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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

Vol. 2, No. 3

June, 1983

TO CONTINUE YOUR FREEDOM HOME DELIVERY— SEE PAGE 3.

## BLESSED be the GIVER

by Laurie Israel

On a Saturday a couple of weeks ago, six church members helped us move. This was no small task being that we are a family of four (and have furniture and possessions for all of us) plus equipment and furniture from my former graphics business. We moved 4 desks, 4 dressers, a piano, refrigerator, freezer, sofa bed plus many other boxes and pieces. It took us from 10:30 in the morning 'til 9:30 at night. It was a day of physically difficult work which we all shared.

After we had finished, an amazing thing happened. The people who helped us all made "testimony" to how much their day of helping us, made them feel better. After busting themselves for a whole day of hard labor without "recompense", they bordered on a state of consciousness that could only be called "ecstatic".

It made me think about a passage from Ecclesiastes I have read: "Cast your bread upon the waters, for in time you will find it".

It's really true. When you do something for someone, you become "blessed". Not so much bless'd by God (1 syllable) -- that God "rewards" you by making you feel good, but bless-ed (2 syllables) -- by your actions you are infused with a feeling of well-being, of ecstasy. You become bless-ed, in a new state of oneness with the other creations of God. God transforms you. You are on God's side again.

At times I feel that I've gone "off the track". I feel depressed, alienated, out of sorts. I feel separated from God, other people, and the beautiful creations around us. I know this is a human feeling that everyone has at times, but it's really hard to shake. In times like these, we can't read the Bible, have no joy in relating to people -- life itself seems to have lost its glimmer.

But there is preventative medicine for this ailment. When I consecrate some of my time and energy to helping other people, I tend to feel good (bless-ed) all the time. In fact, the mathematical formula for this seems to be: the harder and longer you work for others, the more benefits accrue to you. That is why that 12-hour stint by our six friends gave them so much.

Our commitment as followers of God consists of the three "T's": Time (spent in working for others), Talent (using your God-given talent, whatever it may be), and Tithes (setting aside one-tenth of your monetary funds to further the work of this community). Doing all these things to the fullest is the most important thing each of us can do for the sake of MCC, and even more importantly for the sake of ourselves. It is a sure cure to what ails us.

And by the way, Pat and I would like to thank you again for helping us move!

## M.A.D. COMMENDS NORTON

Our own Gary Norton was given special recognition at the business meeting of the Mid-Atlantic District Conference May 21-22 in Alexandria, Virginia for for the work he is doing in the Williamsport and Allentown parish extensions, and for the work he has done in Harrisburg MCC.

The district and district officers voted to write Gary a letter of commendation in appreciation the great skill and dedication with which he performed "new works" for the district.

Attending the District Conference from Lancaster were Art, Al Don, Earl, Jay, Bob and Bryon. Bryon was elected study group observer-delegate to attend General Conference in Toronto this summer. He will represent all the study groups in our district at conference.

Bryon and Rev. Lichty are interested in having a workshop in our area to inform members of the changes in structure which will be dealt with at the Conference and to get feedback to bring to the Conference from our community.

Members of Harrisburg attending the Mid-Atlantic District Conference were Rev. Lichty, Laurie, Gary, Tom Hopkins and Diane Nulph. It was Rev. Lichty's first time to meet and fellowship with members of the district.

During the second part of the business meeting on Sunday, Rev. Delores Berry of Norfolk was re-elected as District Coordinator for the district.

Other activities available to the conferents were two workshops on ministering to the grieving, a workshop on liturgical clowning, and one led by Rev. Adam DeBaugh on the National Council of Churches.

The three worship services held during the conference were very powerful.



by Ed Meyers

### "Real Good Salad Dressing"

1 cup sugar  
4 or 5 eggs  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 heaping tablespoon mustard  
1 cup water  
1 cup vinegar  
salt & pepper

Mix dry ingredients thoroughly. Beat eggs and all dry ingredients. Then mix with heated water and vinegar. Cook in double boiler until thick. Makes about 1 quart. Good for potato salad or egg salad or on fresh tomatoes.

### "Potlucky" 5 bean Salad

1 16 oz. can green beans  
1 can yellow beans  
1 can red kidney beans  
1 can chick peas  
1 can lima beans  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
3/4 cup water  
1/2 cup vinegar  
salt and pepper

Combine and refrigerate several hours.



# DR. SHARON'S

PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH  
HOME REMEDIES


by Sharon Mansfield

For a BEE STING: put the inside skin of an eggshell on it or put moist cigarette tobacco on it, or mud. These draw the stinger and poison out.

For HAYFEVER: gargle with lukewarm water in the morning.

For the COMMON COLD and any other respiratory ailment: take a peeled onion and drop it in boiling water. One large onion will make 2 cups of juice. Cook the onion until it falls apart - add some sugar or honey. Let it sit in a jar for a half day (or overnight) until it thickens like cough syrup. This is much better than chicken soup. Takes the cold right away.

For a HEADACHE: place a bit of flour on the tip of your nose.

  
**LAUGHTER IS NOT**  
**A BAD BEGINNING FOR**  
**A FRIENDSHIP AND IT**  
**IS THE BEST ENDING**  
**FOR ONE.**  
**- OSCAR WILDE**

## GAY SWITCHBOARD OF HARRISBURG

**234-0328**

6:00 to 10:00 pm  
Monday - Friday  
*Your gay connection  
in Harrisburg!*

## LANCASTER GAY/LESBIAN HELP LINE

**397-0691**

Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, and Sunday  
6:30 to 9:30 pm

## FREEDOM

Vol. 2, No. 3  
June, 1983

FREEDOM is the newsletter of the Metropolitan Community Churches in Harrisburg and Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It is published monthly and mailed from Harrisburg on the Monday prior to the first Sunday of the month.

MCC-Harrisburg  
P.O. Box 3897  
Harrisburg, PA 17105  
717-921-3381

MCC-Lancaster  
P.O. Box 863  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
717-392-2729

### Worship Coordinators:

Rev. Patricia Lichty      Arthur C. Runyan, II

Editors ..... Colin Kreitzer & Laurie Israel  
Artwork ..... Colin Kreitzer

Manuscripts submitted for publication should be typed, single-spaced, with a column width of no more than 3 1/4 inches (19 1/2 picas). Manuscripts will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included. Manuscripts should bear the name of the author.

The views expressed in the articles are those of the writers and not necessarily those of MCC-Lancaster, MCC-Harrisburg, or the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Publication of the name of any person, business, or organization should not be construed as indicative of the sexual orientation or ideological stance of that person, business, or organization.

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

## WORSHIP SCHEDULES

### Harrisburg:

Sunday Evenings  
Friends Meeting House  
6th & Herr Streets  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
7:00 p.m.

### Lancaster:

Sunday Evenings  
Unitarian Center of Lancaster  
538 W. Chestnut Street  
Lancaster, Pa.  
5:00 p.m.

### Williamsport:

1st Sunday, 1:00  
717-238-3746 for info.

### Lehigh Valley:

2nd & 4th Sundays  
717-238-3746 for info.

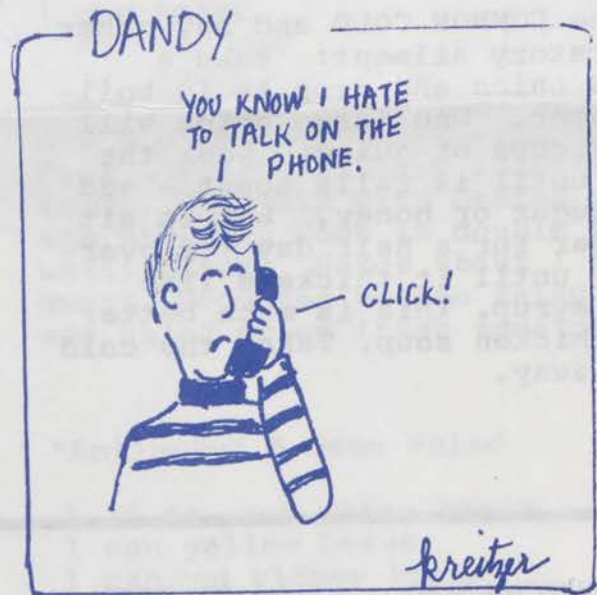
NEW EDITORS OF FREEDOM  
COME FORTH

Colin Kreitzer and Laurie Israel, both of the Harrisburg church, have accepted the call to become new co-editors of Freedom. They hope to continue the fine work done by Art Runyan and Philip Holt in the past year. Laurie and Colin encourage every church member and friend to search in their hearts and overcome their natural timidity and to try to express a thought or two on paper and send it to Freedom. Articles should be either sent to Colin Kretzer at his home address (26 S. 3rd St., Harrisburg, PA 17101) or to Laurie Israel (RD 1 Box 386, Dauphin, PA 17018). The deadline for each issue is approximately ten days before the end of each month. It would be helpful but not necessary if you type your articles to the line length you see in this newsletter.

# The Bright thing

There was a thing very bright,  
I think it was a bright light.  
It was a good thing,  
I was about to sing.  
I could hardly stand the sight.

Benjamin Israel, Age 8



## TO CONTINUE YOUR FREEDOM HOME DELIVERY:

Could you please take a few moments to complete and mail the coupon below?

- YES, I would like to stay on your mailing list and receive Freedom. My name and mailing address are below.
- YES, please add me to your mailing list.
- Enclosed is a free will contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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HARRISBURG, PA.  
17105

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to MCC/Harrisburg) I understand that this gift will be used to defray printing & mailing costs of FREEDOM. Contribution is not necessary to continue receiving this newsletter.

# GAY PRIDE:

## God's Good News

by Arthur C. Runyan, II

June, as you may know, is Gay Pride Month around the country. The event is marked by celebrations all across the land. Once again, MCC-Lancaster is sponsoring a bus trip to Washington, D.C. for Gay Pride Day on June 19. And while I have not been officially informed of it, I rather imagine that Dignity/Central Pennsylvania will once again host a bus to New York City for Gay Pride Day there, usually held one week after the event in Washington.

But what of Central Pennsylvania? How do we celebrate Gay Pride here except by going off to other cities to celebrate? Different bars are holding individual celebrations, and different clubs and organizations are holding special events (usually at bars), but where, oh where, is the "Gay Pride March" or the "Street Festival" so common in the larger cities? Here in Central Pennsylvania we keep our pride firmly hidden in the closet!

"But we're not ready for that, here. . ." I hear you protest. Well, let me tell you something. Folks in the big cities are not ready for it either, but they do it anyway. Gay Pride Day celebrations are not only indicators of how far we have come, but also indications of our vision for the future.

And there is much more to Gay Pride than marches and street festivals. They are only the outward manifestations of an inner-felt grace. Gay Pride may be expressed in the streets, but it is felt in our hearts. And if it is not there, then the street festivals are all a sham, anyway.

As a gay Christian did you ever feel like a double outcast? The Christian church does not want us because of certain behavior we practice in the privacy of our own bedrooms, and the gay community does not want us because we have sold out to the oppressive, patriarchal Christian church. That is like being stuck between a rock and a hard place. But, believe it or not, there is good news here. And that is because in MCC gay pride and the good news of Jesus Christ come together. They may not know it yet, but MCC is and will continue to be instrumental in the reconciliation of God and God's people. Both the Christian church and the gay community need us very much (and we need them) in order that God's plan for humankind will be fulfilled.

It is for this reason that Gay Pride Day takes on special meaning for gay Christians. Gay Pride Day is the culmination of what we preach and teach all year. At its heart Gay Pride Day is an affirmation that we, as gay people, are not dirt. On Gay Pride Day we claim our full

humanity with the rest of humankind. This is in perfect accord with the gospel that we preach. Jesus died that *all* might live. We, God's gay children, are just as much heirs to the promise as the rest of God's children. God does not play favorites. God loves us, just the way we are. We don't have to change to please God. Straight Christians may want us to change to please them, but that is *their* wish, not God's!

As Worship Coordinator of MCC-Lancaster, it falls my lot to teach workshops on the Bible and Homosexuality. I have taught many in the past and I will continue to do so in the future. But I am coming to believe that such workshops really miss the point of what is at stake here. They are important because they are the antidote to all the poison that straight Christians have been feeding us for years about what they think the Bible says. As important as that is, it is still only a first step, and many of us are now ready to start taking other steps. The time is come for workshops on Homosexuals and the Bible. Once we have internalized the truth that God does not condemn us for being gay, we must move on to the more pressing question: What is the good news for God's Gay children? What does Jesus Christ have to say to us? How does the gospel relate to us?

I expect to spend the rest of my life finding answers to those questions, but this much I do know. I know that we are created in the image of God. And I know that we, as creatures of God, are good. And I know that reconciliation with God is possible for any who will have faith in Jesus as the risen Christ. And I know that the dominion of God is for all those who in faith claim the promise as theirs. And I know that try as they might, humans cannot place restrictions on who may or may not enter God's dominion. Admission standards are up to God, and Jesus says, "Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Gay Pride means that the gospel is true. But it is the gospel which comes first. Gay Pride only exists because the gospel is true. But because the gospel is true, we are free (dare I say expected) to claim our pride. Gay Pride starts within—with prayer, but it is manifest in every area of our lives. As we celebrate Gay Pride this year, let us remember the gospel from which it springs. And let us not be afraid to proclaim Gay Pride, because it is really the gospel which we are proclaiming. Let us not be ashamed of our gay identity any more than we are ashamed of the Gospel. For if we are not ready for Gay Pride, then I fear we are not ready to receive the gospel.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 2-- GAYRAP. 7:00 pm. Unitarian Center. "The Spirit Within"
- June 4-- Adam DeBaugh speaks at the Unitarian Church in Lancaster on MCC's application to the National Council of Churches. 1 - 6 pm. Includes congregational meeting with discussions about searching for a new pastor for Lancaster MCC.
- June 4-- Celebrating Us. 6:30 at Holiday Inn Town. Guest speaker, Ginny Appuzzo. \$15. (tickets must be purchased one week in advance. Available in bars, Dignity, MCC.
- June 5-- Adam DeBaugh, guest preacher, Lancaster. 5 pm. "Opposing God!"
- June 9-- Movie night. 7:00 pm . Unitarian Center.
- June 12-- MCC Lehigh Valley. Brunch at 11 am. Service at 1:00 pm. 5 Cambridge Place, Catasauqua, PA.
- June 16-- GAYRAP. 7 pm. Unitarian Center, Lancaster.
- June 17-- MCC Harrisburg church picnic. Call 921-3381 for details.
- June 18-- Lancaster Gay Pride Picnic. Call MCC-Lancaster or HelpLine for details.
- June 19-- MCC Lancaster/GayRap sponsoring trip to Washington D.C. for Gay Pride Day. \$12. Leaving Lancaster shopping center at 8:45 am. Call 717-392-2729 for info.
- June 21-- Lancaster Love Feast. 5 pm. Unitarian Center. Potluck Supper plus Holy Communion.
- August 13-- District Picnic /MCC Christ the Liberator (11 am --??) Meeting at Greengrove area of Washington Crossing State Park. \$1.50 entrance to park (off Rt. 95-N on Route 29 to Park. Rt. 29 follows Delaware River For more info., call Barbara Kane, 609-443-1706.
- TUESDAYS-- 7:30 pm--Evangelicals Concerned Bible Study, 1318 Penn St., Harrisburg. For info. call 236-6495.
- Bible study starting at MCC Harrisburg. Call Rev. Lichty (921-3381) for details.



NOTICE: There will be no worship service in Lancaster on Sunday, June 19 because of the bus trip to Washington. Lancasterians are urged to share in worship with MCC Harrisburg, Friends Meeting House, 7 pm.