

As you prepare to celebrate Fellowship Sunday on the occasion of MCC's 38th anniversary in October, I want to share a challenge with your congregation -- and a verse from the Bible that holds special meaning for this upcoming MCC anniversary.

Today, I'm meditating on that beautiful verse in I Corinthians, chapter 13, that says, "*Now abides faith, hope, and love -- these three; but the greatest of these is love.*"

What a great reminder for us during MCC's 38th anniversary!

*Faith always looks back* -- it's rooted in what God has done in the past. Anniversaries are times to look back and to recall God's faithfulness, and blessing and guidance.

*Hope always looks forward* -- it anticipates God's future blessing. During MCC's 38th anniversary, I pray that you and your congregation are filled with God's hope and that you are already anticipating the wonderful ways God will use MCC's ministry in the days ahead.

*Love is experienced in the "here-and-now."* I love the little verse in the Bible that says, "God is love" -- and I think we are closest to God when we show love to others.

MCC's annual Fellowship Sunday Offering is a way your local congregation can experience the beauty and power of this verse from God's Word -- an opportunity *to give in faith* that honors MCC's past.. *to give in hope* that believes MCC has an unfinished calling in our world... and *to give in love* for those around us who have not yet heard the gospel of God's unconditional love for all people.

That's why I warmly encourage your congregation to receive a special, designated Fellowship Sunday Offering on a Sunday in October.

Every year, these Fellowship Sunday Offerings are designated for a special project, and this year all Fellowship Sunday offerings are designated for three vital projects that touch churches and people at the local level: church planting, church revitalization, and the virtual church.

*I know that God does something beautiful in our midst when we unite to give in love.* We all saw it this past Easter as more than 60 MCC churches received special offerings for MCC's Eastern Europe Initiative. Your faithfulness and generosity helped us tear down walls and build up hope! And here's the best news: Today there are eight new MCC congregations and groups meeting across Eastern Europe -- born out of the generosity of our local churches!

I made a commitment that we would have only two church-wide funding appeals during 2006 -- and this is the second and final one. I am asking that you help us repeat our "Easter Miracle" by receiving a special "Fellowship Sunday Offering" *to plant new MCC congregations* where they are urgently needed... *to revitalize local churches* that are going through times of transition and challenge... and *to establish MCC's "virtual church on-line"* to minister to people who live where there is no MCC, but who want to be part of us and want to connect with our community of faith.

Together, let's prepare MCC for a new wave of strategic church

**planting, church revitalization, and vital ministry to people around the world who live where there are no local MCC congregations.**

**Grace and peace,**

**The Reverend Nancy L. Wilson**  
**Moderator**  
**Metropolitan Community Churches**  
[www.MCCchurch.org](http://www.MCCchurch.org)