

October 13, 2009

Φ The Arkive Φ

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

Stewardship Ministry

Let God Lead – Journaling Exercises



Let God Lead is our stewardship theme for our fall stewardship campaign. In the coming weeks we will share news about Ark and Dove's vision for the coming year and will seek financial pledges to support our church's mission and ministry priorities in 2010. How will God lead you in this process? To listen to God's call, our efforts are focused in the next few weeks about the many ways we can Let God Lead us. Prayer, listening and journaling are just a few ways to Let God Lead us in being good stewards and disciples. We invite you to spend a few moments in the coming weeks listening to God, perhaps using these exercises as a guide.

Spend a few moments in prayer. Reflect on your faith journey and write down or think about your responses to the following questions:

What happened to make you decide to be part of the faith community?

Many members of the church have offered their time and talents to certain projects. Is there one person you look up to because of their contribution?

Reflect on your offerings of time and talent.

What can you offer God in gratitude for the blessings in your life?

Begin with prayer. Read Deuteronomy 26:8-11 about offering first fruits to God to express gratitude for God's blessings. Think about your responses to the following questions:

- What do you have to be thankful to God for?
- What do you bring as first fruits to God to acknowledge His blessings?
- Have you declared a percentage of your income as first fruits to God?

How did you determine this percentage?

Begin in prayer. Read Matthew 22:36-40 about Jesus declaring to the disciples that the greatest commandment is to "love the Lord God with all your heart." When our lives are dedicated to God, we begin to see how broad a spectrum our offerings can take. For example, choir members dedicate their time for mid-week rehearsal and preparation on Sunday morning. We can bless their offering of time and talent by thanking them personally, by dedicating gifts for new music, and by supporting them and reflecting on their musical message. Write down your thoughts to the following:

- What other examples have you seen in Ark & Dove of loving God with all your heart?
- What other examples have you been a part of?
- What can you offer to God in response to His blessings in your life?

How can this connect to your giving and service in our congregation?

Our coming year will have many mission projects and ministry opportunities that enable us to fulfill our vision to faithfully follow where God leads us. Dedication Sunday is November 22 when members and friends will dedicate their financial pledges to God for the coming year. How will you Let God Lead you?

- Karen Dodson, 2009 Stewardship Team Leader

Winter Relief Homeless Shelter - Just two weeks away!

Winter Relief Overnight Chaperone Openings & Orientation dates.

We will have a team of 4 chaperones 11pm-7am each of the 7 nights of our on-site homeless shelter. Chaperone Orientation will be held at the church Sat, Oct 17, 8-9am, with a make-up session Wed, Oct 21, 7-8pm. Chaperones should attend one of these sessions to assure a positive experience for guests and chaperones alike. Twenty-two of our chaperone slots are filled, with the following openings remaining: Tue night Oct 27 (woman or man); Wed night Oct 28 (man); Sat night Oct 31 (man & woman or 2 men); Sun night Nov 1 (2 men). If you need more info before committing to do this, contact Vaughn Brown, 443-618-3089, or come Saturday morning for the orientation – then decide.

Music Director's Notes

Congratulations to the Children's Choir and the Dove choir for doing a beautiful job this week. The Children's Choir led the 9:30 service on all of the music and worked really hard to prepare everything. Both groups did such a great job!

If anyone is interested in joining the choir in singing Vivaldi's Magnificat in December, please email me or come talk to me after a service. We are also singing some great music for Christmas and always welcome any extra voices to join us!!

I am considering beginning another children's group for children ages 2-3 in a 'Mommy and Me' type session. This wouldn't be weekly, but rather every other Thursday for about 20 minutes before the Dove Choir meets (5:00-5:20). If this is something that you'd like to do, please email me at RebeccaEBell@gmail.com or see me after a service. If there is enough interest, we will begin in November. I will let you know in the next Arkive article, as well as an E-Arkive, so be watching!

Love,

Rebecca

Facilities Ministry

This is the last reminder for the **Ark and Dove Fantabulous Beautification Extravaganza** on October 17th, from 9am- 4pm. Please join us in working on many projects to maintain our grounds and our building. Lunch will be provided and everyone is welcome!! We need many hands to complete our many goals. Please drop by even if you can only work for a couple of hours. If you are not available this time and you want to be involved, we will have a second Extravaganza on November 7th. We look forward to seeing you soon!!

Discover and Connect Team

Spiritual Gifts Class - Thursday, November 12 from 7-9pm
Learn more about Spiritual Gifts and God's Call. We will begin at 7pm with fellowship and light food. All members and friends, new and old, are invited to attend. The class can be more personally useful if you first complete the Spiritual Gifts Inventory that is available on the sign up table. 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. Please sign up soon and let us know if you need childcare. Any questions, contact Linnie Girdner, Discover & Connect Team Leader, at 410-672-5050 or Lkgirdner@comcast.net.

Christian Education Ministry

Yard Sale Update

The youth had a very successful fund raiser on 10/3! They raised almost \$700.00 for the summer '10 trips! The Yard Sale was held indoor this year and provided great exposure of Ark and Dove to the local community. The youth worked hard setting up, sorting items and selling treasures and baked goods!

Many thanks to all of the youth and parents who helped out and the members who made donations of "stuff"!

A special thanks goes to Connie Kinnick, Linda Lewis, and the Yeager family for their help with set up, working the sale and bringing unsold items to the Salvation Army at the end of the day! It was a great start to our fundraising efforts!

Logos Powering Up Training

Ark and Dove coordinated and hosted an all day training event on Saturday, October 10 with the Logos Ministry. It was our first time hosting Logos training and the workshops were full of new ideas and ways to rejuvenate our own Logos Program. There were attendees from Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church, Catocin Presbyterian Church and Strasburg Presbyterian Church who traveled to Ark and Dove for the day-long event.

A special shout out to the following people who helped make the day a great success:

Amy Regel - registration

Kyle Walcutt and Mike McCall - lunch servers and clean-up

Don Anderson - accompanist for the closing worship

Worship Reminder

Children in grades 2 and up will be worshipping with their families on Sunday November 1. Sunday School will not be held for those grades that day. Pastor Corinne has been working with the children in grades 2-5 to teach them about the elements of worship. The Christian Education Ministry is excited about providing this worship opportunity for our children!

Happy Birthday

John Calvin and Ark and Dove!

This **October 25th** marks the **500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin and the 17th birthday of Ark and Dove!** We will celebrate in Worship with music and prayer focusing on our reformed tradition.

What? You don't know who John Calvin was? John Calvin was one of the most significant architects of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century. His work and thoughts live on in our worship services today.

"If Luther sounded the trumpet for reform, Calvin orchestrated the score by which the Reformation became a part of Western civilization." - Mark A. Noll, *Elwell Evangelical Dictionary*

Prayer Concerns **Please keep the following people in your prayers this week:** Lester Dabbs, recovering from surgery and should be going home soon; and for our friends and members who are traveling this week.

We give thanks for Carey Cowell's good test results after being hospitalized with chest pains, Gail Huff's mother has been released from the hospital after a heart attack and stroke last week and that a friend's cancer is in remission.

Thanks be to God for more good news than bad!

Discipleship Ministry

Mark Your Calendars -Church Picture Directory

We encourage everyone to participate in updating the Ark and Dove picture directory. To receive a directory you need to participate. Sign ups for picture taking will be going on each week in the foyer. You will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits for gifts if you wish, but it's not mandatory.

Photography dates at church are:

Wednesday, November 11th from 3-9pm

Tuesday, December 1 from 3-9pm

Wednesday, December 2 from 3-9pm

Please don't forget to sign up to reserve your spot and place in the new directory!

We are also looking for encouraging, smiling volunteers to assist in the sign ups each Sunday morning for both the 9:30am and 11:00am services. If you are willing and able to assist us on any of the Sundays prior to November 11th and December 1st photography days, please contact Donna Anderson, Rick or Lauren Ivanac or Anne-Marie Rosenthal.

Thank you Church Picnic Helpers

Last week's rescheduled Church Picnic featured great weather with great food and fellowship. Thanks to the following people who helped make the picnic possible. Chris Bussey, who almost single handedly cooked burgers and hot dogs for 100 people. Thanks Chris. And to Marci and Ray Bussey for helping with food preparation. Also thanks to Scott Foster, Josh Ederheimer, Doug Walcutt, Ron and Louise Hansen, Scott Howe, Spence Churchill, Samantha Lauer, Eliza Foster, Andrew Foster for help with set up and clean up. And to Ed and Liz Hall for taking photos of the picnic.

Celebration of All Saints

All Saints Day is November 1st, on this Sunday we remember in our worship prayer those who have passed on during the year. If you have someone you would like included, please contact Kelly Burnett by phone 410-544-5779 or email kellyB327@aol.com.

Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Craft Festival November 14th

We are excited to have four of our tables at this year's craft fair rented by members of our own congregation! How about you, too?! Do you dabble in crafts or artwork? Do you have a friend that does? Applications for table rentals are on the sign up table in the church lobby. We will also have a "Party Room" for Home Business vendors. So join in the fun!

We are happy to announce that we will again have the fair trade tables with global goods for sale along with our Deacon's Diner and Bake Sale.

The rental from the crafters tables and the proceeds from the bake sale will go towards our **Ark and Dove Habitat Fund** to build an entire Habitat House right here in West AA County.

Joyfully Serving God
with
OpenHearts
and
OpenMinds

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INTERIM INTERLUDES

Homeless Shelter - Ark and Dove has been hopping with activity these last few weeks. By the time you read this, it will be just a little over a week until we host the homeless shelter at Ark and Dove. If you aren't one of the more than 60 people who have signed up for one of the many areas of opportunity to be a part of the hosting, sign-up on the wall bulletin board in the lobby at the church or contact Scott Foster SFoster@arinc.com, and Josh Ederheimer at joshua.ederheimer@gmail.com

Choirs - Thank you to the Dove Choir, the Children's Choir, and the Youth Band and our two directors, Rebecca Bell and Mark Edwards for singing the anthems and leading the congregation in hymns on Sunday, October 11th. The youth and children worked diligently to be able to share their music with us!

The Logos 8th grade Worship Skills Class led the congregation in worship on the 11th as they "signed" a rousing anthem. It is inspiring to hear the youth talk about what they are doing!

The 11:00 Sunday Adult "Living The Questions 2" group has been using segments of the DVD Series featuring view-points by leading theologians on issues of faith to spark some great discussion. They have focused on various interpretations of beliefs and stories of the Bible and how we respond to them along with sharing their own Spiritual Journeys.

"In our small group, *Called to Share our Gifts*, we learned that: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Gal. 5:22-23), and that bearing these fruits in our daily lives is even more important than demonstrating our spiritual gifts. We discussed how challenging it can be at times to let ourselves remain in this wonderful loving energy, especially when we get in the way of God working through us. I love the sharing that arises from our reading, reflection, and interactions, and I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know such wonderful people while deepening my own spiritual path. " *Linnie Girdner*

World Communion Sunday - Thank you to Elder Spence Keyes and Frances Keyes and Chaplain Betsy Baer for the team's efforts at setting up the communion stations with items representing the four corners of the globe. The emphasis with stories and photos of Mission Co-Workers in Africa and Guatemala added to the connectedness we all are a part of as Presbyterian Christians. Thank you to all who responded to the call to bring in items connected with Communion from around the world.

Presbyterian Mission Co-Worker Rev. Dr. Karla Koll visited Ark and Dove on Thursday, October 8th and presented an inspiring story of her work in Guatemala as she highlighted her visit with a DVD, slides and personal experiences.

Karla is a professor serving at the Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA), in Guatemala where she works with others to provide safe, creative spaces where women and men from many different Christian traditions can deepen their faith. **Karla told stories of how she and others work to eliminate violence against women and children** through educating and empowering local leaders to serve their communities more effectively. Because of past corrupt experiences with the government and police, Karla and others work within a system full of mistrust. Karla responded to many questions as the group wanted to hear more how she and others help the leaders bring change to their communities in a culture that is steeped in a tradition of oppressing women and children. It takes lots of patience to on the part of Karla! ! Let us continue to pray for Karla and all our mission workers.

Saturday, October 17, 9am to 4pm, is a great time to bring your whole family together to help beautify our property! Lunch will be served for workers!

I'm looking forward to working with our 2nd-5th graders this Sunday preparing them to receive The Lord's Supper on Sunday, November 1st.

See you in worship! Love,

