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Title: MCC Harrisburg Newsletter

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August

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
HARRISBURG PARISH EXTENSION
P.O. Box 3897
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105
Telephone - 238-3746

Sunday Worship Service every Sunday at 7:00P.M. at the Friends Meetinghouse, Sixth & Herr Streets, Harrisburg.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 6 - Regular Sunday Church Service will be held as usual at 7:00 P.M., Friends Meetinghouse
- Sept. 10 - Membership classes Start (3 weeks) at 1622½ North Second Street, 7:30 P.M.
- Sept. 12 - Picnic at Negley Park, Lemoyne, 5:00 P.M. Bring your own service and a dish to pass. Call our number if you need more information .
- Sept. 13 - Church Service 7:00 P.M. Rev. Bruce Hughes from Philadelphia preaching at Friends Meetinghouse
- Sept. 17 - Membership class
- Sept. 18 - Pot Luck Dinner 7:30 P.M. at 2224 Walnut Street, Hbg.
- Sept. 20 - Church Service 7:00 P.M. Father Sawdy preaching at Friends Meetinghouse
- Sept. 24 - Membership class
- Sept. 25 - Business meeting
- Sept. 26 - NOW Caravan 1:00 P.M. Capitol Building
- Oct. 1 - Make up class for membership (if needed)
- Oct. 4 - Dedication week starts at MCC Philadelphia. Activities continue all week
- Oct. 11 - Dedication Sunday at MCC Philadelphia with Rev. Elder Jean White from England preaching 11:00 A.M. Service Carpool from Harrisburg at approximately 8:30 A.M. Regular 7:00 P.M. Service will be held in Harrisburg
- Oct. 18 - Church Service 7:00 P.M. Rev. Bruce Hughes
- Oct. 23 - Mid-Atlantic District Conference - Washington, D.C.
24 " " "
25 " " "
- Oct. 25 - Church Service 7:00 P.M. Friends Meetinghouse, Hbg.

"How Are We Doing?"

This is the question I am asked most often by people in the community. If I just say we are doing well, they usually want more information. What do I tell them then? Sometimes I give them figures on attendance and offerings, especially if we had a good Sunday the week before. These are, of course, a measurement of our growth and dedication as a Community of God's People known as Metropolitan Community Church, Harrisburg Parish Extension. It has been suggested a number of times that we publish these figures.

We started regular services at the beginning of Summer (presumably the worst possible time). While attendance has fluctuated from 5 or 6 one week to 18 or 20 the next, the monthly average has remained constant over the Summer and comparable to attendance earlier in the year.

Perhaps even more significant is the continued increase in the offerings, with each month surpassing the previous one. This is important to our continued growth as a church and to our ministry in the greater Harrisburg area. We have over five hundred dollars in our treasury with some August bills yet to be paid. This is good. Yet, when we talk about calling a minister and some programs we would like to see started, it is not really that much.

While there may be no concrete way of measuring these things, I think there are some other answers to the question "How are we doing?" Are we doing the Lord's work? Are we providing a ministry here in Harrisburg? Are we reaching those people who need to hear the good news? One of the reasons MCC was founded was to reach those whom others have told that they can not be part of God's family. We know this is not part of Christ's teachings. Christ said "Whosoever will come unto me..." Brothers and Sisters, I believe that means everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from. We are open to anyone without distinction or discrimination. We have been commanded to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Is not that love what Christianity is all about? Are we practicing the love that we preach?

General Conference reaffirmed the ministry of all members, of all people who call themselves Christians. I believe that when we accept Christ we are called to this ministry even though we may not be professional clergy.

Lives have been changed, people have been touched by MCC in Harrisburg. I know this and it makes me feel good, when I hear about it. I also know that sometimes we miss the boat, so to speak. Sometimes a brother or sister has been hurting and we have not reached out or even worse, we turn away for whatever reason. Maybe they are a little older than we are or not quite as pretty as we think we are or we make a judgement that they won't fit in our clique. Let us pray that we may truly open ourselves to all be ministers of God's love. Then when someone asks how we are doing, there will be no doubt that we believe in Christ and in love.

Deacon,
Gary