

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR, MCC

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Welcome to the Summer E-Link

August 10, 2017 Special Edition

Inside This Issue

PSC Update ~ Interim Moderator and Council of Elders Praying for us.
Elders Prayers, and COS News
Celebrating the Life of Rev. Delores P. Berry



Pastoral Search Update ~ August 9, 2017

Hello Church Family,

I am writing you all today on behalf of the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC), myself, Rev. Deacon Tina, and Board member Dan Briant. We have been working tirelessly to get a new pastor. As to that objective, I am pleased to share with you we have had very good results.

I just returned from the MCC PAD conference in St. Louis. I meet with Rev. Pressley Sutherland in person to discuss the progress of the PSC. I also met with one of the candidates (we have two) in person. I also met with the MCC Interim Moderator, Rev. Elder Rachele Brown, whom I have known for some time since she was pastor in Chicago. She is supporting us in getting an excellent permanent pastor. She indicated that next week the Council of Elders will be meeting. Prior to starting their meetings, the Elders pray for the needs of the local churches. She will explicitly ask for their prayers for Church of Our Savior. It heartens me to know our moderator is personally concerned about us, and our journey to a new pastor.

Given all these new developments, the Pastoral Search Committee is inviting all for a short meeting following Sunday Services on August 13, 2017. The purpose of this meeting is:

1. The Pastoral Search Committee will give feed back about their progress in selecting a new part-time permanent pastor for the Church. The PSC hopes to have a tentative timetable for a new permanent pastor.
2. The PSC is asking input from others as to what they are looking for in a permanent pastor. As part of the interviewing process, the PSC will make known these wishes to the candidates.

Continued next page>>>

See pages 2, 5, & 6 for announcements, Page 3 for Rev. Berry & page 7 for contact info. & advertisers.

3. The PSC will be requesting additional members to join the new **Renewal Committee** and will announce the goals for this committee. It is hoped that our new pastor will join this committee to continue its work.

The PSC wants to make information readily available. But, the committee also wants to assure the Church family that the end result will be that the new permanent pastor is found to be acceptable by the entire Church. That is, when a vote is taken, it is hoped Church of Our Savior will be firmly and fully behind the candidate selected to be the permanent pastor.

Finally, we ask your continued prayers that the Lord will bless us as we seek a permanent pastor. The dead line for applying is August 15, 2017. Please contact the PSC by e-mail at: psc@churchofoursaviormcc.org with any questions.

You can view the complete, updated application package at:
<http://www.churchofoursaviormcc.org/Pastoral%20Search.htm>

Sincerely yours in Christ, Louis, on behalf of the PSC



Weekly
Call to
Prayer
MCC Council
of Elders



Find a tree, find one quickly. Put your hands on the trunk, or lean your aching head in and rest your third eye on the bark, you could sit down and lean your heart against the wood, maybe if appropriate (or not) and possible...climb up and have a seat. However you connect with this creation that is simultaneously rooted and playing in the wind the one thing you must absolutely do is...

Breeeeeeeeathe ~ Breeeeeeeeathe ~ Breeeeeeeeathe

"After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit..." (John 20:22).

Let the Spirit come and live in us so that every breath is a prayer. Find a tree, find one quickly.

Repeat daily. *Prayer submitted by*

REV. S. DAVID WYNN, LEAD PASTOR, Agape MCC, Fort Worth, Texas, USA



We Need volunteers for the weekly social held after service.

If you'd like to volunteer, a sign-up sheet is on the kitchen bulletin board. If you are new at this, speak with any board member. They can refer you to someone to walk you through it. You can get reimbursed for your costs.

Continued next page>>>

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MCC Loses a Prophet and a Healer; Celebrates the Life of Rev. Delores P. Berry

*"Rev. Delores could pierce the veil,
bringing messages of healing and comfort..."*

Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) leaders grieved the death of Delores Berry who transitioned on August 8, 2017. She left behind a host of clergy and so many friends who were grateful to have known her.

The MCC Council of Elders issued a joint statement. "As Elders for MCC, we are deeply saddened by the death of Rev. Delores Berry. Rev. Delores' gifts of exuberance, evangelism, prophecy, song, prayer, and speaking the truth, touched the lives of thousands of MCC people. Her contributions to the ministry and life of MCC have been profound. Those with whom she prayed were changed and blessed. Those who heard her sing found joy. Those who heard her preach encountered her remarkable ability to bring the Word to life. Rev. Delores could pierce the veil, bringing messages of healing and comfort to those she surrounded with her strong faith and compassion. She was a foundation for many of us in MCC. Someone with her gifts and character is rare. We have been forever blessed to have had her in our midst."

On her Gospel music and ministry website, Rev. Berry told her own story: "I am Rev. Delores Berry. I am a blessed child of God! I answered the Call to Ministry at the age of 19. I was an Ordained Minister in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. I came out at the age of 24. God called me OUT! I should have come out at the age of 2! I always knew that my soul was a rainbow! It was always clear in my heart that God created me as a Lesbian."

In 1978 she transferred her clergy credentials to MCC and in 1984 she fell in love with Judy Kiser and they were spouses until Judy died. Today, they are reunited.

Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown, Interim Moderator, Metropolitan Community Churches, said, "It was an honor to know Rev. Delores. We both shared a passion for discernment and evangelism. I loved her like so many did because she was always inspiring us. We are so sad, and this is such a great loss, but we knew her well and will heed her urging to continue to sing out the good news of the love of God!"

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson said, "I met Rev. Delores Berry more than 40 years ago, when we were both in our twenties. Delores Berry was an original. She was a gospel artist who

Continued next page>>>

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touched the hearts of all of us in the LGBT community. As an African American MCC lesbian pastor and evangelist, she came out and stayed out with passion and ferocity while her self-reflexive humor was rooted in spiritual wisdom which offered an intuitive, healing presence to thousands of people. She was a bridge between many worlds. For Paula and me, she was part of our dispersed and eclectic family. She loved Judy Kiser, with whom she is now reunited in glory along with her mother Inez."

Rev. Elder Dr. Candace R. Shultis, King of Peace MCC senior pastor, remembered Rev. Delores Berry. "I've known Delores since she and I were both living in Baltimore, Maryland. In those days, Delores had already become clergy in MCC and I was still trying to find my way. She was a counselor to me and sang at my ordination. Over the years, both of us served on the Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee. We always insisted on taking a day of self-care whenever we met, usually in Hollywood, California. On one of those occasions, we took the 'Grave-line' Tour. We were driven all over Hollywood in a converted hearse. I felt sorry for the obviously newly married couple in the back who had to listen to five clergy tell stories of funerals, memorial services, and burials. We laughed until we cried!

"Rev. Delores was justly proud to have a long description of her life and ministry in an encyclopedia of Gospel music. Mostly, I and so many others were blessed every time Delores preached from her heart and experience of God's love; changed the words to some very familiar song so that it fabulously included all of us in the rainbow community; prayed over you for healing; or looked deep into your soul and spoke truth that only you and God could possibly know. When Delores lost her partner, her soulmate, Judy, something in Delores died. She has been yearning to be reunited with her beloved. And now she is. Delores, those of us who have been loved by you and loved you will miss you. But every time I see a rainbow, I will think of you and smile."

Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, Director of MCC's Office of Emerging Ministries, said, "My heart is so heavy. Delores was the first clergy of African descent who I met when I came to MCC 40 years ago. We soon became like family to one another, growing even closer over time. Delores was a powerful prophet with the voice of an archangel. In this moment, all I can say is that I miss my sister and yet am truly glad that she is now both in the arms of Jesus and back at home with Mama and her beloved Judy."

Rev. Brendan Y. Boone, Fourth Pastor; St. John's MCC, Raleigh, North Carolina; Daytona Beach, Florida, said, "From the moment I heard her sing, I knew I was in the right place and she would be instrumental in my MCC journey. Delores P. Berry, or 'Patricia' as Mama Berry called her, became and remained my Spiritual Mother for over 30 years. From preaching my ordination service at MCC-DC and my pastoral installation service at St. John's MCC in Raleigh, and countless revival weekends, Delores was a constant presence in my ministry and my life.

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She loved Jesus, Mama Berry, Judy, and MCC pretty much in that order. She believed in the presence and power of angels and often shared with others what the Spirit was sharing with her to communicate with others. She was always on point even if the recipient of the message was not ready for the message. She was a living angel among us who left us a legacy in word and song we will not forget her. Years ago, she reframed the song, 'Sign Me Up For The Rainbow Jubilee.' We can all find comfort and great JOY in knowing what she is living the Jubilee! I love you Delores . . . I thank God for the gift you were and still are to me."

Rev. Candy Holmes, MCC Program Officer for People of African Descent (PAD), said, "There are no words to describe the feeling I have regarding Delores. She was a friend. She was and is now an angel. She was a lover of people. And as I pause to imagine MCC and the people of African descent family without her physically here, my heart sinks. But I hear Delores saying, 'Don't worry about me, I am singing with the angels. And loving you still.' Thank you, Delores, for sharing your heart and soul with me and so many more. I love you. Your Rainbow Candy."

Rev. Bernie Barbour, MCC Amarillo, said, "Rev. Delores was a good friend. If I were stranded on a desert island, I would want Delores to be with me. She is the one who would say: 'let's pray!' She had an incredible spirit and left herself open for the Spirit to give her a message to the person she was talking to. She was a character; never a dull moment. She will be greatly missed."

Rev. Wanda Floyd, Transitional Pastor, MCC Charlotte, said, "As I began my journey of becoming clergy within MCC, Rev. Delores Berry would often ask when I would be 'stepping out of the boat.' As I reflect on my journey with her, one memory continues to come to mind. In 1991 my partner was killed during a car-bike collision; Rev. Berry visited St. John's MCC, Raleigh, North Carolina, soon after the accident. As she often did, she took my hand to share a divine message. She said I was called to be a 'wounded healer.' As I listened, I did not want to hear the words but they have stuck with me ever since. While in divinity school, I read the book Wounded Healer by Henri Nouwen, and with every turn of the page, I remembered my conversation with Delores. I can honestly say I do minister to others from the place of loss in my soul. I feel honored and blessed to have had her on part of my journey and I am grateful to be counted in the number of people she touched."

The Lay Ministry Team will meet Sunday, August 20, 2017 after the social. Anyone who would like to join this ministry is welcome to attend and explore how you might serve the Lord, and the church family.



The Board of Directors meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 2 PM. The first half hour is reserved for congregational input, All are welcome to attend.

The next meeting is Monday, August 14, 2017.

Continued next page>>>

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Church of Our Savior Wish List

To all those who have already donated articles or funds to rejuvenate our building and grounds, a **Heartfelt Thank You!**

The Following Are Wishes Granted.

New Wi-Fi router
Leaf Blower/Vacuum

Edger
Spade Shovel

Garden hose
Lawn Fertilizer



These Are Our New Wish List Items

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Hose Holder | 5. 10 bags Mulch Red/Cypress | 9. LED Replacement |
| 2. Square Shovel | 6. Five Gallons White | Spotlights for outside, 125 |
| 3. 6 bags of Potting Soil for
the pots out front | Semi-gloss interior latex paint | volts or LED Equivalilant |
| 4. Four bags of Pea Rock
Gravel | 7. Funds to replace plants | 10. Tree & Shrub Fertilizer |
| | 8. Funds to begin trimming
overgrown Ficus & Olive Trees | |

To everyone contemplating participating in our church's rejuvenation, I urge you to do so. The life of the church depends on you, the congregation... the church family. Without your support we will fail or fall short. So this month, pick up a green envelope, and give something extra to revitalize your church. —*Thanks & Blessings, Russell Appollonia*



Are you changing your e-mail address? If you are, don't forget to update your contact info with the church office, and our webmaster at: webmaster@churchofoursaviormcc.org, and note "New E-Mail Address" in the subject line. Please also give us your name.

Here are some useful links we use...

Church Of Our Savior, MCC ~ www.churchofoursaviormcc.org

MCC Denominational Web Site. ~ www.mcccchurch.org

Bible Gateway ~ <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

COMPASS GLCC Gay & Lesbian Community Center PBC ~ <https://www.compassglcc.com>

Out In Scripture Web Site. ~ www.hrc.org/resources/entry/out-in-scripture

The Revised Common Lectionary Web Site. ~ <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Disciples of Christ, Disciples Net Web Site. ~ www.disciplesnet.org

Working Preacher commentaries found at The Text This Week

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/pentecdb.htm>

Church of Our Savior MCC has much to do and the more people who know we are here the better. So please go on line and like our pages and promote them to your friends and family. Thank you. **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/COOSMCC>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/churchofoursaviormccboyntonbeach>



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MICHAEL D. "DANNY" BRIANT

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SAGE

(Senior Action in a Gay Environment)

SAGE of South Florida

PO Box 17516 Oakland Park, FL 33307

SAGE is a non-profit organization of all ages
dedicated to enriching the lives of the GLBT
senior community.

Visit our website: www.sagewebsite.org or

call the SAGE office 954-634-7219

Alternatives/Sage on the Border

welcomes you at the Volen Center in Boca Raton.

A Senior GLBT discussion group

Monday 11am to 1pm.

See Caroline Leto for information
or call her at 561-276-2346

WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

AA Boynton Beach Beginners

Mon. thru Fri. ~ 10:30 a.m.

AA New Life II Mon. thru Fri.~12:15 p.m.

AA New Life I Mon.~7:00 pm MEN Only

CA Women Are Willing Mon~8:30 p.m.
WOMEN Only. Cocaine Anonymous

NA One Promise Wed.~7:00 p.m.

Steerage to the Captain's Table Wed.~9 p.m.

AA Downtown Group Thurs.~ 6:30 p.m.

AA N. Delray Steps & Traditions

Tues. and Thurs.~ 8:30 p.m.

AA Principles in Practice Fri.~7:00 p.m.

AA We Are Not Saints LGBT Sun.~7:00 p.m.

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Remember to keep your
church family in prayer
during the week.

Pastoral Search Committee E-Mail Contact: psc@churchofoursaviormcc.org

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