METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH



BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF LOVE Sunday, July 16, 2017 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST <u>PREPARATION</u>

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:	You who are thirsty but do not have the money, come and drink,
People:	That the word of the Lord might accomplish its purpose.
Leader:	You who are hungry but do not have the price, come and eat,
People:	That the word of the Lord might accomplish its purpose.
Leader:	You who labor but do not get your reward, come and consider,
People:	That the word of the Lord might accomplish its purpose.
Leader:	You who scatter seed but do not reap the harvest, come and plant,
People:	That the word of the Lord might accomplish its purpose.
ALL:	Let us drink the water of life and eat the bread of heaven.
	Let us sow our seed in good soil, that others might reap the fruit of our labor.

OPENING HYMN

"Bringing in the Sheaves"

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness, Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve, Waiting for the harvest and the time of reaping – We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

CHORUS: Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves, We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows, Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;

By and by the harvest and the labor ended –

We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master, Tho the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;

When our weeping's over He will bid us welcome-

We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Preston Pittman

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

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 programs, serving over 700 people living with HIV/AIDS, and other at-risk persons;
- > 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, including Girl Scouts, recovery/support groups, and 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!*

DOXOLOGY

THE WORD

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CELEBRATION IN SONG

The Voices of Metropolitan Reginald Green, Minister of Music

PROCLAMATION

Matthew 13:1-23

CHORAL RESPONSE

Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,

For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

PREPARATORY PERIOD

OUR CALLING

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.

Billye Sanders

MESSAGE

THE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES OF LIFE

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!" ¹⁰Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹²For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ¹³The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' 14With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: 'You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. ¹⁵For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn— and I would heal them.' ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it. ¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." Matthew 13:1-23

SERMON NOTES

RESPONSE

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

MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

The Voices of Metropolitan

Communion Prayer

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

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.

Teach me Thy grace in the daily work by which I earn my keep and the keep of those dependent upon me. There are duties demanded of me that irk and irritate, dulling the cutting edge of joy in labor. There is the fatigue that burrows deep into the citadel of my sense of wellbeing, rendering me brittle, sharp in speech, and short in patience. There is the pride, the arrogance that comes when I turn my eyes from the high level of my intent and look coldly at the lesser deeds of some who walk the way with me. There is the tendency to wrap myself in garments of my own compassion ending in the muck of self-pity and unhealthy moodiness. Teach me Thy grace in the daily work by which I earn my keep and the keep of those dependent upon me. Teach me Thy grace. --Howard Thurman

CORE
VALUESOur core values define the framework within which we live out the
ideals of Our Calling based upon the word of God as reflected in Jesus Christ.

Loving, Giving, Serving, Inclusive, Reconciling, Fellowship, Liberating	INCLUSIVE: Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting
LOVING: Worshiping, Comforting, Caring	RECONCILING: Forgiving, Restoring, Affirming
GIVING: Sharing, Supporting, Volunteering	FELLOWSHIP: Celebrating, Belonging, Participating
SERVING: Helping, Ministering, Providing	LIBERATING: Teaching, Nurturing, Advocating

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

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Rev. Edwin C. Sanders, II, 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



METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF LOVE SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2017

SIXTH 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.

WORD POWER

Word Power is the title of one of the books that I remember my aunt Cornelia giving me when I was in the eighth grade. The premise of the book was that words were the avenue by which you could transform the world, and turn your dreams into reality. From the very first moment that education was an opportunity for those who had been left out of the circle of social inclusion as a result of having come to these American shores in chains, education was thought of as being the avenue to freedom. The power of the spoken word within our faith tradition has its origin in the story of creation, where God brings all things into existence by speaking. The entire text is driven by the power of what "God said..." In this week's gospel reading (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23), Jesus uses the Parable of the Sower to remind us of the importance of spreading the word. When Jesus spoke, he spread the word freely, clearly and boldly, without any limitation or reservation. Jesus knew that the byproduct of his message would always produce that which assured the world of abundance. For us today, we have often come to think of that abundance in narrow, materialistic terms, but God wants us to know that the ultimate abundance desired is the abundance of peace, joy, freedom, wisdom, justice, service, and love. As children of God, we have to spread the word with the assurance in our heads and hearts that our efforts will bear fruit in a manner that reflects the true meaning of WORD POWER.

--Senior Servant

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner by Circle 5; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Classes for Adults and Children

Ecclesiastical Council Meeting ~ Sunday, July 16, 2017 immediately following worship

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series ~ Join us Saturdays, 9:00–11:00 a.m., when we meet at the First Response Center, 1219 9th Avenue North, Nashville 37208.

Opportunity Now: Mayor Barry's Youth Employment Initiative *Visit:* https://app-opportunitynow.workbay.net

Thank you for Supporting Metropolitan while you shop! Between March 1st and May 31st, 2017, the 22 families who have Kroger Plus cards registered to earn Community Rewards for Metropolitan earned \$159.68 for the First Response Center.

Dale P. Andrews Memorial Service ~ Saturday, August 12, 2017, 2:00 p.m. Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University

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

Saturday Worship, 6 – 7 p.m.; The Voices of Metropolitan will appear August 12th

Centering Prayer, Sundays 8:30-8:50 a.m.; Wednesdays 6:40-7:00 p.m.

~ Olving Summary ~						
Date	Offering –	Offering – Actual	Offering	Summary		
	Budgeted		(Un)Realized	(Un)Realized		
January, 2017	\$28,850.00	\$30,036.04	\$1,186.04	\$1,186.04		
February, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$21,275.38	(\$1,804.62)	(\$618.58)		
March, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$23,941.21	\$861.21	\$242.63		
April, 2017	\$28,850.00	\$30,211.19	\$1,361.19	\$1,683.84		
May, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$16,143.51	(\$6,936.49)	(\$5,252.65)		
June, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$23,178.35	\$98.35	(\$5,154.30)		
July 2, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$ 6,350.40	\$580.40			
July 9, 2017	\$5,770.00	<u>\$6,405.68</u>	<u>\$635.68</u>			
July, 2017	\$11,080.00	\$12,756.08	\$1,676.08			
2017 Year to Date	\$161,460.00	\$157,521.78		(\$3,938.22)		

~ Giving Summary ~

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

July 26	Circle 6	August 16	Circle 2		
August 2	Circle 7	August 23, 2017	Circle 3		
August 9	Circle 1	August 30, 2017	Circle 4		

~ Bible Readings ~

 Read... Pray... Sacrifice...
 ~ 7th Sunday after Pentecost
 ~ July 17 - 23, 2017

 Genesis 28:10-19a
 Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
 Romans 8:12-25
 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. No visitors, please.
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Connie Ryans	1703 Pecan Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-310-7855
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	n P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375