

New Light MCC



Congregational Report
December 2011

Pastor's Report

2012 has been a rollercoaster year. Not so much for the church, thank goodness, but certainly for me. It's a testament to God's Grace and the strength of the lay leadership at New Light that the church has kept an even keel over the year. I truly thank God for the pastoral team, the board, the steering committee, and those dedicated individuals who have seen it as their role to ensure that New Light continue to be a place of safety and spiritual nurturing - especially when I have been either physically or emotionally absent.

I spent the first three months of 2011 on sabbatical. It's during this period that I think the church went through some of its major changes. The Deacons became the sole pastoral resource in the church and grew in ways that have awed me. As I stepped out of the picture the board became the sole business leaders of the church and provided a secure foundation for the day to day running of the church. The Steering committee oversaw the transition during my sabbatical and were pleased to note that church life changed little, if any, without me. Yes, there were visiting preachers, but the best preachers were from our own Preachers circle; Drew Catrow, Harry Brubaker, and Colleen Foley, who preached the Word with integrity and Spirit.



My first month on sabbatical was simply a crash after the Christmas celebrations and getting everything prepared before I left. I remember that I finally got everything done 11:45pm on new year's eve! I rested most of the first few weeks nursing the flu. The second and third months flashed by as I remodeled the bathroom, learned a little piano, wrote some news articles, outlined a book, and then caught up with some long overdue reading. Before I knew it I was back, and as proud as could be that New Light MCC was truly church in its own right, able to be a healthy Spirit filled and Christ centered church with or without its pastor.

Of course I'd forgotten that January, February, and March hold other duties besides the obvious, and realized that the usual preparations I make for the church year during this period had been overlooked. The next few weeks were a whirlwind as I not only caught up with church members and friends but planned the events of Easter week, Pride month, and also sadly a funeral for Sandy Auch – mother of long time member Karla Auch.

Easter week began with a special LGBT celebration service at the Shepherds-town Presbyterian church where local youngsters sang and acted in celebration of their



becoming a 'Welcoming and affirming' church. Our Mid-week blessing service, Seder, Good Friday walk and service, and Easter service were all well attended and Spirit filled. There were over 80 at our Easter service, proof positive that we need to enlarge our worship space.

At the beginning of May some of us from New Light attended the Network meeting in Richmond, Virginia. The following week my mother, cousin, sister and husband came from the UK for a 10 day visit. It was wonderful to spend time with them all, and especially valuable in hindsight as we were to soon learn that mum was becoming seriously ill.

Just a day after my family left for home Chris, Rebecca, and I attended the PAD (People of African Descent) conference in Washington DC, and I then attended the HRC clergy call and lobbied on 'the hill' in Washington DC. I spoke with various legislators (not all friendly) and hopefully made a good case for LGBT equality in this nation, and especially in Maryland. Was great to meet with clergy from all over the country, some of them my personal heroes, and stand side by side with them in the fight for equality.

To begin PRIDE month in June we held our annual pride service at 'The Lodge' nightclub and bar. There were some who were deeply offended that I should choose to hold a worship service in a bar, yet there were almost 100 present, including some who would never normally set foot in a church. The choir sang beautifully, Drag queens read the scriptures for us, and City Councilwoman Ashley Haywood read the Presidential Proclamation for LGBT Pride month. The service was a wonderful outreach and I hope we can do the same against next year. It's not comfortable following in Jesus' footsteps, but I believe that we should follow his lead. I suspect he was not always comfortable going to where the people who needed him were, especially when he visited some of the least socially acceptable places of his time. It's difficult to step out of our comfort zones too, but I believe that we should occasionally do the same and follow his example.

The following weekend Chris and I met with other New Light members and friends to walk in the Washington DC Capital Pride march, and then throughout the following morning I served communion at the MCC tent on the mall.



In July my father passed away and I travelled to England to be with the family as we made funeral arrangements and mourned together. It was an especially difficult event as my father had taken his own life. I was once again reminded of how mental illness and fundamentalist religion can both destroy lives in equal measure. I had been



back in Hagerstown just a few weeks when my mother was diagnosed with Pancreatic cancer. At first we thought it would be possible to operate and remove the tumor, but tests revealed other health issues that ruled out surgery and the family were left with a terminal diagnosis. During this time I also lost a friend with whom I was especially close in my youth to a heart attack, and then learned of the suicide of another friend with whom I was close when we were neighbors in London; and so it has often seemed to be a summer of constant personal sadness and loss.

Fortunately there have been many blessings. Although I was not able to be here for the annual pool party and BBQ at Ruth and Rosalie's home, I was able to be here for the pet blessing service and BBQ, which was lots of fun. Thirty people and fifteen dogs, and the only incident was when one participant ran out of antihistamine!

I was also privileged to officiate at the wedding of Marykate and Cevyn, as well as the wedding of Chuck and Tim. The former was a quiet garden affair with a lovely family led BBQ afterwards, and the latter a full church wedding with a traditional reception afterwards. They were equally wonderful events to be a part of. I was also privileged to baptize Howard Dunn, as well as witness many new church members joining our community throughout the year.

In October New Light hosted the Eastern Region's Network Gathering. Thanks to Colleen Foley, Maurice Santiago, David Brechbiel, and a host of volunteers it was a wonderful weekend! Kristy Pottol came in to bring us a workshop on Dealing with difficult people, whilst Rev. Elder Diane Fisher gave us an overview of the stewardship summits that are tak-



ing place across the country. We had a great time, great food, and certainly put Hagerstown on the map!

Perhaps the main story through this year has been our church growth and plans to accommodate it. As I write this our plans to extend the sanctuary have been approved, and we are inviting bids for the work. At this stage we have no real idea of what the costs will be, but have some money already set aside and will look at funding options once we have a clearer idea of what the final costs will be. Steve Harrison very generously donated \$50,000 towards the building works in memory of his partner Desmond McNew, and Hal Bitner also very generously donated \$7,000 for new chairs in memory of his mother Leola Bitner. Both Desmond and Leola are very sadly missed and I am pleased that we shall have a constant reminder of their presence in the gifts that have been made in their names.

As we move forward we have made some changes to reflect our growth. We have appointed a steering committee to help us envision the future that God is calling us to, as well as a stewardship committee to help coordinate the changes as the board and pastoral team guide us there. We now publish our church events and programs for the coming year in a programs book, and have both a music and volunteer schedule published for the year. We also have a new web site with a calendar that not only details all our church events, but also holds the volunteer schedules.

As we move forward I feel very positive about the future. In my own struggles this year I have learned how supportive New Light members and friends can be. I feel God's Grace, Christ's hand, and the movement of the Holy Spirit in this place, and pray that God continue to bless us all as we move forward.

Rev. Michael.





**MESSAGE FROM THE Vice Moderator
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

During this year the Church has been blessed with a continuing growth in memberships and weekly attendance. As the Church grows the Board of Directors and Pastor Michael have to look at the future. As part of this vision we have encountered the necessity to reassess the Church mission, to increase level of the member's involvement in the Church and to improve the building facilities. Towards those goals three functional committees have been formed: a Steering Committee, a Stewardships Committee, and a Building Committee.

At the beginning of the year Pastor Michael went on sabbatical. During this time the Church continued operating in an efficient manner. This was accomplished through the assistance of the Steering Committee and with the help of all the Church's members and friends. The Steering Committee is refocusing its purpose to lead the Church in reassessing its mission.

We are in the process of moving forward with the building expansion plans. The Building Committee successfully identified a blueprint that will allow for the improvement of the building facilities. This improvement will need the assistance of all of Church members and friends and as such the Stewardship Committee is identifying ways of using our talent, time and treasure to accomplish this goal.

The Board of Directors has continued supporting our commitment to the Hagerstown community through our civic programs like Food and Friends and others. As part of the continuing support to the MCC community, this year we hosted the Network Gathering in October. Our tithes and gifts have gone to help LGBT people in other countries and we have directly contributed to funds like the UFMCC Fellowship.

I am looking forward to continue using my talents in service of the Church, with the help of our Creator,

Arlene



Secretary's Report: Board of Directors

As a congregation of friends and believers in Christian fellowship, I would hope that you all have witnessed the changes and growth in our church this past year. My position as Secretary has allowed me the opportunity to record these changes during discussions and reports brought before the Board of Directors (BOD). It continues to be a privilege to work with such a dedicated competent group whose effort is to find the mind of Christ in the decisions necessary to encourage church growth.

In a continued effort to make New Light the best that it can be, your BOD meets prayerfully each month to discern the needs of the church. We ask God to help us make decisions that best benefit our church and our denomination. Our meetings are open to all our members and friends, and we encourage you to attend and experience the process. These deliberations involve coming together with open hearts and open minds to seek wisdom around issues important to our church.

Our desire is to continue moving our church forward in both size and in spirit. Expanding our worship space will allow us to find additional ways to help our members and visitors feel welcome and encourage participation in our growth, and utilize more of our members expertise in areas of personal interest.

I'm proud of our congregation's support and thank you for the blessings brought to your Board.

John Foley
Secretary, Board of Directors



Facilities Manager

After almost a year and a half of planning we now have Plans signed and Sealed by a certified architect and building engineer. There have been many changes to the plans, but with a lot of input from the building committee and congregation, I think we have an outstanding plan that will make our building much safer and useful, not to mention much more attractive. I will have sets of drawings for review at the annual meeting.

The building committee continues to meet once each month. The committee consists of myself, David Kempton, Suzy Hardy, Charlotte Ashton, John Foley, Bruce Brooks, and Rev. Hydes.

We are hopeful that construction can commence soon. We have given out some sets of drawing for estimates of construction costs. We have received two generous donations so far totaling \$57,500. We are hopeful there will be additional giving, and that over and above that we will be able to finance with a building loan. By the time of the annual meeting we plan on having a better idea of the total cost, so that the congregation can then approve that. I was hopeful the project would be complete by now, but there is so much that needs to be done, basically totally rewiring the entire building, improving most of the existing plumbing, gutting and expanding the sanctuary, moving the kitchen, and making both bathrooms ADA accessible. We could not do this work without professional design help as this is considered a commercial building and an assembly building. We have also solicited bids from two audio/video firms for a new multi-media center for the building.

There are also plans to redecorate the upstairs area of the building, using mostly local volunteers to complete the work. If you have skills and are willing to help, please let those on the committee know.

Terry Schildt

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am amazed that another year has come and gone so quickly. It has been my pleasure to serve as your treasurer for another successful year. The global strains on the economy this year have had an impact on our entire congregation and your support and generosity to the church has been a true blessing. We have been fortunate this year in that we were able to reach out to other MCC's that were impacted by tragedies. Our support for MCC's Global Movement has been heart-warming. Without you and your kindness, we would not have been in a position to provide the much needed support. In addition, we rallied around those in our own congregation that needed our support in a time of need. Your stewardship this year has been outstanding! Some additional accomplishments made this year include purchasing a new laptop and accounting software, a new desktop computer for Reverend Michael and a new security system.

We have also made significant strides towards making a reality the much needed renovations to our church. Without the generous donations of two individuals in our congregation, our plans to renovate would have taken much longer.

We should be proud of the efforts made in 2011 and I look forward to our path to continue to serve the Lord in 2012.

Sincerely
Dan

Item	Budget 2011	2011 Actual Jan 1 - Nov 4 2011	Projected Actual for year 2011	Proposed Budget 2012
INCOME				
Regular Gifts and Tithes	\$84,000.00	\$69,218.80	\$83,062.56	\$84,000.00
EXPENSES				
Altar Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$599.08	\$718.89	\$1,200.00
cleaning	\$1,040.00	\$1,110.75	\$1,332.90	\$1,400.00
conference	\$1,500.00	\$1,786.49	\$1,786.49	\$1,500.00
Education & Sab-batical	\$1,500.00	\$14.95	\$14.95	\$1,500.00
Electricity	\$6,000.00	\$3,745.15	\$4,288.00	\$5,000.00
Guest Speakers	\$600.00	\$675.00	\$900.00	\$300.00
Insurance	\$2,000.00	\$1,901.00	\$1,901.00	\$2,000.00
Licensing Fees	\$500.00	\$314.00	\$314.00	\$500.00
Mortgage	\$5,300.00	\$4,677.20	\$5,102.20	\$5,600.00
Office Costs	\$4,000.00	\$5,993.16	\$6,660.16	\$4,000.00
Oil	\$2,000.00	\$1,242.05	\$1,490.00	\$2,000.00
Parking	\$552.00	\$506.00	\$598.00	\$600.00
Salaries	\$33,500.00	\$30,616.63	\$33,678.00	\$34,000.00
Pastoral expenses	\$3,000.00	\$1,856.81	\$2,228.00	\$2,500.00
Pest Control	\$600.00	\$604.20	\$725.00	\$850.00
Security	\$450.00	\$270.96	\$325.00	\$500.00
UFMCC Pension	\$600.00	\$759.00	\$759.00	\$800.00
Water & Sewer	\$400.00	\$254.25	\$305.10	\$400.00
TOTAL	\$64,742.00	\$56,926.68	\$63,126.69	\$64,650.00
13% tithe	\$9,674.00	\$7,628.06	\$9,153.67	\$9,828.00
10% Building tithe	\$8,400.00	\$3,342.00	\$3,342.00	\$8,400.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$82,816.00	\$67,896.74	\$75,622.36	\$82,878.00
	\$1,114.00	\$1,322.06	\$7,440.20	\$1,122.00

Budget Q&A

Q What is the difference between 'Pastoral expenses' and 'Altar supplies'?

A Altar supplies are whatever is needed in worship. For example; candles, communion elements, music, ribbons for *World Aids Day*, Palm crosses for *Palm Sunday*, etc. Pastoral expenses are any other church expenses. For example; the costs incurred in hosting guests (like Delores Berry), and any expenses incurred whilst on church business (like lunch at HARC meetings, Interfaith retreat expenses) etc.

Q The entry 'Education and Sabbatical' used to be called 'Continuing education'. Why the change?

A The board decided that the continuing education fund be capped at \$1,500. When that figure has been reached the allocated funds will be put into a 'sabbatical fund' to ensure that any extra expenses incurred by the church whilst the pastor is on sabbatical, (the cost of visiting speakers, an interim, or sabbatical expenses) may be easily met.

Q Why are tithes to the denomination calculated *after* the building fund tithe has been taken out?

A UFMCC does not require us to tithe on money allocated to a building fund.

Q Why are building fund tithes less than budgeted for in 2011? We budgeted for \$8,400 but only held back \$3,342.

A During the summer months gifts and tithes dropped and if we had continued to hold back money for the building fund we would not have been able to meet our operational costs. (Note: If we finish the year with the projected surplus there will be enough funds to cover the building fund commitment).

Q What are 'office supplies'?

A Telephone costs, printer supplies, paper, internet costs, in fact anything required to run the church office and associated business. Last year's costs were unusually high as they included a new computer, new projector, and printer repairs.

Q What is 'UFMCC Pension'?

A This is a quarterly contribution to the denomination's central pension fund (for elders and denominational staff), and is calculated on our current membership. It is not a pension for the pastor.

Steering Committee Report

The steering committee is formed by Julie Ferron, Crystal Huff, Carmen Wade, John Foley, Bruce Brooks, Mauricio Santiago and I. During last year the committee's function was to ensure that the Church ran efficiently during Pastor Michael's sabbatical. The different aspects of Pastor Michael's function were discussed and recommendations were made to allow the Sunday services and Church functions to continue being performed. I am happy to report that during the sabbatical period all Church duties were performed accordingly and no major incident arose during that time.

This year the steering committee function has changed and it has been tasked to help discern what God's purpose is for the future of our Church. In this capacity the group, including Pastor Michael, has been meeting monthly and is learning how to channel God's wishes. We have just started meeting and we have started the process of learning how to be open to the Holy Ghost. We are using as our guide the book Grounded in God by Farnham et.al. It is our hope that through this process God will move our Church to grow as a community with a unified purpose and to grow in our love for Him.

We are looking forward to continue using our talents in service of the Church, with the help of our Creator,

Arlene

Stewardship

The Stewardship Team has been formed this year and had its first meeting in September. Our role encompasses a lot and we are just getting a feel for what our function is within the Church.

One of our primary focuses is to encourage our Congregations giving. That includes not just our financial gifts and tithes, but the giving of our time and God-given talents as well. Generous giving is giving without expecting anything back. We are giving back or sharing the gifts that God has given us. One of the things we are working on is a means of communicating to you where our financial gifts are going and to find out where we want them to be going in the future. We are also focusing on searching for and applying for grants that may assist funding some of our ministries. We want to make sure that the Church is moving in the direction we want it to and that we have the means to go there in the future.

We are a generous and giving Church. We have been blessed this year with some large contributions for our Church Renovation Project. That generous spirit is what will assist us in moving forward with that.

We hope that you will continue to share the gifts that God has bestowed on you so that we may continue to make strides towards our goals and mission.

Yours in Christ,

Charlotte

Administrative Staff

The office staff is an integral part of running the church smoothly. We are there to assist Pastor Michael with special projects as well as some of the daily tasks that are vital to running New Light MCC.

David Brechbiel

Prior to Pastor Michael going on sabbatical, I assisted him with the Christmas card mailing and while he was on sabbatical and during his subsequent trips back to the UK I coordinated, typed and printed the weekly bulletins. Other projects that I helped Pastor Michael with included completing the hymnals, the church year's program calendar, and visitor information packs. I send New Light's birthday greetings for Pastor Michael and update the membership list on a regular basis.

Julie Ferron

During the past year I spent time on legalizing our hymnal and weekly I enter our gifts and tithes into our Giving Database which allows us to provide members with their year-end giving statements. I also open and sort mail, take phone messages for Pastor Michael. Throughout the year I have assisted Pastor Mike with various projects. I oversee the New Light Library as well as representing New Light MCC at the monthly Hagerstown Area Religious Council meetings and the Hagerstown Religious Coalition meeting.

Ralph Heinauer

I keep our bulletin boards up to date, and I do all the filing for the office.

Music

Pastor Michael, Drew and myself met around July to set up calendar for upcoming year with the following:

Dates were given that I (Don) would not be playing and David Kempton would be filling in. Also several Sundays throughout the year will be praise and worship songs (David and Don will not play. Music will be CD's). This gives Don a chance to take a few breaks from playing but also will be attending service his choice.

Also when we met, I submitted several new songs for new hymnal. Pastor ok'd most and were submitted to have printed for new songbook. So far a few of the songs have been utilized and very positive feedback from the congregation for the choice of new songs.

David Kempton has been given dates for the coming year of Sundays that I will not be playing.

It's been a great year so far and looking forward to next year with the congregation learning a few new songs in hymnal.

- Don Cook

Audio Visual Team

We have added two lapel microphones and a projector to the Audio Visual System this year. I have also worked with Terry and Pastor Mike on upgrades for our expansion project. We have added five new members to the sound team recently and some have been trained. I am currently conducting "On the job" training until the new members feel comfortable. It is working out well. I am very grateful for the added interest and help!! When the expansion project takes place we are looking for there to be two Audio Visual Team members to run equipment in the booth for services. One member to operate sound needs and the other to operate visual needs. It is a very exciting time for the team. I have received great input from the team for the type of improvements to take place during the expansion. Can't wait until next year to report on all of the improvements that we make.

Respectfully,
Bill Thurston

The lay ministers of the church are not 'chosen' by the Pastor but are called by God. Lay Ministers have a recognized and accountable ministry either with New Light MCC or in outreach to the community with another group like Food and Friends or Reach. Lay Ministers pledge one year to their post in God's service.

Colleen Foley

Whew! The first year of seminary ended and now I am officially a "middler" meaning that I am now in my second year of divinity education. I am finding that there is a whole lot that I still need to learn; although, of course, we are never finished with learning, are we?

In addition to attending seminary, I am also six months into my full-year church internship with Vision of Hope MCC in Mountville and Reading, PA. In addition to preaching, praying, and celebrating communion, I am also helping to lead Bible study in Reading and recently taught the class Homosexuality and the Hebrew Bible. Putting the class together was a lot of fun; however, showing the class why Sodom and Gomorrah and the clobber passages in Leviticus were not about homosexuality was refreshing and enlivening news to the class. I have also begun to share healing with the Reading congregation.



I continue my calling as a deacon to New Light MCC and also continue to send out e-mail messages on behalf of the pastor. It was a great privilege to assist the pastor in organizing and planning the Eastern US Network Gathering in October. Not only did I learn from the experience, I also was blessed to feel the Holy Spirit throughout the meeting. I want to thank everyone who helped with the Network Gathering because it seemed that everyone who was there received not only knowledge through the workshops but also a refreshing of their spirit.

As part of my required seminary experience, I will be traveling to Port-Au-Prince, Haiti and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, leaving January 5, 2012. While there, I will learn about the cultures of the two countries, visit at least two orphanages, and go wherever else the Spirit leads us. I ask for your prayers as our group is on our cross-cultural trip.

With many blessings,
Colleen

Drew Catrow

WOW!! Another year has passed since our annual congregational meeting. God continues to work through this amazing group of believers. Our Choir has grown musically in the last year, and I thank God that we have been blessed with the voices that make such a beautiful blend each time we sing. I am so honored to be part of our choir; they are the most marvelous group of people I have had the pleasure of singing with. Being part of the preachers circle has been something I have really enjoyed this year. It was an honor to help fill our pulpit while Rev. Michael was on sabbatical. I really enjoy spreading the inclusive Gospel of Christ!! Our annual outreach to Cameo House makes my Christmas Season.



When we show up to brighten those lives it's truly a blessing and our congregation makes the difference in their lives. I'm honored to just be a part of that evening.

Elaine Lyon

As you know our economy has only gotten worse and the need for our food pantry continues to grow. We have developed an application for folks to request services from the pantry and we continue to get referrals from social services for those folks struggling with HIV and Aids. Food Resources, Inc continues to be the main source of supply for the pantry along with generous donations from our members and friends. I want to thank everyone for their continued support for the work we do in our church and our community. Crystal continues to take care of the soda ministry which not only quenches our thirst, but also provides a small amount of cash that Michael has on hand when someone has an immediate need.

I am proud to be part of a congregation that continues to amaze me with its generous and loving spirit.

“Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.”

--Saint Teresa of Avila

God Bless and Thanks For All You Do

Elaine Lyon



Charlie Kline



Hi, How time flies. It's been almost six years that I have been a deacon at NLMCC. Our church is doing well and continues to grow. We are in the beginning stages of re-doing our sanctuary and updating our bathrooms, sound system, etc. The Lord continues to bless us in many ways.

We had our first network gathering in Oct. and it was really nice to pray, worship, and learn together. God's spirit was so with us during this event. The music and service was amazing. God continues to lead our church and its people on a very special journey.

Continue to keep us in your prayers. Charlie

Harold Gress, Jr.

It's been another productive and blessed year at New Light. I took over uploading the sermons to the church's website during Pastor Michael's sabbatical and have continued to perform that function. I also monitored the church's email during that time. With the assistance of Chris Baker and David Brechbiel, we have continued to enhance and update the New Light Facebook page. We were recently able to add the Twitter feed to the Facebook page so that if something is posted to the Facebook page, it is automatically posted to the Twitter feed. These communication tools enable us to reach out to the congregation electronically.

I also assist with preparing the church's annual giving reports that are provided to the church's members and friends at year end. Another service I am happy to provide is compiling the annual congregation report.



Harry Brubaker

Bread Ministry

I think it has been just over 2 years since Pastor Michael asked if I would be interested in providing bread for communion. In order to have a “staple” be consistent each week at church, I found it was compulsory, essential, mandatory that I set aside time, in a good mood, not stressed, or I would end up with FLAT or TOUGH bread. Yes this has happened and you never knew about it! At the moment a batch goes bad, I knew I was not in a happy place in my heart or mind to bake. I would take a deep breath, relax, basically bread making became time for me to meditate, rest, and yes pray. You can't rush bread, it needs to be kneaded and time for the yeast to grow. I recognized we all want to be needed and it takes time for our spiritual growth.



Pastoral Care

This is my first year serving as a Deacon for New Light MCC, beginning on Easter Sunday. Initially, I felt like I was not doing enough of ... something. I was not sure why I felt this way. Then it dawned on me, Pastor Michael was back from Sabbatical! I actually had a few less responsibilities after being asked to serve as a Deacon, than I did before serving as your Deacon. Sabbatical was a great training ground and I greatly appreciated all the support from the congregation and the Deacons during Pastor Michael's Sabbatical. I surprise myself each time I am asked to do something new that God has allowed me to adjust the lens of how I am viewing the world and each situation. I pray that I continue to put the best interest of the church first and that I be available for those who call on us to listen and pray for their concerns.

Bruce Brooks

2011 has been a year to remember. We started with Rev. Michael on sabbatical for 3 months. Thanks to his planning and all of us stepping up, I believe it was a great spiritual and learning experience for New Light. Some of us attended the first network gathering for our group in Richmond in the spring then hosted the second gathering in October here at NLMCC. We did a fabulous job of hosting this event. The renovation plans have moved ahead. Not as fast as hoped but moving forward. We were blessed with a generous donation towards seeing this plan come into reality and we give thanks to God and all those that have worked on this endeavor. As Lay Delegate, I see the goodness that comes out of NL and makes God's creation a better place. I am certain the future holds challenges for us and also great blessings. Thanks to everyone for making New Light a very special church. I look forward to 2012. Keep NL in your prayers. Namaste+Bruce



MESSAGE FROM THE PRAYER MINISTRY



The Prayer Group is starting its fourth year. Members of New Light meet every other Monday evening for prayer and fellowship. This group can give testimony to the power of prayer and that the focus of a group prayer can make an extraordinary difference. We pray for UFMCC, NLMCC, members and friends, family and people and situations that are brought to us for prayer.

If you have a prayer request, please give it to a member of the group. Our names are printed on the back of the bulletin each Sunday. All prayer requests are kept confidential. If you are interested in joining the prayer group-please speak to one of the members of the group.

An open prayer circle is held each Sunday morning before service. Everyone is welcome. Come join us and experience the power of group prayer.

New Light Ministries

These are some of the New Light ministries that you might like to be involved with, including a contact phone number for the organizer.

Choir: Led by Deacon Drew Catrow. Tel: 304 886 1897.

The choir meets every Sunday from 12:15 – 1:30 p.m., except on performance days when they also meet from 9 – 10am. Additional rehearsals may be arranged for holidays. All welcome.

Queer Library: New Light MCC maintains a LGBT themed Library. We have fiction, non-fiction, and reference books available. If you'd like to borrow a book, please feel free to do so. It doesn't cost a thing. Also, if you have an LGBT themed book suitable for the church library that you would like to donate please see the Pastor.

Food Pantry: Led by Deacon Elaine Lyon. Tel: 717 597 7348

Gives out groceries to those with HIV/AIDS on a low income. Alternate Saturday mornings from 9-10am. Volunteers are scheduled in rotation, presently around six times a year. All welcome.

Food & Friends: Led by Rev. Michael & Deacon Elaine Lyon. Tel: 301 272 5692 & 717 597 7348. Delivers groceries to persons debilitated by the effects of HIV/AIDS. Alternate Saturdays in conjunction with the food pantry. Drivers needed. Volunteers are scheduled in rotation, presently once every six weeks. All welcome.

Liturgists: Led by Lay Delegate Bruce Brooks. Tel: 240 527 1253. The liturgists are responsible for organizing each Sunday's volunteers for worship. Volunteers are scheduled in rotation, presently around 6 times a year. All welcome.

Sound Team. Led by Bill Thurston. Tel: 304 263 0228 Responsible for the sound system, especially during Sunday worship. Volunteers are scheduled in rotation, presently once every five weeks.

Prayer Team: Led by Lay Delegate Bruce Brooks. Tel: 240 527 1253. Meets alternate Monday evenings, 7:30pm, at the church. Members commit to at least one year. Please feel free to submit prayers by calling the team directly or emailing the church.

Web Ministry: Led by Deacon Harold Gress. Tel: 717 860 0434. Web site, sermon upload, Facebook page, Newsletter etc.

Office Assistants: Rev. Michael. Tel: 301 272 5692. We can always use a little help around the office! From answering phones to filing, from brochure design to printing.

Hospital and sick visits: Deacon Charlie Kline. 240 527 1189. Visits the sick and homebound when needed or requested. Please speak to either deacon Charlie or Pastor Michael if you'd like to arrange a visit, or volunteer to be a visitor.

Special Events and fundraising: Maurice Santiago. Tel: 240 422 4704. Raffles, Bingo nights, movie nights, special guest concerts, spaghetti dinners or themed dinners, and much, much, more. All ideas considered, volunteers always needed.

Educational programs and bible studies: These are arranged by the pastor, although many of them are lay led. The needs of the community range from bible study and spiritual care to financial workshops and craft collectives. Please see the program book for scheduled events, or talk to the pastor if you'd like to lead a group.

Besides these ministries there is the Board of Directors, the Pastoral team, steering committee and stewardship team. Board members are voted in by the congregation at our annual meeting in December. If you would like to be considered for a board position please speak to a member of the current board. (Terry Schildt: Tel:301 331 0723, Dan Stewart tel:540 303 3498, Arlene Leon tel:304 754 4479, John Foley tel:3019914573) or our lay delegate (Bruce Brooks. Tel:240 527 1253). The deacons (pastoral team), stewardship team and steering committee members are called rather than chosen. Those considered for the pastoral team are faithfully involved in an accountable ministry, are regular worship attendees, tithe to the church, have a strong prayer life and walk with God, are sought out by church members for advice and assistance, and have the full support of their peers. If you feel called to serve in one of these capacities please talk to the Pastor.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS :

New Light MCC runs two community aid programs. *The Deacon's Pantry Fund* provides funds to deal with a financial emergency. *The Food Pantry* supplies groceries, and is open every other Saturday morning from 9:30 – 10am. Application forms available from the church office.

Supported ministries.

N.A. Meets Friday evenings at 8pm and Saturdays at 6pm in the social hall

NAMI Meets the first Saturday of the month at 12pm in the social hall.

Food & Friends food delivery – alternate Saturday mornings at 9:30am.



New Light Metropolitan Community Church

40 West Church Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Tel: 301 797 5698

New Light MCC Mission Statement

To reach the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and affirming community, family and friends; by providing a Christ-centered, safe, and nurturing environment for spiritual growth.

Core Values

We are a Christian family. Our church is a spiritual home celebrating diversity in blended Christ centered worship. We believe that we are called to be a priesthood of all believers. We practice direct dealing, tithing, and active discipleship in social action.

Pastoral Team

Deacons: Charlie Kline (301 791 0909), Elaine Lyon (717 597 7348), Harold Gress (717 860 0434), Colleen Foley (301 992 6594), Drew Catrow (304 886 1897), Harry Brubaker (301 733 4354)
Pastor: Rev. Michael Hydes (cell: 301 272 5692)

Prayer Team

Crystal Huff, Bruce Brooks, Elaine Lyon, Charlie Kline, Rich Harris, Julie Ferron, Mary Kate Monaghan, Eugene Smith.

Board of Directors

Terry Schildt : Buildings Management. Dan Stewart : Treasurer
Arlene Leon : Vice Moderator. John Foley : Secretary

Steering Committee

John Foley, Arlene Leon, Bruce Brooks, Carmen Wade, Julie Ferron, Maurice Santiago, Crystal Huff.

Stewardship Team

Charlotte Ashton, Tim Hott, Shonte' Hackett, David Brechbiel, Dan Stewart.

Building Team

David Kempton, Charlotte Ashton, Terry Schildt, John Foley, Suzie Hardy, Bruce Brooks.

Volunteer Staff

Office assistants: Ralph Heinauer, Julie Ferron, David Brechbiel. **Musicians:** Don Cook, David Kempton. **Choir Leader:** Drew Catrow **Lay Delegate:** Bruce Brooks. **Entertainment and Fundraising:** Maurice Santiago. **Sound Engineers:** Joe LaRocca, Bill Thurston, Todd Johnson, Christopher Snyder, James Coates, Howard Dunn, Julie Ferron **Preachers Circle:** Harry Brubaker, Drew Catrow, Colleen Foley.