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Freedom

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."
—Galatians 5:1

The Newsletter of the Metropolitan Community Churches in Lancaster and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

May, 1982

Vol. 1, No. 2

FREEDOM GROWS! AND WE GROW WITH IT. . .

Hello. Last month we hit you with the first issue of FREEDOM--the newsletter of the Lancaster Parish of MCC-Harrisburg. This month, as a pilot project, this issue--the second issue of FREEDOM--covers not only the Lancaster Parish, but Harrisburg as well. It is co-produced by MCC-Harrisburg and the Lancaster Parish.

We have agreed to this pilot project for this month, and I imagine that we will extend it into the next month or two before we make a final decision as to whether to continue publishing one newsletter for the two separate churches. In any case, I hope you like it.

This was an exciting month in Lancaster because it was the first month with our new schedule of two worship services, rather than just one. It did mean that I had to prepare two sermons within a short period of time, and that was a new thing for me, but I managed.

The whole concept of being a preacher is something that I really had not come to grips with before now. Not that I have fully come to grips with it now, but I am realizing an importance to preaching that up to now I had been overlooking.

The Lancaster congregation has been very patient with me while I have been trying out my wings (so to speak) and exploring whole new areas of my ministry. For this I am very grateful, and I offer you my thanks.

However, there is more to church leadership than the Co-Worship Coordinator. It requires the concerted effort of all of us to make this church work. At our last worship service, I passed around a piece of paper whereon people could put their names if they wanted to help out with the worship service.

If you missed that service but would like to help out, just give me a call (392-2729) and I'll be glad to find something that you can do. In like manner, there are other jobs that need to be done. We always need help with the newsletter. And there is always some project that you can plug in to. For example, I am still looking for someone to coordinate the bus trip to Washington, D.C. on June 20, 1982 for Gay Pride Day. Are you that person?

And speaking of projects, probably our biggest project to date is coming up this summer. It is an evangelism and outreach program that is bigger than anything we have ever attempted. And it involves, mainly, coming out of our closets--not the closets we live in as Gay and Lesbian people (although that is worthy of consideration), but the closets we live in as Christians.

Our Lord has promised that we shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free. It is not enough to bask in the glory of our own freedom. The time is coming to free those around us. People who live in shame, fear, doubt and despair are captives. By spreading God's Good News we can help to set them free. Come to the meeting on May 23, 1982 to see what it is all about.

In the meantime, enjoy your FREEDOM and share it!

--Arthur

MCC
Board Meeting
MAY 21 - 7:30
Ed Meyers 233-6142

Harrisburg News

PASTORAL SEARCH

On April 18, the Harrisburg Pulpit Committee announced their recommendation of Marianne Van Fossen to our pulpit. Ms. Van Fossen's candidacy to be our minister has passed the first step. The next step is to have the members vote yes or no. This decision is then passed on to the District Coordinator, Rev. Delores Berry. It is Rev. Berry's job to appoint the ministers to vacant pulpits in her district. She will then take our choice for a pastor into mind and prayer to make her appointment to our pulpit.

All members please make it a point to come to our May 9th meeting to vote for or against MCC Harrisburg Calling Marianne Van Fossen to our pulpit.

CONGRATULATIONS
AND
THANK YOU

A hearty congrats goes to Tom Prokop. The Board elected him to be an interim board member until the June elections. A vacancy was created when Carl Hoffer resigned on April 19th. Tom Prokop will fill his duties as board member and Tom Hopkins will take on the duties of Clerk.

Congratulations to both Toms and thank you for your endless devotion to those positions, Carl.



FLEA MARKET

MCC Harrisburg is planning its second flea market! The Harrisburg Drive-In on Jonestown Rd. is the perfect spot for our May 30th event. With it being a holiday weekend, we'll be assured of plenty of customers! Please donate your services, time, or treasures and we will repay you with lots of love and gratitude. For more info, just give a call!

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Easter's sunrise worship was a very enjoyable and uplifting experience.

Here are some random thoughts on that cool, yet, warming morning:

- Mary Ellen's beautiful message with the equally beautiful background of the sparkling Susquehanna.
 - "Look at that nut way up there jogging in shorts! at this hour! in this cold!" Minutes later... "THAT'S COLIN!"
 - Warm arms embracing all and each to celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection.
 - The host being raised towards the rising Son/sun.
 - For the breakfast, piles of fried potatoes, bread, scrambled eggs and quarts of juice and coffee.
 - We feel truly blessed!
- PRAISE GOD!

FOR YOU

MCC Harrisburg now has two new aids to reach the community - a phone answering machine and business cards. We pray that these added services will reach those in need.



SUNDAYS PLANNED...

BEWARE SCHEDULE CHANGE

For the month of May, MCC Lancaster will continue the first and third Sunday worship service schedule. However, due to the upcoming holidays when many of us leave town or otherwise disappear, the schedule will change to the second and fourth Sundays.

So, the worship service schedule will be--

May 2 & 16, 1982

June 13 & 27, 1982

July 11 & 25, 1982.

As usual, these services will be held at the Unitarian Church, 538 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, at 5 p.m.

There will be a Bible study on Sunday, May 9 and Collatio and a congregational meeting on May 16. Both of these will be at Art and Al's house at 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 30 falls during the Memorial Day weekend. Nothing is planned in Lancaster, but those interested will carpool to Harrisburg for their worship service. Contact Art for more info (392-2729).

SPREADING THE NEWS

MCC Lancaster's Evangelism/Outreach Project for the summer will be to actively work on participation in all church functions. The congregation will meet on Sunday, June 6th, at 5 p.m. at Art and Al's house. The purpose of the meeting will be to determine the most advantageous methods for spreading "what we have" to our brothers and sisters.

Arthur Runyan, co-worship coordinator, has set an ambitious goal for this project. He stated that MCC Lancaster will double attendance at services by Labor Day.

On July 18th, the congregation will re-convene to examine the progress made to that point. It will then be decided how to proceed towards completing the group's goal.

Everyone connected with MCC Lancaster will play an important role in this project. We hope you will demonstrate your faith by attending on June 6th and bringing ideas with you.

MY FIRST GAY PRIDE DAY

by Al Johnson

June 1978 was my first public declaration in a crowd shouting, "Say it loud--I'm gay and I'm proud!" From that moment on the closet would never be shut.

That Gay Pride Day was filled with happiness, excitement, and a sense of community for all sizes, colors, and backgrounds. This day, we all share a common bond--our gayness.

That day I heard speeches, singing, and many good vibes generating from my gay brothers and sisters, for this was our day.

Maybe this year you will let Gay Pride Day be yours in the many cities across the country where it will be celebrated.

BIG DAY IN DC

June 20 is Gay Pride Day in Washington, DC. We hope bussing will prove feasible, but as of yet, noone has volunteered to look into the matter and then to coordinate this project.

If you have the time and inclination to take on this responsibility, contact Art or Al post haste.



IT'S DISTRICT CONFERENCE TIME

The MCC Mid Atlantic District Spring Conference will be held on May 14 and 15 this year in Richmond, VA. These gatherings prove to be quite enlightening as well as a great deal of fun. Hopefully, we can demonstrate our zeal with a large group of representatives.

Free housing is available to help keep down your expenses. Get in touch with Art (392-2729) for additional information and registration forms.

IS THIS HOW PULITZER STARTED?

Help is needed in many capacities on the FREEDOM staff. God has given all of us a variety of talents assuming we would use them. Don't prove Him wrong.

If you would like to serve in any way, contact Al (392-2729) or Phil (299-2704).

If you would like to write an article or make a suggestion, you may do so by sending them to

FREEDOM
MCC Lancaster
P.O. Box 863
Lancaster, PA 17603

Any help will be greatly appreciated.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Freedom - 4

- May 1....May Day Tupperware Party at 7:30pm at 1622-1/2 North 2nd St., Hbg.
- May 2....Worship Service in Lancaster at the Unitarian Center, 538 W. Chestnut St. Emerson Hall at 5:00pm
Worship in Harrisburg at the Friend's Meeting House 6th & Herr Sts. 7:00pm
- May 6....Gay Skate II at the Gold Skate, 1733 E. Harrisburg Pike in Middletown. 7:30pm. Donation: \$2.00
- May 9....Bible Study in Lancaster at Art & Al's house at 5:00pm
Vote on new pastor simultaneously at 6:30pm in Lancaster at Art & Al's house and in Harrisburg at the Friend's Meeting House
....Worship in Harrisburg at 7:00 at the Friend's Meeting House
- May 14 & 15....Mid Atlantic District Conference in Richmond, Virginia (Board of Home Missions meets on the 13th)
- May 16...Worship in Lancaster at the Unitarian Center, 5:00pm
Worship in Harrisburg at the Friend's Meeting House, 7:00pm
- May 21...Advisory Board meeting at 1623 Green St., Harrisburg, 7:30pm
Open to all.
- May 23...Collatio and Congregational Meeting in Lancaster at Art & Al's house, 5:00pm. We will lay the groundwork for our Evangelism/Outreach program. Y'all come!
...Worship in Harrisburg at the Friend's Meeting House, 7:00pm
- May 30...Flea Market at Harrisburg Drive-In, Jonestown Rd., Hbg. 9am to about 4ish
...Worship for BOTH congregations in Harrisburg at the Friend's Meeting House, 7:00pm. Student Clergy Arthur Runyan of Lancaster will be preaching.
- June 6...Lancaster Congregational Meeting to finalize plans for Evangelism/Outreach Summer Program. Art & Al's house at 5:00pm
- June 18..Picnic at Negley Park, Lemoyne at 6:00pm. Bring a friend, covered dish, and utensils. God will provide sunshine and ants.
- June 20..GAY PRIDE DAY in Washington, D.C. Will someone step forward to organize our bus trip? God alone knows.
- July 11-17, 1983....MCC General Conference in Toronto, Canada. Start saving leave and bucks. You won't want to miss this one. (Nancy, thanks for the buttons. --A.R.)

LANCASTER
GAY/LESBIAN
HELP LINE

397-0691

Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, and Sunday-
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Have a problem?
We can help.

MATINEE MADNESS

Al Johnson is continuing to organize weekly jaunts to popular movies, usually at low prices. If you would like to join in on the fun, give him a call at 394-2729.

IT'S SOONER THAN WE THOUGHT

In our article last month concerning the MCC General Conference in Toronto, Canada, we stated it's never too soon to start making preparations. Well, little did we know how correct we were. The conference is actually July 11-17, 1983, a year earlier than reported. We do hope this unfortunate mistake on our part hasn't created any inconveniences in your busy calendars.



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FREEDOM is the newsletter of MCC-Harrisburg and the Lancaster Parish.
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(Publication of the name of any person, business, or organization should not be construed as indicative of sexual orientation or ideological stance.)

The Metropolitan Community Church is an ecumenical, Christian church for all people with a special ministry to the lesbian and gay community.