
Spectrum

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

Pastor's Ponderings...

Faithful Waiting

Wait for God; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for God!

Psalm 27:14



Waiting. It's a fact of life. We may be an "instant gratification nation," with immediate access to most everything, but we still can't avoid waiting. We live much of our lives in between one thing and another, in fact. We find ourselves in between our home and work, in between starting a project and completing it, in between beginning a degree program and receiving a diploma, in between the first round of chemo and the final diagnosis. Waiting for something, be it something we're anticipating of something we're dreading, is part and parcel of what it means to be human.

Waiting is a fact of life. But it's one we usually try to avoid. We get impatient with waiting, wondering like an eight-year-old on a car trip if we'll ever be *there* yet. We get anxious in our waiting, knowing that something we're anticipating hasn't arrived. If that "something" is a good something, we get anxious because we want it to get here. If it's something we dread, we get anxious because we want to avoid it. Waiting is a fact of life, but it can be a hard one.

At this point on our journey, you and I find ourselves in a period of waiting. I have announced my resignation as Pastor of this wonderful community, and we are all waiting to see what comes next. I'm awaiting my new vocational context, my new home, my new rhythm of life and work. You're awaiting your next pastor, your next chapter of ministry, your next step as a growing community of faith. Before all that happens, we have even more things to attend to – the good-byes, the formation of a Pastoral Search Team, the packing up and moving on. We wait for all of these things – some of them with dread, others with excitement. We wait, and we wonder what will come next for us.

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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!

Our Regional Elder Visits New Covenant

We are pleased to have our Regional Elder, the Reverend Arlene Ackerman, as our special guest on Sunday 13 July. During her visit, Arlene meets with the Board of Directors to discuss the process for the upcoming transition of pastoral leadership. She is preaching in our worship service and will be convening a community forum afterwards. We are grateful to have a Regional Elder who is gifted at leading local congregations through periods of transition! Please be sure to offer a word of gratitude and hospitality to our Elder. And don't forget to bring your questions and concerns to the forum after worship! Arlene is here to bring us answers, clarity and encouragement!

Recycle! Protect our Planet! Recycle! Protect our Planet!

Oaklands Presbyterian, our "host" church, now has its very own paper recycling dumpster. You can deposit any type of paper – junk mail, newspaper, cardboard, etc. Please make sure to recycle ALL unwanted paper products used during or after our worship services. And, if your neighborhood or municipality does not yet have paper recycling, please collect your paper and bring it to church with you. It's now a little easier for us to be good stewards of God's creation!

(continued from page 1)

Waiting is a fact of life, but waiting faithfully is a choice we make. Faithful waiting is not sitting, twiddling our thumbs and fretting. Faithful waiting is not wallowing in “what ifs” and letting our anxieties get the better of us. Faithful waiting is bold expectation. It is patient action. It is open-hearted hopefulness. The Hebrew word for waiting found in the Bible is *kava*. The word means “to look eagerly for.” When we wait faithfully, we look eagerly for God’s good future to come for us, for our community and for our world. We wait with an eagerness for new life to emerge. We boldly expect something amazing to meet us on our journey, and we patiently act as if that amazing “something” is indeed on its way.

Waiting is a fact of life, but faithful waiting is an act of courage. “Be strong and let your heart take courage!” shouts the Psalmist. Being strong and courageous in our waiting requires us to remember the One who holds us in the palm of her hands. Being strong and courageous in our waiting requires us to remember the One who shelters us under his wings in all our periods of transition. Being strong and courageous in our waiting requires us to remember the One for whom we wait. “Wait for God; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for God!” In all our periods of waiting, we entrust ourselves to our good and faithful God. That doesn’t mean we won’t ever feel anxious or uncertain about the future. But it does mean that, even amid our anxieties, we will continue to trust the Spirit who is faithfully present with us on our journeys and is working all things together for good on our paths.

Waiting is a fact of life, but faithful waiting demands that we root ourselves in a place of trust – trust in God and in God’s future. Luckily, trust is a lot easier to have when we’re surrounded by community, especially a wonderful and faithful community like the one at New Covenant. Throughout the past six years, I have known you to be a community who looks eagerly for God’s good future. I have known you to be people who encourage one another and who remind one another of God’s presence and faithfulness. I have known you to be a church that is committed to developing your faith and increasing your trust in God.

Because I know all this about you, I know that you will be fine as you continue this process of waiting. I know that you will not only be fine but you will *thrive*. You will grow in your faith and you will deepen in your capacity to trust God. You will increase your awareness of your identity as the Body of Christ. And you will discover new things, *good* things, God is doing as you wait. Sure, there will be some anxiety and some uncertainty and some starts and stops along the way. Hey, this is life we’re talking about! But even in those times, you will be strong and your heart will take courage, because you know how to wait faithfully. And you know the One who sustains you in your waiting.

I too know how to wait faithfully. I too know the One who sustains me in my waiting. I know these things in large part because for six wonderful years I’ve watched you and learned from you and grown with you. Again and again, you have shown me what it looks like to wait faithfully. And I have seen the God who sustains us reflected in *you*.

I will be forever grateful that we have shared this journey together, and I eagerly await the good things God will bring about for all of us on the path ahead.

In the Spirit,
Pastor Lance

Another great job at Pride!!

Special thanks go to **Debbie D.** for all her work organizing our booths at this year's DC and Baltimore Pride festivals. Once again thanks to Debbie, our tables were beautifully decorated and our "giveaways" attracted streams of people who found out about our community of faith. Plus, we raised over \$400 from our efforts. Some of this money will go toward our regional MCC "Would Jesus Discriminate Campaign," which will be held this Fall in conjunction with our denomination's 40th anniversary. The remainder of the money will go to our partners-in-justice, Moveable Feast, an organization that supports people living with HIV and AIDS.

Thanks also go to **Chuck I.** for working with the regional MCC Pride Committee to plan our efforts with DC Pride. And more thanks go to **all the other folks** who generously offered your time to march in the DC parade and staff the booths at both Baltimore and DC Pride! Good work, people!



New Covenant's Children's Church

July 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 July 13th, during the Passing of the Peace, our children are invited to go down the hall for Children's Church with our instructors, Patrick!

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



You can SHOP online and support New Covenant at the same time! Visit www.iGive.com/NCMCC!

[iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) is FREE for you and free for our organization. You can shop at **650+** participating online stores including Staples, Orbitz, Travelocity, Priceline, Home Depot, Best Buy, eBay, and PETSMART. Up to 26% of each purchase is donated to New Covenant MCC.

So START today: www.iGive.com/NCMCC

To date we have earned: **\$127.29** as of 7/12/08 from iGive shoppers!

New Covenant Calendar (July 13 – August 3)

Sunday, July 13:

6:30 pm Children's Church during worship
 6:30 pm Worship:
 The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Visit by our Regional Elder, the Rev. Arlene
 Ackerman. Forum with the Rev. Ackerman
 after worship

Tuesday, July 15:

7:00 pm Boards of Directors Meeting

Sunday, July 20:

6:30 pm Worship:
 The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, July 21:

7:00 pm Regional Pride Committee Meeting
 at MCC DC

Sunday, July 27:

5:00 pm Music Rehearsal
 6:30 pm Worship:
 The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thursday, July 31:

Pastor Lance on Vacation until Tuesday, August 5th.

Sunday, August 3:

5:00 pm Music Rehearsal
 6:30 pm Worship:
 The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



SAVE THESE DATES!

Region 3 Sub-Regional gatherings have been scheduled for the Fall of 2008. I encourage EVERY member of M3C to attend our Central gathering to get more connected with the larger UFMCC community.

November 14-15, Central Gathering, Boyds, MD Open Door MCC

Plenary: Affirming Our Spiritual/Theological Diversity OR Spiritual Journeys Go In Different Directions And That's OK, No Reason To Get All Bent Out Of Shape If Yours Is Different Than Mine And Mine Is Different Than Yours!

Rev. Dr. Mona West

Tentative Agenda

Friday - 7:30 p.m. Musical Service

Saturday - Opening Worship, Plenary, Workshops, Closing Worship.

Cost: \$25

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN REGISTER IN ADVANCE WILL BE INCLUDED IN UPCOMING ISSUES OF THE SPECTRUM.



This is a recent story written by Carol Lynn Pearson, the playwright who wrote the wonderfully moving play, Facing East, which was performed at New Covenant last month by our friends at Spotlighters Theatre. Go to www.clpearson.com to sign up for Carol Lynn's newsletter.

STORY: THE RING OF LOVE.

by Carol Lynn Pearson (writer of *Facing East*)

Most of the readers of this newsletter will be aware that there is a fair amount of controversy around the recent California court decision authorizing gay marriage, and in particular around the entry of the Latter Day Saints Church into the arena with a strong effort to pass a proposed amendment to the state constitution forbidding such marriages.

A day or two after the letter from church leaders first hit the Internet, I had a long telephone conversation with a friend of mine. We were not on the same page as we discussed these issues, but at the end of our conversation we both said some important things. I said, "You know, I've committed to look at this and everything else and ask, 'Will this thing bring a little more love to the planet, or take a little love away from the planet?'"

My friend replied, "You have a very good point there. And we need also to remember that when this life is done and we meet Christ, we will hopefully be able to say to him, 'I saw you hungry and I fed you...I saw you naked and I clothed you...I saw you in prison and I visited you...'"

I added, "And I saw you as a young gay man about to take your own life and I put my arms around you..."

"Yes, yes," my friend said. "It all comes down to love, doesn't it?"

Feeling very good as we ended our conversation, I got in the car and drove to Safeway for some groceries. In my mind I was going over what we had said: "Yes, it all comes down to love...will it bring a little more love to the planet or will it take a little love away?...it all comes down to love."

As I parked at the store and got out of the car, my eye spotted something small and round on the ground. I bent down and picked up — a little copper ring. Even without my reading glasses I could tell there was a word etched into the ring.

"L-O-V-E." This did not really surprise me. I know by now that if you think about love, if you talk about love — you find love. The ring was slightly bent, but love often gets bent out of shape a bit.

I knew I would never be able to locate the person who lost the ring, so I put it on the ring finger of my left hand. And — it fit! — just like Cinderella's glass slipper. I thought — "Wow, I'm engaged! I'm engaged in the work of love with someone that I've never met, someone who cared to wear the word 'love' on his or her finger."

I've been wearing that ring since. And I love the fact that I will never know who this person is — man, woman, child, black, white, Californian, Asian, Methodist, Mormon, Jew, a straight person or a gay person. All I know is that this person is the angel we might be entertaining unaware that we read about in scripture. This person is the Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief that we sing about. This person is the one in whose face we must see the face of Christ.

I'm not going to take the ring off until after the November election. And every time I look at it, I will remember that when I found it I was thinking of our gay brothers and sisters, and I will hope and believe that more and more of us — whatever our politics — will cease looking at them with fear and judgment, will want to give them a little more love rather than take a little love away from them, will include them in our universal ring of love, will practice seeing in their faces the face of Christ.

www.clpearson.com

When Searching Online Always Go To: www.GoodSearch.com

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter New Covenant Metropolitan Community Church as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

Total Amount Raised: **\$16.40** as of 7/12/08

New Laws Go Into Effect This Month

On July 1st two laws took effect that extend a handful of protections to domestic partners (straight and gay) in Maryland. The first law extends 11 protections to domestic partners in the areas of health care, medical decisions and other related areas. You can find more information about this law on the Equality Maryland website: www.equalitymaryland.org/legislation.

The second law adds “domestic partners” to the list of family members that a person can add and remove from a Deed to residential property without paying recordation and transfer taxes. You can find more information about this law, including an affidavit that you can download, on the Equality Maryland website: www.equalitymaryland.org/legislation.

Equality Maryland worked hard on passing these measures during the 2008 session. They helped draft the legislation, worked with our legislative sponsors, compiled panels of experts and families who testified on the need for these bills and fought off bad amendments to the bills. We were fortunate to have a committed group of legislators sponsoring these bills. They included Senators Rob Garagiola, Delores Kelley, and Rona Kramer and Delegates Jim Hubbard, Anne Kaiser and Sheila Hixson.

While our end goal remains ending marriage discrimination, Equality Maryland understands how important it is to pass legislation immediately that extends vital protections to thousands of families in our states. They will continue to do everything in their power to make life better for LGBT Marylanders and our families until equal protection under the law – including marriage equality – has been achieved.

To join the movement for justice and equality, contact Equality Maryland and volunteer!



Thank Governor O'Malley for signing two bills that expand protections to LGBT families

On May 22nd, Governor O'Malley penned his name to these two pieces of legislation - The Healthcare Facility Visitation and Medical Decisions Act (Senate Bill 566) and The Recordation and Transfer Tax bill (Senate Bill 597).

Thank you to everyone who took action to help with the passage of these measures. Though families headed by same-sex couples still lack more than 1,500 state and federal protections that stem from a marriage license, these two bills will provide some immediate relief to these families as we fight to end marriage discrimination.

The Catholic Conference of Maryland issued a full court press to urge Gov. O'Malley to veto the bills, literally slamming his office with faxes, phone calls, emails, and letters. Go to www.eqfed.org/campaign/ThankGovOMalley2008 to send a note of thanks to the Governor. Be sure to mention that you're a Christian supporter of equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Marylanders.

Stewardship Update and Comparison Report

June 2008

Average Weekly Attendance: 28
 General Offering: \$5,354.00
 Fundraising: \$0.00
Total: \$5,354.00

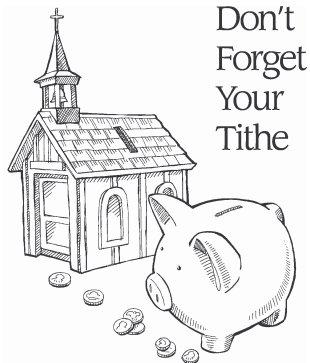
May 2008

Average Weekly Attendance: 27.5
 General Offering: \$5,231.00
 Fundraising: \$0.00
Total: \$5,231.00

June 2007

Average Weekly Attendance: 26
 General Offering: \$4,725.10
 Fundraising: \$0.00
Total: \$4,725.10

Our monthly expenses total **\$4,474.26**. That means that last month we collected **\$879.74 more** than our approved expenses for the month of June. Your abundant generosity and commitment to Christ is noteworthy! Thank you for your support of our congregation and its mission.



New Covenant MCC Ministry Directory

Board of Directors

Moderator	Rev. Lance Mullins (revlancem@yahoo.com)	410.370.9663
Vice Moderator	Patty G.	
Clerk	Chuck I.	
Treasurer	David K.	
Ministries Council Chair	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.