



STRETCHING OUR FAITH

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, July 15, 2018 ~ Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

31st HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

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 "The City"

- Leader:** O God, the City, for people to live and to know one another.
- People:** **Help us to love the City.**
- Leader:** O God, who was laid off last week and can't pay the rent nor feed the kids.
- People:** **Help us to be with you.**
- Leader:** O God, who hangs on street corners, who tastes the grace of cheap wine and the sting of the needle.
- People:** **Help us to touch you.**
- Leader:** O God, who is pregnant without *partner*, who is child without parent, who has no place to play.
- People:** **Help us to know you.**
- Leader:** O God, who can't read nor write, who is on welfare and who is treated like garbage.
- People:** **Help us to know you.**
- Leader:** O God, who lives and no one knows their name and who thinks that they are nobody.
- People:** **Help us to know you.**
- Leader:** O God, who is cold in the slums of winter, and whose playmates are rats.
- People:** **Help us to touch you.**
- Leader:** O God, who is chased by the cops, who sits in jail for seven months with no charges brought, waiting for the Grand Jury, and no money for bail.
- People:** **Help us to know you.**
- Leader:** O God, who is old and lives on forty dollars a month in one crummy room and can't go outside.
- People:** **Help us to know you.**
- Leader:** O God, who lives in the projects of federal, state, and city indifference.
- People:** **Help us to see you.**
- Leader:** O God, who is fifteen and in the sixth grade.
- People:** **Help us to touch you.**
- Leader:** O God, who works all day, who feeds and cares for her children at night and dreams of better days, and is alone.
- People:** **Help us to know you.**

Continued...

Leader: O God, whose toys are broken bottles, tin cans, whose play yard is garbage and debris, and whose house is the floors of the condemned buildings.

People: **Help us to touch you.**

Leader: O God, who holds tight the hem of her mother's dress, whose eyes are empty, whose tears are large and whose face is dirty.

People: **Help us to touch you.**

Leader: *O God, who is HIV-positive and consumed by fear.*

People: *Help us to touch you.*

Leader: O God, who is uneducated, unskilled, unwanted and unemployed.

People: **Help us to know you.**

Leader: O God, who is all people.

ALL: **Help us to love you.**

From a litany written by Father Robert Castle, Episcopal Church, Jersey City, New Jersey

OPENING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*CHORUS: This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
 This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
 Angels descending bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *CHORUS*

Perfect submission - all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
 Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. *CHORUS*

WELCOME

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

Billye Sanders

OFFERTORY

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

(We are now accepting tithes and offerings by credit and debit card in the sanctuary.)

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 others at-risk;
- Pay for the personnel and operating costs of our ministries;
- Provide educational materials/resources to assist in our community's spiritual growth and development;
- Maintain meeting space for ministries, including Metropolitan Praise Dancers, Girl Scouts, recovery/support groups, & events;
- Fund our annual Anniversary and Homecoming celebrations;

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

CELEBRATION IN SONG

The Voices of Metropolitan
Reginald Green, Minister of Music

DOXOLOGY

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.

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

The 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.

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 well-being, 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 VALUES

Our 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: <i>Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting</i>
LOVING: <i>Worshiping, Comforting, Caring</i>	RECONCILING: <i>Forgiving, Restoring, Affirming</i>
GIVING: <i>Sharing, Supporting, Volunteering</i>	FELLOWSHIP: <i>Celebrating, Belonging, Participating</i>
SERVING: <i>Helping, Ministering, Providing</i>	LIBERATING: <i>Teaching, Nurturing, Advocating</i>

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Location: 2128 11th 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

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. Donna Whitney, Rev. Terry Terrell,

Rev. Regina McCrary, Rev. Neely Williams, Rev. Stephanie Thompson,

Rev. Cherie Booker, Rev. Christopher Goodwin



STRETCHING OUR FAITH
METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, July 15, 2018 ~ Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
31st HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

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.

YOUR REPUTATION WILL FOLLOW YOU

YOUR REPUTATION WILL FOLLOW YOU, good, bad or otherwise, is a life lesson often learned very painfully. “Bad Egg,” “Baby Blimp,” “Dinosaur,” “Traacherous,” “Baltimore Flynn” and “Bone Crusher” are all names that bring to mind some guys who were notorious when I was growing up in Memphis. In most instances, I have no idea what the last forty-plus years have been like for them, but I do know the images that come to my mind when I call the names of these “urban legends.” They were all tough and didn’t take any stuff. I’m sure my nicknames, “Skeets,” “Brother Rubber Nose,” “Ankle Beater,” “G.I. Joe,” and “Colonel Sanders” conjure up some images as well. However, the truth of the matter is many of us have outgrown the origins of these names, but they continue to follow us because they are associated with realities of who we were when we “picked up the handle.” How wonderful it would be if all people thought of were good and positive things when our names were spoken. Imagine if we were known for being faithful to the teachings of Jesus. *Mark 6:14 & 15* in the Good News Bible (TEV) says, “Jesus’ reputation had spread everywhere.” People all over the world he lived in knew that this man had an extraordinary commitment to truth, justice, reconciliation and unconditional love. There is no better example of how we should live our lives in light of the fact that YOUR REPUTATION WILL FOLLOW YOU.

(Reprinted from July 12, 2009)

– *Senior Servant*

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

July 25	Circle 6	August 15	Circle 2
August 1	Circle 7	August 22	Circle 3
August 8	Circle 1	August 29	Circle 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series ~ *suspended until August 4th*

Ecclesiastical Council Meeting Sunday, August 19th, following worship

Thank you for supporting Metropolitan through the Kroger Plus program. For the period between 3/1/18 and 5/28/18, Metropolitan received \$191.45 in Community Rewards.

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

Support Metropolitan while you shop:

- Enroll in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program:** Login to Kroger.com, enroll your Kroger Plus card, select Community Rewards, then Metropolitan Interdenominational Church FRC; it's that easy!
- When shopping online, register your support for Metropolitan Interdenominational Church FRC with **Smile.Amazon** ...and always shop through the Smile.Amazon site.

Opportunity Now: Youth Employment Initiative Visit: <https://app-opportunitynow.workbay.net>

BIBLE READINGS

Read... Pray... Sacrifice... **9th Sunday after Pentecost** **July 16 - 22, 2018**

2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Friday evening Dancercise, 7p.m.

Voices of Metropolitan Rehearsal, Saturday 12–2p.m.

Saturday Worship, 6 – 7 p.m.

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

~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
John Cross	3441 White Pine Drive; Nashville, TN 37214	Send prayers and cards, only, please.
Christopher Davis	202 Emmitt Avenue; Madison, TN 37115	615-939-9454
Jay Lane		615-474-4239
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	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375

~ Giving Summary ~

Date	Offering – Budgeted	Offering – Actual	Offering (Un)Realized	Summary
2017 Year End	\$305,710.00	\$294,948.21		(\$10,761.79)
January, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,402.73	(\$3,677.27)	(\$3,677.27)
February, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$22,347.27	(\$732.73)	(\$4,410.00)
March, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$18,651.38	(\$4,428.62)	(\$8,834.62)
April, 2018	\$28,850.00	\$31,119.22	\$2,269.22	(\$6,565.40)
May, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$22,030.32	(\$1,049.68)	(\$7,515.08)
June, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,879.80	(\$3,002.20)	
July 01, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$5,862.41	\$92.41	
July 08, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$4,083.00</u>	<u>(\$1,687.00)</u>	
July, 2018	\$11,080.00	\$9,945.41	(\$1,134.59)	
2018 Year to Date	\$155,790.00	\$143,380.13		(\$12,409.87)