



METROPOLITAN



INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

**CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

**SUNDAY, August 21, 2016**

**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PREPARATION**

*The Pastor's entrance and the beginning of the musical prelude are the calls to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.*

---

**THE GATHERING**

*We are standing on Holy ground, And I know that there are angels all around.  
Let us praise Jesus now, We are standing in God's presence on Holy ground.*

---

**LITANY**

- Leader:** O God, you speak from a burning bush, and the bush is not consumed;
- People:** Is this what it means to be baptized with fire? O Lord, we stand on your holy ground, frightened by your mystery!
- Leader:** You speak from the dazzling light on the road, and we can see nothing for days;
- People:** Is this what it means to be blind, yet have eyes? O Lord, we kneel on your strange highway, frightened by your mystery!
- Leader:** You speak from the whirlwind, so loud that we stop our ears with our fingers;
- People:** Is this what it means to have ears, yet not to hear? O Lord, we shrink from your sacred tempest, frightened by your mystery!
- Leader:** You speak from the height of the highest mountain, and the mountain becomes a lowly plain;
- People:** Is this what it means to be shaken, that foundations of sand may fall? O Lord, we hug your hallowed earth, frightened by your mystery!
- Leader:** O God, grant us the powers you give to prophets, to understand riddles and tongues and knowledge—
- People:** Cast out our fear with the fullness of your love, the mystery that neither fades nor passes away!
-

## OPENING HYMN

*“O for a Thousand Tongues”*

---

O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread thru all the earth abroad The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease,  
‘Tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin, He sets the pris’ner free,  
His blood can make the foulest clean—His blood availed for me.

Hear Him ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, Your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come; And leap, ye lame, for joy.

Glory to God and praise and love Be ever, ever giv’n  
By saints below and saints above—The Church in earth and heav’n.

---

## WELCOME – *Visitors standing*

---

If you are here for the first time, we are delighted that you came. If you are dropping in for a second or third visit, we are glad you found something you were looking for. We hope you will be challenged by our worship and that you will come back again. If you are looking for a faith community, we would welcome you as a part of our church family. When you are officially welcomed as a visitor, you will receive a Visitor’s Information Card. Please fill it out, and return it to the Pastor, or place it in the offering plate. **WELCOME!**

---

## CONCERNS OF CHURCH AND CITY

*D. Billye Sanders*

---

## OFFERTORY

*“For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.” 1 Chronicles 29:14*

---

### **Your tithes and gifts help us:**

- Pay the mortgage, utilities, maintenance, and security for the Metropolitan Meeting House;
- Provide free pastoral counseling services to members of our congregation;
- Fund the First Response Center, serving over 700 people living with HIV/AIDS, and others at-risk;
- Pay for the personnel and operating costs of our ministries;
- Provide educational materials and resources to assist in the spiritual growth and development of our community;
- Maintain meeting space for ministries, Girl Scouts, recovery/support groups, and community events;
- Fund our annual Anniversary and Homecoming celebrations;
- Give emergency assistance to members of the congregation and community through our benevolence fund.

**Every gift of your *time, talent and treasure* makes a vital difference in the life and ministries of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church. *Thank you!***

---

## SONGS OF PRAISE

The Voices of Metropolitan  
*Reginald Green, Minister of Music*

---



## **RESPONSE**

*Please do not leave the sanctuary or in any other manner create a distraction during the invitational period. This is a moment of **unparalleled** importance.*

### **MOMENTS OF REFLECTION**

*Voices of Metropolitan*

#### **INVITATION TO LIFE IN CHRIST**

**This church will welcome into its membership any persons who love and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and who promise to live according to His Laws of Love, recognizing all people as brothers and sisters for whom He gave His life.**

#### **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Communion Prayer*

We do not presume to come to this, Thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs from under Thy table. But Thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this sacrament of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life and grow to reflect Thy Spirit in all things forevermore. Amen.

*(We will eat and drink together after all have been served.)*

#### **FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE**

We've come too far to turn back now;  
By the grace of God we're gonna make it somehow.  
Nobody knows the trouble we've seen; We've come too far to turn back now.

Nothing less than a great daring in the face of overwhelming odds can achieve the inner security in which fear cannot possibly survive. It is true that we cannot be serene unless we possess something about which to be serene. Here we reach the high-water mark of prophetic religion, and it is of the essence of the religion of Jesus of Nazareth. Of course God cares for the grass of the field, which lives a day and is no more, or the sparrow that falls unnoticed by the wayside. God also holds the stars in their appointed places, leaves a mark on every living thing. And God cares for ME! To be assured of this becomes the answer to the threat of violence – yea, to violence itself. To the degree to which a person knows *this*, that person is unconquerable from within and without. **Howard Thurman**

### **METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**

2128 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208

*Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 280779, Nashville, TN 37228

**Phone: (615) 72METRO (726-3876) Fax: (615) 259-9210 website: [www.micwhosoever.org](http://www.micwhosoever.org)**

***Rev. Edwin C. Sanders, II, The Senior Servant***

***Rev. John Cross, Senior Pastoral Assistant***

**Pastoral Staff: *Rev. Marcella Lockhart, Rev. Clifford Smith, Rev. Christopher Davis,***

***Rev. Terry Terrell, Rev. Regina McCrary, Rev. Neely Williams,***

***Rev. Stephanie Thompson, Rev. Cherie Booker, Rev. Christopher Goodwin***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Dinner by Circle 2; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children**

*Suspended:* Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series will *not* meet during the summer months of July and August. Join us again in September on Saturday mornings at the First Response Center.

**Ending AIDS in August** – Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Please join us for the **Second Annual Freedom Fest at Hadley Park.**

The Metropolitan First Response Center will provide *FREE* HIV testing. All members are invited to attend. Please wear a METRO T-Shirt and arrive at 2:30 p.m. for a brief training about the services provided at the First Response Center. Volunteers will distribute items to attendees & will direct them to the First Response Center booth for *FREE* HIV/AIDS testing.

**Ecclesiastical Council Meeting** – Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> following morning worship

**Retention Task Force Meeting** – Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.

**Prayer Breakfast** – Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sponsored by a blend of the Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series team and the Retention Task Force. Look for an additional insert with further details.

**Friday evening Dancercise, 7 p.m. // Voices of Metropolitan Rehearsal, Saturday, 12 – 2 p.m.**

**Saturday Worship, 6 – 7 p.m.;** *The Voices of Metropolitan* sing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month.

**United Way Employee Giving Campaign:** Please designate #3255 to support the First Response Center. For the Combined Federal Campaign, *Write In* Metropolitan Interdenominational Church First Response Center.

**It's that time again...** Please **RENEW your enrollment** through **Kroger Community Rewards** [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) during the month of August in order to continue supporting the MIC First Response Center whenever you shop *and* use your Kroger Plus card.

### MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE

<b>August 31</b>	<b>Circle 3</b>	<b>September 21</b>	<b>Circle 6</b>
<b>September 7</b>	<b>Circle 4</b>	<b>September 28</b>	<b>Circle 7</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>Circle 5</b>	<b>October 5</b>	<b>Circle 1</b>

### ~ Giving Summary ~

Date	Offering - Budgeted	Offering - Actual	Offering – (Un)Realized	Summary (Un)Realized
January, 2016	\$ 28,850.00	\$ 21,668.00	(\$ 7,182.00)	(\$ 7,182.00)
February, 2016	\$ 23,080.00	\$ 22,536.10	(\$ 543.90)	(\$ 7,725.90)
March, 2016	\$ 23,080.00	\$ 27,527.23	\$ 4,447.23	(\$ 3,278.67)
April, 2016	\$ 28,850.00	\$ 29,929.83	\$ 1,079.83	(\$ 2,198.84)
May, 2016	\$ 28,850.00	\$ 26,483.66	(\$ 2,366.34)	Corrected (\$ 4,565.18)
June, 2016	\$ 23,080.00	\$ 20,684.67	(\$ 2,395.33)	Corrected (\$ 6,960.51)
July, 2016	\$ 28,850.00	\$ 29,991.85	\$ 1,141.85	(\$ 5,818.66)
August 7, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 5,148.86	(\$ 621.14)	
August 7, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 5,579.66	(\$ 190.34)	
August, 2016	\$ 11,080.00	\$ 10,728.52	(\$ 351.48)	
2016 Year to Date	\$ 196,180.00	\$ 189,549.86	(\$ 6,630.14)	(\$ 6,630.14)

### BIBLE READING

*Read... Pray... Sacrifice...* **15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost August 22-28, 2016**  
*Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14*



# METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Sunday, August 21, 2016

14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Metropolitan Interdenominational Church is a community of believers inclusive of all and alienating to none, leading the way to spiritual growth by sharing God's love with the world.*

## BENT OUT OF SHAPE

*“...there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.”*

BENT OUT OF SHAPE is a commonly used cliché to refer to moments when we have been so negatively impacted by life’s experience and circumstance that we become overwhelmed to the point of utter frustration. Whether the cause for our frustration is physical, mental or spiritual the result is the same in terms of the painful assault we feel upon our personhood. In Luke’s story of the woman who has been bent over for 18 years (Luke 13:10-17), there is no reference to the reason for her condition other than the fact of it being “a spirit that had crippled her.” Crippling spirits can manifest in many ways and all of us, in one way or another, fall prey to them in a fashion that makes us feel like we are BENT OUT OF SHAPE. Even though we do not know all of the details, we do know that the woman in this text is living in a patriarchal society where a woman’s worth was of little value and the forces of oppression were compounded by her gender. Sexism, racism, homophobia, classism and all forms of dehumanizing bigotry can translate into the kind of burden that can weigh us down such that we are BENT OUT OF SHAPE. Only when we have faith does the countervailing force of the presence of Christ keep us from being BENT OUT OF SHAPE.

*(Reprinted from Sunday, August 25, 2013)*

**Senior Servant**

### SICK, SHUT IN, and RECOVERING MEMBERS

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers, <i>not visitors</i> , please.
Ella Louise Gant	908 Cannon Street; Nashville, TN 37210	615-242-0226
Lynda Hodggers		662-579-5317
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Mary Grace Williams	293 Becklea Drive; Madison, TN 37115	615-868-6810
Suzan Matias-Ballentine	198 Dry Creek Road, Goodlettsville, TN 37072	615-830-3393
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375