# MCC Metropolitan Community Church of the Upstate



### You Me Us God .... **Miraculous!**

Come celebrate God with us in a loving, kind, affirming and accepting place where worship is our most important priority. Diversity is our strength. All are welcome in God's house, regardless of gender, color, creed or religious background. ALWAYS!

#### Metropolitan Community Church of the Upstate

2180 East Poinsett Street Ext. (Highway 290), Duncan, SC 29334 Telephone: 864.439.5080 • E-Mail: mccupstate@bellsouth.net Founding Pastor: Rev. Donna Stroud, M.Div.

**Sunday Evening** 

Choir Rehearsal: 4:45pm • Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Directions From I-85: Exit 63 (Duncan/Moore) toward Duncan. Go 4.3 miles. The church is on the left.



THURSDAYS Disco Diva Show at 12 Midnight

Karaoke Tuesday - 11 pm • Sinful Sunday Dance Night - \$2.50 Vodka Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - No Cover (excluding special holidays or events)

The hottest dance music on the beach with D.J. Mackel For booking information (female impersonators/male dancers) contact Ken @ 843-448-1180, 10am-1pm

www.timeoutmbsc.com

SOUTH CAROLINA

## **AFFIRM exec aims for success**

there," he said.

#### by David R. Gillespie

John Capitan is a pleasant, soft-spoken young man whose educational background reveals his Southern Baptist roots. He first attended the Southern Baptist Convention affiliated Anderson University, before finishing his undergraduate education at North Carolina's Mars Hill College, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 1992.

Now he's the new executive director of AFFIRM Youth, a social/support group for LGBT young people headquartered in Greenville, S.C.

It's been an interesting journey and he's got a distinct vision of where AFFIRM can go in the future.

He came to AFFIRM after being a mental

health counselor at Marshall Pickens Hospital, a manager at a local Belk's department store and involvement with AID Upstate, an area HIV/AIDS client service provider. It was while volunteering at AID Upstate that he became aware of and interested in AFFIRM. Like so many others, he

began volunteering at AID Upstate because several of his John Capitan is the friends became HIV-positive. Always a self-described "people person," Capitan, through a couple of AID Upstate employees who also served on the board of AFFIRM,

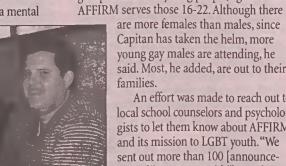
learned of the organization and that it's thendirector Mike McVicker was leaving.

So the conversations started.

Kevin Lancaster, LInkage coordinator for AID Upstate and an AFFIRM board member, said that the "timing worked out really well." The board was seeking to combine what had been the programmatic leadership of McVicker with the traditional duties of an executive director, including organization and fund raising/marketing.

The arrival of Capitan comes at a time when AFFIRM is moving its physical location, although the location is a well-guarded secret.

We want people to know we exist," said Capitan, "but youth are still targets to a certain extent."



new executive direc-tor of AFFIRM Youth, a social/support group for LGBT young people headquartered in Greenville, S.C.

alliances. Such groups exist at Greenville Technical College and nearby Clemson University. One cause for celebration was the

Lancaster said the group would "rather err on the side of caution" when it comes to

revealing its location. "There are still idiots out

a certain level of visibility. "We kinda need to out ourselves, too," he said.

So how does a young LGBT person find

location and then, comfortable with the person's

location. AFFIRM does not offer transportation.

Tuesdays, at 6 p.m., are given over to educa-

tional efforts. Fridays, at 8 p.m., are for social

activities. According to Capitan, there is a core

are more females than males, since

Capitan has taken the helm, more

young gay males are attending, he said. Most, he added, are out to their

An effort was made to reach out to

local school counselors and psycholo-

gists to let them know about AFFIRM

and its mission to LGBT youth."We

sent out more than 100 [announce-

ing out to local college gay-straight

Capitan said plans call for reach-

ments]," Lancaster said, "but only

received 12 to 15 responses.'

group of about 12 young people, ages 19-21.

families.

Meetings are currently held twice a week.

AFFIRM? Capitan said it starts with a phone call. He arranges to meet the youth in a neutral

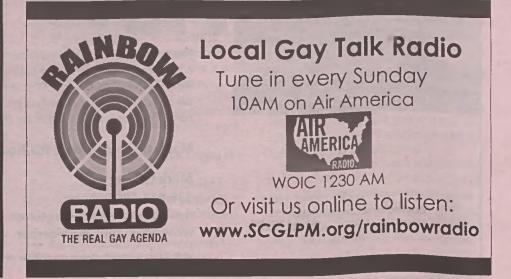
intent, gives them directions to the meeting

But Capitan realizes that there is a need for

high turnout for AFFIRM's yearly Prom, held in May. This past year more than 60 young people attended.

With its new space, Capitan said the group will start developing more activities and be open more hours.

All of this requires money. The budget for fiscal year 2005 was \$49,000. The money came from donations by board members, individual community member donations and from grants secured. The latter source represents approximately 60-70 percent of AFFIRM's funding. So, Capitan said, the group is exploring additional fundraising options. **)** info: AFFIRM Youth, P.O. Box 4094, Greenville, SC 29608 864-467-9004 . email: affirmyouth@affirmyouth.org website: www.affirmyouth.org



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Fri., October 6

Sat., October 7 Red Ribbon Benefit Show