Public Health's social worker at South Side Settlement House. Through Walking Rainbows we met and helped people who otherwise would never know we existed, and their image of us is positive;
4. We provided school supplies for the underprivileged children through SSSHouse and Huckleberry House;
5. The Columbus Public Health Caring for Two program was very grateful for our gifts for new babies and they expressed interest in the possibility of using our building for well-baby health clinics for the families in this neighborhood where the infant mortality rate is shockingly high;
6. The outpouring of items for the food pantry has been truly amazing. We donated more than five grocery carts of food in the months of November and December alone!

The outreach of the Compassionate Acts of our congregation are a strong and clear sign that our church is alive and well, even in the midst of financially challenging times. We are indeed the hands and feet of God.



January 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Pot Luck	4	5	6 Choir Practice Jan Smith B-Day 	7	8	9
10 Straight Talk Margaret's B-day 	11	12	13 Choir Practice	14 Steve Watson B-Day 	15	16
17 BOD Mtg Recycle Sunday	18	19	20 Choir Practice	21 Frank Benline B-day 	22	23
24	25	26	27 Choir Practice Ann Christy Shirley B-Day 	28	29	30
31						

REMEMBER: Healing Prayer: Thursday at 7:00pm This group gathers each week in the church sanctuary. First we do centering prayer, then pray for people on a list of those needing support, then pray for people who came specifically for prayer. The team draws on a variety of prayer forms (laying on of hands, reiki, and more) and stands ready to help others connect to the healing energy of God. New prayer partners are welcome, as well as those desiring prayer.

New Board Members: Gene Baugh and Mark Lowe **Congratulations!!!!**

Choir Practice at the Church on Wednesday's at 8:00pm