

September 15, 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 ,

September in the garden; certain things come to an end. The beetles have had their way with my cucumbers and they have nearly entirely succumbed. A blight has wiped out half my peppers and the basil is not loving the cool evenings. September marks the end of the Summer schedule. The freedom of a less hectic pace comes to an end. Play time runs short. The evenings turn dark earlier and even though there are 24 hours still, it seems like days are short-changed.

Yet certain things happen in the garden now that cannot happen in the summer. The peas are looking sweet and standing six inches tall. Sprouts have leafed out into young plants. The broccoli is nearly one foot. Lettuce and scallions are just peaking with a little green from the earth. So it is with the church year. The Spirit of God is pushing up sprouts and autumn experiences are greening out. Sunday School has begun. Adult Small group opportunities abound. LOGOS youth ministry and Club 234 fellowship have re-launched and there are a bundle of music opportunities at our church. I always look forward to the growth there is in our congregation in the fall. I hope you find your place at Ark and Dove. We all need paths to deepen our faith.

The goal of Habitat For Humanity is to eliminate substandard housing everywhere. We have a pot of money that is growing. We are setting aside savings every month for our own Habitat For Humanity home. Somehow some way, we hope to be able to pay for an entire Habitat house in West County. It will be sold interest free to a family which could not otherwise afford a decent place to live. Mike Obara is the treasurer of our walking in Faith Growing in Grace campaign and his August report states that nearly \$14,000 has been earmarked and saved for "our" house. Since this coming Sunday is the international day for Prayer for Habitat; it feels good and it is timely to celebrate progress toward the home. Thank you for being a mission minded congregation.

Our team which is planning for our hosting of the Winter relief Homeless Shelter for one week in October has been working very very hard on planning. They are a dedicated bunch. This Sunday they begin sign-ups for mission volunteers. We need our whole church to help. Watch for the sign up sheets and for information on the blue wall. What a meaningful way to extend the hospitality of Christ.

As we all rev up, gear up and jump into our autumn speeds, let's try not to spin out and crash. Let's pace ourselves. Find time for prayer, for meditation and for worship and for strengthening relationships. Replenish your well, so you can be a source of inspiration to others.

In Christ,

## Church Picnic



Sunday, September 27, 12:30-2:30.

Volunteers needed for help with set up, cooking, games and clean up. Please sign up at church or contact Louise Sharrocks Hansen or Donna Anderson.

## Director's Notes

Children's Choirs began last week, and I hope everyone will be coming on September 20th to hear the Dove Choir sing their brand new song! They sound great, and so do the Children's Choir. The Children's Choir will be singing an African song on World Communion Sunday. Each of the kid's choirs will be singing once a month between now and December and are working hard to learn new songs for worship.

The Adult Choir continues to rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 and is very excited to be working on Vivaldi's Gloria, which will include soloists from the University of Maryland. We will be preparing this for Sunday, December 6th, and I'd like to invite anyone interested in singing with us to Thursday evening rehearsals from 8:00-8:30 beginning on November 5th (we'll be working on it prior to this, but it's not necessary to come that early).

School is back in session and I'm busier than ever. I've started working on my dissertation- I hope to have my proposal pinned down in the next month. I'm starting to think that picking the topic might be the hardest part of the process!

It's been great seeing everyone back from their vacations. If anyone is interested in singing with the Adult choir for the Advent season, please see me or just come to a Thursday night rehearsal!

*Rebecca*

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## Band Banter

Hello Ark and Dove. I hope the beginning of the school year has proved to be both productive and exciting. It has for me, as Youth Band had a great first rehearsal on Sunday, and LOGOS starts this Tuesday. Everything is in full swing now, and I am excited to see the new developments that the year has to bring.

The first Youth Band Sunday will be October 11, so please mark it on your calendars. The Youth Band is also an open membership group, meaning that anyone can come join us to worship in song. We meet on Sunday afternoons, after the 11:00 service lets out.

We are also keeping Alex Hansen in mind, as he makes a speedy recovery from his internal injuries, and hopefully he won't have to be called "drip" for too much longer!

Also a word on the Anthem from this Sunday. It was a piece of music written by the Australian guitarist, Tommy Emmanuel. He has been touring for his entire adult life, and got his start, basically traveling around Australia like a gypsy, playing music whenever he could, and not having a steady place to sleep from year to year. The song, "Angelina" was written for his daughter, with the same name.

*That's all for now. God Bless,  
Mark*

## Facilities Ministry

### ARK AND DOVE FANTABULOUS BEAUTIFICATION EXTRAVAGANZA

What is this? This year our Church Clean up day gets a new name and a new format. Why does it need a new name? Because I felt that "clean up day" was just not very exciting. Why do we have a new format, and what is it? We have numerous projects this fall to spruce up our facilities, so this time around we will be working on two days.

On October 17<sup>th</sup> we will be concentrating on projects that are outside and grounds related. On November 7<sup>th</sup> we will be concentrating on our building. We also hope that by splitting this between two weekends, the days will not be as long, and we can encourage more people to find time to volunteer. In coming articles, I will let you know the projects that we have planned, and the sign up sheets will be available in the Ark and Dove Lobby.

I am very excited about how full our schedule is this fall. There is so much going on at Ark and Dove, and the Facilities Ministry would like our building and grounds to look the best that they can. Please put these dates on your calendar now, and we will be excited to share the details with you soon!

*- Rob Yeager, Facilities Elder*

**Prayer Concerns** Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Gary Sager; Carol Heflebower's sister, Joyce; Megan Estes and Alex Hansen who continue to recover from their injuries; a three week old baby in intensive care and Nancy Seidler, recovering from a serious illness and to the family of Bob Bower, the Pastor Emeritus of Harundale Presbyterian Church, who passed away this week. A memorial service will be announced.

**Congratulations!** To Tina and Nick Anthis on the birth of their son Joshua Nikolas Anthis on Sept 12th. Mom and Dad, as well as sisters, Sarah, Megan and Sophia are waiting patiently as Joshua stays in the hospital a few days to strengthen his lungs.

**Congratulations!** To Dot Forloines on the birth of twin granddaughters, Ava Noell and Ella Summer who were born on Sept 1th to Chip and Holly Forloines.

## Sunday Fellowship Team

Do you enjoy a cookie after the service? Do you find that fellowship over a sweet really enhances your church experience? We do too. With the start of the fall season, many of us will be making our way back for spiritual growth opportunities, Sunday School, and many other relationship-building activities. The Sunday Fellowship Team wants to continue adding to the church experience through the sharing of a small cookie, juice or a cup of coffee after the services. Supplies are running low, however. We are asking for donations of cookies, juice, coffee, coffee cups, juice cups, napkins, or other food items that can be shared on Sunday. They can be marked for "fellowship" and placed in the kitchen. Additionally, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are so moved to make a cake or bring in some different types of goodies. The Sunday Fellowship Team would love your help in continuing this relationship-building activity.

*Thanks, Marilyn Speir  
and Josh Ederheimer*

## Club 234

**Club 234 is going on a hike!** If you are in grades 2, 3 or 4 you are invited to join us on September 20 after the 11:00 service for a picnic and hike. Bring a bagged lunch and your sneakers. We are expecting great weather and a good time. Any question please contact Cheryl Walcutt at 410-672-0842 or Deb Saylor at 410-672-1230. Siblings are welcome with parent supervision.



## Yard Sale !!

October 3, 2009

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Proceeds will benefit youth summer trips. Donations gladly accepted September 27 (after the second service!) - October 2. Please drop them off in the Prentiss-Whitman room! Please support our Youth!

## Save the Date!

November 21, 2009

**Pastor Corinne Baker  
Retirement Party**

Watch the Arkive and E-Arkive for more information. Inquires contact: Wesley Gordon, Dawn Gordon, or Julie Houck.

Joyfully Serving God  
with  
OpenHearts  
and  
OpenMinds

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A Grandfather had been a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church. Even though the PCUSA (Presbyterian Church, U.S.A) holds that “all the baptized faithful are welcomed to The Lord’s Table, and none shall be excluded because of race, sex, age, ...” the grandfather had held the belief for many years that children are invited to Christ’s Table only after their confirmation.

Then one day he went to visit his son and family in another community who worshipped in a church of another denomination because there was no Presbyterian Church. The family understood that in this faith tradition, children are not included in the sacrament until Confirmation. On Sunday, the grandfather worshipped with his son’s family, and when it came time for communion, the family went forward to receive. Not wanting to be left alone in the pew, the girl went with her family, knowing she couldn’t share in the meal.

As the minister began distributing the elements, one of the things he said was, “**This table is spread for all those who love the Savior Jesus Christ.**” When he reached the family, as expected, he skipped over the girl.

And then in a voice loud enough to be heard all over the church, the girl said, “Why can’t I have some? I love Jesus too.” She had been listening carefully.

In that instant, the grandfather’s opinion on the subject made a 180 degree turn. His tightly held theology, cherished traditions and comfortable practices, “the way he’d always done it,” all fell away. This grandfather found himself asking, “Why can’t she have some? She loves Jesus too!”

“The grandfather realized that children and youth are not welcome at the table when:

- the old, old story we love to tell, the good news of Jesus Christ, is not lived out in the invitation we offer at the table, where Jesus is the host;
- the children are asked to leave before the meal is served
- the children are not regular participants in worship and thus do not know the rituals, expectations, and norms of their worshipping community;
- the liturgy consistently uses language beyond their comprehension and experience;
- the practices, responses and meaning of the sacrament are never openly discussed or explained to them either at home or at church.

“(From “Rethinking the Sacraments for Children” by Elizabeth Caldwell)

Elder Beth Foster and the Christian Education Ministry Team presented to Session at their September 9, 2009 meeting a plan for children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade to worship with their families once a month to become familiar with and experience all aspects of worship – including the sacraments of baptism and communion. We believe this will enhance their faith as they begin to feel that they too belong in worship! Within the last 20 -30 years many Protestant congregations including the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Church of Christ, The United Methodist have begun to take seriously that in Baptism a person becomes a member of Christ’s church and is welcomed at Christ’s table – for it is the Holy Spirit who works *God’s love within a person at any age.*

In order for children to become acquainted with worship and communion practices, Pastor Corinne will hold two sessions on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School Hour at both services for children 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade to acquaint them with worship and communion practices and meaning. Please make every effort to have your child present these two Sundays.

In Christ’s love,

*Corinne*

## Small Groups Ministry

I just recently became acquainted with the Ark & Dove Presbyterian Church family. My goals for attending the class What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty were most importantly to obtain a better understanding of the topic, become more familiar with the workings of the church, and meet new people. I am very happy to pronounce every target was abundantly met!!

The course curriculum was profoundly intriguing. It highlighted, in very a sublime way, how my thoughts and actions toward the less fortunate should not be sorrow or pity, but they should be of caring respect. This information was extremely pertinent as I plan to volunteer during the upcoming “Winter Relief” project.

It was very pleasant to interact with others who have similar feelings about this subject. I learned every individual has a distinctive opinion concerning this matter, and they can express it freely in the “small group” setting.

The “small group” is a fantastic venue to learn, partake in fellowship, and articulate your thoughts, beliefs, and life experiences. I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent with my classmates, and I look forward to being an active participant with “small groups” in the near future.

- Mitch Smalley

### Fall Small Groups at Ark and Dove - You can still join in any of these groups!

**Sundays at 11am** - “Living the Questions2” Join any Sunday for topical discussion by church leaders on important biblical topics.

**Sundays at 12:20pm** - “God According to God” Book discussion looking at the true nature of God.

**Mondays at 7pm** - Financial Peace University. Get a handle on your finances.

**Wednesdays at 7pm** - Begins Wed 9/23 - Pastor Corinne facilitates this DVD fascinating discussion of how biblical faith counters the pull of modern culture.

**Thursdays at 7pm** - “Called to Our Gifts” faith formation combined with Positive Psychology.

**Alternate Saturdays at 9am** - Begins Sat 9/19 - “A Journey of Faith” Women’s Group studies Joshua.