

January 6, 2009

THE Arkive

The Newsletter of
Ark and Dove
Presbyterian Church
www.arkanddove.org
410 674-6400

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

Advent Conspiracy has taught us a lot about this wonderful Missional Church we've been so busy building. We've now had six weeks to look more closely at what we're becoming. We've affirmed that we are on a path to worship fully, that we want to spend less, that we can give more, and that we feel a growing need to love all.

For many of us, Advent Conspiracy touched neglected corners of our lives or illuminated new paths to follow – now we need to find more ways to live into it.

Several of the local missions we support were enhanced by Advent Conspiracy. We've wrapped-up the old year and kicked-off the New Year with renewed commitment to neighbors who at this moment in time may need our help as much as we need to provide it. We'll continue to share stories of the positive impacts this has on our lives and on the lives of others His name. And we'll continue to promote opportunities He provides for us to address the unmet needs that surround us.

Much of what we give of ourselves is hands-on labors of love. Advent Conspiracy demonstrated how powerful that can be. Many of us participated, and yet we still have unfulfilled January commitments to our neighbors...so please rejoin us as we pledge our time for others in the:

Arundel Habitat Build, Saturday, January 10 (we now have a full team of 10 registered)
Sarah's House Dinner, Wednesday, January 21 (we need a couple more preparers & servers)
Winter Relief Homeless Shelter, January 19-25 (various tasks and times still available)
Arundel Habitat Build, Saturday, January 31 (we need a couple more to complete the team)

In addition to our physical labor, we each give financial gifts.

Our Christmas Joy offering this year totaled more than \$4,300, which provides some:
\$1,100 for eviction prevention services of the North County Emergency Network;
\$1,100 for the Makasan Presbyterian Church on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota;
\$1,100 for Presbyterian related racial and ethnic schools;
\$1,100 for retired Presbyterian clergy and their families with special needs.

The children of Ark and Dove are carrying forward into 2009 some \$250 from their weekly offering toward their purchase of a \$500 heifer from Heifer International as part of their ongoing commitment to help needy families and communities overseas.

The youth of Ark and Dove are carrying forward into 2009 some \$150 from their weekly offering toward their ongoing commitment to provide scholarships and ONIL stoves for needy Guatemalan families.

Each January-February we at Ark and Dove have provided wonderful support to the annual Souper Bowl Sunday contributions of canned soup and cash to help feed the hungry of West Anne Arundel County. Then half a year later we've taken up a month long special offering to help the Christian Assistance Program (CAP) of Odenton feed and clothe our less fortunate neighbors. For 2009 we have chosen to not schedule that CAP special offering. Instead we urge all to give most generously to our 2009 Souper Bowl drive and to continue to give each month to support the important work of CAP in what promises to be a very challenging year for many.

Worship Fully - Spend Less - Give More - Love All,

Vaughn Brown, Mission Elder

Mission Ministry

Local Mission

Advent Conspiracy Report - CAP Christmas Baskets

Each year on the Tuesdays before Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Christian Assistance Program (CAP, Inc.) provides its Odenton Food Pantry client families with a turkey, potatoes, and other groceries for a complete holiday meal. CAP is an organization of about a dozen churches in West County. This year CAP prepared 175 of these "food baskets." CAP receives applications for these meals earlier in the Fall and provides vouchers to the families approved. Most of the families who apply are regular clients of the food pantry, which is located in the basement of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Odenton. For the first time ever, we had zero leftover baskets. In fact, there were people who had not pre-registered and waited two hours hoping there would be an extra turkey or food bag unclaimed at the end of the day.

Thank you to all the Ark & Dove members and friends who participated. The food basket program depends on volunteers who pick up groceries Monday morning, pick up turkeys Tuesday morning, sort the food and pack it in bags early Tuesday afternoon, and then carry it to the clients' cars on Tuesday from 3-7 PM. The Boy Scout troop from St. Joseph is always out in force for this last step. These clients receive not only food, but a smile, a few moments of friendly conversation, and a "Happy Thanksgiving" or "Merry Christmas." We also hope they receive a boost in hope for better times in the future. All this is coordinated mainly by Deacon David Page (St. Joseph Catholic), who diligently searches the area for the best prices on the food.

Including the holiday baskets, CAP provided food in 2008 to 1,589 families (5,806 individuals), a steep increase over 2007. The increase prompted Food Pantry Manager Carol Aleksy (Severn United Methodist) to write the following in an appeal to her church for food donations:

The woman in her 50's could not understand what happened. Her husband, a photographer for Channel 7, had lost his job. Was it his age? So begins another day of stories at the Christian Assistance Program (CAP) food pantry. I never look at the masses in line at the door, eager for food. I look at the individual. I can only love one person at a time. I can only feed one person at a time. So I begin. The whole work is only a drop in the ocean. But if I don't put the drop in, the ocean would be one drop less. As Jesus said, "I was hungry, and you gave me to eat. I was naked, and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in." Hungry, not only for bread, but hungry for love. Naked, not only for clothing, but naked of human dignity and respect. Homeless, not only for want of a room of bricks, but homeless because of rejection. This is Christ in distressing disguise. "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers ..."

At Ark & Dove we collect food for the CAP Odenton food pantry in the bins outside the cribbery, across from the coat rack. More information, including a list of items needed and the featured item of the month, is available in the mission section of the Ark & Dove website. The featured item for January is pasta and pasta sauce.

Local Blood Drive January 19

First Evangelical Lutheran will be hosting the first American Red Cross Blood Drive of the New Year on January 19, 2009, from 2 PM – 8 PM in the fellowship hall. Please contact the Red Cross Directly at 800-GIVE -LIFE 800-448-3543 to schedule appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome, although making an appointment helps to spread out donors and reduce wait times. Persons in good health, 17 years or older, weighing at least 110 pounds may give blood. The Red Cross can provide additional details about eligibility. First Evangelical Lutheran is located at the corner of Piney Orchard Parkway and Odenton Road.

Interim Interludes

TAIZE TEAMS TO FORM

This year's Taize Lenten Services will be Wednesdays - March 4, 11, 18, 25th and April 1st. We will form five teams, each of which will be responsible for one service. Working with others to plan these services of read and sung prayers, scripture and silence in our candlelight sanctuary, is an inspiring and learning experience. Please sign-up on the Taize Interest Sheet in the lobby if you are interested in being part of a team. If you have never been on a Taize Team, come to the first Equipping Gathering to see what is involved! Please indicate on the sheet the evenings you are available to attend 3 equipping sessions – the last of which will be working with your team to plan the service. They will begin the last week of January. Please see Pastor Corinne for more information and to indicate your interest.

Last Week To Join Small Groups

Already Meeting -

- Sense-Able Prayer - Have you even thought of praying using your five senses as a guide? Sign-up, or email berry962@verizon.net to join Joan Berry's Class on January 12th, at 7:00 PM and find out more.
- Pastor Corinne's Class on **The Gospel Of Mark** The fast-paced and shortest Gospel has much to say to us as it did to the early disciples. Join us at 7:00 pm on Tuesday Jan. 13th. Sign-up or email BakerCorinne@aol.com to indicate your interest.
- **The Wealthy Barber** - Pastor Tim's and Jeff Morgan's Class on Financial Planning meets on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. Sign-up, pick up a book, email tims10@aol.com to indicate your interest.

The **Adult Sunday School Class** meets at 11:00 am in the Ark and Dove Room.

They are planning to discuss "The Shack" by William P. Young. Information - BBaer@bwmc.umms.org, Thank you to Chaplain Betsy Bear for leading the "Saving Jesus" DVD Class which just completed their thought-provoking study!

Science and Theology - This Sunday morning small group will be looking at the book *The Spiritual Brain: a neuroscientist's case for the existence of the soul*. Class begins on January 18th at 12:15pm. You can order the book from Amazon or contact Pepper Powers at Phippsburg@verizon.net.

Presbyterians in Annapolis Day -- *An Invitation from Julie Erickson, Director of Public Policy, Presbytery of Baltimore*

February 9 at 4:00 pm is the day to come to Annapolis to learn how advocacy is done at the state level. We plan Mondays in the late afternoon to mesh with the General Assembly schedule, which meets on Monday evenings traditionally so that working people can get to the sessions that start at 8:00 pm. This is the time to contact me to make your reservation for our supper, following our walk around the state government buildings. If you also wish to speak to your state delegate or senator, let me know your name and address so I can make the arrangements for a meeting during that time. When you make your reservations I will send you the details of how to get to Annapolis and where to meet me. I especially encourage youth leaders to bring interested teens to this Presbytery-supported event. jerickson@baltimorepresbytery.org

Check out the Ad for the Big Event on the back page! Make your reservations today!

Corinne

Prayer Concerns *Please keep the following people in your prayers this week:* Don Anderson; Clista Miles, Amy Corson's mother; Elmer Durr; Mike McGraw; Dawn Cody; Chris McDonald, recovering from an auto accident; Ruth Reid, dealing with health issues; Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church will host the Winter Relief Homeless shelter this week. Please pray for the volunteers and the 65 homeless men and women they will shelter.

The love and sympathy of the congregation goes out to Kelly Stern and her family on the death of her father, Richard Field. Journey's mercies as they travel to South Carolina.

Christian Education

Church Library

The Christian Education Team would like to welcome Mary Benson as our library team leader! Our first goal is to get all books and media catalogued and inventoried. If you have any items out from the library, please return them to the red basket marked "returns" in the library by the start of the new year!

Nursery Staff For Hire!

Hours are 9:00 - 12:30 each week, and special services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday). Please spread the word at your child's day care, with neighbors etc.! Interested applicants should contact Diane Anderson (diabri@comcast.net) or Beth Foster (BJFoster12@aol.com).

The Word from Logos

The second semester of Logos begins on Wednesday, January 7! All youth in grades 5-12 are welcome to join us for the second semester. Registration forms are available in the church lobby. Logos is held on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 - 7:45. Any youth interested in attending the Logos Youth Conference 5-11 July should contact Beth Foster for more information and registration materials. The conference is open to youth who are currently in 8th - 12th grade.

The Big Event

Don't Miss The Big Event Feb. 14th

BROCHURES NOW AVAILABLE IN LOBBY. Baltimore Presbytery's Annual Day of Learning will have TWO outstanding keynote speakers this year, who will be focusing on SIGNPOSTS OF CHURCH RENEWAL. The adult VBS 2007 Class discussed Diana Butler Bass's book "Christianity For The Rest of Us" and the 2008 Class studied Rev. Graham Standish's book, "Becoming a Blessed Church". The groups thought both books were very informative, thought-provoking and helpful. Both authors are this year's Speakers! Their topic goes hand-in-hand with the themes of change and transition that our consultants, Linnea Capshaw and Denise Van Eck have been working with us on over the last two years. The afternoon choice of 10 Workshops will cover the practice of how to carry-out the needed change that Diana and Graham will speak about. Excellent children's program 9:00 am-3:30! Elders, Deacons, teachers, team leaders - all who are interested are encouraged to attend this very special day!

Annual Congregational Meeting and
Potluck Supper
January 25th at 5:30pm
Save the Date!

Joyfully Serving God
with
OpenHearts
and
OpenMinds

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