



**"Send the
Light *Forward!*"**

MCC Boston's 30th Anniversary

Sept. 7 & 8, 2002



**Affirming the lesbian, gay, bisexual,
transgendered community, family, & friends!**

Welcome!

To MCC Boston's 30th Anniversary Celebrations



Welcome back and welcome home!

Not many GLBT organizations can claim a 30th birthday. So, it is a privilege for me to welcome you to this 30th birthday celebration for MCC Boston. These thirty years have seen excitement, promise, and faith. It must also be said, in honesty, that they have seen more than a fair share of struggle and tragedy for the LGBT community in general, and this community in particular. I believe that makes this party even more important for MCC Boston than it might be for other churches.

In sharing laughter, thanksgiving, and hope, we renew our strength. In cherishing each other, we grow closer in unity. It is an honor to welcome you to this celebration of hope, courage, and common commitment.

Happy 30th birthday, and many more!

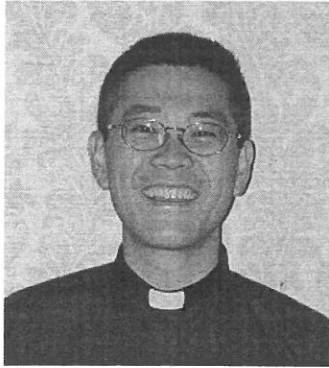
Blessings,

The Reverend Joan M. Saniuk, Ph.D., Pastor

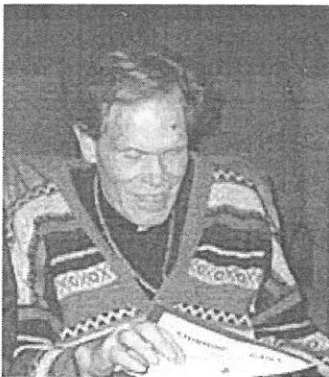
The Rev. Joan M. Saniuk is an ordained minister in the Metropolitan Community Churches. Before following a call to the ministry, Rev. Saniuk earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering, and worked as an aerospace engineer and as an educator. She holds an M.A. in Feminist Spirituality from Immaculate Heart College Center in Los Angeles, where her studies focused on the contributions of lesbian and gay religious perspectives to Christian faith. Rev. Saniuk currently serves as Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, Massachusetts; Community Investments volunteer, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay; member, Downtown Boston Religious Interfaith Dialogue; and is co-chair of Massachusetts' Religious Coalition for Freedom to Marry. Rev. Saniuk shares her home with Sharilyn Steketee, her spouse of eight years, and with their cat, Bridgit.



Additional MCC Boston Staff

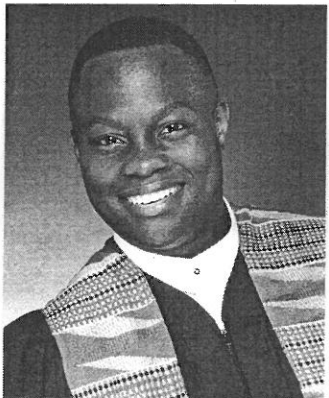


The Rev. Patrick S. Cheng joined MCC Boston as Staff Clergy on January 1, 2002. Rev. Patrick currently serves as the email list manager of the UFMCC Queer Asian Fellowship; he most recently served as Assistant Pastor for Congregational Life at MCC New York. Rev. Patrick is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary (New York), Harvard Law School, and Yale College. He has been published in the theological journal *Semeia*, and is pursuing doctoral studies in systematic theology at Union Theological Seminary under the supervision of Dr. James H. Cone.

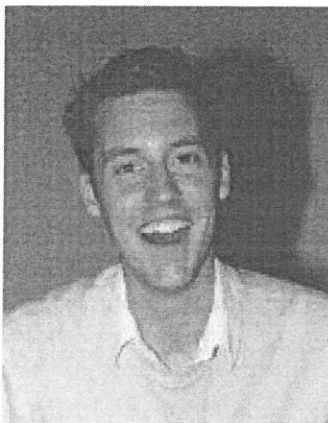


The Reverend George McDermott is retired clergy in UFMCC. He has pastored churches in Providence, Rhode Island and Indianapolis, Indiana. He now serves as pastoral support to the parish extension, **MCC Cape Cod Community of Faith**.

Rev. McDermott is also a professor at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Massachusetts.



An accomplished public speaker, vocalist, actor, musician and composer, **Kevin Quattlebaum, Worship Music Coordinator for MCC Boston**, has served numerous churches in his native New York City. Most recently, from 1998 to 2001, he served as Music Minister at the First Presbyterian Church, Staten Island, New York. During this period he also volunteered with the Pastoral Care Department of St. Elizabeth Ann's Health and Rehabilitation Center, facilitating spirituality workshops and performing for seniors and persons with HIV/AIDS.



Beau Kenyon, Music Minister for MCC Boston, studied music for a year at the University of Iowa, and then transferred to the Berklee College of Music, where he is majoring in composition.

He has been playing for churches since he was 16, and really enjoys having a community like MCC Boston as a place of musical expression.

30th Anniversary Brunch Program

11:00–11:15AM ~ Greeting & Gathering Time

11:15 ~ Invocation by the Reverend Joan Saniuk, Pastor MCC Boston

11:15–12:00 noon ~ Brunch, Slide Show

Music, Terry Elwell, guitarist

Welcome, Pastor Joan Saniuk

Remarks from the Rev Diane Fisher,
Eastern Canadian/Northeast District Coordinator

Presentation of Citation from
the Massachusetts House of Representatives

Reading of Greetings

Remarks by Russ Nile

Remarks by Mark Mickelson

Keynote Address by the Reverend Elder Troy Perry

Music by Terry Elwell

Closing Prayer

Happy Anniversary MCC Boston

1972–2002

From Russ Nile

"Now faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." —I Corinthians 13:13.

Greater Boston PFLAG

(Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People)

Congratulates

The Metropolitan Community Church of BOSTON

*FOR 30 YEARS OF
MINISTRY AND OUTREACH
TO LGBT COMMUNITIES.*

Thank you for affirming our mission of support, education, and advocacy for all.



*Greater Boston PFLAG stands for
family values that create valuable families.*

HISTORY of MCC Boston

Founded on September 10, 1972, the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Boston was one of the first communities of faith in the Boston area to affirm the full membership and worth of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) people. MCC Boston's message of God's love for all—regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity—is just as vital in the twenty-first century as it was three decades ago.

Timeline

The Metropolitan Community Church of Boston is one of the oldest continuing MCC congregations. At the time of MCC Boston's founding, the denomination was only four years old, with the first MCC having been founded in Los Angeles in California on October 6, 1968. Only one MCC in the northeast US is older—MCC New York, which was founded earlier in 1972.

MCC Boston had its origins in a rap group that began in July 1972, and then gathered together as an MCC mission congregation in September 1972. Originally meeting in a living room, MCC Boston soon outgrew its space and moved to the Hunnewell Chapel at Arlington Street Church. After a year and a half, the congregation moved to rent space at the Old West Church (United Methodist), where it still meets. MCC Boston was officially chartered as an MCC church in February 1973. The articles of incorporation with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were signed in April 1973 by the congregation's officers: The Rev. Larry Bernier (now priest on staff at St. Aelred's Chapel in San Bernardino, California), Dr. Richard Wattson (since deceased), and James Michael Hayes (currently the church's Alternate Lay Delegate).

(MCC Boston history continued on page 9)

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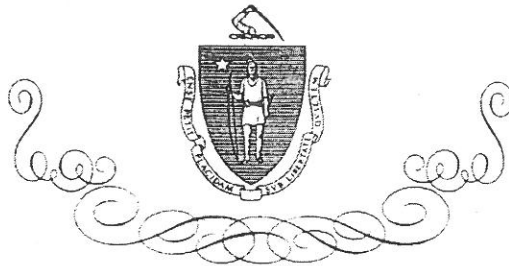


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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The House of Representatives



Be it hereby known to all that:
The Massachusetts House of Representatives
offers its sincerest congratulations to:
The Metropolitan Community Church of Boston

in recognition of
30 Years of Spiritual Service and Advocacy to the Greater Boston Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, and Transgendered Community and their Family and Friends.

The entire membership extends its very best wishes
and expresses the hope for future good fortune
and continued success in all endeavors.



Given this 8th day of September, 2002
at the State House, Boston, Massachusetts

by: [Signature]
Thomas M. Finneran
Speaker of the House

Offered by: [Signature]
State Representative
Liz Malia

GREETINGS!

I received your invitation and I'm sorry to say I can't be with you. MCC Boston and MCC Detroit have anniversaries at the same time, and this year I will have a chance to be with MCC Detroit—but I am not able to take time away from my church on another weekend. I really regret that, because a 30th anniversary is an amazing thing!

You are in my thoughts.

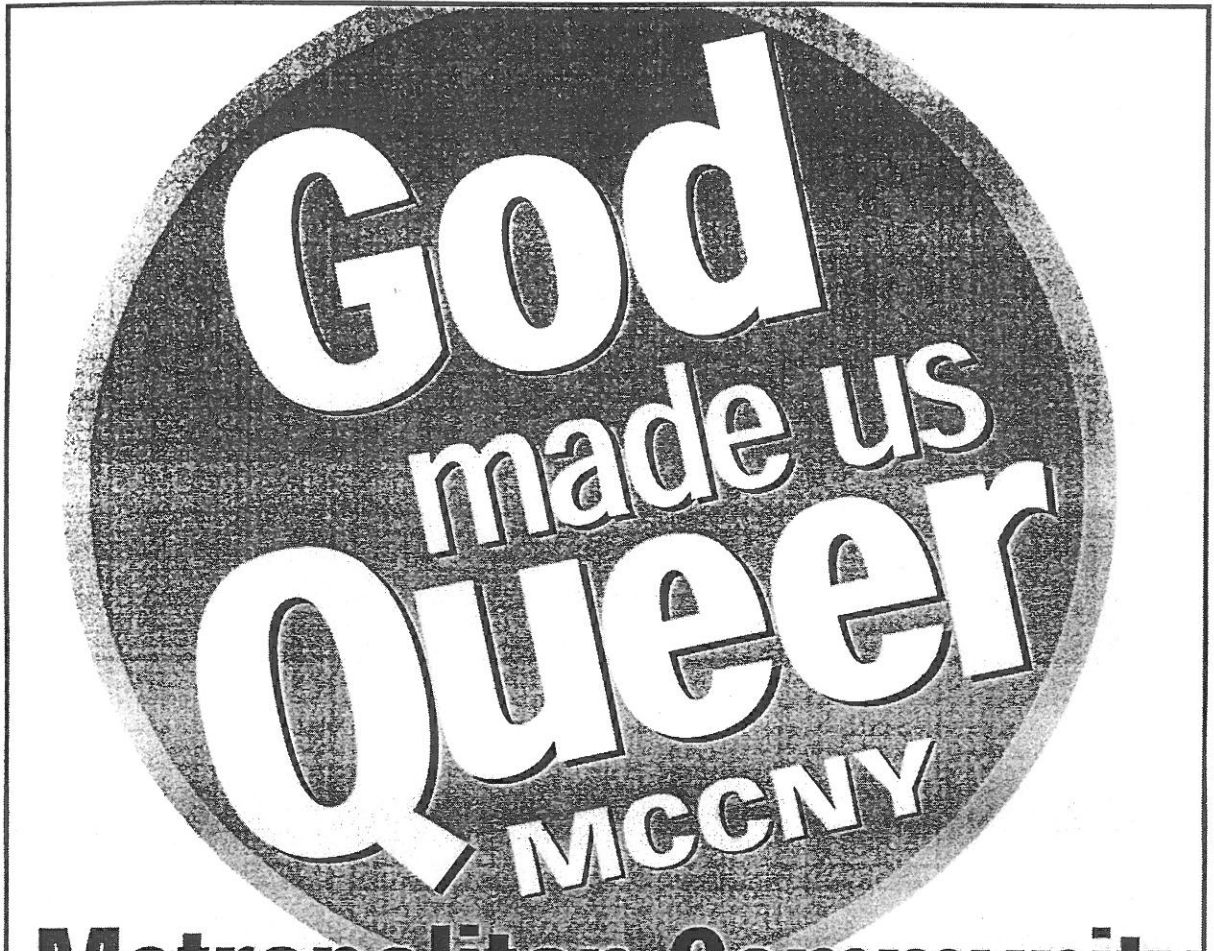
*The Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
Pastor, Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, Florida*

It was 1985 and we took a chance on each other. I was younger (weren't we all?), fresh with my degree from Union, ready to leave the nest of MCC New York. It felt like a good match. Like me, MCC Boston was ready to grow. We were ready to follow the promise pursued for centuries in Boston, the promise of community that respects diversity. Boston has a rich heritage of religious pioneers. I was always drawn to the two statues at the steps of the State House: Anne Hutchinson and Mary Dyer, women of faith who were actually banished from Boston, now honored as part of its legacy. They would be welcome at MCC Boston today.

Blessings from the other shore. Our journeys of faith continue, mine from New England to San Francisco. I am grateful for seasons of life and memories to cherish.

Congratulations on thirty years! May you continue the heritage of creating community, honoring the holy, and serving the world. May your journey be filled with hope and joy, guided by the past, building for the future, and celebrating this moment now.

Steve Carson, San Francisco



Metropolitan Community Church of New York

a church of lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender people - open to all
The Reverend Pat Bumgardner, Pastor

The members and friends of MCCNY
and The Rev. Pat Bumgardner
send MCC Boston and The Rev. Joan Saniuk
BEST WISHES on your 30th ANNIVERSARY!
Come to the MCCNY Capital Campaign Banquet, October 21st
at the Copacabana in New York City. Call 212-629-7440 for details.

Sunday Services: 10 am and 7 pm

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March 29, 2003:
Heart and Soul

June 13, 15 and 21, 2003:
Razzle Dazzle: Broadway Hits
of Kander & Ebb



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MCC Boston History, Continued ...

The founding pastor, the Rev. Larry Bernier, was of both Roman Catholic and Jehovah's Witness backgrounds, and is best known throughout MCC as author of the hymn "Our God Is Like An Eagle." The Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, then a first-year student at Boston University's School of Theology, attended the second service and became associate pastor for the church's first two years. She tells the story of how she came to MCC Boston in her book *Amazing Grace* (co-edited with the Rev. Malcolm Boyd), and shares some of her early ministry adventures in Boston in this book and in her book *Our Tribe*. Rev. Wilson left Boston to found a congregation in Worcester (now Morningstar Community Church), and the Rev. Jeffrey Pulling became assistant pastor. Rev. Pulling (now pastor of MCC in the Valley in North Hollywood, California) is also among the church's founding members, having come to MCC

Boston two weeks after it started in September 1972. Then a second-year student at Andover-Newton Theological School, Rev. Pulling was "the first openly gay student at Andover Newton—not the first gay student, mind you, but the first one to open about it."

In the early 1970s, the excitement that MCC Boston generated led to the founding of several other congregations in New England: Worcester, Hartford, Providence, and Haverhill. In addition to the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, among the trailblazers in this work was Christa Herrick, then student clergy. Rev. Wilson was also the first to champion the cause of inclusive language in worship and church life. Now an important part of MCC ministry, the practice of using inclusive language was pioneered in the Boston congregation.

(MCC Boston history continued on page 11)



"WIN a stay for 2 in P-Town!"

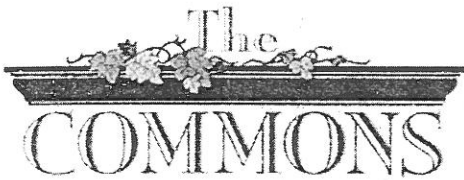
Is a sign you will find at the MCC Boston booth on the Boston Common at the PRIDE Celebration. For several years, Mark Mickelson has organized a special raffle as a fund raiser to support the continuing ministry of MCC Boston.

Last year, we were able to offer this special treat because of the interest and support of the guesthouses displayed on this page.

When you plan your next "get-away to the Cape" consider staying at one of these fine establishments. And next June, look for our sign and buy your tickets. You could be one of our three grand prize winners!

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MCC Boston History, Continued ...

Rev. Bernier and Rev. Pulling left MCC Boston in 1975, and the congregation called the Rev. Ed Hougen as its pastor. Rev. Hougen brought a strong political consciousness to the church and helped continue its work in the movement for inclusive language in the denomination. Rev. Hougen's last year of ministry followed an experimental model: the congregation shared in ministry responsibilities and the pastor's salary was donated to community organizations. In 1981-2, MCC Boston returned to a less radical model of leadership under the pastorate of the Rev. Marge Ragona (now retired from MCC ministry, in Birmingham, Alabama), who had previously served as student clergy while attending the Boston University School of Theology.

MCC Boston's next pastor was the Rev. Steve Carson, who was with MCC Boston for five years, building the congregation from about a dozen faithful worshipers to nearly 60 every Sunday. Rev. Carson, together with student clergy Ellen Davis, the Rev. Justin Tanis, and Nancy Voights, helped MCC Boston's women's community evolve into a vital, growing ministry during the late 1980s. Rev. Carson moved to San Francisco in May 1990 to return to teaching. The Rev. Dr. Justin Tanis (before his transition), served as student clergy while at Harvard Divinity School and served as interim pastor during the year following Rev. Carson's departure. Rev. Tanis now serves as the denomination's Director of Clergy Development, at the MCC World Center in West Hollywood, California.

(MCC Boston history continued on page 13)

**Congratulations
To
Metropolitan Community Church of Boston
For
30 years of ministry
ad majorem Dei gloriam**

From

James Michael Hayes

Founding Member - 1972

&

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers, Inc.

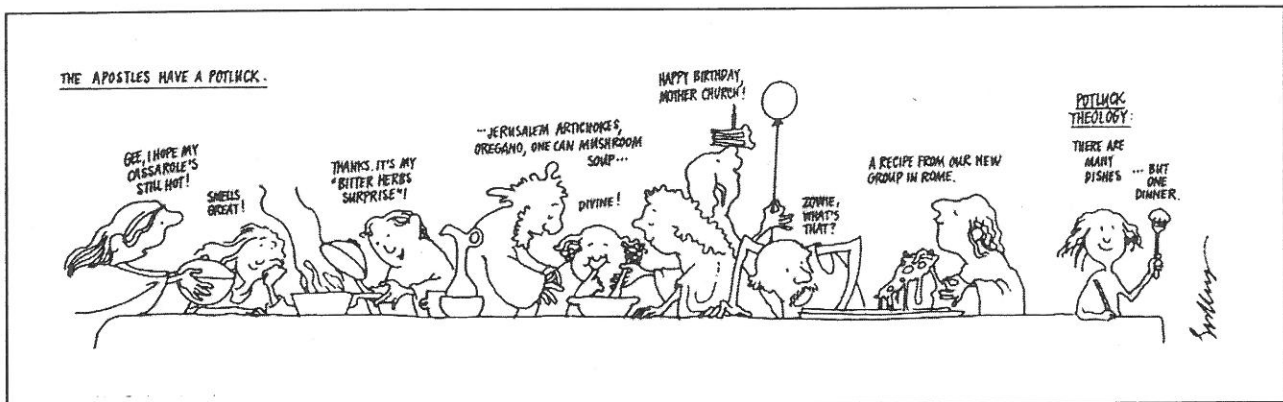
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What do these names have in common?

Richard Wattson
James Hayes
Nancy Wilson
Grosvenor Calkins



Geraldine Azzata
Russell Nile
Rev. Larry Bernier
Jeffrey Pulling
Robert Publicover

Answer: They all appear in the minutes of the First Congregational Meeting of MCC Boston, 1973.

MCC Boston History, Continued ...

The next minister, the Rev. Timothy Koch, came from within the ranks of the congregation. Rev. Koch was a Methodist minister and Boston University graduate student who had been attending MCC Boston during the interim period after Rev. Carson left. Rev. Koch helped lay down the fundamentals for building solid, committed, continuing lay leadership and involvement. In addition, he led the church as they paid off an enormous debt that had been incurred during the 1980s. Rev. Koch left MCC Boston in the fall of 1995, and now pastors in North Carolina.

MCC Boston's current pastor, the Rev. Joan Saniuk, began ministry at the church on September 15, 1997. During the past five years, the clergy staff has grown to include the Rev. George S. McDermott (retired), who serves as pastoral support of the parish extension, the MCC Cape Cod Community of Faith. Formed at an organizing meeting on the Cape in August 1999, the Cape Cod community worships twice monthly (at First Parish in Brewster), and is celebrating its third anniversary with a first-ever public worship service in Provincetown. The Rev. Patrick S. Cheng also joined MCC Boston as clergy on staff in January 2001.

Today, MCC Boston is a multi-ethnic congregation, including straight allies and family as well as LGBT members. Its membership comes from not only Boston, but also from beyond the city, including the larger Southern New England area. It continues to be an inclusive Christian spiritual community, as well as a center of advocacy and a place of healing for those who have been condemned, barred, or shunned by other churches.

(MCC Boston history continued on page 15)

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Foundation for
Gender Education*

Joan Hoff
Membership Secretary

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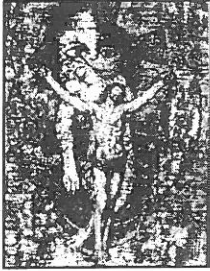
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Reflections on *Icon Through the Ages*

Giovanni, 1991. Mixed media. Gift of the Artist to the Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, 1992.

By The Rev. Dr. Joan M. Saniuk, September 8, 2002

Who is Jesus—and what does it mean to call him “Christ?”

Icon Through the Ages explores this central mystery of the Christian faith. In the foreground of the painting is the crucified form of the very real, very human, Jesus of Nazareth. It presents the part of Jesus’ story that is essentially undisputed: he was a Jewish carpenter turned itinerant religious teacher. He was arrested and executed as a domestic terrorist by the Roman provincial government of Palestine, somewhere around 27 AD.

Behind the image of the crucified Jesus is an image that evokes Michelangelo’s *Pietà*—the pale and lifeless body of Jesus, taken off the cross and laid in the arms of his mourning mother. Michelangelo, with other Renaissance artists, had a passion for showing Jesus as a fully human Savior. This image reminds us of the uncomfortable truth that Jesus, though innocent, died a violent death. In this, he shared the experience of oppressed people throughout human history.

Yet Jesus’ story, for Christians, does not end here. It concludes with the witness of Jesus’ disciples that he not only died, but also rose from the dead and returned to Heaven. The background images of Jesus, the Christ, suggest the icons of ancient Christianity: the face on the left bearing a golden halo, the face on the right bearing a halo with red rays. These are images of a heavenly being, not a mere mortal. They are faces of the eternal Christ: Word of God, Holy Wisdom, child of God and child of Mary, in whose life, death, and resurrection God and humankind are reconciled. This Christ is worthy of praise as the Ruler of the universe—who was, and is, and forever will be.

When we read the painting from background to foreground, we trace some of the history of Western Christian thought about Jesus. Revered as God in ancient times, and lifted up as our fully human brother in modern times, Jesus is the place where human and divine meet. In this meeting, we find our salvation and our hope for our own very human, and also very spirit-filled, lives.

Giovanni...said his gift was a direct reaction to the controversy surrounding the 1992 St. Patrick’s Day parade... [The artist] watched and read news coverage of the discrimination against the contingent of gay marchers seeking to participate in the public parade. He said he watched in horror as a small group of homophobic on-lookers insulted and harangued the gay marchers who were ultimately and reluctantly allowed to march. Giovanni said he was “touched by the dignified stamina of the gay community as it voiced its right to march peacefully.” He added that the incident reminded him of the dignity with which Christ faced his own death in the face of utter prejudice.

(Excerpt from MCC Boston’s May 20, 1992 Press Release.)

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MCCB History ... *Achievements*

▼ Faith-Based Action for Social Justice

Like many other organizations serving within the LGBT communities, MCC Boston's members and adherents have experienced discrimination, gay-bashing, and the unrelenting death toll of the early years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. As in other MCC's, the leadership of MCC Boston has responded with faith-based activism for social justice. In the 1970s, the Rev. Edward Hougen was active in demonstrations for LGBT civil rights. In the late 1980s, the congregation committed itself to full inclusion of people with HIV and AIDS in the church's activities.

In 1990, following the murder of congregant George Georgeff in Dorchester's Ronan Park, the Rev. Steve Carson joined gay and lesbian residents of Meeting House Hill, urging the Boston police to treat the incident as a hate crime due to the extreme violence of the assault. The current pastor, the Rev. Joan Sanjuk, continues this faith-based justice tradition, serving as co-chair and charter steering committee member of Massachusetts' Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry.

(MCC Boston history continued on page 16)



MCCB History ... *Achievements*

▼ Affirming Church Practices

Especially in its early years, MCC Boston often played a prophetic role in the wider MCC movement—urging the rest of MCC to live up to its articulated self-understanding as an inclusive—and diversely Christian—church for all people, with a special ministry for gay and lesbian people. In the words of Rev. Jeffrey Pulling:

“Many of the areas that MCC Boston pioneered in now seem pretty tame because they are so widely accepted. But 23–25 years ago these were hard fought battles; I am referring to the equality of women in church life, lay leadership, and ...

Solera,
A shrine to wine

MARIA C. VALENCIA

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... pastoral ministry; the use of inclusive language in worship and church life, the language that recognized women as well as men and which depicted God as Spirit beyond gender; the use of grape juice in Holy Communion so that recovering alcoholics might freely participate in this sacrament; and exploring the relationship between sexuality and spirituality. All this happened in the first few years of MCC Boston as a congregation.”

(MCC Boston history continued on page 17)



MCCB History ... Achievements

▼ Ministry of All Believers

The "Priesthood of All Believers" has long been a core belief in the MCC Boston congregation. Today, MCC Boston's members conduct:

- a Prison Ministry, corresponding with LGBT people who are incarcerated;
- a vibrant program of eclectic and contemporary worship music, including the Rhythm & Rainbows choir under the direction of Kevin G. Quattlebaum with music minister Beau Kenyon;
- a Visitation Ministry with hospitalized and shut-in congregants;
- an Internet ministry that has seen almost 10,000 hits on the website www.mccboston.org in the past four years.

(MCC Boston history continued on page 25)



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March 20, 2003 (8 a.m. - 3 p.m.)



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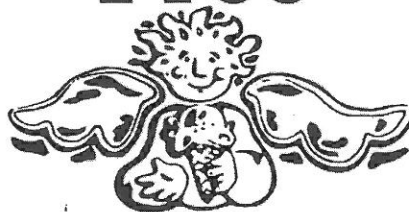


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And when you are on the Cape ...



... please visit Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) Cape Cod Community of Faith. We are a gathering of Cape Cod residents who are committed to seeing a thriving MCC Church here on the Cape, meeting the first and third Sunday of each month in the Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary, Route 6A Brewster, MA. MCC Cape Cod Community of Faith is a parish extension of MCC Boston.

The first Sunday of the month, the Reverend George McDermott, an MCC minister, leads a worship service and offers Holy Communion. The third Sunday of the month, we have a lay-led service. The services begin at 3:00 PM.

To learn more about MCC Cape Cod Community of Faith go to:
<http://www.mccapecod.org/>

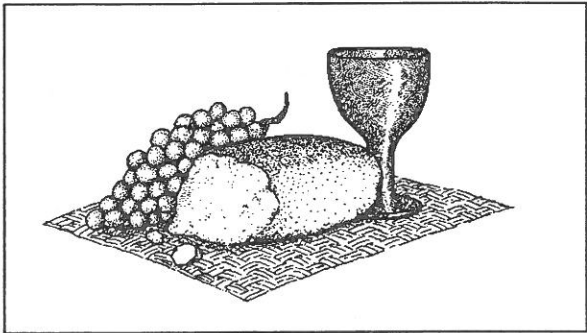
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How MCC Began...

In 1968, before the Stonewall Riots and the Christopher Street Parades, the Reverend Troy Perry founded Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles to serve the spiritual needs of gay and lesbian people. His action was revolutionary—and transformational. For twenty-seven years, Metropolitan Community Churches have stood in the face of adversity serving as a safe haven for those rejected by other religious communities and becoming an essential, life-affirming link in the chain of lesbian and gay identity and affiliation. Local Metropolitan Community churches have been the birthplace of dozens of different gay and lesbian organizations and projects across the world, and have played a vital role in the development of the global gay and lesbian community.

We are now a denomination of 300+ churches all across the world. In cities large and small, these churches frequently play a pivotal role in their communities advocating for justice and fighting homophobia.

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HAPPY HAPPY BIRTHDAY MCC BOSTON!

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIRST 30 YEARS!

My life was forever changed through my experiences at MCC Boston, and I will always be grateful to every one of you who helped me through.

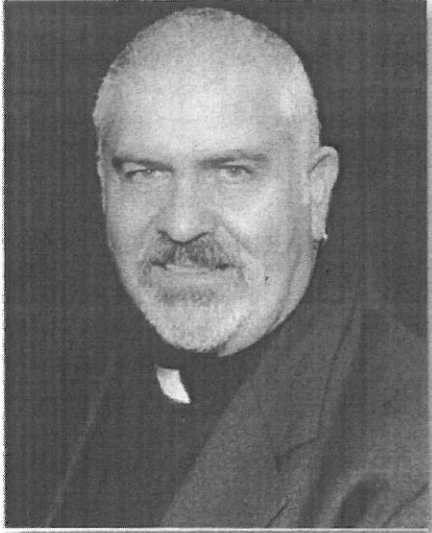
I am especially grateful to Reverend Joan for the many hours upon hours of patience and encouragement, wisdom and guidance she gave me when I was so very confused and hurting.

The ministry of MCC Boston and VFMCC is vital to the health and survival of our GLBTA community, and you are all important contributors.

I  love you all!

Kristen Carroll & Stephanie Cadorette





The Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

Founder & Moderator of the
Metropolitan Community Churches

It has not always been an easy journey. In his autobiography, *"The Lord is My Shepherd and Knows I'm Gay,"* Rev. Perry recalls realizing his vocation in Florida at the age of 13 and being licensed as a Baptist minister two years later. Rev. Perry describes in frank, sometimes heartbreaking detail, the discovery and disclosure of his sexual orientation, divorce, estrangement from his wife and children, loss of his license as a minister, a failed suicide attempt, and the "rediscovery" of his vocation and ministry, leading to the founding of UFMCC.

Rev. Perry's ministry and activism have taken many turns during the past 30 years, including positions on a number of boards of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered organizations. In 1978, Rev. Perry was honored by the American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter with its Humanitarian Award. He also held a seat on the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations.

The UFMCC founder holds an Honorary Doctorate of Ministry from Samaritan College in Los Angeles for founding MCC and an Honorary Doctorate in Human Services from Sierra University, Santa Monica, California for his work in civil rights, and was lauded by the Gay Press Association with its Humanitarian Award. Rev. Perry has been invited to the White House on *four* occasions:

- in 1977, by President Jimmy Carter to discuss the whole spectrum of g/l/b/t rights.
- in 1993, by President Bill Clinton as a participant in the first *White House Conference on AIDS*.
- in 1997, invited by President Clinton as a participant in the *White House Conference on Hate Crimes*.
- in 1997 again, as a guest of President Clinton as an "honoree" at a White House breakfast with President honoring 100 national spiritual leaders in the USA.

It was Rev. Perry who led the movement for MCC's membership in the National Council of churches starting in September 1981. The UFMCC was given Official Observer status to the 7th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which was held in Canberra, Australia in February 1991.

Rev. Troy Perry has devoted his life to help others discover the loving and caring God to whom he has committed his life. Rev. Perry also completed a sequel to his first book entitled *"Don't Be Afraid Anymore,"* published by St. Martin's Press. He is contributing editor for the book *"Is Gay Good?"* and the subject of another book, *"Our God Too."* While Rev. Perry realizes the oppression still facing gays and lesbians, he stands at the vanguard of the movement, telling his flock—and the rest of the world—"We're Not Afraid Anymore." Rev. Elder Perry resides with his lover of 15 years, Mr. Phillip Ray DeBlieck, in the Silverlake district of Los Angeles, California.



The Reverend Delores P. Berry

Evangelist & Musician

Rev. Berry answered her call to ministry at the age of 19. She is a former Christian Methodist Episcopal Minister (CME). She began her ministry at the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches in 1975, and transferred her credentials from the CME church in 1976. Rev. Berry was ordained in the UFMCC in 1983. One of her first official positions with UFMCC was as a member of the Fellowship's Evangelistic Team.



In 1978, Rev. Berry was one of the Co-founders of the national Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. She assisted in organizing the first Gay and Lesbian "March on Washington" in D.C. and assisted in organizing the first People of Color Gay and Lesbian White House Conference.

Rev. Berry has served as District Coordinator of the Mid-Atlantic District and Assistant Pastor of MCC Baltimore, Maryland. Rev. Berry simultaneously pastored Good Samaritan MCC (Norfolk, Virginia) and MCC Peninsula (Newport News, Virginia). During this time, she facilitated the merger of these churches to become New Life MCC, Norfolk, Virginia, and continued as Pastor of New Life after the merger. Rev. Berry's last pastorate was with MCC Portland, Oregon.

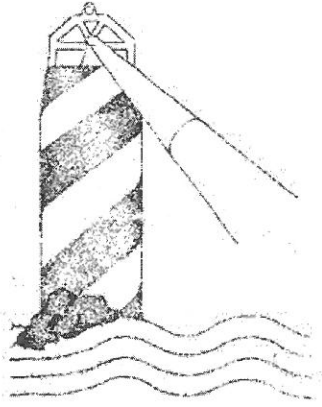
Over the years, Rev. Berry has served the Fellowship as a member of the following committees: the Faith, Fellowship, and Order Commission; the Inclusive Language Task Force; the Elders' Task Force on World Church Extension; the Elders' Task Force on Evangelism; the commission on Missiology (Chair); the Board of Ordained Ministries of the Mid-Atlantic District, and five years of service on the Executive Committee of the Department of People of Color.

Rev. Berry has been working as a full-time Evangelist in UFMCC since 1987 and in May 1988 the Mid-Atlantic District designated the Delores P. Berry Evangelistic Ministries as a Special Work of the District. She visits an average of 55 churches each year and began traveling to UFMCC's in Europe in 1992.

In 1992, Rev. Berry was awarded the UFMCC Purple Grass Award for Excellence in Evangelism.

Rev. Berry is currently a member of MCC Baltimore in her hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. When at home, Delores enjoys time spent with her spouse of 15 years, Judy Kiser, who is also the Ministry Coordinator. This time offers an opportunity for much needed rest and renewal. However, during this time, Delores and Judy are also busy scheduling tours, creating their unique crafts and cards, and maintaining contact with pastors, church leaders, and members—addressing their needs for personal healing and encouragement.





"Send the Light *Forward!*"

Schedule of Celebration Events September 7 & 8, 2002

Saturday, September 7, 8 PM: Gospel concert with the Rev. Delores P. Berry and the Delores Berry Band, hosted by MCC Boston, 131 Cambridge Street, Government Center, Boston. Admission is free; a freewill offering will be received.

Sunday, September 8, 11 AM–3 PM: MCC Boston 30th Anniversary Celebration Brunch, with special guest the Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Churches. Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston. Tickets are \$25.

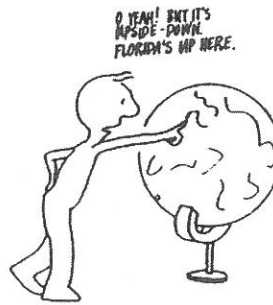
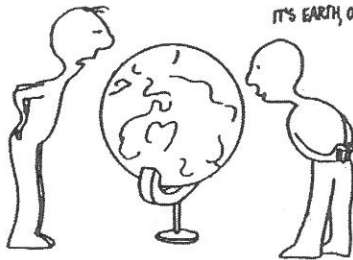
Sunday, September 8, 6PM: MCC Boston 30th Anniversary service of Thanksgiving and Rededication, MCC founder the Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry preaching, special musical guest Rev. Delores P. Berry. 131 Cambridge Street, Government Center, Boston. Directions and parking info: 617.325.8204 or www.mccboston.org.

Provincetown events:

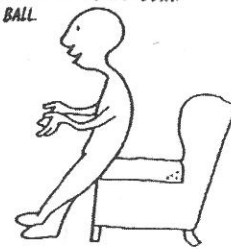
Saturday, September 7, 11 AM: MCC Cape Cod Community of Faith worship service, with the Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, founder and moderator of the Metropolitan Community Churches preaching. Universalist Meeting House, Provincetown. Gospel concert immediately following (approx. 12 noon), with the Rev. Delores P. Berry and the Delores Berry Band. There is no admission charge for the concert; a freewill offering will be received.

PLANET.

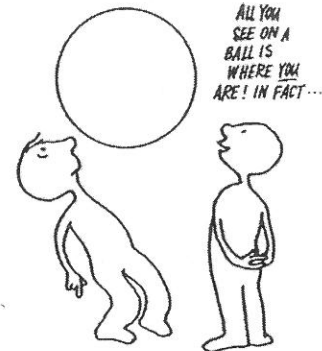
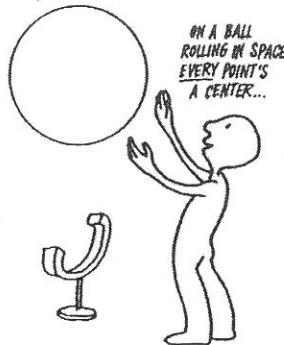
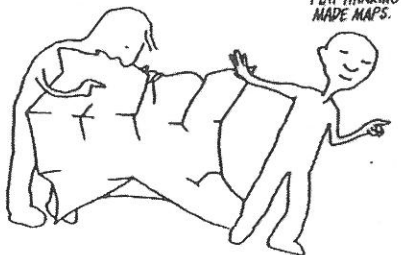
WHAT WEIRD PLANET IS THIS?



EARTH'S A BALL. THERE'S NO "UPSIDE-DOWN" ON A BALL.



HERE ON MY MAP THERE'S AN UPSIDE-DOWN, RIGHTSIDE-UP, NORTH-SOUTH-EAST-WEST AND CENTER.



Journey to the Promise: Moving Forward in Faith; MCC's Restructure & Global Vision

Metropolitan Community Churches have been a powerful force for inclusive spirituality during the first generation of this historic Christian movement. Many thousands have become a part of this life transforming fellowship. Millions more have been impacted by its ideals and values that will lead to full inclusion of all God's children in the church and society. It is time to consider how these same ideals and values will serve a new generation.

A window of opportunity is open. In a world where millions continue to be excluded from the family of God, we can be the positive face of a progressive spirituality. We can offer a journey of faith that leads to health, wholeness, and holiness. We can bring focus to a dream for justice that has yet to be seen.

In the years ahead, the life-changing message of MCC will continue but our movement must change. We must broaden our span of inclusion. We must reach the youthful generations with a message of relevance and opportunity. We must reach the peoples of many colors, countries, and cultures with a message of welcome and equality. As a result, the membership of UFMCC of 2020 will reflect a percentage of younger people equal to that of the larger population. And, the multicultural diversity of MCC will more fully represent the color and texture of our entire global village.

This is our vision for the twenty-first century.

(Quoted from <http://www.ufmcc.com/transition/transition.htm>)

***Eastern Canadian/Northeast
District Coordinator:
The Reverend Diane Fisher***

When talking with Rev. Diane Fisher, her passion for ministry and her heart for people are contagious. She is enthusiastic, energetic, and prophetic. Her vision for Region 5 is based on building relationships through listening, valuing the individual and building trust. She is honest and transparent ... a joy to interact with.



In Rev. Fisher's five years as District Coordinator of the Eastern Canadian Northeast District, she has focused on building relationships, developing healthier churches and training leaders. Although she genuinely sees the good in people and churches, she is not afraid to make the tough decisions and stand behind them when they are just. She has worked with the District Committee to move the district towards a resource-based model as opposed to a strictly administrative body. District Conferences changed their primary focus from business to resource sharing and training. Business meetings focus on empowering committees to make choices about the district administration and direction between meetings.

Rev. Fisher has experience as a counselor, public speaker, advocate, facilitator, volunteer board member, consultant, pastor, group work developer, administrator, teacher, executive director, medical professional, and a mother. She has experience in changing systems that encourage or reinforce marginalization of those who have been caught "outside the system." She has experience restructuring local agencies, national organizations, and two districts within our Fellowship. She has worked as a conflict mediator where she says, "the focus has always returned to relationship building." As the pastor of a "small church in a small community," Rev. Fisher has experienced the joys and sorrows of an under resourced church and district, and is committed to finding ways to meet the varying needs of all churches within the Region.

At the Fellowship level, Rev. Fisher has been the Ecumenical Liaison for Canada, Chair of the Women's Secretariat, Vice-Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministries in Eastern Canada, and Student Liaison for Samaritan Education in Canada. Additionally, she has held volunteer positions with numerous organizations in Canada, particularly advocacy groups. She has been published in a number of periodicals ranging from religious journals to gay and lesbian publications.

Region 5 includes Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Eastern Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greenland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Western Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine, Yugoslavia, and the U.S. States of Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

The first Regional Conference will be held in Toronto, Ontario Canada, and October 17-20, 2002. For more info and to register on-line visit: <http://mcccruise.com/regions>.



MCCB History ... *Achievements*

▼ Leadership

Boston is perhaps the foremost center of queer-positive theological education on the planet, and many local churches serve as training grounds for the best and brightest of future clergy and church leaders. MCC Boston also shares in this local tradition—beginning with its associate pastor from those first formative years, the Rev. Elder Nancy L. Wilson. In addition to her ministry at MCC Boston and (then) MCC Worcester, Rev. Wilson went on to serve as pastor of MCC Detroit and, for sixteen years, as pastor of MCC's founding church, MCC Los Angeles. She also served as Vice-Moderator of the denomination's governing Board of Elders. Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson is co-editor (with the Rev. Malcolm Boyd) of *Amazing Grace*:

Stories of Lesbian and Gay Faith and author of *Our Tribe: Queer Folks, God, Jesus, and the Bible*. A mentor to many clergywomen in MCC, Rev. Elder Wilson was a denominational representative in MCC's unsuccessful applications for membership and observer status with the National Council of Churches of Christ, as well as in its successful application for observer status with the World Council of Churches.

The Rev. Laurence G. (Larry) Bernier is recognized throughout MCC as author of the hymn "Our God Is Like An Eagle."

(MCC Boston history continued on page 28)

Congratulations MCC Boston on Your 30th Anniversary



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Unitarian Universalist

Rev. Katie Lee Crane
Minister

Tracy Duncan
Religious Education

Debra Morris-Bennett
Music

Youth Programs

327 Concord Road

Sudbury, MA 01776

978-443-2043

office@fpsudbury.org

August 28, 2002

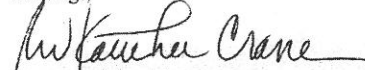
The Rev. Joan M. Saniuk, Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church of Boston
P.O. Box 15590
Kenmore Station
Boston, MA 02215

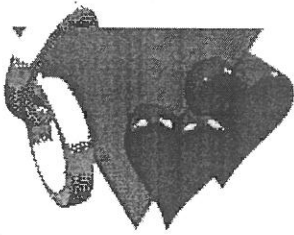
Dear Joan,

On behalf of the members and friends of First Parish of Sudbury, I congratulate you and your congregation on the milestone of your 30th anniversary. I regret that we did not receive the information in time to put an announcement in our newsletter, but we could not let the occasion go by without sending our support for the powerful and important ministry that you share.

May your celebration be filled with joy and thanksgiving and pride (you have come so far in these 30 year) and may you know that you have allies in us.

Blessings,


The Rev. Katie Lee Crane
for the congregation at First Parish



Blessings and thank you to the
Metropolitan Community Church!

*Congratulations on your
30th anniversary!*

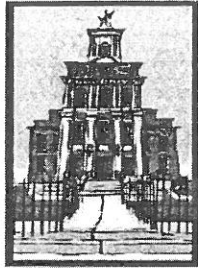
We celebrate with you!



**Religious Coalition for
the Freedom to Marry**

*Abundant blessings as you celebrate your
30th Anniversary*

Your Sisters and Brothers at



OLDWEST CHURCH

United Methodist

131 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA

Laurel E. Scott, Pastor, Barry Kay, Lay Leader

(Tel) 617-227-5088 (Fax) 617-227-7548

E-Mail Oldwestch@aol.com

website: www.oldwestchurch.org

O give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...Psalm 107

MCCB History ... Achievements

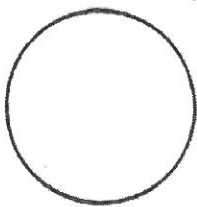
▼ Leadership (cont'd)

In addition to his ministries in Boston and North Hollywood, the Rev. Jeffrey Pulling has served as Northeast District Coordinator, and is "Pastor Emeritus" of MCC Hartford, Connecticut. The author of numerous resource materials, Rev. Pulling has also represented MCC to the Faith, Fellowship, and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches.

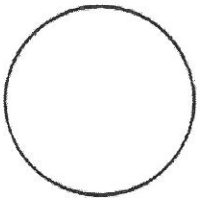
Jean Gralley, who was a member of MCC Boston in the mid-1970s, chronicled events and trends in the worldwide MCC movement through her cartoons, some of which appear elsewhere in this booklet. The Rev. Marge Ragona, at her retirement, had served a long pastorate at Cornerstone MCC in Birmingham, Alabama, where she served as mentor to a new generation of MCC clergy. Former MCC Boston organist, J. Thomas Sopko, (now at the Church of the Advent) wrote the words to the hymn "Once We Were Not a People," widely used and cherished in MCC.

The Rev. Dr. Justin Tanis, who served as interim pastor at MCC Boston, also served churches in Hawaii and San Francisco before becoming MCC's Director of Clergy Development. His doctoral dissertation, published in May 2002 at San Francisco Theological School, won this year's prize as the best student dissertation. The book form of Rev. Tanis' dissertation, on identity and the experience of God in the lives of transgendered people, is scheduled for publication by Pilgrim Press.

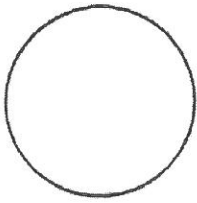
(MCC Boston history continued on page 31)



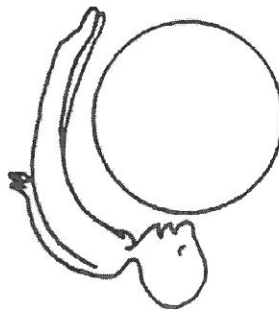
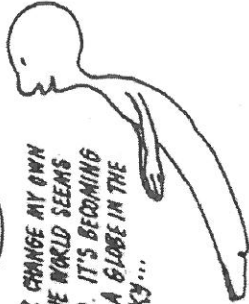
ALL YOU CAN SEE
ON A BALL IS
HOW YOU ARE.
LET ME SHOW YOU
WHAT I MEAN—



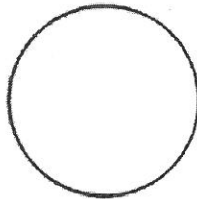
NOW, WHEN I LIE FLAT, THE WORLD
LOOKS FLAT TO ME, LIKE A DISC.
I CAN UNDERSTAND PEOPLE
ONCE THINKING YOU
COULD FALL OFF
ITS EDGES...



AS I RISE (OR CHANGE MY OWN
"FLATNESS") THE WORLD SEEMS
LESS FLAT, TOO. IT'S BECOMING
DIMENSIONAL, A GLOBE IN THE
SKY...



OVER AND AROUND, I SEE MORE OF THE
WORLD AND WHERE I ONCE WAS.
I UNDERSTAND NOW THAT I'M
IN A PROCESS...



AS YOU CHANGE,
WHAT YOU SEE
CHANGES.
BUT ALL YOU EVER
SEE IS YOUR OWN
CONDITION, RIGHT?



- AND ALTHOUGH IT'S SEEMED
THE WORLD HAS RADICALLY
CHANGED, IT'S ME WHO'S
CHANGED.



NO. FAT
THINKING
ON A
ROUND PLANET
IS WEIRD.



RIGHT.
WEIRD, HUH?



Acknowledgements

Thank you
to our special guests of honor:
The Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry
The Rev. Delores P. Berry
The Rev. M. Diane Fisher

to our sponsors whose ads appear in this bulletin, and to these additional sponsors:
Beth Jacklin and Carl Koechlin
Ann D. Kwong

our hosts:
The Universalist Meeting House, Provincetown, the Rev. Alison Hyder, Pastor
The Old West Church United Methodist, Boston, the Rev. Laurel E. Scott, Pastor
Club Café
The Provincetown Inn

all the members of the MCC Boston church community who made this weekend so special:

David Lee, Wes Wesley, Nancy Hitt ~ Club Café decorations
Bob Clark ~ flowers
Amy Lavertu ~ "Send the Light Forward" Lighthouse graphic design
Paul Williams, Lisa Heughan, and Paul Moyer ~ venue research
Sharilyn Steketee, Lisa Heughan, Marie Tangney, and Rev. Joan Saniuk ~ program editing & production
Randy Starner, Bob Wood, Rev. George McDermott, and Jewel Jones ~ The MCC Cape Cod
Community of Faith, Lighthouse Ministries
Mark Mickelson, Paul Williams, David Lee, Mark Mell and Paul Moyer, Rev. Joan Saniuk and
Sharilyn Steketee ~ lodging for out-of-town guests
Kevin G. Quattlebaum, Beau Kenyon, and the Rhythm & Rainbows choir ~ worship music
Terry Elwell ~ celebration brunch music
Mark Mickelson, David Lee, and Dennis Marshall ~ brunch ticket coordination
Terry Elwell, Lisa Heughan, Mark Mickelson, and Osvaldo Soto ~ mailings
Paul Moyer, Rev. Joan Saniuk, Lisa Heughan ~ sponsor relations
Mark Mickelson, Lisa Heughan, Malia Crawford ~ special guest relations
Rev. Patrick Cheng ~ worship process manager
Sharilyn Steketee ~ worship greeter coordination
Estelle Record-Stanley, Paul Williams, David Lee, & Robyn-Fox Hardy ~ refreshments after worship
Terry Elwell and Kevin G. Quattlebaum ~ photography
Mark Mickelson, Russ Nile, Paul Moyer, and Marie Tangney ~ clerical support
Paul Moyer ~ roadie coordination for Rev. Delores Berry
Paul Moyer ~ house audio and audio recording
Lisa Heughan ~ project coordination
Lisa Heughan ~ MCC Boston 30 year slide show
Mark Mickelson, Russ Nile, Jim Hayes, Rev. Jeffrey Pulling ~ church history

And thanks to the members of the MCC Boston faith community ~
the theme, and the passion to celebrate!

MCCB History ... Achievements

▼ Leadership (cont'd)

Former member (1999–2001) and Emerson College graduate, Mao-Chen (Louis) Chang, is founding pastor of the Church of Unity, an LGBT-friendly church in Taipei, Taiwan. Mao-Chen Chang and Berklee College of Music graduate, Kuan-Yu (Ken) Chen (member, 1999–2001), are charter members of the denomination's Queer Asian Fellowship (QAF) steering committee.

Staff clergy member the Rev. Patrick S. Cheng is likewise a charter member of the Queer Asian Fellowship steering committee. He serves as list manager for the QAF and has published an article on Queer Asian-American Hermeneutics in the journal *Semeia*. He is pursuing doctoral studies in systematic theology at Union Theological School under the supervision of Dr. James Cone.

Bibliography

Boyd, Malcolm, and Nancy L. Wilson. *Amazing Grace: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Faith*. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press, 1991.

Cheng, Patrick S. "Multiplicity and Judges 19: Constructing a Queer Asian Pacific American Biblical Hermeneutic." *Semeia* 90-91 (2002): 119-33.

Gralley, Jean. *What a Fellowship*. Gaithersburg, MD: Chi Ro Press.

Wilson, Nancy L. *Our Tribe: Queer Folks, God, Jesus, and the Bible*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1995.

Tanis, Justin. "Eating the Crumbs That Fall from the Table: Trusting the Abundance of God." In *Take Back the Word: A Queer Reading of the Bible*, edited by Robert E. Goss and Mona West, 43-54. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2000.

The Rev. Joan M. Saniuk edited this account of the history of MCC Boston from materials created for MCC Boston's 25th anniversary by Mark Mickelson (with contributions from James Michael Hayes) and the Rev. Jeffrey Pulling, as well as from source documents in MCC Boston's archives, with some additional original material she wrote for this publication.

NOTES & AUTOGRAPHS

Welcome! MCC Boston is a diverse Christian community of believers, committed to affirming the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community and their friends by meeting their spiritual and practical needs.

What we believe

- ▼ We affirm that we are called to be an ecumenical and inclusive Christian ministry of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community open to all people.
- ▼ We believe that God calls us through Scripture, experience and prayers to be a faithful people, embodying God's love.
- ▼ We express this love through worship, prayer, education, social advocacy and celebration. In this way, we build and sustain an affirming, giving congregation that fosters healing and spiritual growth.
- ▼ We believe strongly in the concept of inclusiveness--that everyone is equal in the eyes of God and a recipient of God's love. Because the wording of much traditional religious worship was developed in ways that perpetuate historic inequities, we have designed our liturgy to reflect our commitment to the equality of all persons.
- ▼ Historically rooted in the free-church tradition of American Protestant Christianity, we honor insights from all Christian traditions.

How we worship

- ▼ Sometimes people get excited, clap, and/or hold hands. You are welcome to do so, and you are welcome to NOT do so if it is not comfortable for you.
- ▼ The invitation "please rise as you are able" is also meant as permission to remain seated if you need to.
- ▼ MCC Boston, celebrates an open communion--all who wish to receive are welcome, for we believe Communion is God's gift and not the church's. If you wish to commune with God, you are welcome!
- ▼ In respect for those in recovery, we use grape juice, not wine, in our Communion chalice.
- ▼ Private prayer with a prayer/listening minister is available after each service, near the green candle.
- ▼ "Second Communion," a time to visit and greet each other, follows each service. All are welcome to stay and share.

Services and service opportunities

- ▼ e-mail prayer chain
- ▼ prayer and listening
- ▼ prison ministry
- ▼ *Rhythm & Rainbows* choir and worship music
- ▼ Bible study and prayer group
- ▼ visitation ministry
- ▼ Holy Union/wedding and life event ceremonies
- ▼ For more info, indicate your interest on the response card.

Practical matters

- ▼ Validated parking for fifty cents is available in the underground lot at 161 Cambridge (underneath the Charles River Plaza lot). Ask a greeter for a validation stamp--or ask at Second Communion before you leave the church. Sat & Sun. only, 3 hours maximum.
- ▼ Restrooms are located in the basement--as you come into the church, turn right after the first set of swinging doors and the stairs are at the end of the hallway.
- ▼ Stairs-free access to the sanctuary is provided via the walkway and ramp on the Staniford Street side. We regret that wheelchair-accessible restrooms are not yet available.
- ▼ Please feel free to make a name tag, and/or ask for a welcome packet at Second Communion, if you were not offered them by a greeter upon entering.
- ▼ If you would like the church to contact you, or if you would like to receive e-news and quarterly newsletters, please leave your contact info on the response card and place it in the offering basket. We never give away or sell our mailing list. If you give an address or e-dress, we will add you to the church mailing and e-mail lists unless you request otherwise.

Weekly Church Activities

Sundays after church: Supper club. Help put things away after the service, then share a meal.

Wednesdays: 7-9 PM Prayer and Bible Study will resume on Sept. 18.

Sundays, 4-5 PM: Rhythm & Rainbows and Music Ministry rehearsal. Info: Kevin Quattlebaum, 508.222.7228, lambdamusic777@hotmail.com.

Thursday, September 12: Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 to 9:00 PM at the church office. You are invited!

Sunday, September 15: The Rev. Cheryl Albert, Safe Havens, will join us after church to speak about the program and the upcoming GLBT-focus training. Approximately 7:30 PM. **If you are interested in taking this training in November, please advise Pastor Joan at the church office.**

Tuesday, September 17: Primary Election Day for Mass. residents. Thanks for voting!

Sunday, September 22: Representatives from the LGBT Aunts and Uncles Program will join us after church to speak about the program. Approximately 7:30 PM.

--

October 17-20: One Body, One Spirit, One Hope: MCC Regional Conference 2002 for Region 5. To register on-line, visit www.mcccchurch.org. Info: Mark Mell, markmell@110.net or 781.245.5698.

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Other Community Events of Note:

September 21-22, 2002: "Creating Community II Conference" hosted by Northern Lights MCC, at Maple Hill Farm B&B Inn in the Kennebec Valley, Maine. Registration after Aug. 17, \$79.00. Info: **Allen LaPan, 207.622.2245** or aelapan@prexar.com.

Weekly announcements also come out on e-mail. Info: Rev. Patrick at psc68@hotmail.com.

Previous Weeks' Tithes and Offerings:

August 11	\$423.35	Attendance	21
August 18	\$495.00	Attendance	28
August 25	\$325.00	Attendance	34
September 1	\$527.35	Attendance	38

Average weekly offering needed to make budget: \$1100.00

Announcement deadline for the September 15 worship bulletin: Tuesday, September 10, 3:00PM. Phone (617.325.8204), or e-mail (put MCC Announcement in the subject) to: jsaniuk@thecia.net. Announcements may be edited for length and/or content. Thank you.

Acknowledgements: Call to Worship from Psalm 66 in *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1995. **First Reading** from *Our Tribe: Queer Folks, God, Jesus and the Bible*, the Rev. Nancy L. Wilson, HarperSanFrancisco, San Francisco, 1995. **Second Reading** from "Eating the Crumbs that Fall from the Table: Trusting the Abundance of God," in *Take Back the Word: A Queer Reading of the Bible*, Robert E. Goss and Mona West, eds., pp. 43-53, Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, 2000. **Third Reading** from *The New Jerusalem Bible*, Doubleday, New York, 1985.

Fourth Reading from *The Inclusive New Testament*, Priests for Equality, Brentwood, MD, 1994, alt.

Prayer of Confession from Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, *Touch Holiness*. Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, 1990.

Acclamation and "Send Your Light Forward" theme based on "He Threw His Light Forward," Laurie Beth Jones, *Jesus In Blue Jeans: A Practical Guide to Everyday Spirituality*, Hyperion, New York, 1997, pp. 288-291.

Lighthouse Graphic by Amy Lavertu. **Cover art: Icon through the Ages**, Giovanni, mixed media, 1991. Gift of the artist to the Metropolitan Community Church of Boston.

WE COME OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE!

▼ ACCLAMATION

One: As we celebrate our past, let us renew our strength for the journey: to realize all that God has in store for us!

Many: **Loving; giving; making a difference in our church and community; we will send our light forward!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▼ CLOSING SONG

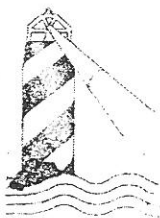
"WE'RE GONNA KEEP ON MOVING FORWARD"

▼ BLESSING

THE REV. ELDER DR. TROY D. PERRY

God loves us! Let's go and do likewise!

SEPTEMBER 8, 2002 Announcements



Thank You

To our honored guests;
To our friends in the community who have joined in this celebration;
To our gracious sponsors;
To the musicians;
To the church staff and Board;
To the artists and photographers;

And to all the members and adherents of MCC Boston and MCC Cape Cod Community of Faith who have made this extraordinary celebration possible.

September 11

Tuesday, September 10: "the new normal: a spiritual response in words and music," 7:30-9 PM, Christian Science Plaza, at the fountain, corner of Huntington Avenue and Belvidere St., Boston. Info: www.new-normal.com

Wednesday, September 11 schedule at Old West Church:

12 noon, service sponsored by Old West Church UMC.

5:30 PM, silent meditation.

6:00 PM, service sponsored by MCC Boston.

Other events include:

12 noon, ecumenical (Christian) service, Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston.

5:30 PM, interfaith (Jewish, Christian, Islamic) service, Trinity Church.

7:30 PM, interfaith (Jewish, Christian, Islamic) service, Temple Israel, Longwood at the Arborway, Longwood Medical Center, Boston.

to teach and demonstrate a shared ministry of care, social advocacy, and community worship, and to preside when births, marriages, and deaths are celebrated among us.

We welcome you to participate in our councils, and to represent us in the wider community. We will respect your need for personal study, reflection, and prayer. We will honor our commitment to pay you fairly, and we will respect your private and family life.

Above all, we promise to do our best to respond to your enthusiasms, and to share in your ministry with us. We promise to work with you in building up our faith community, and we give you permission to hold us accountable to these promises.

May Divine blessing be upon all that we do together.

Pastor: Sisters and brothers, I am glad to receive your words of welcome and your affirmation of me as your Pastor.
I promise, within the limits of my time and good health, and with God's help, to visit you in both health and sickness, to explore our common faith, to honor and encourage your spiritual gifts, to teach and demonstrate a shared ministry of care, social advocacy, and community worship, and to preside when births, marriages, and deaths are celebrated among you.

I will participate in your councils, and will represent you in the wider community.

I will respect your needs for private and family life, as you respect mine.

I, too, promise to do my best to share your enthusiasms, to respect your customs, and to share in your ministry as a congregation.
I promise to work with you in building up our faith community, and I give you permission to hold me accountable to these promises.

May Divine blessing be upon all that we do together.

CHARGE TO MCC BOSTON

THE REV. M. DIANE FISHER

RITE OF ANOINTING

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING "I DON'T FEEL NO WAYS TIRED"

THE REV. DELORES P. BERRY
Rhythm & Rainbows Choir

▼ SONG OF DEDICATION

"HERE I AM"

*I, your God of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in pain and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

Refrain: *Here I am, God. Is it I, God? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, God, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, your God of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (to refrain)*

*I, your God of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (to refrain)*

Words & Music by Dan Schutte.
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OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING, KEVIN G. QUATTLEBAUM

▼ COMMUNION SONG

"CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD"

*Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true;
Change my heart, oh God, may I be Like you.
 You are the Potter, I am the clay;
 Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;
Change my heart, oh, God, may I be Like you.*

Words and music by Eddie Espinosa, 1982, 1987, Mercy Publishing.
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▼ PRAYER OF GATHERING FOR COMMUNION

One: God be with you!
Many: And also with you!
One: Lift up your hearts!
Many: We lift them up to God!
One: Let us give God thanks and praise!
Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

REMEMBRANCE OF THE LAST SUPPER

CELEBRANT: PASTOR JOAN SANIUK

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

One: As many grains that were scattered have been brought together to make this one loaf,
Many: May we who are separate be brought together here in one body.
One: As many grapes from separate vines have been pressed together in this one cup,
Many: May our lives be blended here in faithful and loving witness.
One: Gracious God, bless this table and all who come here to eat.
Many: Bless the community who gathers here with your power and your love, that we may be a blessing to this world!

INVITATION TO THE COMMUNION TABLE

CHORAL OFFERING

"GATHER US IN"

RHYTHM & RAINBOWS CHOIR

I have encountered several people who, when their pastor discovered somehow that the person was transgendered, were instructed, shamed, and harassed to return to the gender of their birth. The pastors in these instances claimed that gender transformation was against the will of God. And yet, God, as part of a diverse and awesome creation, created these people. When will the church celebrate the goodness of the varieties of life and expression that God created, rather than try to force nature to conform to our categories of gender and sexual orientation?

To be authentic followers of Jesus, we must be willing to step outside the bounds of our comfort and into the realm of God's creation. We must be willing to follow Christ into the places that make us uncomfortable, places that we never imagined going. Jesus himself broke the bounds of gender in his own life and ministry, speaking to and including women and men around him. As a Christian, I look to Jesus and his encounter with someone quite different from himself for a model of how I am to live in this world of differences.

▼ PRAISE SONG

(TUNE: P28)

"GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"

*Grande perdão tu das, que segurança
Cada momento me guias senhor
E no porvir oh que doce esperança
Desfrutaria do teu rico favor.
Tú és fiel senhor, Tú és fiel senhor
Dia após dia te mostrás assim,
Tua merce me sustentia e me guarda
Tú és fiel senhor, fiel amin.*

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THIRD READING

EXODUS 25:1-2, 8-9, 31A, 37

God spoke to Moses and said, "Tell the Israelites to set aside a contribution for me; you will accept a contribution from all whose hearts prompt them to give it. Make me a sanctuary so that I can reside among them. You will make it all according to the design for the Dwelling and the design for its furnishings which I shall now show you..."

"You will also make a lamp-stand of pure gold; the lamp-stand must be of beaten gold, base and stem. You will also make seven lamps for it, and mount the lamps in such a way that they light up the space in front of it."

FOURTH READING

JAMES 2:14-20

My sisters and brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save. If any are in need of clothes and have no food to live on, and one of you says to them, "Goodbye and good luck. Stay warm and well-fed," without giving them the bare necessities of life, then what good is this? So it is with faith. If good deeds don't go with it, faith is dead.

Some of you will say that you have faith, while I have deeds. Fine: I'll prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds. Now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show. You believe in the One God. Fine. But even the demons have the same belief, and they tremble with fear. Don't you realize, you fools, that faith without good deeds is useless?

▼ PRAISE SONG

(P28, v. 3)

"GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, God, unto me!**

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SERMON

“SEND YOUR LIGHT FORWARD” THE REV. ELDER DR. TROY D. PERRY

GOD’S ACTION CONTINUES IN US

PRAYERS OF PETITION

THE REV. PATRICK S. CHENG

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Holy God, you have called us to live with faith and freedom,
Many: **but we live with tightness in our chest.
You have called us to move in a new direction,
but we cling to the path we know.
You have called us to reach outward in love,
but we draw inward for protection.
You have called us to live with abandon, in trust,
but we live carefully, in fear.
God, forgive us. Amen.**

One: Let us remember that Jesus came to live among us not to judge us, but to bring us into freedom. God accepts both our courage and our fears! In the name of Christ, receive forgiveness, and release of fear and shame. Dare to accept the gift of a new beginning.

RITE OF RE-DEDICATION TO MINISTRY

THE REV. M. DIANE FISHER

One: Members and friends of MCC Boston, today, we begin a new year of being church together. I invite you to affirm the purpose that brings us together.

All: **This is who we are: a diverse Christian community of believers, committed to affirming the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer and questioning community, their families, and friends, by meeting their spiritual and practical needs.**

**We are committed to welcoming all those who enter seeking God.
We are committed to helping each other find God.
We are committed to sharing God’s love to the world, through the respect we show for each other.
We are committed to investing the best of our resources, and the best of who we are.**

One: Five years ago this week you welcomed the Rev. Joan Saniuk, and she joyfully joined this church, as your minister. At this time of anniversary, will you affirm the promises that you made then?

Many: **We, the congregation of MCC Boston, welcome you, Joan, and affirm you as our pastor.
We ask and invite you
to visit us in both health and sickness;
to explore our faith with us,
to help us to develop our spiritual gifts;**

CELEBRATE OUR LIVES!

The congregation rises (as you are able) at places marked ▼ in bulletin

GATHERING MUSIC

BEAU KENYON, KEYBOARDS; KEVIN G. QUATTLEBAUM, SONGLEADER

▼ OPENING SONG

(P68)

“ONCE WE WERE NOT A PEOPLE”

*Once we were not a people, God's people now are we,
A gay and lesbian people, A new community.
We once feared condemnation On earth and from above,
Until God's grace and mercy Showed us the way of love.*

*We are a holy nation, Empow'r'd and called by God
As prophets, teachers, healers, To spread good news abroad.
To live and work together God called us from the night
Of gloom and isolation Into a wondrous light.*

*We are an exiled people, With bitter tears baptized,
Today, and through the ages, Rejected and despised;
But always there have been those Who cast off fear and shame
To claim their way of loving And boldly speak its name.*

*We are a pilgrim people, Of every class and race,
From many sects and cultures, Now gathered in one place.
We challenge one another To bend and grow, and be
A church where all God's children Can find a family.*

*Once we were not a people, God's people now are we,
A proud, determined people, Still striving to be free;
A gentle, loving people With justice as our aim;
A gay and lesbian people United in Christ's name.*

Text: J. Thomas Sopko, (c) 1987. Tune NYLAND: Finnish melody, adapted by David Evans, 1927.
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WELCOME AND GREETING OF PEACE

PASTOR JOAN SANIUK

▼ CALL TO WORSHIP

MARK MICKELSON

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

Many: Sing the greatness of God! Give God glorious praise!

One: Say to God, how awesome are your deeds!

Many: Come and see what God has done among us!

One: Come and hear, all you who honor God, and we will tell what God has done for us.

Many: God has truly listened, and has paid attention to the words of our prayers.

All: Blessed be God, who has not ignored our prayers, and whose love for us has been unshakeable.

▼ PRAISE SONG

(P28, v. 1)

“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS”

*Great is Thy faithfulness, God my Creator
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, God, unto me!**

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923, alt. Music: William M. Runyan, 1923.
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REMEMBER GOD'S WORKS IN US

FIRST READING

AN EXCERPT FROM "OUR TRIBE"
By The Rev. Elder Nancy L. Wilson

Hear a story of our beginnings. Listen to the voice of the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson.

I told [Claire Randall, the general secretary of the National Council of Churches] about MCC's worldwide ministry, including our predominantly heterosexual churches in Nigeria among the "untouchable" people. Suddenly she became interested. I enjoyed her questions, her interest in UFMCC, her insights, and what felt like her genuine respect and support of a kind. And then I asked the question... I remember that very private moment when I simply asked her, "Why do you think there is so much fear and resistance toward UFMCC?" (Really: *Why do they hate us so?*) She sighed, looked nowhere in particular, and said, "Well, I guess when you talk about sex and the Bible in the same breath, they just go nuts."

Not an explanation but an excellent description: "They just go nuts."

A few months into my co-pastorate at MCC Boston in 1973, I was consecrating communion. It was a warm summer evening. Suddenly, from the second pew, a man none of us had ever seen before got up, ran to the front of the sanctuary, knocked over the communion elements, punched me in the face, and ran out of the church before anyone could stop him.

They just go nuts.

▼ PRAISE SONG

(TUNE: P28)

"GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"

**Flores e frutos, montanhas e mares
Sol, lua e estrelas no céus á brilhar
Tudo criastes nos terra_e nos ares
Para louvar te senhor és fiel.
Tú és fiel senhor, Tú és fiel senhor
Dia após dia te mostrás assim,
Tua merce me sustentia e me guarda
Tú és fiel senhor, fiel amin.**

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SECOND READING

AN EXCERPT FROM "EATING THE CRUMBS THAT FALL FROM THE TABLE"
By The Rev. Dr. Justin Tanis

Hear a story from one who began his ministry here. Hear the words of the Rev. Justin Tanis.

My journey of transforming my physical body has been simultaneously a journey of transforming my spiritual self. I have discovered previously untapped reserves of joy within me. I have a far deeper personal experience of God and a much firmer sense of God's calling in my life. The more congruent I felt in terms of gender, the more free I felt to express myself to God.



**Affirming the lesbian, gay, bisexual,
transgendered community, family, & friends!**

The Reverend Joan Saniuk, Pastor

Worship Bulletin

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2002



Celebrating our 30th Anniversary!