

A Letter From Rev. Gail



Home for Christmas

I am new to MCC of Richmond Virginia and was not sure what to expect at the annual Christmas concert held on December 10th. This is my first year with the church and what a wonderful memory I was given. I would like to share my impressions and experiences with you.

The entire program from start to finish was very well done and probably involved 75% of the congregation in performing, preparation, and partaking! You could say there were 3 parts; namely, the before gathering, the after gathering, and the actual performance.

Before the concert there was a wide selection of food to nibble on. Most of it was homemade and, of course, delicious. This church, like most churches, is known for its culinary treats and the diversity of food selection. No wonder the food pantry and lunch program which our church runs is such a hit. And after the concert, there was even more tasty treats with cookies and cake and more good food. Through these two gatherings in the Celebration Hall, there was much catching up, good conversation, and lots of laughter. Many old friends reconnected with each other and lots of folks were making new friends, including myself. And a special 50-50 raffle was held as a special treat for some roof repairs!

The concert was the main center of attraction. The music was delightful and the singing was uplifting. I found a tear or two in my eyes from the beauty of the musical pieces to the beauty of the message. There was our gifted pianist, drummer, percussionist, and the oboe and the clarinet players. And what a delight for our new formed hand bell choir! They all blended together to make wonderful music!

Add to that the personal stories of past Christmas stories that were told and the appearance of a real live baby as Jesus, Mary and Joseph (the baby's moms), angels and shepherds. The only thing missing was sheep and cows and camels. The stage was delightful and colorful and reminded me of a warm and cozy living room. There were the technicians, builders, stage hands, ushers, and all the folks who cooked, baked, poured, set tables, and decorated to make the evening complete. It surely does take a village!

And I got all of this for a \$10 ticket! What a bargain!

I want to tell you that the feeling and atmosphere was festive and warm. Just like coming home for Christmas should be. It was fun, but there was message in all of this. That MCC Richmond is a place that you can call home, where you can be yourself, and where you can feel the love and friendship that is present and touchable and alive. This feeling and experience can be carried on throughout the year and beyond. What was given so freely and humbly will be cherished by all who participated.

The message of Christmas here is that we celebrate and share the hope, joy, peace, and love of the season and of our faith with each other and we can honestly say, "Welcome Home for Christmas". And here at MCC Richmond it is a feeling that lasts throughout the year, not just in December.

So thank you to everyone who made this possible and especially to all who attended and partook of the offerings. And if you were not there, I do hope that you will stop by and get to know us because we want to get to know YOU and share God's love with you.



Reverend Gail Minnick