



AN OUTREACH TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FAMILY OF FAITH MCC

JULY 1996



What a joy the South Central District Conference was! We were so blessed by so many opportunities! I want to share with you that each congregation was asked to bring a symbol of their church within the bounds of: water, bread, light. Our church, during a Wednesday night Praise & Prayer service followed by choir rehearsal, decided that green marbles were the best symbol of who we are. Realizing that they did not fall into the specific requested categories, we decided to place them in a large clear bowl and place a candle in the middle of them. They would symbolize a way in which our light shines through Christ to others. Diana, our Lay Delegate, and myself carried them forward when they called our church's name. I had previously agreed to be a part of healing service. My part was to be "healing through baptism" and I had the opportunity to baptize and re-baptize many folks that night (I even baptized a mother and daughter together!). The significant part was that I baptized with water which had been placed in our large clear bowl of green marbles! As I reached into the water the color green was everywhere! What a wonderfully empowering experience!

(Continued on next page)

CONFERENCE REVIEW

Well, District Conference has come and gone. I was impressed to see the presence of Family of Faith so obvious. We had a large group of people attend (14, I believe). Isn't that wonderful? We had people participate in worship services, workshops, choir, liturgical dancing, and our bowl of green marbles was actually used as the baptism bowl in the healing service.

During the SCD-DCOL meeting, a site was selected for Heartwings IX. It will be in Denton, Texas on Feb. 14-16, 1997. Becky Hall and Chris Altman will be in charge. They have Marsha Stevens booked to do a concert. We selected new Steering Committee Members, Ruth Wise, Robert Schroeder, Becky Hall, Hillie Bailey, and Mattie Tippitt.

The District is sending the names of 3 nominees for UFMCC Board of Elders: Clarke Friesen, Darlene Garner, and Hong Tan.

There were some non-binding resolutions brought to the floor. One was that children and young adults be involved in conference and worship services rather than just have workshops about children and young adults. The other was a recommendation to local churches: Maranatha Fellowship MCC is donating the first \$100 to support Rev. Ed Paul in his passion of global outreach. This will be a monthly contribution by them. Other churches or individuals are urged to contribute monthly or whenever possible. This position is where Rev. Ed Paul feels he is being called. He has done wonderful work and needs support to keep this ministry going.

Thanks to all who came to the forum before I left. Your input was appreciated.

—Diana H., Lay Delegate

UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS

WEEKLY

Sundays

9:15 Adult Ed. - 11:00 Worship Service

Wednesdays

6:30 Praise & Worship - 7:30 Choir

Thursdays

7:30 Codependency Support Group

MONTHLY

1st Sunday of Month Poduck

1st Friday of Month
SAFE HAVEN (ages 18-30)

2nd Sunday of Month Board Meeting
(open to all)

10th of each month..newsletter due.

3rd Wednesday of month
newsletter mailing 5:30 pm

JULY 1996

1st - Caregiver's Team Mtg 7:00 pm

4th - Independence Day

5th - SAFE HAVEN - 8 - Midnight

15th - Fundraising Team Mtg 7:00 pm

20th - Mop & Glow 10 am
6:00 Christmas Decorating Party
Carolling, Food & Fun

21st - Christmas In July-
to benefit OUR HOUSE &
Our Bags & Socks Campaign

22nd - Assimilation Team Mtg 7:00pm

29th - Council of Ministries
Meeting 7:00 pm

(Pastor's Pen continued)

What about you? Do you have your green marble with you as you read this? Perhaps you haven't heard about their significance. Let me fill you in!

The Green Marbles are a reminder to us of several things:

▼ First of all the color green reminds us of God as Creator. We see the color green in the life-giving plants and trees and in the life-giving love of God!

▼ Secondly, the color green symbolizes to us that everything we have is provided to us by God. The marble reminds us of the stewardship of giving just a portion of the "green we carry around" back to God.

▼ Third, the green reminds some of us of a time when wearing green on Thursdays meant you were queer. We now, proudly, carry green every day of the week!

▼ Fourth, we know that from time to time we "lose our marbles." We have found these to be easy to replace and it's a painless and inexpensive process. In fact, we keep a supply near the altar of our church for everyone to partake of as needed.

▼ Lastly, carrying the green marble reminds us that we are but one of a greater community. When out and about in the community you might see a person across the room holding their green marble. Simply pull your own out and respond in kind. It's a sort of solidarity that we carry around in our pockets, our pocket-books, our backpacks, and so on. It reminds us that we are everywhere!

I would like to extend to you an invitation to pick up a green marble the next time you're in church. Feel God's creation, feel the sense of community, be reminded of the responsibilities of stewardship, and let it empower you to go forth daily, being the person God created you to be.

Pastor Nancy



CHOIR PRACTICE

7:30 Wednesdays

Everyone is Welcome!

We're up to something new and exciting. All are welcome to stay for choir practice...join in, or just listen.

What Do Those Symbols Mean?



This article is the second in a series to discover what these commonly used symbols of pride mean to the gay/lesbian community. This column by Steven W. Anderson was found on the internet.

THE RAINBOW FLAG

Color has long played an important role in our community's expression of pride. In Victorian England, for example, the color green was associated with homosexuality. The color purple (or, more accurately, lavender) became popularized as a symbol for pride in the late 1960s - a frequent post-Stonewall catchword for the gay community was "Purple Power". And, of course, there's the pink triangle. Although it was first used in Nazi Germany to identify gay males in concentration camps, the pink triangle only received widespread use as a gay pop icon in the early 1980s. But the most colorful of our symbols is the Rainbow Flag, and its rainbow of colors - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple - represents the diversity of our community.

(Continued on page 4)



O what fun it is to ride...

Hey there! Tired of the heat already? Join us for a refreshing look at Christmas, on July 21st, at our 11:00am service when we celebrate "Christmas in July"! You can get a head start by attending our decorating party at 6:00pm July 20th. We will do some carolling around the piano, decorate and of course munch on the seasonal snacks everyone brings. We will be honoring 2 causes with Christmas gifts this year. The first is our Sleeping Bags and Socks Project. Thus far we have acquired 8 sleeping bags and 36 pairs of socks. Our goal is to have 200 bags and 400 pairs of socks to distribute to the homeless by December 1st. Summer's a great time to get a great deal on sleeping bags! Our other recipient of gifts is OUR HOUSE. They are in need of paper products such as towels, napkins, toilet paper, etc. They can always use munchies as well. Bring your gifts for the Bags & Socks Project and/or OUR HOUSE to the service. We will place them under our tree that morning as a part of our celebration!



What the Bible Does (and doesn't) Say about Homosexuality

This 9 week class will begin approximately July 21st at 9:15am on Sundays. The cost is \$15.00 which includes the study guide. Scholarships are available. Please call the church office for the exact starting date and to pre-register.

AROUND the Fellowship



SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEW SOUTH-CENTRAL DISTRICT COORDINATOR, REV. ELEANOR NEALY

**Rev. Nealy is due to arrive in our District the first of July!*

The Rev. Eleanor Nealy has been an active member of the UFMCC since 1983. She has been active in the MCC New York congregation for the past several years, most recently as the Chair of the Spiritual Development Committee (this is one of 9 growth committees implementing a plan to double the size of the church in 5 years). She has been employed secularly as the Director of Project Connect (a drug and alcohol program) at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. As Chair of the Spiritual Development Committee, she has proven to be an excellent organizer, facilitator, and administrator, as well as a gifted teacher. Her pastor, the Rev. Pat Baumgardner, shares with us that Eleanor's understanding of the spiritual and emotional needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, coupled with her pastor's heart and skills as a counselor, have made her an exceptional leader both at the church and in the wider community. She has also served the District as a member of the District Clergy Review Committee and the new Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM). Prior to her membership and staff work at MCC New York, Eleanor served as the solo pastor of MCC Christ the Liberator in New Jersey. Her skills in the pulpit and classroom reveal a person of tremendous insight, wisdom and vision.

Rev. Nealy holds a B.S. in Bible and Bachelors of Social Work from Philadelphia College of Bible. She holds a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary and an M.S.S.W. from Columbia University School of Social Work.

(Continued next column)

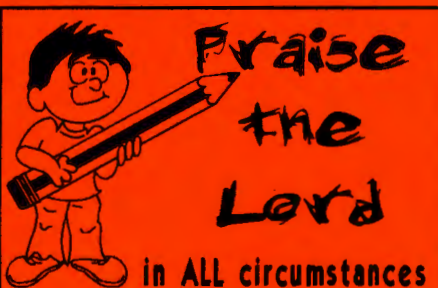
(Around the Fellowship Cont.)

She has, in addition, authored the following publications:

- ♦ *Amazon Spirit: Daily Meditations for Lesbians in Recovery*, Perigee-Berkley, 1995
- ♦ *Developing Community-Based Services to Engage Active Drug and Alcohol Users in Treatment*, The Journal of Chemical Dependency Treatment, (accepted for publication, August 1996).

Welcome to the South Central District Rev. Nealy! We hope you'll visit with us at Family of Faith soon!

*** Watch this space as we discover more and more of what our denomination is all about!*



Ella has been blessed with the "Ultimate Healing" and gone home to be with Jesus

Pastor Nancy is making steady adjustments to eyesight in just one eye!

Dee is slowly but surely recovering from her injuries

District Conference elected Rev. Eleanor Nealy as our new District Coordinator!

Colorado Supreme Court's overturn of Amendment 2 issues!

The Ryan White Care Act got all of its money back plus some extra!

Bryan got a job he likes!

Stephanie and Arnie were joined together in Holy Union on June 8th!

POT LUCK DINNER 1ST SUNDAY EACH MONTH



Please advise the church of your new address so you can continue to receive the newsletter.
You can reach us at 622-1441.

PRAYER LIST



REQUESTS:

Dee as she continues to recover from her car accident

Diana Hall as she seeks help with a motorized wheel-chair, and as she is showing signs of liver disease

Carol who has AIDS (& her friends and family)

MCC of Greater Tulsa's pastoral search
The Upcoming Community Center

William who has AIDS

Suki and Datha in the loss of their "child" of many years

Dr. Jeffrey Nytch our liaison from District Committee and his lover Robby

Deb Hardy who has AIDS

Our House

Rev. Eleanor Nealy as she arrives in the South Central District

Suki's 84 yr. old mom who has been in the hospital (she is out of the hospital at present)

Datha as she seeks God's wisdom on her job situation

Liz as she recovers from a car accident

Debbie E. and family in the death of her 21 year old cousin

Rosemary who had a cerebral hemorrhage

Tommy (AIDS Activist) who has gone to South Africa

Joe D. relief from constant headaches

A man ("family") who was hit by a train in downtown Tulsa and had his legs amputated.

Todd, who seeks health, happiness, a job and a "heaven of his own"

Kharna as she seeks God's guidance in a college interview

Christie Hancock as she seeks God through her health challenges

Arnie and Stephanie as they begin their new life together!



MAY, 1996

BEGINNING BALANCE	3213.56
TOTAL INCOME	3959.11
TOTAL EXPENSES	4841.52
BALANCE	2331.15

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES

as of 06-11-96

BUILDING FUND	1450.00
CONFERENCE FUND	1252.53
MUSIC (CHOIR) FUND	807.00
INTERNET	43.78
CHRISTIAN ED	440.00

TITHES: BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

BUDGET	3956.04
ACTUAL	3959.11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOUSING NEEDED

A Seattle MCC member will be attending OSU this Fall and seeks housing near Okmulgee. He has no transportation so will need to be near a bus line or living close to campus. If you can assist, please contact the church office at 622-1441!

INTERFAITH AIDS MINISTRIES PRESENTS "HIV/AIDS AND SPIRITUALITY"

This is an 8 week therapeutic group for persons living with HIV/AIDS to explore and share concepts of their spirituality and the relationship to living with HIV and AIDS.

The group will meet at Cherry Street Psychotherapy Assoc. 1515 South Lewis on Monday nights, 7:00-9:00; June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5. Contact Chaplain Diane Zike for more information: 438-2437.

MCC OF GREATER TULSA PRESENTS "GOSPEL EXPLOSION '96"

On June 28, 29 and 30th the Rev. Joan Wakeford will be bringing special speakers with her and offering Gospel Explosion '96. Services will begin at 7:00 on Friday and Saturday evenings. Sunday morning at 10:45 Joan will preach, followed by a Pot-luck dinner. In the afternoon she will be dedicating children and baptizing those who wish to be baptized (by immersion). If you would like to be baptized at Gospel Explosion '96, please notify the church in advance. MCC of Greater Tulsa is located at 1623 North Maplewood Ave. For more information, or to sign up, in advance to be baptized, please call 838-1715.



Calling All Caretakers

Our Regional Aids Interfaith Network (RAIN) Team client, Ella, passed away May 14th at 2:00 pm. Our team is currently relieved of all duties to allow a healing time before taking on another client. Our RAIN Team at this time has only four members and we really need a minimum of fourteen members to enable us to serve our clients properly. There will be another RAIN Training series the first part of August (the 5th, 6th and 8th). If you are interested in joining our RAIN team or just have questions, call the RAIN Office at 749-4195 and ask Stephen or Kathy to send you an application to register for this class. The cost is \$25.00 and some scholarships are available.

---Suki T.

Congratulations!

Congratulations Pastor Nancy on being elected to a two year term on the Board of Ordained Ministry! We also congratulate you on receiving a plaque of appreciation from the South Central District for "distinguished service as a member of the District Committee"!



For Young Adults 18 - 30

JULY 5

8 pm - Midnight

Call 622-1441 for info.

(Rainbow Flag...Continued)

The first Rainbow Flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco artist, who created the flag in response to a local activist's call for the need of a community symbol. (This was before the pink triangle was popularly used as a symbol of pride.) Using the five-striped "Flag of the Race" as his inspiration, Baker designed a flag with eight stripes: pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. According to Baker, those colors represented, respectively: sexuality, life, healing, sun, nature, art, harmony, and spirit. Baker dyed and sewed the material for the first flag himself - in the true spirit of Betsy Ross.

Baker soon approached San Francisco's Paramount Flag Company about mass producing and selling his "gay flag". Unfortunately, Baker had hand-dyed all the colors, and since the color "hot pink" was not commercially available, mass production of his eight-striped version became impossible. The flag was thus reduced to seven stripes.

In November 1978, San Francisco's gay community was stunned when the city's first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk, was assassinated. Wishing to demonstrate the gay community's strength and solidarity in the aftermath of this tragedy, the 1979 Pride Parade Committee decided to use Baker's flag. The committee eliminated the indigo stripe so they could divide the colors evenly along the parade route - three colors on one side of the street and three on the other. Soon the six colors were incorporated into a six-striped version that became popularized and that, today, is recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers.

Although the Rainbow Flag was initially used as a symbol of pride only in San Francisco, it has received increased visibility in recent years. Today, it is a frequent sight in a number of other cities as well - New York, West Hollywood, and Amsterdam, among them. Even in the Twin Cities, the flag seems to be gaining in popularity. Indeed, the Rainbow Flag reminds us that ours is a diverse community - composed of people with a variety of individual tastes of which we should all be proud.

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JULY

FAMILY OF FAITH MCC



JULY 4 1776

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Caregiver's Team 7:00 pm	2	3 Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	4	5 Safe Haven 8pm - Midnight	6
7 9:15 - Christian Ed. 11:00am Worship Potluck Dinner following Worship	8	9	10 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	11	12	13
14 9:15 - Christian Ed. 11:00 am Worship Board Meeting 1:00 pm	15 Fundraising Team 7:00 pm	16	17 Newsletter Mailing 5:30 Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir - 7:30 pm	18	19	20 10:00 am - Mop & Glow Christmas Decorating Party 6 pm Carols, Food, Fun
21 9:15 - Christian Ed. 11:00 am Worship Christmas in July 1-3:30 pm Membership Class	22 Assimilation Team 7:00 pm	23	24 Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	25	26	27
28 9:15 - Christian Ed. 11:00 am Worship 1-3:30 pm Membership Class	29 Council of Ministries 7:00 pm	30	31 Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm			

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