

Spectrum

NEW COVENANT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
P.O. Box 2262, Columbia, MD 21045 (410) 370.9663
www.newcovenantmcc.org

Meditation on Ministry...

by Marsha M., Hosting and Ushering Team Leader!

Serving Our Church

Sabbatical is a time during which a professional reflects on his or her vocation and seeks new and creative ways to contribute positively to its enhancement. A sabbatical is not, however, a vacation. For pastors, it offers a time away from all responsibilities to review and renew their God-given visions for their churches, as well as to do some soul searching with the assistance of the Holy Spirit. It might also include formal or personal study, travel and/or just plain relaxation. More than a reward for years of service, a sabbatical is an opportunity for spiritual and physical replenishment. From the congregation's perspective, sabbatical is a proactive step in helping to ensure their pastor is periodically renewed before he or she faces an emotional, spiritual or physical crisis. Sabbaticals work best when church boards recognize a pastor's work is demanding and places him or her in the middle of real spiritual battle.



During a recent Liturgical committee meeting, Pastor Lance stressed a fact. "The Pastor is not the church.....the members are the church." Each and every person that contributes in a big or small way to the community is the church. I thought that during his absence we could re-examine our contributions to our church. Serving our church and church family is so much a part of our services. And I, for one, acquired a great deal of pleasure and personal growth by serving.

If you were to ask most Christians "how do people grow spiritually?" they may respond by saying that you need to have a devotional life and you need to be a member of a church. If you were to delve deeper into how Christians grow, you would discover that Christians also grow as they get involved in meaningful service to others. In fact, apart from service to others it is very difficult to motivate people to practice spiritual disciplines or to motivate them with the desire to learn how to share their faith.

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New Covenant MCC Vision Statement

Creating Community

Inspiring Spiritual Growth

Transforming the World Through The Love of Christ





- **If you are worshipping with us for the first time**, we are especially glad that you are here! Please don't leave without visiting our information table in the narthex and picking up useful information about our community's life, ministry, and activities. We would love for you to fill out a **"Let's Get Acquainted Form"** and place it in the offering basket as your contribution to us this evening.
- **If you would like to become an affiliate member, or "Friend,"** of New Covenant MCC, please see Pastor Lance. He will be happy to talk with you more about becoming a Friend and will provide you with a Friendship Covenant Form to fill out and sign.
- **All guests, Members, and Friends – please take a moment to sign the Attendance Register** in the atrium to record your attendance. This helps us keep track of our attendance records and gives you the opportunity to indicate your interest in any of the community events that are announced.
- **Offering Envelopes** are available on the information table. If you would like us to keep a record of your giving for your tax purpose, please legibly print your name and address on the envelope. Please see an usher, host, or the pastor for any additional information about our community. Let us worship God!

Food Pantry Collection

Partnering with Oaklands Presbyterian to Transform the World!

Our host church, Oaklands Presbyterian, runs a food pantry for local individuals and families who cannot afford enough food for themselves. Oaklands works with Laurel Advocacy and Referral Service (LARS), which assesses the needs of local individuals and refers them to area churches and non-profits that supply them food.

New Covenant is in partnership with Oaklands to help stock and organize the pantry. **We need people to bring non-perishable food items on an ongoing basis.** *If each of our members does her/his part, we can make a significant contribution toward the world's transformation! Do your part – consider bringing at least one bag per month!*

For more information, please contact Penny S. or Debbie D.

Thank you for supporting this important effort!

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Once we get involved in service, we experience a need for deeper devotions and would like the ability to explain our faith better. It is only as people get outside their comfort zones through service, that they grow. Many churches make service the very first thing they encourage for new converts. We all grow when we take responsibility for the activities of our church. Ministry is the essential ingredient in the strength within our church and faith. There are many areas of ministerial service available within our church. These are a few areas where we can work together, for our community.

- The HUT Team (hosting and ushering) is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow church members and to make a welcoming statement to our new visitors. This welcome can have a far reaching effect in that the new (and possible nervous) visitor. We can personally be spiritually touched by our warm church family. The HUT Team also serves as acolytes, lighting the candles that signify that three or more people are gathered together to worship our Lord.
- Lectors are members of the congregation who read from scriptures during worship. They are helping each of us to experience the lessons of the week with clearer understanding. Eucharistic Ministers help the pastor administer the sacraments.
- The choir is another wonderful way of sharing your gifts. It is not necessary to be able to read music to join our choir. You only need to carry a tune, shake a tambourine, toot a horn, or strum a guitar.....and have joy in your heart.
- Altar care is a quieter way to serve. He or she sets up the altar before the service.
- Our Fluff and Buff Team has the responsibility of light cleaning after the service, such as vacuuming, checking the bathrooms and kitchen, and taking out the trash.
- CCT Team is the Congregational Care Team. This committee plans the dinners, parties, bowling, and picnics. They also design and mail out cards for Christmas, Easter, birthdays and anniversaries. The "after service hospitality" is an outreach of this team.
- You have a talent that involves writing? Perhaps you would like to submit an article for publication in our newsletter, "The Spectrum."
- There is also a team for Internet outreach that works on our web site and MySpace. The web site also provides us with our schedules and contacts.
- The newly established Children's Church is here to teach our children the lessons of the bible.
- We also are blessed to have an Outreach Team that is currently working along with Oakland's Church to collect non-perishable food items for needy families.
- Fundraising and church growth are two areas that are not currently being utilized. Perhaps you have a gift in these areas, and would like to develop and work with these projects.

The joys and spiritual growth you will receive from participating in the business of the church, far outreach the time involved. Look into your heart and see what areas you might want to participate in and feel your relationship with the Lord grow!





...our Board of Directors

The Board wishes Lance all the best while he is on his well deserved sabbatical. The Board received a letter from the congregation asking us to approve a \$1,000 stipend for Lance to utilize on his sabbatical. It is customary to give a pastor a sum to help offset additional costs associated with a sabbatical, i.e., travel expenses, books, course work, etc. Lance is entitled per his contract to a 3 month sabbatical at this time. Due to our smaller congregation being dependent on him for a lot of the day to day running of the church, Lance has graciously agreed to break his sabbatical into 3 one-month periods taken over a couple of years. The Board approved this request from the congregation, with \$400 being given to him for his first month and \$300 to be given for each of the subsequent months when taken. The budget had \$400 allotted for miscellaneous items and this sum was paid from this line item. Enjoy your time Lance, and return to us refreshed and ready to further spiritually challenge us!

Administrative and Pastoral Assistance during Pastor Lance's Sabbatical

28 March – 28 April 2008

For assistance with a church administrative or business matter, please contact Patty G., the Vice-Moderator of our Board of Directors. She should be able to assist you within 24 hours of the time that you contact her: pgglasgow@jhu.edu

If you are having difficulty reaching Patty, contact Chuck I., the Clerk of our Board: chuck.ingram@gmail.com

If you need assistance from a pastor, please contact the following people:

Between March 28th and April 5th:

David Mellott, Assistant Professor of Theology at Lancaster Seminary

Between April 6th and April 28th:

The Rev. David Smith, Pastor of MCC Baltimore
410.669.6222 or RevRDavid@aol.com

KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING for a Church COMMUNITY?

Think about it. How many times do we hear folks talking about being raised in the Christian church and having left? Know someone in your life who might enjoy a visit to Worship on Sunday? Invite them to come along some weekend. There are actually folks out there who are waiting for an invitation to come and see - why not be the one to welcome them home? Let folks know about the good things that are happening at New Covenant!

Save the Date!
Spring Celebration Saturday

Saturday, May 17th 2008



Spring Congregational Meeting
Community Picnic



Mark you calendars for a truly celebratory Saturday!!

Saturday, May 17th, 2008

3:00 p.m. Spring Congregational Meeting!

We will be meeting to conduct the business of the church and give thanks for what God is doing in our community. We will sharing some important updates, including our Pastor's sabbatical report. It's important for ALL MEMBERS to be present (FRIENDS and guests are welcome, too!) Stay tuned for more information!

4:15 p.m.— sundown. Community Picnic!

Following our congregational meeting, we will gather for a picnic on Oaklands lawn. Fun, food, and fellowship! This would be a great time to "bring a friend to church"! Please give your friends, family, or MIA community members a call to let them know we would love for them to share in the festivities. Stay on the lookout for more information from the Congregational Care Team!

Save the Date! Save the Date!

Spring Christian Education Course

Queer Eye for the Jesus Guy!

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

May 14th – June 11th

We will offer an exciting 5-part Christian Education class on Wednesdays, "Queer Eye for the Jesus Guy!" No, we're not giving Jesus a makeover! Instead, we are approaching several key stories about Jesus from the Gospels with an "eye" for how they impact our lives as GLBT and allied people today! It will be one Bible study you won't want to miss! There are no prerequisites for admission. The course will take place on Wednesdays (14 May – 11 June) at 7:00 p.m. here at Oaklands.

Easter Sunday Love Offering! *for MCC's Global Justice Ministries!*

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Way to Make a Difference, New Covenant!

Our community collected an impressive **\$843.00** for our Easter Love Offering for MCC's Global Justice ministries! This donation serves as a testimony to our faith in Jesus and our commitment to serving the "last and the least" in Jesus' name. We pray that it will go a long way in making a difference for those who have been persecuted, devalued, and marginalized.

This year's *Easter Offering for Global Justice* will allow our denomination to continue to respond strategically to cries for help from around the globe. From an underground church in Pakistan, where laws still allow stoning to death LGBT people, to Jamaica, where in January 2008, a machete-wielding mob broke into a private home, attacking three gay men, MCC's Global Justice ministry is urgently needed.

Thank you for supporting our persecuted and marginalized siblings across the globe! Together, we are **transforming the world through the love of Christ!**



The Power of US!

National Black Justice Coalition – Convention 2008!

- ☀ Health & Wellness Summit
- ☀ 3rd Annual Black Church Summit
- ☀ 2nd Skills Building & Leadership Development Summit

April 24-26, 2008
Renaissance Harborplace Hotel
Baltimore, MD

The National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) is a civil rights organization dedicated to ending racism and homophobia and building a more inclusive movement for the rights and empowerment of Black gay Americans. Don't miss this exciting conference! Visit www.nbjc.org for more information!

And, for the second year running, members of New Covenant's music ensemble will be assisting with the musical leadership for the event! So this conference is not only an opportunity to be empowered in the struggle for justice, but it's also a way to support our fellow community members in their ministry beyond our "walls"!

New Covenant Calendar (April 6 – May 11)

* Pastor Lance on Sabbatical, 28 March – 28 April

Sunday, April 6:

5:00 pm Music Rehearsal
6:30 pm Worship: The Third Sunday of Easter
Special Guest Preacher: The Rev. Kharma Amos, Pastor MCC NOVA

Sunday, April 13:

6:30 pm Worship: The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Special Preacher: The Rev. George Rizor, Affiliate Member of New Covenant *and* Pastor of Landover Christian Church!
6:30 pm Children's Church during Worship

Tuesday, April 15:

7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, April 20:

5:00 pm Music Rehearsal
6:30 pm Worship: The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Special Guest Preacher: The Rev. David Smith, Pastor of MCC Baltimore!

Sunday, April 27:

5:00 pm Music Rehearsal
6:30 pm Worship: The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Special Preacher: Dr. David Mellott
Member of New Covenant and Assistant Professor of Theology, Lancaster Seminary

Saturday, May 3:

11:30 am Ministries Council Meeting – place TBD
(see Jamison M., Ministries Council Chair)

Sunday, May 4:

5:00 pm Music Rehearsal
6:30 pm Worship: The Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension Sunday)
Pastor Lance is back in the pulpit!

Sunday, May 11:

5:00 pm Music Rehearsal
6:30 pm Worship: The Day of Pentecost
6:30 pm Children's Church during Worship



New Covenant's Children's Church

April 13th, 2008

On the second Sunday of each month, we host a "Children's Church" that takes place in the nursery during our worship service. During this time, our Children's Ministry leaders lead our kids in games, crafts, and Bible lessons.

On April 13th, during the Opening Hymn of Praise, our children are invited to go down the hall for Children's Church with our instructors, Patrick and Tom!

To support this ministry, contact Patrick H. or Tom M.



Remember to recycle this Spectrum newsletter... and all recyclable household products! If you don't recycle (which you should!!!), please don't throw this newsletter away. Bring it to Pastor Lance or David when you are done with it, and they will recycle it for you. Together, we can conserve our precious natural resources and reduce the amount of unnecessary energy used, thus fulfilling our God-given call to be good stewards of the creation.

Stewardship Update and Comparison Report

February 2008

Average Weekly Attendance: 31
General Offering: \$4,736.07
Fundraising: \$0.00
Total: \$4,736.07

January 2008

Average Weekly Attendance: 34
General Offering: \$4,009.45
Fundraising: \$0.00
Total: \$4,009.45

February 2007

Average Weekly Attendance: 25
Offering: \$3,471.00
Fundraising: \$48.00
Total: \$3,519.00

Our monthly expenses total **\$4,371.07**. That means that last month we collected **\$365 *more*** than our approved expenses. Thanks be to God for your amazing generosity. Our congregation's mission is sustained by your support!



Don't
Forget
Your
Tithe

New Covenant MCC Ministry Directory

Board of Directors

Moderator	Rev. Lance Mullins (revlancem@yahoo.com)	410.370.9663
Vice Moderator	Patty G.	
Treasurer	David K.	
Clerk	Chuck I.	
Member at Large	Jamison M.	

Team Leaders

Art & Environment	Annette D.
Minister of Music	Greg Satorie
Coordinator of Worship	Jamison M.
Congregational Care Team	Chris L. Annette D.
Spectrum	Joshua A.
Coordinators of Internet Outreach	Tim C. Joshua A.
Coordinator of Hosting and Ushering	Marsha M.
Children's Education Coordinators	Tom M. Patrick H.