



A newsletter from Central Texas MCC

May 2017

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THE PASTOR'S PEN

Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) is the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults. Founded in 1978 and headquartered in New York City, SAGE is a national organization that offers supportive services and consumer resources for LGBT older adults and their caregivers, advocates for public policy changes that address the needs of LGBT older people, and provides training for aging providers and LGBT organizations, largely through its National Resource Center on LGBT Aging. With offices in New York City, Washington, DC and Chicago, SAGE coordinates a growing network of 30 local SAGE affiliates in 20 states and the District of Columbia. You can find out more about SAGE by going to <http://sageusa.org/>.

Central Texas MCC leadership is going through a period of discernment about applying to become an affiliate. What activities are supported at affiliates? Discussion groups, social events (card nights, coffee hours, lunch and learn series, etc.), bereavement support, job coaching and employment assistance, legal clinics, health and wellness groups, exercise programs. Each affiliate offers different opportunities, custom-made to fit the community. So how does this sound to you? Please send us your feedback by emailing us at centexmcc@earthlink.net.

In the meantime, be in prayer for Central Texas MCC and its leadership as we seek God's will for our church.

Peace and blessings,
Charley

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The following is a tentative list of upcoming church activities and community events. Contact the church for a confirmation of the calendar.

Weekly Events:

- **Central Texas MCC Worship** (1601 Clay Ave.) on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
- **Live and Let Live AA Group** (4209 N. 27th St.) on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 30 – CJ Myers preaching.

Thursday, May 11 – Book Discussion Group meets at 6:00 p.m. for a sandwich dinner and an informal discussion of "Go Set a Watchman" by Harper Lee.

Sunday, May 14 – Anise Schmidt preaching.

Tuesday, May 16 – LGBT Pride Planning Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the church Social Hall.

Thursday, May 18 – Third Thursday HIV Peer Group. If you are HIV+ or if you are the friend, partner, or family member of someone who is, then join us at 6:00 p.m. for a home-cooked meal and an evening of support and connection

Sunday, May 21 – Monthly Potluck Social after worship. Good food, good fellowship!

Saturday, May 27 – Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser at 5:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. \$10 per plate.

Sunday, May 28 – Resisting Racism Workshop immediately following worship in the Social Hall. Light lunch provided.

BIRTHDAYS

The following people have birthdays this month. If you have corrections or additions to the birthday list, please call the office at 752-5331 or email us at centexmcc@earthlink.net.

Alta Mostyn – May 7

MCC Interim Moderator, Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown – May 8

Beverly Brand – May 10

Daniel Hollingsworth – May 13

Ryan Rolston – May 27

Harold Alexander – May 31

Lay Preachers to Take the Pulpit



Central Texas MCC is blessed to have gifted laity who are willing to take the pulpit when the need arises. While the Pastor is recovering from minor surgery, C.J. Myers will be bringing the message for the first time on this coming Sunday (**Sunday, April 30**), and we hope not the last!

Two weeks later, while the Pastor is taking some time away at a silent retreat for personal spiritual development, Anise Schmidt will be bringing the message on **Sunday, May 14**.

Please plan to join us on both Sundays. Support C.J. and Anise with your prayers. You can always worship God on your own, but you can't be in community! And there's no better community than the folks at Central Texas MCC!

Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction



Thirty-one years ago, a small group of people in Waco, TX, USA obeyed the call of God by starting what would become Central Texas MCC. And so on the weekend of May 27-28, we will be celebrating the Central Texas MCC's 31 years of ministry.

A part of that celebration will take place in the church Social Hall on **Saturday, May 27** with a spaghetti dinner fundraiser and a silent auction.

The suggested donation for the dinner is \$10, with 50% of that donation going toward the cost of sending our Lay Delegate, C.J. Myers, to the MCC Conference for People of African Descent and Advocates in August. Please plan to join us for good food, good times, and good fellowship!

Resisting Racism



On **Sunday, May 28**, we will resume our monthly after-worship Resisting Racism Workshop. This curriculum was developed to create a space for white people interested in being effective allies with people of color in the work of dismantling racism and undoing white privilege. This is a process designed to support people wherever they are on their journey. You don't need to have attended previous sessions in order to attend this one. A light lunch will be provided.

Global Justice Institute Easter Offering



Mtito Andei, Kenya (photo by S. Kimer)

Throughout the seven weeks of Eastertide (April 16-May 28), you will notice Easter lilies decorating our church sanctuary. Your donations have made that possible. Not only

are the lilies in honor and in memory of loved ones, but the proceeds from those lilies are making a difference in other parts of the world! This year's Easter Offering donation, totaling \$265, will go toward supporting the work of the Global Justice Institute.

Last year, your generous Easter Offerings empowered the Global Justice Institute to live into their mission and expand work in places all over the world such as:

- Brazil, by providing funding to renovate Casa Misao, which enables the shelter to qualify for government funding
- Cuba, by partnering to raise funds for a space in Matanzas that will serve as a community center; partnering with CENESEX to support the first MCC service in Havana
- Honduras, by providing cell phone access and security vests, as well as basic necessities for imprisoned transgender people
- Kenya, by partnering to run water to land in Mtito Andei, build a house and a classroom, fund a retreat for 10 gay pastors, provide seeds for our 1st crop on the land, and host the first meeting for sex workers on being safe and income alternatives

The Global Justice Institute's 2017 Goals Include:

- Assisting activists in obtaining marriage equality in Taiwan
- Strengthening and expanding programming reach at satellite location in Kenya and providing safe space for LGBT outcasts onsite in Kenya
- Continuing collaboration with HIV/AIDS activists in Cuba and partnering on shared human rights projects with CENESEX
- Expanding partnerships between local MCCs and GJI projects, including preparing local activists from Honduras to represent GJI at the upcoming meeting of the Organization of American States in the Dominican Republic

Thank you for doing your part to help make this possible!

L.E.A.D. Retreat



Central Texas MCC is so very proud that our Lay Delegate, C.J. Myers, was chosen as one of scholarship recipients to participate in this year's L.E.A.D (Laity Empowered for Active Discipleship) Retreat, which took place in Austin, TX, USA. The scholarship paid for \$950 of the cost retreat registration and online courses that must be completed.

Rev. Karen Thompson of MCC Austin has noted, "MCC Austin has benefited greatly from the Office of Formation and Leadership Development's LEAD program. Because of participation in and completion of the LEAD program by several of our lay leaders, our ministries have grown and the spirituality of our congregation has deepened."

Central Texas MCC has already benefited from some of the suggestions, ideas, and enthusiasm that has come from C.J. following the retreat. And we look forward to a future of more!

PAD Conference`



MCC Conference for People of African Descent Friends & Advocates

3-5 August 2017
Crowne Plaza
200 N. 4th Street
St. Louis, Missouri

www.PADconference.MCCchurch.org



Join others for the 9th MCC People of African Descent, Friends and Advocates Conference (PAD), in St. Louis! At the PAD Conference, you will share in the richness of African American culture, lift your heart in powerful worship and explore what it means to be Grounded in Love. **The MCC PAD Conference really is a welcoming space to everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, or nationality.**

This year's theme **GROUNDED IN LOVE** reflects the commitment to stand together and firmly upon the foundation of God's love for us – a love that compels us to live with a holy boldness, honors who we are, where we have come from, and that frees us to embrace the deeper places God is calling us to go.

So plan to come, hear, and enjoy all that is the MCC PAD Conference! And take home tools and insights that will make a difference for you, your family, your church, and your communities.

Learn more by about MCC's PAD Conference by going to <http://mccchurch.org/event/2017-mcc-conference-for-people-of-african-descent-friends-and-advocates/>

Learn more about the work of Central Texas MCC online at www.centexmcc.com

**Central Texas MCC from the Heart
Rev. Charley Garrison, Pastor
P.O. Box 1722
Waco, TX 76703
Phone: 254-752-5331**