

# NEW BEGINNINGS

The monthly newsletter of the Metropolitan  
Community Church of Our Redeemer

Volume 12 Issue 9

October-November-December 2009



## Visit us:

Church of Our Redeemer  
557 Greene St.  
Augusta, Ga. 30901  
[www.mccoor.com](http://www.mccoor.com)

## Church Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday  
9:30 am to 5:30 pm  
Friday 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

## Contact us:

Church of Our Redeemer  
PO Box 1412  
Augusta, Ga. 30903  
Phone: 706-722-6454  
[mccoroffice@yahoo.com](mailto:mccoroffice@yahoo.com)

## Our Mission

"The Metropolitan Community Church of Our Redeemer is a Christian Community extending God's inclusive love by affirming hope, healing and spiritual growth through worship, discipleship, outreach, and fellowship."



## Eight Ways to Encourage Your Pastor...by Victor Parachin

Sometimes pastors are the loneliest people in the church. Often their hours are long, the pay minimal, the criticism considerable and constant. Feelings of disappointment, discouragement, and defeat may begin to plague the best of them.

Paul's admonition to "serve one another in love" (Gal. 5:13) should encourage us to remember our shepherds. Here are eight ways to make their lives better.

### 1. Cut the criticism

Unlike most workers who are evaluated once or twice a year, clergy are often critiqued weekly after each worship service. It's not unusual to hear people say "the music was poor," "the hymn selection was awful," or "the sermon was boring." We would do well to remember that most spiritual leaders work hard to make worship a unique celebration each week.

### 2. Pray regularly

Ask God to shower your pastor with an abundance of love, hope, joy, faith, peace, power, wisdom, and courage. Pray for your spiritual leader's maturity and growth in the faith. As you pray keep in mind this wisdom from German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: "If you treat a person as he is, he will stay as he is; but if you treat him as if he were what he ought to be, he will become what he ought to be and could be."

### 3. Express appreciation in writing

A spoken compliment is always welcome, but a written one can be read over and over again for years. So, when you hear or see something you like from your minister, write an appreciative note.

### 4. Squelch gossip

If you hear a negative comment, respond with a positive one. If misinformation is being spread, correct it with the accurate information. Or, if people are gossiping, just walk away. Remember the Bible soundly condemns gossip and careless speech. James 1:26 says, "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless." And Psalm 34:13 reads, "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies."

### 5. Offer to meet a need

Some people make their spiritual leaders defensive and angry by saying, "You need to \_\_\_\_" That approach is seldom welcome and almost always counterproductive. If you see a need, approach your spiritual leader by saying, "I'd like to help by \_\_\_\_" If you see an area that can be improved, take responsibility for working on it. Be an active participant in your church. Get involved by teaching a class, leading a workshop, singing in the choir, feeding the hungry. Ask your spiritual leader where and how you can employ your gifts. Instead, focus on how your leader is being used by God to do effective ministry now. By serving your shepherds, you will ensure that they will not only be encouraged but will feel appreciated and continue to minister with enthusiasm and energy.

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### **Eight Ways to Encourage Your Pastor...by Victor Parachin**

#### **6. Be openly responsive**

Nothing so animates and excites a spiritual leader as seeing people respond to the preaching and teaching.

One pastor's heart filled with joy when a group of women in Washington, D.C., responded to a sermon preached from the words of Jesus--"Do not judge, or you too will be judged" (Matt. 7:1). After hearing the sermon, the women decided to give a baby shower for the young woman who provided childcare while they met for Bible study. She was unmarried, close to going on welfare, and without support from her family or the father-to-be. The young woman was moved to tears by the surprise baby shower. Later, the women explained to the pastor, "Your sermon taught us that it's possible to reach out to someone in need -- in this case, an unwed mother -- without judging or condoning the situation."

#### **8. Throw away the measuring stick**

Don't expect that your present spiritual leaders will do things the same way their predecessors did. Lay aside personal agendas and preferences. Instead, focus on how your leader is being used by God to do effective ministry now. By serving your shepherds, you will ensure that they will not only be encouraged but will feel appreciated and continue to minister with enthusiasm and energy.

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***October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Take time to tell Jeff***



**Reverend  
Jeff Pullium**

**THANK  
YOU**

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**We are now on Facebook!**

The Church of Our Redeemer now has a Fan Page at Facebook! It is an open group for anyone to join, so tell your friends, family and neighbors. You will be allowed to post messages, photos and videos. Please be sensitive as to what you post and anything deemed inappropriate for a church Fan Page will be removed and the sender blocked. Information on church and community events, congregational meetings and prayer requests may also be posted. To find our page go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and in the search box type in: **Metropolitan Community Church of Our Redeemer**.

Remember you have to be a member of Facebook to view our page.

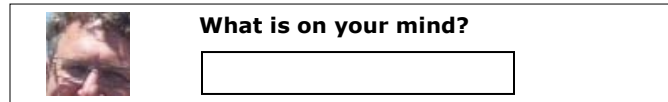


## NEW BEGINNINGS

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### A Word from the Pastor

It is now the third or fourth time that I have sat down to write an article. I started a week before the due date, but inspiration did not come my way. It makes me think of the top of the Facebook page. It has this section:



I usually leave the Area **blank** because I guess there is not much on my mind. I am amazed at what people write. I am even more amazed that if I write a sentence that it appears up on people's cell phone. I am so proud of the work Lisa does on the webpage. I enjoy seeing the completed newsletter. I read web blogs weekly. So what is my trouble with newsletter articles? I think I feel I need to be profound or something. I thought when we went to a quarterly newsletter, "thank God!" now I don't have to do them once a month; it will be easier. I was so wrong. Now I am suppose to cover October, November, and December---that's All Hallow's Eve, All Saint's Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. How can I have all these things on my mind? I came up the following posts:

**Jeff Pullium** I wonder why we cope with evil by making fun of it. Tonight evil walks the streets and we think it is funny. I am sitting here praying no one knocks on my door. Halloween can be scary in Old Town. God keep the children safe and the adults sober.

Saturday Oct 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:01 pm · Comment · Like / Unlike · See Wall-to-Wall

**Jeff Pullium** I wonder how many of my church members ever heard of All Saint's Day. How many of my good catholic's made it to worship. I think of Ma Pittman, Flonnie, Elsie, Grandpa, and all those good church members that had such a powerful effect on my life

Sunday, November 1 at 6:01 a.m. · Comment · Like / Unlike · See Wall-to-Wall

**Jeff Pullium** Instead of being thankful for all the people that gave life and service that our country might be free, most of us are complaining about being off during the middle of the week instead of on the weekend. I recall, "In Flanders field where poppies grow.... Thank God for our service men and women.

Sunday, November 11 at 2:00 p.m · Comment · Like / Unlike · See Wall-to-Wall

**Jeff Pullium** Thank God for the way the downtown churches have welcomed MCC into their worship and the way MCC always shows their love to DCCM. I wonder who will show up for worship tonight???

Wed., November 22 at 2:00 p.m · Comment · Like / Unlike · See Wall-to-Wall

**Jeff Pullium** I love Advent. The longing for Christmas. The time of preparation. The visions of Isaiah. The cries of John the Baptist. Why are we so eager to get to Christmas?

Sunday, November 29 at 2:00 p.m · Comment · Like / Unlike · See Wall-to-Wall

**Jeff Pullium** I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas. Since my adolescent days, the Christmas Eve service has been the true meaning of Christmas. I love wrapping the baby Jesus in songs and candlelight. See you church at 7:00p.m.

Tuesday, December 24 at 1:00 p.m · Comment · Like / Unlike · See Wall-to-Wall

**Jeff Pullium** What is this modern age doing to communication? I hope in the New Year you write an actual letter, visit a friend in person, Go a day without your cell phone and of course worship daily and attend church regularly. See you on Facebook! LOL

Sunday, December 26th at 5:00 p.m · Comment · Like / Unlike · See Wall-to-Wall

## NEW BEGINNINGS

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### Smiling Faces Needed!



Friendly and smiling faces are needed to greet those who come to worship on Sunday mornings by becoming an official MCCOR greeter! If you are interested in volunteering to be a greeter in 2009, please contact Marilyn by e-mail [marilyn\\_kari\\_2@yahoo.com](mailto:marilyn_kari_2@yahoo.com) or phone 803-441-8167.

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### Communion Servers Needed!

Communion is a fellowship of believers by which they gather together to remember the sacrifice of the LORD Jesus Christ. If you would like to take a more active role in this fellowship by serving communion to others, please contact Kathleen by e-mail at [kwalsh23@earthlink.net](mailto:kwalsh23@earthlink.net) or call the church office at 706-722-6454. A training session will be held in the near future for those who are interested in participating.



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### Church Yard Sale

The church yard sale will be held at the church on October 10 from 8 am - 12 noon (or until we are sold out). You may bring your pre-priced items to the church on

- October 5 from 10:00 am – 5:30 pm.  
**Please call the church office prior to delivery at 706-722-6454.**
- October 10: 6:00 a.m.-7:45 a.m. for large items.



We thank you in advance for your support of our annual yard sale. All of your items will be appreciated. If you would like to offer your help with receiving items at the church, pricing items, setting up tables, putting things out for the sale, assisting with selling items, taking down tables, cleaning the church afterwards, etc., please contact Rosanne at [etherealart@mindspring.com](mailto:etherealart@mindspring.com). This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to help our Building and Grounds Committee, as well as support our church. Please remember many hands make a heavy load much lighter. We need your help and hope you will join us.

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### Membership Class

A membership class will be held following the fellowship time on **November 15, 2009**. The Membership Exploration class provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about our denomination, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, as well as about MCCOR. The class covers the history of the Denomination and MCCOR, our Statements of Faith and Core Values, our leadership and structure, and the plans and goals for the future of both the Denomination and local church. The class will last about an hour, and everyone is welcome to attend.

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### Christmas Cantata-*The Winter Rose*



This year's Christmas Cantata will be held on December 20 during the morning worship service. *The Winter Rose* incorporates both traditional carols and newly composed anthems that visit the timeless Christmas story with fresh insight. Through use of music, narration and simple symbolism, the cantata presents the life of Christ from prophecy to passion. Please join us for this very special worship experience.

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### Church Christmas Party

The Annual Church Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 6:00 pm at Crawford Cabinets, 3831 Oak St. (off Davis Road) Martinez, Ga. 30907. This year we are having an Italian Christmas Feast! Dancing and surprise entertainment by Roy and Company. Music will be provided by D.J. "Christie. Tickets cost \$10.00 each, and you may contact any member of the Fellowship Committee to purchase your ticket(s).



### Feeding the Hungry in Our Community

MCCOR continues to work with other church partners to support the Downtown Cooperative Church Ministries (DCCM). The food donations we gather throughout the year are instrumental in helping to offer emergency food in a convenient location and are easily accessible. The generosity of MCCOR and the other DCCM churches each week provide over 200 families emergency food provisions. The standard size bag supplies enough food for two individuals. Our church collects any canned food item, soap, shampoos and other needed items each week and we have volunteers at DCCM. Our volunteers see the face of poverty and hunger. We know our generous donations of food provisions are truly needed and genuinely appreciated. Thanks for your continued support.

### Online Tithing and Donations Now Available

The convenience of making your tithe online can now be made on the church website via PayPal. You can also make donations to various church projects and programs as well. Visit the church's website at [www.mccoor.com](http://www.mccoor.com) and click on the Tithing & Donations page.

PayPal is a secured site and is designed from the ground up to be a safer way to send money online. PayPal doesn't expose or sell your financial information to merchants. The church will receive payment from PayPal without ever seeing your financial information.

PayPal also works hard to prevent identity theft by **never** e-mailing you and requesting the following personal information:

- Your full name
- Your password
- Driver's license number
- Social Security number
- Credit and debit card numbers
- Pin numbers or bank account numbers

The PayPal logo, consisting of the word "PayPal" in a blue, sans-serif font.



The church already has several church members and friends, including your newsletter editor, who are using this service without any problems. If you have questions about using PayPal, please contact Lisa at [sheltie6@atlanticbb.net](mailto:sheltie6@atlanticbb.net).

# NEW BEGINNINGS



## Save the Dates October-November-December 2009

Date	Event	Time	Location
<b>The Church office will be closed October 6 – October 19, November 26 &amp; 27 and December 25.</b>			
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Choir Practice	7 - 8 pm	Sanctuary
October 4	Bible Study	9:30 am	Fellowship Hall
October 4	Congregation Covered Dish	12 noon	Fellowship Hall
October 11	Bible Study	9:30 am	Fellowship Hall
October 17	Augusta Transgender Support Group	7 pm	Fellowship Hall
October 18	Bible Study	9:30 am	Fellowship Hall
October 18	Fall Congregational Meeting	12:45 p.m.	Sanctuary
October 25	Bible Study	9:30 am	Fellowship Hall
October 25	HIV Testing	11 am	Pastor's Study
November 1	Bible Study	9:30 am	Fellowship Hall
November 1	Congregation Covered Dish	12 noon	Fellowship Hall
November 5, 12, 19	Choir Practice	7 - 8 pm	Sanctuary
November 8	Board of Directors meeting	12 noon	Pastor's Study
November 15	Membership Class	12:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
November 22	HIV Testing	11 am	Pastor's Study
November 28	Augusta Transgender Support Group	7 pm	Fellowship Hall
December 3	Choir Practice	7 - 8 pm	Sanctuary
December 6	HIV Testing	11 am	Pastor's Study
December 6	Congregation Covered Dish	12 noon	Fellowship Hall
December 9, 16	Choir Practice	7 - 8 pm	Sanctuary
December 13	Board of Directors meeting	12 noon	Pastor's Study
December 12	Church Christmas Party	6 pm	Crawford Cabinets 3831 Oak St. Martinez, Ga. 30907
December 20	Christmas Cantata, "The Winter Rose"	During morning worship	Sanctuary
December 26	Augusta Transgender Support Group	7 pm	Fellowship Hall

## Fall Congregational Meeting 2009

**October 18: Fall Congregational Meeting.** We have a full agenda for this meeting and you are encouraged to mark your calendars now and plan to attend and participate in the life of our church community. The authority for the operation of the church ultimately rests with the membership. Non-members are also welcome to attend the meeting and speak on issues, but are not able to vote. Meeting documents and reports can be found on the church website at

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### Scriptures for October—December 2009

<b>Oct. 4</b>	Job 1:1, 2:1-10	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
<b>Oct. 11</b>	Job 23:1-9, 16-17	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
<b>Oct. 18</b>	Job 38:1-7, 34-41	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
<b>Oct. 25</b>	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
<b>Nov. 1</b>	Isaiah 25:6-9	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
<b>Nov. 8</b>	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
<b>Nov. 15</b>	1 Samuel 1:4-20	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-8
<b>Nov. 22</b>	2 Samuel 23:1-7	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37
<b>Nov. 29</b>	Jeremiah 33:14-161	Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
<b>Dec. 6</b>	Malachi 3:1-4	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
<b>Dec. 13</b>	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
<b>Dec. 20</b>	Micah 5:2-5a	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-55
<b>Dec. 27</b>	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

### Church Scripture Readers for October—December 2009

The last person listed is an alternate reader and/or third reader. If you would like to sign up as a reader, please contact Kathleen at [walsh23@earthlink.net](mailto:walsh23@earthlink.net)

Oct. 4	Lisa H.	Kathleen	Kay
Oct. 11	Jamael	David S.	Ann
Oct. 18	Annette	Joe	David B.
Oct. 25	Roy	Sandra D.	Kay
Nov. 1	David B.	David S.	Annette
Nov. 8	Sandra D.	Joe	Ann
Nov. 15	Kathleen	Marilyn R.	Roy
Nov. 22	Jamael	Dee	Marilyn R.
Nov. 29	Sandra D.	Roy	Ann
Dec. 6	Lisa	Kay	Kathleen
Dec. 13	Joe	Dee	David B.
Dec. 20	Kathleen	Lisa	Kay
Dec. 27	Jamael	David S.	Dee

### Church of Our Redeemer Board of Directors

Jeff - Pastor

[jpullium@comcast.net](mailto:jpullium@comcast.net)

David S. – Clerk

[stepp14@comcast.net](mailto:stepp14@comcast.net)

Rosanne – Treasurer

[etherealart@mindspring.com](mailto:etherealart@mindspring.com)

Lisa H. – Member at-Large

[sheltie6@atlanticbb.net](mailto:sheltie6@atlanticbb.net)

Kathleen W. – Member at-Large

[Kwalsh23@earthlink.net](mailto:Kwalsh23@earthlink.net)

Nick S. – Member at-Large

[nick@h-stransfer.com](mailto:nick@h-stransfer.com)

Jennifer H. – Member at-Large

**We miss you Jen!**

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## Newsletter Information

The *New Beginnings* Newsletter is posted online at the church website - [www.mccoor.com](http://www.mccoor.com). The newsletter is saved as a PDF file which requires Adobe Reader to open. If you do not have Adobe Reader, you can download it for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. If you are interested in receiving the monthly newsletter via e-mail, please provide the church office with your current e-mail address by sending it to [mccoroffice@yahoo.com](mailto:mccoroffice@yahoo.com).

**Monthly Newsletter (via e-mail and website) Deadlines are the 18th of every month.**

### Print Publication Deadlines

- December 18 - for articles, meetings, events, etc. held January, February & March 2010

E-mail your information to the Church Office at [mccoroffice@yahoo.com](mailto:mccoroffice@yahoo.com).



### Address Changes

Please let us know if you have a change of address and would like to continue receiving the monthly Newsletter. You may call the church office at 706-722-6454 or send us an e-mail to [mccoroffice@yahoo.com](mailto:mccoroffice@yahoo.com). An address change submitted to the postmaster does not automatically change the Newsletter mailing address.