

# THE CHANNEL

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**MCC**  
SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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## Change for the Future

The Capital Campaign Committee is scheduled for its next meeting on February 10, 2016, at 3 P.M. at SJAMCC. The committee will be reviewing the plans for 2016, and begin working on the details of the three potential fund raising projects discussed in our last meeting. All attendees of SJAMCC are welcome to attend this meeting.

**Change for the Future Contest** -In our November meeting, we decided to make a change that encourages participation by more people, and at the same time simplifies the process of selection of the winner. It also allows us to determine a winner much sooner, thus providing the winner their prize much sooner.

On December 27, 2015, we started using the double tickets that have been used in other events. When the person brings their can to the table, we will provide them with a ticket, which has two parts. They will put their name & telephone number on the back of the one ticket, and deposit it in the container we will have at the table. The other part will be retained for the drawing.

The Sunday following the collection, which in this case will be April 3, 2016, we will pull a ticket out of the container, which will be the winner of the prize. The person will not have to be present to win. Since we are already two (2) collections into this six (6) month period, everyone will have four (4) opportunities to get a ticket to put in the drawing. From this point forward, each person will have the opportunity to obtain six (6) tickets to enter in the drawing.

**Fund raising in 2016** - In our November meeting we discussed several ways to possibly raise funds, beyond the current programs we have running: Change for the Future & Buy a Brick. There are currently three main things we feel we could possibly do in 2016. However, we are not going to reveal them at this time. We need to do more work on the details, before announcing exactly what we will be doing.

We still have the "Buy a Brick" program, and the "Change for the Future" programs going, and will continue them for as long as they are effective. Please, keep these in your minds, and do what you can to support these programs.

If you have an idea for a fund raiser, please let any of the committee members know about it, or better yet, attend our meetings and tell all of us what you think is a good idea.

Please, continue to support us as we do God's work, which includes the paying off the mortgage on our building.

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## PASTOR'S PEN

### NEW YEAR NEW OPPORTUNITIES

So many things are online now. Banking is online. Amazon sells just about everything and delivers it within two days. I even order my deli meats from Publix online so it is ready when I get there. I am taking a driving course online to reduce my car insurance. Of course spirituality and religious education is right there in the mix.



In case you haven't heard, MCC has SSOL. Sacred Space Online Learning (or SSOL) is an online learning center dedicated to providing a wide range of spiritual, religious, and faith-based resources in the form of online classes, live webinars, on-demand webinars or lectures, online book studies, and virtual retreats.



The web address is <http://www.sacredspaceonlinelearning.com/>

Conceived by the Office of Formation and Leadership Development (OFLD) of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), Sacred Space Online Learning is a welcoming place for anyone who is seeking to learn, teach, ponder, consider, create, and wonder. The materials found within SSOL come from a variety of spiritual, religious and faith-based organizations. Many of these online offerings are open to a wide range of participants and each of them offers a unique perspective on various topics.

Maybe you would want to check out the resources for Lent and design your own Spiritual Practice Program. You can do this on your schedule, even in your PJ's.

Pastor Steve Filizzi



## FOOD PANTRY

Well, another year has come and gone for Dean's Food Pantry. In 2015 we handed out a total of 1067 bags of food for those in need. Although this was a decrease from the over 1200 in 2014 we still helped many families in our local area.

There are many church family members whom we do wish to send out a very much "THANK YOU" for all of their donations over the year. All of you know who you are so it would be improper to single out anyone in particular. Please be assured that you are all appreciated. Outside appreciation does go to the Office Pub and Rascals. Both these establishments have been a very good supporter of Dean's Food Pantry and we hope to continue working with them in the future.

We hope that we can continue to keep the pantry striving and providing our ministry in the way we have always done. Here's hoping Dean and Ron are looking down on us for another good year.

If you are wondering what food items to donate here is a list:

- Pinto Beans 16 ounce bag
- Macaroni and Cheese 7.25 box
- Jiffy Mix 8.5 ounce box
- Pasta Sauce 24 ounce can
- Spaghetti 16 ounce box
- Vegetables 14.5 ounce can
- Corn Flakes 18 ounce box
- Fruit Cups



Thanks again from the food pantry volunteers.....

Jerry & Richard.....Jerry & Carol

## CARRIBEAN CRUISE

Ray & I just returned from a great 10 day Caribbean cruise on a Royal Caribbean cruise lines ship. Our travel agent put this trip together, something she does in January of each year. This was her 16<sup>th</sup> annual cruise, and we are already signed up for number 17, for next January.

We left from our communities' clubhouse, via motor coach, headed for the pier in Ft Lauderdale, at 10 A.M. Two buses left from our club house and two others left from two other local communities. We arrived at the pier at about 1:15 P.M., after a trip across "Alligator Alley", with a short stop at a rest area.

As soon as we arrived at the pier, the luggage was unloaded, including my "Go Go" scooter, and the boarding process started. It moved along very quickly, and we were on board the ship by 2 P.M. Once onboard, however, things started to get a bit crazy! With all the passengers boarding at about the same time, it was a bit unnerving.

There were only two banks of elevators, one mid-ship and one aft (rear). This issue was further compounded by the large number of seniors who had walkers, wheelchairs, and scooters!! There were so many of them, we were not sure if we were on a cruise in a rehab center, or in an assisted living facility!!

On the brighter side, we had wonderful weather. It was around 82 degrees the entire time we were in the Caribbean area. We visited five islands, starting with Tortola, B.V.I., then on to Basseterre, St. Kitts & Nevis, Roseau, Dominica, St. Johns, Antigua, and finally to Philipsburg, St. Maarten. It was our first time to Tortola, St. Kitts & Nevis, as well as St. Johns. Visiting a new place is always more exciting, as one never knows what one will find there.

We also made some new friends, and enjoyed the company of current friends who went with us. We also found that the vast majority of the crew members were extremely friendly and willing to do almost anything to make the cruise a memorable experience.

Once back in Ft. Lauderdale, arriving at about 6:30 A.M., we found the weather to be somewhat different. It was pretty cold (by Floridian standards at least) as we disembarked from our ship. Once off, we found our bus and boarded for the ride across "Alligator Alley", back to our clubhouse.

Wayne Green

## DEACONS CORNER

John 4:13-14

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."

As Dave Mueller reached down and turned the handle, water rushed from the spigot into a blue bucket. Around him people applauded. They celebrated as they saw fresh, clean water flowing in their community for the first time. Having a clean source of water was about to change the lives of this group of people in Kenya.

Dave and his wife, Joy, work hard to meet people's needs by bringing them water. But they don't stop with H<sub>2</sub>O. As they help bring people clean water, they also tell them about Jesus Christ.

Two thousand years ago, a man named Jesus stood at a Samaritan well and talked with a woman who was there to get clean drinking water for her physical health. But Jesus told her that what she needed even more than that was living water for her spiritual health.

As history has marched on and humanity has become more sophisticated, life still filters down to two truths: Without clean water, we will die. More important, without Jesus Christ, the source of living water, we are already dead in our sins.

Water is essential to our existence—both physically with H<sub>2</sub>O and spiritually with Jesus. Have you tasted of the water of life that Jesus, the Savior, provides?

Thank You, Jesus, for being our living water. Thank You for Your willingness to die on the cross and for Your power to rise from the dead in order to provide us that water.

Jonathan Hollander

Juan 4:13-14

... el que bebiere del agua que yo le daré, no tendrá sed jamás...

Cuando Dave Mueller extendió su brazo y giró la llave, el agua comenzó a fluir de la tubería a un balde azul. A su alrededor, la gente aplaudía celebrando que el agua fresca y limpia llegaba por primera vez a su comunidad. Tener una fuente de agua potable le cambiaría la vida a este grupo de kenianos.

Dave y su esposa trabajan arduamente para suplir las necesidades de la gente con la provisión de agua. Sin embargo, no solo se ocupan del H<sub>2</sub>O, sino que también le hablan de Jesucristo.

Hace 2.000 años, un hombre llamado Jesús se detuvo junto a un pozo en Samaria y habló con una mujer que había ido a ese lugar a buscar agua para saciar su sed física, pero el Señor le dijo que lo que ella necesitaba aún más era agua viva para su salud espiritual.

La historia ha avanzado y la humanidad se ha vuelto más sofisticada, pero la vida sigue dependiendo de la misma verdad: sin agua potable, morimos. Pero lo más importante es que, sin Jesucristo, la fuente de agua viva, estamos muertos en nuestros pecados.

El agua es esencial para la vida: en el aspecto físico, con el H<sub>2</sub>O; en el espiritual, con Cristo. ¿Ya has probado el agua viva que provee Jesús, el Salvador?

Señor, gracias por morir por nosotros en la cruz y resucitar para satisfacer nuestra sed espiritual y darnos vida.

Jonathan Hollander



## EASTER COOKIES

### To be made the evening before Easter

1 cup whole pecans, 1 tsp vinegar, 3 eggs whites, pinch of salt, 1 cup sugar (do not substitute anything)

Gather together A zipper baggie, wooden spoon, wax paper, masking tape, and a Bible.

Preheat oven to 300 (this is important! Don't wait until you are halfway done with the recipe to do this.)

Place pecans in zipper baggie and beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. After Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. - **Read John 19:1-3**

Put vinegar into a mixing bowl. When Jesus was thirsty on the cross He was given vinegar to drink. - **John 19:28-30.**

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Jesus gave His life to give us life. **John 10:10-11**

Sprinkle salt into the bowl. This represents the salty tears shed by Jesus followers, and the bitterness of our own sin.— **Luke 23:27**

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing!

Add 1 cup sugar. The sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us and died for our sins. He wants us to know and belong to Him. **Psalms 34:8 and John 3:16**

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12-15 minutes until stiff peaks form. The color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. - **Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3**

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid **Matt 27:57-60**

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Use a piece of masking tape to seal the oven door. **Matt 27:65-66**

**GO TO BED!** You may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight but Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. **John 16:20 & 22**

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are Hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read **Matt 28:1-9**

Happy Easter everyone!!! He is risen !!! He is risen indeed.

(I have had this in my files since 2004. Author is unknown. I thought it would make a good article for our Channel. Originally it was printed in a text for small children . This was changed slightly to speak to adults.)

Beverley MacNeill



## William Pomeroy aka: "Mr. Bill"

Former Director of Music and Audio-Visual Ministries at First United Methodist Church of Durand.

Growing up in the seventies, in the mid-west, the youngest of four, the smallest, and usually last in line, I wanted to command the **King of Instruments**. The organ didn't care that I was only 55" tall and 90 pounds. It would respond to my every command.

Beginning at the age of 8, I found playing for church was a great way to serve my community, but was only one day a week. At the request of a relative, I started playing in restaurants and roller rinks and theatres as a teenager. Through college I played for the Dean's Luncheon, Garden Parties, an occasional baseball game and 4 seasons of hockey. This enabled me the opportunity to play almost every day of the week and every kind of music. In college I studied Sacred Music Performance with Ray Ferguson in Detroit, Theatre Organ with Mike Dunne in Flint, and Harold DeCou in Chicago later continuing organ study with Roger Matthies and Mano Hardies in Lansing.

I like the idea I have the best of both worlds; Classical and Theatre. I like to blend the two together and have entertained audiences for over 40 years and show that there does not have to be a funeral every time you "start" an organ blower.

It is my pleasure to share my talents with such a loving and open church. My husband Roger Matthies of 33 years, and I will enjoy sharing our gifts with you to the glory of God.

Bill Pomeroy



## ...And The Nominees Are:

On January 27, 2016, the Moderator Nominating Committee announced their selections For the Election of The Moderator for Metropolitan Community Churches. The MNC has selected 4 of the 10 diverse and highly qualified candidates, of those previously identified. The MNC has completed yet another task on God's list of "things to do" in order to facilitate our next Moderator.

The press release states, "We are pleased to introduce the MCC Moderator candidates. We believe that each candidate embodies the required characteristics for Moderator, brings a unique vision for the future of MCC, and will meet the opportunities and challenges facing MCC with faith, boldness, and courage."

Rev. Elder Diane Fisher - "We are at a critical time in our history with a decision to make. Will we continue our momentum towards becoming a more mainline denomination, or will we continue to work and exist in the margins?"

View Candidate Video: <https://vimeo.com/152861756>

Rev. Elder Darlene Garner - "This is a critical time in MCC's history. Many people are asking, 'Who is God calling MCC to be now?' Without abandoning our past, we are seeking to know: What is the next direction of MCC?"

View Candidate Video: <https://vimeo.com/152862355>

Rev. Elder Héctor Gutiérrez - "MCC is still relevant in many ways, even though we are seeing other churches become more inclusive. What does the practice and understanding of radical inclusion mean within the scope of MCC and the community?"

View Candidate Video: <https://vimeo.com/152862813>

Rev. Dr. Irene Laudeman - "The Holy Spirit is asking more of us. How are we going to answer this expanded call and journey on a new path in order to re-emerge as the vibrant church the Holy Spirit needs MCC to be in the 21st century?"

View Candidate Video: <https://vimeo.com/152863179>

Assignment #1 - Please go online and take some time to review each candidate's vision for the future of our worldwide denomination. Assignment #2 - Please share with me your thoughts and concerns over the next weeks and months as we approach MCC General Conference XXVI - emerge, so that I am able to best represent SJAMCC! Sincerely Jack Lewis and Bruce Mericle, Lay Delegates; Glenda Enterline, Lay Delegate Alternate

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



One of my fondest childhood memories of Christmas in Michigan was visiting the Christmas displays at the Ford Motor Company Rotunda in Dearborn. The Ford Rotunda was a glorious "birthday cake" of a building originally built for the 1934 Chicago World's Fair. It was dismantled after the fair and rebuilt as a Visitor's Center for the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, just west of the city of Detroit.

The main hall of the Rotunda featured a huge Christmas tree surrounded by brand new shiny Ford vehicles, but the main attraction was an elaborate Santa's village, with hundreds of animated characters in a variety of settings. Millions of people would visit the Ford Rotunda over the years, but on November 9, 1962, in just a matter of hours, fire destroyed the building and an icon was lost. Ford Motor Company never rebuilt the Rotunda, nor ever had the animated displays recreated. Pictures of the fire are still vivid in my mind's eye, along with memories of the awesome displays that astounded a young boy.

Rekindling these memories is a new book I am reading, *Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story* by David Maraniss. The book focuses on themes related to Detroit's greatness—automobile manufacturing, the labor movement, the civil rights movement, and Motown, and the city's eventual decline. The book is set in the early 1960s when Detroit was at its peak and the opening chapter relates the story of the Ford Rotunda fire, which I, like the author, point to as a symbol of the beginning of the end of a once great city.

A Chrysler commercial, "Imported from Detroit," featuring Eminem, first broadcast during the Super Bowl in 2011, spurred the author to write a book about Detroit. I, too, watched that commercial and felt pride for what Detroit stood for. I have been back to visit since and Detroit is coming back, maybe not to its former glory, but a city being reborn based on grit, determination, and faith.

These melt-in-your-mouth shortbread cookies are my twist on the classic jam thumbprints that are a staple of Christmas cookie baking memories. Orange marmalade and fresh rosemary make them a new Florida favorite!

I submitted this recipe to the *Fort Myers-News Press* Holiday Cookie Contest for 2015 and it won first place.



Photo from the Fort Myers News-Press, 23 Dec 2015.

### Florida's Finest Orange Marmalade Thumbprints with Fresh Rosemary

#### Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 1/2 teaspoons fresh rosemary, minced
- 1/4 cup orange marmalade
- 1 egg white, beaten
- 1 cup sliced almonds, roughly chopped
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar

In a small bowl stir together flour, cornstarch, and salt; set aside.

Beat butter until fluffy. Add 1/2 cup powdered sugar, minced rosemary and almond extract. Beat until combined.

Stir in flour until just combined.

Wrap dough in plastic wrap and chill for about an hour.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Line cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Shape dough into 1-inch balls.

Dip into beaten egg white.

Roll ball in chopped almonds.

Indent each cookie with thumb or back of 1/2 inch measuring spoon.

Spoon about 1/2 teaspoon marmalade into center of each cookie.

Arrange 2 inches apart on cookie sheet.

Bake about 14-17 minutes or until edges are lightly golden.

Cool on rack. When completely cool, sift powdered sugar lightly over cookies.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

--in love and service,

Adam



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## Depository or Garage

All summer long, I had been planning to clean out and organize the garage when the weather was more conducive to spending hours out there and in the driveway. As summer passed and the Holidays drew near, our warm weather didn't subside! So I massaged the clutter until after the Christmas decorations were taken down and stored. Now is the perfect time to move things out, sort things into keep, donate, and trash piles however, there's summer like wind and rain! I'm beginning to believe that my garage is not meant for my car at all, but simply as a catch all and storage space that mocks it's very definition:

garage

gə' rāZH, gə' rāj/

Noun

“a building or shed for housing a motor vehicle or vehicles”

In today's real estate market, A Buyer wants to be able to imagine their car parked in their new, neat, clean, garage. They want to be able to see the hot water heater and breaker box. They're overcome with joy with a “beefy” garage door built to withstand heavy winds, and a “pretty” epoxy painted floor with the little sprinkles in the paint. A Buyer ALWAYS wants to walk out the side “pedestrian - access” door to check out the Air Conditioning Unit.

Whether you plan to sell your home in the near future or not, If your garage needs some help, and you're unsure where to start, please Access Jack for additional information regarding Buyers expectations, and how to achieve that “model home” garage at your home.

***Please AccessJack at (239)839-5927***

Please visit me online anytime at [www.accessjack.com](http://www.accessjack.com)

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