

May 13, 2009

# Φ The Arkive Φ

The Newsletter of  
Ark and Dove  
Presbyterian Church  
[www.arkanddove.org](http://www.arkanddove.org)  
410 674-6400

## From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

In a recent Arkive article and in my reports to Session I celebrated the fact with you that our worship attendance on Easter Sunday was our highest ever attendance at worship. Our Holy Week attendance was high also. These are just fun little factoids, small milestones, not something to get too cheeky about.

Just this week, our Finance Team produced the regular monthly report on our Mission and Ministry Fund. Surprisingly our 2009 giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering dropped about 25% from 2008 levels. Now I am sure that some people gave their One Great Hour of Sharing offering in May and that our numbers will come up; but I am a little concerned to see attendance up and giving to the world's poorest down. You can find oodles of information about One Great Hour of Sharing at PCUSA.org. I realize the economy is not rosy, but as a congregation – I think we need to revisit this subject in prayer.

It is a joy and privilege to work each year with the confirmation class. This Sunday we will welcome five “Confirmands” into membership. (Assuming they put the finishing touches on their statements of faith and Session approves.) A confirmand is one who confirms the promises that their parents made at baptism and of their own volition and in their own hearts feel compelled to profess Christ as Lord and Savior. We also use the term confirmand loosely to describe youth in our church and in the class, who were not baptized but choose a life of faith. Technically, they become disciples by profession of faith. Upon profession, these youth become full members of Christ's church and can vote at congregational meeting and serve as elders and or deacons. This is not a pass and not an automatic event or rote ritual in our church. Our youth take seriously the vows they will make. This is what makes the class a joy. Faith moves from bud to bloom. Each journey is special and so it is a privilege to walk with them. We will receive these new disciples into membership at the 11:00 service.

Then it is out the door and on the Bikes. I will join our youth on the Bike-athon from BWI to Annapolis on the B&A Trail, 15 miles if they make it. They are searching for pledges as they raise funds for their summer mission trips and Logos conference trip. On Sunday they will be near the front door looking for your support.

Thank you to the Facilities Ministry for continued great progress on our grounds. I think you will find the changes this week very appealing. Which reminds me of our Walking in Faith...Growing in Grace Concert. I will see you on June 6.

If you have joined the church in the last four years then hopefully you have completed the 3 after-membership classes at Ark and Dove. We call them Deepening Your Spiritual Journey. Linda Girdner will lead the section on **Spiritual Gifts on Thursday, May 21st at 6:30pm**. See the article in this issue. On **May 28th** I will lead the class called the **Six Marks of Discipleship at 7pm** and on **June 11th** I will lead the class called **Connecting at Ark and Dove at 7pm**. Everybody is welcome at the classes but they are especially helpful to people who are newer to Ark and Dove.

In Christ,



## Interim Interludes

The Youth of Ark and Dove are participating in a Bike-A-Thon this Sunday, May 17th, as a fund-raiser for the Youth Mission Trip to Salem County, New Jersey, where they will work with Habitat for Humanity June 14-20th, and the Logos Conference July 5 – 12th. The Mission and Logos trips are very formative times for our youth where they grow as followers of Christ with a purpose to help others and enrich relationships. As they prepare and implement their plans, they develop new skills and take-on the responsibilities needed to carry out their mission. Please support them financially and with your prayers in these valuable faith experiences.

Vacation Bible School, VBS, will occur earlier in the summer this year, beginning on Sunday evening, July 12 and ending on Thursday evening, July 16th. Pastor Tim and I are in the process of choosing the topic and book for our Adult Discussion Group. This is an excellent time for those who have children in VBS to gather together for some new learning experiences and fellowship with one another. Of course, all adults are invited – in fact, this is a good opportunity for you to invite a neighbor or friend to join us for these 5 evening discussion times between 6:15 – 8:15 p.m.

Youth Confirmation is this Sunday, the 17th at the 11:00 service. Please keep Jenna Ramey, John Olivero, Dane Hansen, Erica Makar, and Sarah Brown in your prayers as they prepare for this important time in their lives.

Family Movie Night is Friday May 29th. We will be showing the movie Bedtime Stories and selling snacks to raise funds for the Logos scholarship fund. Fun for all!"

Adult Small Groups continue to meet: Contact Kim Champagne, ([kimchampagne@gmail.com](mailto:kimchampagne@gmail.com)) as the Women of Faith Group discusses "The Misunderstood Jew" every other Saturday at 9:00 am in the Marshall Room, join in the discussion at 11:00 in the Marshall Room on Sundays of "Amazing Grace – How Forgiveness Transcends Tragedy". and at 12:15 pm on Sundays, in the Ark and Dove Room, the Science and Theology Group meets to discuss, "Questions of Truth – Fifty One Responses to God, Science and Belief", and in the Ark and Dove Room at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays, Pastor Tim is leading a discussion for men on "Wild Man to Wise Man: Reflections on Male Spirituality".

There are two more Sundays of Easter, May 17th and 24th, before Pentecost on May 31st. "Alleluia" is one of my favorite reflective prayers on what it means to be "Easter People" – the "People of Hope".

*Corinne*

### ALLELUIA

from "Disciples at the Crossroads: Where DO We Go Now?" by Kathleen Hughes

*May God sparkle in all of us  
as sunlight upon water,  
May we radiate for each other  
compassion and hope,  
May our work be fruitful,  
our joys profound,  
our pain redemptive,  
May our discipleship be rooted  
in the very life of God.*

*May we be for each other,  
for family, for friends, for those in need, for those especially  
whose faith has come to staleness  
and whose hope has died  
--a burgeoning ALLELUIA  
--light and peace  
--full gratitude, full openness.  
May we take nothing less for granted  
than the life we seek to build up in common.  
May we suffer the pain of a  
fully generous love.  
May we remain steadfast  
in the shadow of the cross,  
And rise to meet the passion of this world  
Relying always  
on the untiring good Spirit of our God. Amen.*

Prayer Concerns Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Kit Robson, Dot Forloines' friend, who is ill; Amy Corson's father who is having surgery this week; Cayden Gee, a friend of Julia Kirby, who is recovering from injuries.

The love and sympathy of the congregation goes out to Amy Benson and her family on the death of her mother, Carol Sheets, and to Pat Thompson and his family on the death of his mother.

## Band Banter

Hello Ark and Dove! What a year this has been. I have just finished my last week of school at Peabody, so it is now official; I am a bonified Masters degree graduate. Now time to move on to bigger and better things, like the Walking in Faith concert on June 6. I am excited to play for everyone, and to see if having a Masters degree will have an effect on my guitar playing (I hope so!).

I was very proud to have the Youth Band sing on Mother's Day, and Eliza, Katie, Stephanie, Logan (along with a few Contemporary Band members) did a great job! Now, it's time for Six Flags. Our trip will be a nice cap to the end of the Youth Band season, until we meet again in September. Thank you all for working so hard, and making Youth Band so fun. Don't forget in the upcoming months to sing like a rock star, and to sing uncomfortably close to the microphone!

God Bless,  
Mark

## Mission Ministry

### Sarah's House Hospitality Team

Join in our church's commitment to prepare and serve meals at Sarah's House, a transitional housing shelter near Fort Meade, every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Please consider contributing a food item or volunteering an hour and a half of your time (4:30-6:00pm) to serve on May 20th. Perhaps we'll have a late Cinco de Mayo theme for May!?? See the sign-up sheet in the narthex and someone will be in touch with you (or contact Nicole Howe, [nicole.c.howe@census.gov](mailto:nicole.c.howe@census.gov)). Thanks to all those who donated food and served at our "Italian Night" on April 15th!!! We served a lovely dinner to approximately 65 people that night! What a good feeling!

### Winter Relief Shelter Project

#### **Learn More about the Winter Relief Emergency Shelter at Ark and Dove.**

The Congregation of Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church is committed to reaching out to people in need. We have helped to build homes through Habitat for Humanity; held camps for Native American children in South Dakota, served meals to the homeless, and even dedicated ten percent of pledged funds to Mission projects. These efforts represent just a small sample of the many activities in which our Congregation has helped the vulnerable and served God.

Ark and Dove's Congregation has embarked on an exciting and challenging Mission opportunity. We have been called to participate in the Arundel House of Hope Winter Relief Emergency Shelter. Many of us had supported emergency relief shelter activities at another Church last year, and felt that we could take on a greater role.

Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church will be hosting this rotating emergency shelter for a one-week period from Monday, October 26, through Monday, November 2, 2009.

Homelessness is a serious issue facing our community. The number of homeless people in the United States is astounding. On any given night, more than 744,000 people have no place to call home. There are approximately 10,000 homeless people in Maryland alone, with an estimated 2000 people homeless right here in Anne Arundel County.

Many of the homeless are young, with a disproportionate amount being veterans. While a large number of homeless people are men, families represent the fastest growing segment of this tragic phenomenon. We need to get involved.

Please attend one of the forums that have been scheduled at Ark and Dove to find out more about homelessness as well as Ark and Dove's Winter Relief Shelter. The forums provide a perfect opportunity to ask questions about the shelter process and to hear about the many ways in which you can help.

**The first two forums will be held on Sunday May 17, 2009, after each worship service (10:45 AM & 12:15 PM), in the Marshall Room. The forums will not last longer than 40 minutes. The second two forums will similarly be held on June 14th. Please come out and answer the call to help those that are in need of your love.**

## Christian Education Ministry

### May Special Offering

The special offering for Christian Education will be collected during the month of May. Gifts will be used to purchase VBS supplies and summer curriculum. Specific items that are needed for CE are:

#### *Construction paper and CD players*

Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

**VBS: Camp E.D.G.E.** – Experience and Discover God Everywhere- **volunteers needed for July 12-16<sup>th</sup>, 6:15 – 8:15pm.** Be a camp counselor, a recreation leader, or snack leader. No experience needed; leaders guides provide everything you need to say and do. Assistant camp counselors and activity center leaders also welcome (finished 6<sup>th</sup> Grade or older). Help with meal planning and preparation also needed. Or just donate items or load some items for VBS use – supply list is on the activity table in the church lobby. Contact Wendy Wellington ([clifford.wellington@verizon.net](mailto:clifford.wellington@verizon.net)) or Ellen Smith ([ellensmith@yahoo.com](mailto:ellensmith@yahoo.com)) for more details on these and other volunteer opportunities, or visit Camp E.D.G.E. website: <http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/camp-edge-overview.php>

## Facilities Ministry

Spring is here and our property is looking great. Again, thanks to all who helped during Clean up day. While the recent rains are helping everything grow, it is hampering our effort to get topsoil down and lay the remaining section of our new sod. Hopefully the weather will cooperate soon.

In other news, Facilities would like to buy a new ladder. This ladder will be compact enough for our limited storage ability, but tall enough to reach most of what we need to access in the sanctuary. We currently do not own a ladder tall enough to reach our projectors, light fixtures, and any worship decorations that we choose to hang -- in a safe manner. The ladder we are looking at is a bit more expensive than most ladders, but it is very flexible and very safe to use. Why am I telling you this? The catch is that we do not have a budget to buy this with. If you are willing and/or interested in making a donation towards this purchase—please let me know, anything would be appreciated.

**Thanks,**

**Rob Yeager, Facilities Elder**

## Discipleship Ministry

### Spiritual Gifts Discovery Team

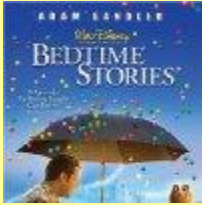
#### Spiritual Gifts Class -

Thursday, May 21st at 6:30pm

A 2 hr workshop to learn more about your own Spiritual Gifts and how to use them to God's glory. We will begin at 6:30 with fellowship and light food. All members and friends, new and old, are invited to attend. The Spiritual Gifts Inventories are available on the sign up table or in Linnie's mailbox in the office. Please do this one and not the older one on the website, prior to the class. Then bring the list of your gifts with you to the workshop. It'll be a fun opportunity to share with one another, while taking another step in your journey of discipleship. Any questions, contact Linnie Girdner at 410-672-5050 or [Lkgirdner@comcast.net](mailto:Lkgirdner@comcast.net).

### Movie Night

Friday, May 29th at 7pm



Come and See Disney's *Bedtime Stories*

Admission is free - Snacks will be sold to raise funds for the LOGOS Scholarship fund.

Bring the whole family!

## Deacons Ministry

### Baptism Seminar

Do you have a baby or child that you would like to have baptized? Are you expecting a baby soon and have questions about getting your child baptized? If so, then mark your calendars because this class is for you! The following are the dates that are scheduled. **Sat, May 30 at 11:00am, Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00pm, Tuesday, December 1 at 6:00pm and Sunday, February 21 at 12:15pm.**

We hope one will work for you in order to help prepare you for the baptism of your child! Please contact Sarah Salkeld at [sarahsalkeld@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahsalkeld@yahoo.com) or 410-729-0129 for more information.

### Youth Bike-a-thon



**Sunday afternoon, May 17th** our youth will cycle 15 miles from BWI to Annapolis on the B&A Trail to raise funds for their summer mission and logos trips. The youth will be in the lobby of the church again this Sunday. Please consider pledging.

Joyfully Serving God  
with  
OpenHearts  
and  
OpenMinds

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