



Messiah Messenger

Fall 2011



The Newsletter from Messiah Church E.C.C.

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The Messiah Messenger helps us to know and celebrate what is going on among us and to keep us abreast on how to share in our "harvest labors" as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the balance of this 2011 year. As you can see from our calendar of events, we have a full dance card, inviting each of us to connect with each other and the broader Church of Jesus Christ. Let's roll up our sleeves and serve God with a whole heart!

In it together....Pastor Bob

TLC: The Leadership Connection

In order to better serve the local church, the Great Lakes Region of the ECC has undergone some revisioning. This is in direct response to feedback the GLC leaders have received from churches and pastors.

For a number of years the GLC has focused on three mission priorities: Church Development, Church Outreach and Church Planting. These priorities have been used to shape the direction of the conference; given boundaries as to what is and isn't within the scope of the conference. As to Mission and Vision, the priorities have helped us live out our mission of "Helping every congregation become a Healthy, Missional Church". They have been instrumental in moving us toward our 2020 Vision of "By the year 2020, to multiply to 100, Missional, Christ-Magnifying Churches in an increasing Mosaic of Communities".

However, with the help of the churches, we have determined (1) that only as we grow missional leaders, can we have missional momentum and (2) that the health of the church has more dimensions than just "development". So the three mission priorities that have served the conference well for several years have been updated and augmented. Church Development has become Church Vitality and we have added Church Leadership.

To celebrate and highlight the addition of Church Leadership as a mission priority we are launching "TLC: The Leadership Connection", a set of workshops specifically designed for leadership development. November 19, 2011 marks the inaugural run of TLC which is being offered at Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills, MI from 9am-4pm.

The November 19 TLC features two speakers: John Wenrich and Frank Tanana. John Wenrich is the Director of Congregational Vitality for the ECC and will be speaking in the morning on strategic planning. Frank Tanana is a retired major league baseball player who speaks on evangelism. Frank will be speaking in the afternoon on "Living for the Lost". There will also be 6 workshops in the morning and 6 workshops in the afternoon. The focus of the morning workshops is "inside the church"; the focus of the afternoon workshops is "outside the church". We hope to have a group from Messiah attending this workshop as we seek to continue to live our Mission and Vision here in Southwest Detroit. Stay tuned for more details about this initiative.

Harvest Dinner

Messiah welcomes Gary Walter, president, Evangelical Covenant Church of America as speaker for our Harvest Dinner, Saturday, November 12 at 6 p.m. Rev. Walter has served in the ECC since 1981, first in pastorates in California, then in denominational service where he was Director of Church Planting and Executive Minister of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism. He will soon complete his third year as President. Reaching back to the founding principals of the ECC, he has issued the call that we are all "In It Together" in our work for the Kingdom. We hope to see you and family and friends at this special evening.

Covenant World Relief

Covenant World Relief is the Evangelical Covenant Church at work in the world through transformational community development and disaster relief. Come and discover the ways God is making a difference in the lives of the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized.

We would like to invite you to attend one of our upcoming "Deeper with Covenant World Relief" events. We will be in Detroit on Saturday, October 29th at Citadel of Faith Covenant Church from 3 to 5 p.m. RSVPs are helpful but not necessary to covenantworldrelief@covchurch.org or 773.907.3301.

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry had a great summer with VBS and outreach events at Clark Park. We were able to meet children in our neighborhood and invite them to Messiah if they do not have a church home, following the commandment to go out into all the world/neighborhood and preach the gospel. As Jesus held a special place for children, we want to continue welcoming and nurturing them to grow in the knowledge of God.

Once again we kicked off this Children's Ministry year with an ice cream social. We are welcoming Janet Swanson to our teaching team. She is with our pre-school /kindergarten class once a month. Also, Amy Ostroski will be joining our Bible Club teaching team! We are so thankful for both of these teachers! Many thanks to Pat Deslippe, Erica Kippe, and all who helped fill in over the summer! We appreciate you so much! Bible verse memory cards continue to go home monthly. Parents, this is an excellent way to connect spiritually with your child! Please remember to reinforce these verses during the week.

Family Fun Day



We hope to see you at fall Family Fun Day on Saturday, October 15 from 1-4 pm here at Messiah Church. Farmer John will be here with his Barnyard Animal Show and petting zoo. We'll also have crafts, caramel apples, pumpkin painting... Plus food!! Invite your family, friends and neighbors. This is a great opportunity to reach out to our community for a great day of celebrating God's autumn creation!!!!

Genesis News

Genesis meets every Friday night from 7 - 10:30 at Messiah. We are open to youth in grades 7-12. We have icebreakers and games every week, small groups twice a month, bond-building once a month, and large group once a month.

We will present Family Night/Silly-Serious Night on October 21st from 7 until 10. This is a like a talent (or not-so-talent) show for Genesis youth and parents and the Messiah family. If you have a 5-minute talent—silly or serious—that you are willing to perform, let Carole Hawke know so that we can put you on the program. (This could be music, a skit, poetry, card tricks, jokes, or other talents.) We are looking forward to a lot of fun together.

Please keep Carole Hawke, Jason Ostroski and Samuel Rodriguez in your prayer as they lead these young people this year.

North Park Gospel Choir

Messiah Church will host the North Park Gospel Choir in a concert on Saturday, October 22 at 7 p.m. The Gospel Choir is one of the University's most popular music groups, performing contemporary sacred music from spiritual and gospel genres and presenting concerts that focus on the worship experience. Select auditioned vocalists serve as the choir's touring ensemble, which will be here at Messiah. The Choir has led worship at churches throughout the United States. Plan on attending this very special evening of inspiring worship in music.

Musical Notes

It Is Well with My Soul –

The story behind this beloved hymn

This much loved gospel song was written by Horatio Spafford. Spafford was a Chicago lawyer who practiced in Chicago. A few months prior to the Chicago Fire in 1871, Spafford had invested heavily in property in Chicago and after the fire his investments were wiped out. Deciding that he, his wife and four daughters needed a rest he booked passage on the S.S. Ville du Havre to England. Due to last minute business issues, he was delayed but sent his wife and daughters ahead. The vessel collided with an English vessel and the ship sank in 12 minutes. Several days later the survivors landed in Wales and his wife cabled him "Saved alone." Spafford booked the next available ship for Wales to be with his wife. On the sea in the area he believed his daughters had drowned he penned the words to this hymn and described his own personal grief – "when sorrows like sea billows roll..." His hymn does not dwell on the theme of sorrows and grief, but instead focuses on Christ's redemption and also the second coming. It is truly amazing that Spafford, in light of his personal tragedy, could instead turn his sights to God and state "it is well with my soul."

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

Refrain:

*It is well, with my soul,
It is well, with my soul, my soul
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*



*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

*For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.*

*But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.*

*And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.*

-written by Horatio Spafford

Trustees Corner

At the beginning of the year, the Building Trustees voted on what their priorities were for projects and paving of the sidewalks and courtyard and restoration of the parsonage were at the top.

The courtyard project was a joint effort with involvement from a lot of the Building Trustees including Tom Kuhr and Bryan Gonzalez plus the help from expert volunteers, Mike Lesniak and Dale Batten — tireless workers! Work involved removing of the old shed, removal, modification and replacement of the back stairs, etc. and extensive plumbing/drain/downspouts work.

Both the sidewalks and the courtyard were completed under budget — thanks to the efforts of the Building Trustees and Dan Sullivan.

The Parsonage is in the process of undergoing renovations in the kitchen. This project is being managed by Joe Amini. We will continue to keep you updated on this project as it proceeds.

The Trustees appreciate your continued prayers, support and help as they serve Messiah Church.