



In this Issue:

- **THE PASTOR'S PEN**
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**
- **BIRTHDAYS**
- **Teach the Truth Rally**
- **Out on the Brazos Pride Volunteer Meeting**
- **Information Forum**
- **MCC Texas/New Mexico Network Gathering**

THE PASTOR'S PEN

I ask for your prayers on behalf of our denomination. It is experiencing financial challenges. And as always seems to happen in situations such like this, there are a lot people with fingers pointing to what they see as the root source of our financial problems. Additionally, opinions differ as to what the solution is. Some ways Interim Moderator Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown and the MCC Governing Board have dealt with the problem is to reduce programming, staff, and salaries. We have also been asked to decide how much we think local churches should be assessed.

Currently, 11.5% of the income of our local church goes to our denomination to fund salaries and programs. The denomination's goal is to reduce that amount by 0.5% each year until we are only being assessed 10%. But there are exemptions from that assessment. Those exemptions include any income that is set aside for (a.) building improvement, (b.) financial assistance for delegates to attend General Conferences and Network Gatherings, and (c.) emergency assistance for people in need. We have been blessed that we have always been able to pay our assessments on time. That hasn't been the case for a number of other MCC churches.

I and Carrell Myers, your Lay Delegate, have recently been given a survey to see which we would prefer for the future. Would we prefer to pay 10% assessments to the denomination, with the same exemptions that already exist? Or would we prefer to pay 8% assessments to the denomination, with no exemptions. For many churches, it works out to be about the same amount. But for our church the 8% with no assessments is significantly lower.

Based on the results of that survey, we will then be asked to vote either "yes" or "no" for the survey option that most people favor. If the majority of churches vote "yes," then we will be assessed that new amount (either 10% with current exemptions or 8% with no exemptions), instead of the current 11.5%. If the majority of churches vote "no," then we will continue with the current 11.5% assessment rate.

After discussion at the last Board of Directors Meeting, I and your Board of Directors are in agreement as to how I and your Lay Delegate will vote. For the survey, I chose the 10%. But when the time comes to vote "yes" or "no," both I and your Lay Delegate intend to vote "no," in order to retain the current 11.5% assessment rate.

No doubt, you are asking "Why?" After all, if we voted for lower assessments, that's money that we could use right here at our own church. Our church has had financial challenges in the past. And regardless of how we got there, the solution for getting out of the difficulty was never to give less. Once, maybe twice, I made the difficult request to ask people to give more if they believed in what we are doing in our community. You see, I believe in the vision that

God gave to Troy Perry 50 years ago with the founding of MCC. And I believe there is still unfinished business for MCC churches around the globe. But I don't believe the solution to our denomination's financial challenges is for our church to be less generous. If anything, it is to be more generous.

I am grateful to everyone who makes it possible for our church to give the full 11.5% assessment to our denomination. Your generosity is cherished! As I said, all churches aren't as fortunate as we are. And so I ask for your prayers on behalf of those churches, as well as on behalf our denomination's leadership.

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.

Saturday, September 1 – Women's HIV Support Group. If you are an HIV+ woman who is looking for support, then join others who meet at 11AM and conclude with a home-cooked lunch.

Sunday, September 2 – Accessibility Sunday. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Wednesday, September 5 – Pride Planning Meeting for October's Out on the Brazos Pride Event will take at 6:30PM in the Social Hall

Sunday, September 9 – Potluck Social immediately after worship in the Social Hall. Good food, good fellowship!

Thursday, September 20 – HIV Support Group at 6PM in the Social Hall begins with a home-cooked meal and continues with connection and conversation.

Saturday, September 15 – Court Show in the church Social Hall at 7PM benefiting the church and the Red Door Pantry.

Sunday, September 16 – Accessibility Sunday. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Sunday, September 23 – Information Forum (Part 1). If you are interested in becoming a member of our church, or if you would just like information about who we are and what we're about, then stick around after worship for a light lunch and the first part of a two-part information forum facilitated by the Pastor.

Sunday, September 30 – Information Forum (Part 2). If you are interested in becoming a member of our church, or if you would just like information about who we are and what we're about, then stick around after worship for a light lunch and the second part of a two-part information forum facilitated by the Pastor.

BIRTHDAYS

The following people, who join us for worship, 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 centxmcc@earthlink.net.

Sam Talley – September 2
Bill Mostyn – September 8
Ernest Franklin – September 9
Charley Garrison – September 28

Teach the Truth Rally



Save this date: **Tuesday, September 11**, from 10-11 a.m. That's when Texas Freedom Network (TFN) will be outside the State Board of Education (SBOE) building (William B. Travis Building located at 1701 N. Congress Ave. in Austin, TX) for the Teach the Truth Rally as the board considers revising our state's social studies standards.

The SBOE made a mess of things in 2010 when board members decided they knew better than scholars and injected their personal political beliefs into the standards. The result: a slew of distortions, including that slavery was not the leading cause of the Civil War. Incredibly, the SBOE also made it seem like the biblical figure Moses was so influential on American government that it's almost as if he was a Founding Father.

Now is your chance to get these and other major errors corrected in the standards. So please join TFN at the SBOE hearing to demand board members clean up some of its mess. If you can't make it in person, send the SBOE a message by **adding your name to the Teach The Truth petition**.

Out on the Brazos Pride Volunteer Meeting



This year's LGBT Pride Festival is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever before! But we need your help to make it happen. If you would like to volunteer for the Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 13, then join others at the Central Library (1717 Austin Ave.) on **Wednesday, September 19**, 6:30-8:30PM to find out how you can help.

Information Forum



If you would like to become a member of Central Texas MCC, or if you would just like to learn more about who we are and what we are about, then stick around after worship on **Sunday, September 23** and **Sunday, September 30** for a light lunch and Parts 1 and 2 of an information forum facilitated by the Pastor.

MCC Texas/New Mexico Network Gathering



Connect with folks from other local MCCs **Thursday, September 27 through Saturday, September 29** for a Network Gathering at Wichita Falls MCC. A \$40 registration covers dinner on Thursday and breakfast and lunch each day. The agenda will include worship, listening circles, guided meditation, active shooter training, workshops, plenary, and more! Check out the Facebook event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2053664524900753/> or contact CJ Myers at carrellm1@yahoo.com for more information.