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## ***THE PASTOR'S PEN***

Today, more than ever before, the LGBTQ community, women, people of color, immigrants, non-Christian religions, and the millions who will die without affordable healthcare feel as if they are under attack. And quite frankly, they are.

I think there are several things we all can do to empower ourselves during these troubled times. Last month, I highlighted prayer as the first tool of empowerment. This month, I want to focus on action.

American folk singer, songwriter, musician, and activist, Joan Baez, said, "Action is the antidote to despair." I believe that's true. Here are some more quotes that support her perspective:

- "The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing." (Albert Einstein)
- "He who does not oppose evil, commands it to be done." (Leonardo Da Vinci)
- "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." (Desmond Tutu)
- "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest it." (Elie Wiesel)
- "I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." (Lily Tomlin)

If you believe an organization is making a difference, then support that organization with your finances and your volunteerism. All the better, if your church is that organization!

Get on the email list of organizations that you believe in: Texas Freedom Network, Equality Texas, ACLU of Texas. When those organizations ask you to contact your representative about a particular issue, do it!

Get involved with local organizations that are making a difference, such as Greater Waco Interfaith Conference, CROP Hunger Walk, and Community Race Relations Coalition. And getting involved means attending their events!

You're not going to feel better by sitting around, wringing your hands, and scrolling through the fear-based memes on Facebook. You will feel better, you will transform yourself, when you decide to join others in making a change for a better world. So just do it!

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. 27<sup>th</sup> St.) on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, August 29 – LGBT Pride Planning Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. in the church Social Hall.

**Saturday, September 2 – Women’s HIV Support Group.** If you are an HIV+ woman, then join others for a support group followed by a home-cooked meal.

**Sunday, September 3 – Restaurant Sunday.** Join us after worship for lunch at a local restaurant.

**Friday, September 8 – Book Discussion Group** meets at 3:30 p.m. at Panera Bread for an informal discussion of “Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore” by Robin Sloan.

**Sunday, September 10 – Monthly Potluck Social** after worship. Good food, good fellowship!

**Sunday, September 10 – Guest Preacher.** Lay leader, Anise Schmidt, will bring the message!

**Tuesday, September 12 – LGBT Pride Planning Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. in the church Social Hall.

**Tuesday, September 12 through Wednesday September 13 – Nevertheless, She Preached.** A dynamic grassroots event in Waco, Texas, celebrating women’s voices in the pulpit. \$25 registration

**Sunday, September 17 – New Members Class, Part 1.** If you are interested in learning more about MCC and/or are thinking about becoming a member of our church, then join the Pastor after worship for a sandwich lunch and the first of a two-part conversation about MCC.

**Tuesday, September 19 – LGBT Pride Planning Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. in the church Social Hall.

**Thursday, September 21 through Saturday, September 23 – Texas/New Mexico MCC Network Gathering** hosted by Trinity MCC in Arlington, TX. \$40 registration.

**Sunday, September 24 – New Members Class, Part 2.** If you are interested in learning more about MCC and/or are thinking about becoming a member of our church, then join the Pastor after worship for a sandwich lunch and the second of a two-part conversation about MCC.

## **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](mailto:centexmcc@earthlink.net).*

**Bill Mostyn – September 8**

**Ernest Franklin – September 9**

**Charley Garrison – September 28**

## Restaurant Sunday



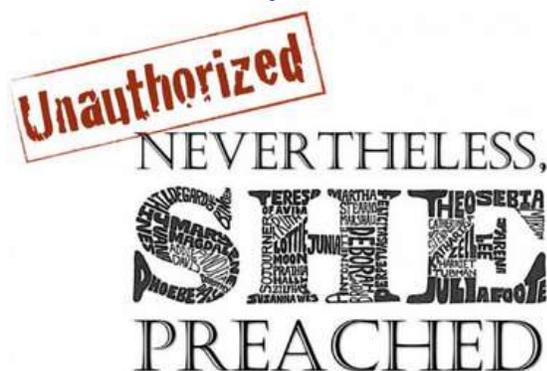
Stick around after worship on **Sunday, September 3** for lunch with friends! The group picks a local restaurant, and then everyone heads over for table-time fellowship!

## Guest Preacher



Join us on **Sunday, September 10** for some good preaching! Lay leader, Anise Schmidt, will bring the message. Come and be blessed!

## Nevertheless, She Preached



*Unauthorized: Nevertheless She Preached* is a dynamic grassroots event in Waco, Texas, celebrating women's voices in the pulpit. After centuries of underrepresentation and misrepresentation in our pulpits, churches, denominational leadership, and seminaries, we who have so often been silenced stand together to celebrate our voices. In the spirit of the brave women who have gone before us, we add our voices to theirs—in praise, in partnership, in proclamation, and in protest.

We hope you can join us for this two day event, located at University Baptist Church on Dutton Ave, beginning on **Tuesday, September 12** at 6:00pm, and continuing through 9:00pm on **Wednesday, September 13**. Registration is \$25 and tickets can be obtained at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unauthorized-nevertheless-she-preached-tickets-36783762223>.

Featured proclaimers include: Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, Dr. Beverly Gaventa, Rev. Emmy Kegler, Rev. Dr. Irie Session, Rev. Allyson Dylan Robinson, Rev. Connie Jackson, Rev. Dr. Courtney Pace, and Rev. Jewel London! Workshops led by Jennifer Knapp, Emma Wood, Debra Bell, and others.

Out lesbian singer-musician, Jennifer Knapp, will perform on Wednesday evening from 7:00pm until 9:00pm at the Hippodrome. Concert admission is included in the registration.

## Texas/New Mexico MCC Network Gathering



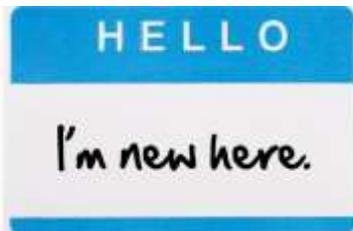
You are invited to the upcoming Network Gathering, **Thursday, September 21 through Saturday, September 23** at Trinity MCCC in Arlington, TX. It's a wonderful opportunity to get together for some great worship, workshops, fellowship, and food, of course!

Here are some of the great presentations lined up:

- Interim Moderator Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown will be on hand to dialogue about the future of MCC.
- Rev. Elder Tony Freeman will be there to discuss the ongoing (re)Vitalization initiative within the denomination.
- Rev. Dr. Neil Cazares-Thomas, pastor of the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, will be sharing his thoughts on dealing with division within the church.
- Other clergy and laity from within the network will be leading informative presentations/discussions.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with colleagues within our area, re-connect with old friends, and make some new ones. Registration is just \$40!

## New Members Class



Do you want to know about Central Texas MCC and Metropolitan Community Churches? Would you like a refresher on who we are and what we are about? Are you interested in becoming a member? Then join Pastor Charley for after-worship conversations in the Social Hall for Parts 1 and 2, on **Sundays, September 17 and 24**, respectively. A sandwich lunch will be available for anyone who attends.

Learn more about the work of Central Texas MCC online at [www.centexmcc.com](http://www.centexmcc.com)

**Central Texas MCC from the Heart**  
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