

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH BRISBANE (MCC)

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2007

FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTORS PEN

We have just finished Christmas and New Year. I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing time. We now start back into the next year. With a new Board, and hopefully some creative ideas expect some changes. My first homily for the year was about contemplating new ideas. This does not mean that it is necessary to take them on board, but I feel it is important to think about them. It is also advantageous to be aware of the ideas that are being put forward. This is so that if anyone starts talking about these ideas you are aware of them and can interact confidently.

There has been a new book given to the church called "The God Symposium".. It is a thriller with the main idea being a symposium with the leading mathematicians, scientists, and theologians contributing to the subject "Is there a God". It also has a nun who has researched the idea of Jesus being homosexual. All in all I would give it top rating as a book to be read.

Iris Saggars

PFLAG

PFlag Brisbane meet on the first Saturday of each month 1-30pm at QAHC 30 Helen St Newstead> PFlag stands for parents and friends of gays and lesbians (and of course bi-sexuals, transgender, intersex, queer and questioning). PFlag are a strong source of support for parents and others when their gay, lesbian, bi and tranny children 'come-out' and PFlag Brisbane also do much to change community attitudes to glbtqq people. We have in our library their latest resource 'Long Reach for Out Reach'.

The Convenor of PFlag Brisbane is Shelley Argent and she can be contacted on 3017 1739 or the PFlag helpline number of 0400 767 832

Australia Day Picnic

On Australia Day (26th January) we will be having a picnic at Captain Burke Park - under the Story Bridge at Kangaroo Point. This will begin at 11am and is a BYO everything picnic/BBQ. Look for the Rainbow Flag and fellow MCCers.

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From the Editor:

- If you have anything to say or share with the rest of the congregation, please email me at scdebeer@hotmail.com and I will gladly include it in the next newsletter.
- Also inform me of any speakers or events you know about that we can all attend and benefit from.
- Until next time, God Bless
Susan

MATTERS OF THE CHURCH

Rosters

At MCC Brisbane we have a roster system for many of the tasks involved in running a service. Some of the tasks you could go on roster to do are greeters, readers, acolyte, musicians, preparing supper and leading prayers. Some people are also invited by the pastors to preach, give the congregational story and serve communion.

The pastors are always looking to learn the talents of people in the church in order to empower them to use these gifts in minis-

try within MCC Brisbane. If you believe you have gifts we can use here at MCC please make sure the pastors know about them.

Pastors Away

Anne and Iris will be having 10 days holiday in February. We will be away from the 13th February to the 23rd February. Should the need arise you could contact any member of the BOD as the first port of call and if need be they will contact the pastors

Zero Tolerance Policy

MCC Churches have zero tolerance for sexual harassment or predatory behaviour of any kind. At MCC Brisbane we want all people to feel safe, and we will do all in our power to see that no sexual harassment, bullying or predatory behaviour happens at any church function. We have a risk management policy which covers this and other matters and is available for perusal before and after church - just ask the greeters to show it to you. Please feel free to speak with the pastors or any member of the BOD should you experience sexual harassment, bullying or predatory behaviour at any church function.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

REV IVOR HOLMANS

Ivor is currently undergoing more chemotherapy - please keep both him and Adrian in your prayers. Best to speak with Adrian first before even thinking about visiting - Ivor tires very easily

James 5: 14—15

“When I am sick, I will call the elders of the church to pray over me and anoint me with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make me well; the Lord will raise me up”

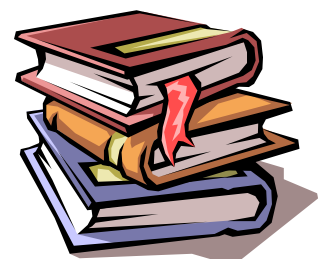
“I cry out to the Lord and He heals me” Psalm 30:2

LIBRARY

The church has a library of books which are predominantly for and/or about glbtqi people - these include male and female fiction, studies and information on sexuality issues, some good literature on sexuality/spirituality and on homosexuality and the Bible. The library

also contains many videos and DVD's that are of interest to glbtqi people. There are over 300 titles to choose from and these are maintained by Iris. The library is housed at the pastors' home at 40 Redfern St Morningside and you can view it there on a Sunday morning or

by arrangement. Iris brings a selection of books to church each Sunday evening and these are available for borrowing.



LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN?

Looking for an Opportunity to learn through a gay-friendly source?

UFMCC have developed an innovative on-line learning opportunity named TAP (Training Access Preparation). These courses are low-cost and are designed to equip people to be strong in their faith and understanding of how we can grow MCC in the 21st Century. They

are clustered around five areas of priority

- Resources
- Justice
- Finance
- Evangelism
- Marketing

Visit www.MCCchurch.org/TAP and see what is on offer and whether it might meet your needs.



LESSON OF THE DAY

The frying pan!!!

A young man called Peter invited his mother for dinner, during the course of the meal, his mother couldn't help but notice how handsome Peter's flatmate, Simon, was.

She had long been suspicious of a relationship between the two, and this only made her more curious. Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Peter and his flatmate than met the eye. Reading his mum's thoughts, Peter volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Simon & I are just flatmates".

About a week later, Simon came to Peter saying, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the frying pan, you don't suppose she took it do you?" "Well I doubt it, but I'll email her just to be sure" said Peter. So he sat down and wrote: DEAR MOTHER, I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU "DID" TAKE THE FRYING PAN FROM MY HOUSE, I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU "DID NOT" TAKE THE FRYING PAN BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT IT HAS BEEN MISSING EVER SINCE YOU WERE HERE FOR DINNER. LOVE PETER

Several days later, Peter received an email from his mother which read:

DEAR SON, I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU "DO" SLEEP WITH SIMON, AND I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU "DO NOT" SLEEP WITH SIMON, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT IF HE WAS SLEEPING IN HIS OWN BED, HE WOULD HAVE FOUND THE FRYING PAN BY NOW. LOVE MUM

DON'T EVER LIE TO YOUR MOTHER!!!!

SISTERSPEAK

SisterSpeak is a group for all who identify as female. SisterSpeak meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month. We rotate between a social function and a discussion style function. We next meet on Saturday 10th February 2007. 2pm at 40 Redfern

St Morningside. At this meeting we will be discussing our program for 2007. If you identify as female please consider joining us as we support each other in our life journeys and seek through fellowship and discussion to grow in faith and under-

standing



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2007

MCC Brisbane meets twice on a Sunday

9:30 am 40 Redfern Street
Morningside

19:00 10 Hampson Street
Kelvin Grove
Brisbane
Queensland

Postal Address:

Po Box 317
Fortitude Valley
Brisbane
Queensland
4006

Rev Anne James & Rev Iris Sagers

Phone: (07) 3891 1388
Cell: 0401 434 564

Email Anne : spaganne@iinet.net.au
Email Iris : isagers@iinet.net.au

All inclusive in the name of God

**We have a web
address
www.mccbris.asn.au**



Services :

People who attend Metropolitan Community Churches often come from widely diverse faith backgrounds as well as from a no-faith background. Here at MCC Brisbane we try to create services which will be welcoming and provide some familiarity for those from various faith backgrounds.

Our **Sunday Morning** services are a cross between a Home Group and a discussion group with a very informal Holy Communion thrown into the mix. These are held at the pastors' home at 40 Redfern St Morningside.

On the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month our **evening service** would be an eclectic mix of mainly modern protestant worship styles (think Uniting Church- sort of!).

On the 4th Sunday of the month we have our **Pentecostal style service of worship** which we call our Crave Celebration Service.

On the 5th Sunday of those months which have a fifth Sunday we have our '**Old Style**' service and this service has some traditional elements from Catholic / Anglican worship along with music which is probably more traditional Baptist style music.

All are welcome at any of these services, or you can find the worship style which works for you and stick to that.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The BOD now consists of -

The Pastor as Moderator, The Clerk - Marie S, The Treasurer - Tracey N, Johann d J, Ray B, Susan d B, and the Lay Delegate - Robert C. These people seek to carry out the business of the church in such a way that money is used wisely and with integrity. They meet monthly generally on the first Monday night of each month. Members and friends are welcome to attend BOD meetings with voice but not vote.

Thank you to Susan d B who has agreed to produce the newsletter now that Paul McG has moved overseas to be with his new partner.



BOD News

The BOD (Board of Directors) of MCC Brisbane has a new member. Paul has moved overseas and so has resigned. The BOD have co-opted Susan to join them to fill the vacancy until the next AGM in September this year.

The **next BOD meeting** is Monday 05 February 2007 at 19:00 at 40 Redfern Street Morningside.