

November 10, 2009

THE Arkive

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

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

In a separate article Josh Ederheimer thanks you all for your support of the Winter Relief Homeless Shelter. He wrote the article on Thursday but by Sunday had counted that at least 113 people served at the shelter and contributed over 2000 hours in planning and work. Thank you Ark and Dove for your dedication to mission and thank you to Josh Ederheimer, Scott Foster, Clay and Carol Heflebower and the whole winter relief planning team. Because of their leadership we were well prepared.

I shared the following in my sermon on Sunday Concerning Winter Relief:

“Wow that was some kind of commitment wasn’t it. It was a pile of hard work, people rolled up their sleeves and went well beyond ordinary and expectations --- and believe me I could hear the collective sigh of relief from satisfied hard workers this week as everyone recovered or “sabbathed” from the hard work of serving people in need. I wanted to thank you all last Sunday in worship and share a communal sense of satisfaction and delight but I also wanted to be considerate of our guests. Wow – You were not far from the kingdom of God. Something happened in this church last week. There was this wonderful balance of Loving God and Loving Neighbor. There were many insights granted and holy moments shared. We received gifts from our guests as they received a gift from us. Neighbors we suspected would be hard to love, weren’t all that hard to love and weren’t as terribly different from us as we imagined. Nameless faces and theoretical challenges became real people with real feelings, real problems and real dilemmas and we grew from their presence.”

We saw God lead in our winter homeless shelter relief work. Someone reminded me that we got involved with Winter Relief last year as a part of our joining the Advent Conspiracy. Since Christmas commercials have started in earnest on television it is worthwhile to remember the four themes of the Advent Conspiracy. **Worship Fully** – remember that the Advent Christmas season is about worshipping God who came to us in Jesus. **Spend Less** – acknowledging that we often go overboard - way overboard at Christmas, tone it down - balance the budget, be sensible. Most kids won’t notice they are only getting 14 presents instead of 16. **Give More** – of yourself – build relationships, make time with your friends and family count. **Love All** – take some of that money saved and give it away to people in need. Give your time to mission.

Let God Lead is the theme of our fall stewardship effort. Our Stewardship team has asked us all to pledge to our Mission and Ministry Fund. A pledge is a promise to the church that is made by filling out a pledge card (that will come in the mail) and bringing it to worship on Sunday November 22. Our Stewardship Team has asked us to read scripture and pray about our giving. Our Stewardship team has asked us to prayerfully consider increasing our pledge by 1% of household income. Our Stewardship team has reminded us that next year we will call a full time Associate Pastor and that will require increased generosity. One thing you also might consider this year is switching over your giving to EFT.

When we Let God Lead in our lives, we discover the Joys of Discipleship.

I will see you Friday night at the Band Together concert in Glen Burnie to help raise money for the food pantry. Our Band is one of many that are playing. And I will see you Saturday at the Fair Trade Festival and Craft Fair here at the church. It’s good to share fellowship at events like these.

Please remember to return your RSVP’s for Corinne’s retirement dinner of November 21 and please remember to be present for her last Sunday in Worship which is November 29, the first Sunday in Advent.

In Christ,



Christian Education

Help Wanted!

Volunteers for the Cribbery are needed!

Who: Anyone who loves being with small children

What: Your time once every 6 weeks or so

Where: The cribbery

When: During either service

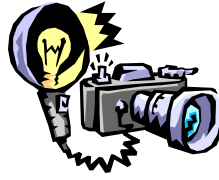
Why: To provide a nurturing, safe environment for our young children!

Please consider volunteering to care for our youngest children during either service. The cribbery is now set up for children ages 0-24 months with age appropriate toys and furnishings. Contact Lori Musican at lmusican@lukmire.com if you could help staff the cribbery!

Flapjack Fundraiser!

The youth will sponsor a Flapjack Fundraiser in conjunction with **Applebees at Waugh Chapel on Saturday December 5 from 8:00 - 10:00 AM**. Proceeds will benefit youth summer 2010 trips.

Discipleship Ministry



NEXT PICTURE DATES - Dec 1&2

We are continuing to take appointments for a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us to connect names with faces. It will be a useful tool for new people as they begin to worship here. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture our church in

words and pictures.

Please participate! We want our album to be as complete as possible. Remember, to get a book, you need to participate. The available times here at the church will be taken rapidly. Please sign up as soon as possible to get the appointment time that best suits your schedule.

We want everyone to participate. Our book will not be complete without you!

We are still looking for a few helpers to join us on Dec 1st and 2nd to assist with checking families in as they come for their photos. Even if your able to help for just a small amount of time your assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you're interested please contact Donna Anderson, AnneMarie Rosenthal or Lauren and Rick Ivanac.

Band Banter

Hello Ark and Dove. This Fall is going along, and I can't believe that it is November already. As we look ahead to the Advent seasons, there are several exciting things happening with Contemporary Music.

On Friday, November 13, the Adult Band will be taking part in "Band Together" at the Moose Lodge in Glen Burnie. If you get a chance, please swing by and support the food drive as well as your band. Tickets are 7 dollars and a can of food at the door. We will be singing at 9:00, but I have heard from the coordinator that there are 7 groups performing that night, including 5 bands, and two choirs. There will be certainly be music for everyone on Friday.

This Sunday, November 15, the Youth Band will be singing at the 11:00 service. We have been working on a song called "Give Me Your Eyes" which the group and I think helps us all to think about how we can Let God Lead in our every day lives, as well as in our church. The group is doing a fantastic job, and it has been great to work on such an inspirational song with them. As always, if you are interested in joining the Youth Band, we are a welcoming bunch, and practice after the 11:00 service in the Sanctuary until 1:30 at the latest.

The 6th and 7th grade LOGOS group, as well as the Senior High LOGOS group also participated in leading worship on Sunday, and have to say that both groups are doing wonderful things this year. It makes coming to the church on Tuesday time to look forward to, as we continue to find new ways to lead worship.

God Bless,

Mark

Prayer Concerns Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Rebecca Bell's grandfather, Melvin Orfinger; Les Dabbs; Joseph Austin, Charlotte Davie's father; Alta Paronto; Ray Pullen, Paula Gomes' brother; Robert and Bonnie Ramirez, both suffering from health issues; Janet Dabbs' niece, Kristin Parsley, dealing with a kidney stone; Damien Seargeant, Fred Barrow's nephew, recovering from surgery and all of our members and friends who are dealing with flu and cold season.

We pray for all the volunteers and guests of the Winter Relief Homeless Shelter this week at Asbury United Methodist Church and Peace Lutheran Church.

INTERIM INTERLUDES

I'm still processing the impact of the Winter Relief Homeless Shelter that we completed a week ago. What gave me such joy was to see 113 Ark & Dovers become community and share God's love in a new way. Some of you took vacation days in order to take a night shift - one of you took the all-night shift every night! All of the Team Leaders called on so many of you to commit - and you did! You took time in the evening and on the overnight shift to interact and share with our guests, talking quietly, watching a game on TV, playing games such as "Kings On The Corner". After every evening meal, some of our guests regularly volunteer to help take out the trash, and bring in new supplies. The men loved the meals that all of you with our great kitchen crew created! At the end of the week, several of our guests commented on how many A&Dovers sat at table with them each evening.

This congregation has a BIG heart. I'm sure you noticed that several men just wanted someone to listen to them as they shared their disappointments, their dreams, their hopes...and you were there! Yes, there were a few bumps that were handled well. I'm sure that everyone slept well when the week was over, yet I heard 4-5 people Monday night saying they really missed being together to enjoy a time of fellowship with our guests! I know I was given much more than I shared....I thank God for the perseverance of many of our guests as they looked for hope, asking us to pray for them to find a better alternative. May God bless each and every one of them!

As I approach the end of my time with you as a pastor, I've been looking over photos of the last 25 years of ordained pastoral ministry, 3 years as a student pastor and 8 years before that as an educator and elder. The photos help me remember how inspired I have been in many situations when people cared for one another in challenging times. There is nothing more holy and more powerful spiritually than to pray together for the presence of God's Spirit, holding on to the hope that each tomorrow is a new day to live with God and each other in peace and love. My time with you has been so rewarding over the last 6 plus years. Maybe because I was one of the pastors, along with Tim Stern, my husband, Wesley, Terry Schoener and others had a dream for a new congregation and so we drove around in August of 1986 looking for a community where a Presbyterian presence could grow and flourish. I remember that before Piney Orchard and any development was a reality, Executive Presbyter Herb Valentine and I walked to the grassy slope where our church now stands wondering what God's plan was for the future of the congregation that would worship here.

It is now Stewardship Commitment Time. Daily Prayer for God's guidance along with the time you spend in growing closer to God and one another and your financial commitment will determine who will join with you as the new Associate Pastor in the coming months. There is so much creativity among you! The focused time an Associate Pastor can bring working with Pastor Tim and your leaders, will help you implement your goals for an ever expanding future to reality! I feel so humbled to have been able minister with you during these last 6+ years! The inspiration, the dedication, compassion and courage that Elders, Deacons and all of you have demonstrated over the years, along with the vitality of our children/youth will forever give me the courage to continue discerning God's will for my life! While I am away for a year or so worshipping in different congregations I pray that you will step up in your commitment, as you have always done, to show your prayerful and your financial support to enable this congregation to move forward with a new and vital spirit! Now is the time to respond on how you will partner with Christ and each other. How will you be Christ's hands in this part of God's creation with a new pastoral team consisting of Pastor Tim and a new Associate Pastor?

With a grateful and prayerful heart, Love,



Craft/Fair Trade Festival

SATURDAY, Nov 14! 9am to 2pm



We have an unprecedented number of our own members and friends as vendors this year - including several of our children / youth. The Mission Ministry will again provide **Fair Trade** tables with global goods for sale without profit for any middle agent. The Deacon's are working hard on their "**Deacon's Diner**" lunch counter and you can still bring something delicious for the **Bake Sale** to church on Friday night. It looks to be a great time so don't miss it. Tell all your neighbors and friends!

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.



Clean up help is always appreciated so if you plan to come by the church for lunch in the early afternoon consider staying on for a few minutes to help set church back up for worship on Sunday! Thanks!

Club 234 news

Club 234 will be watching Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaur on Sunday, November 14 after the 11:00 service. Lunch of mac and cheese and chicken nuggets will be provided for \$5.00. If you have not signed up and want to participate, please email Deb Saylor at debsaylor1@aol.com or Cheryl Walcutt at walcutt_family@hotmail.com so we can have enough food prepared.



Joyfully Serving God
with
OpenHearts
and
OpenMinds

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Stewardship Ministry

Change. Don't you hate change? I don't mean the coins in your pocket or purse. I'm talking about things changing. The time, work, roads, moving, all those things in your life that change. Most of us don't really embrace change. But most of the time change is good. Moving into that new house is a lot of work, but once you get in it's great. As soon as you figure out how that new cell phone works, you wonder how you managed without it.



This year when you receive your pledge card think about change. Let God Lead you as you prayerfully consider changing your pledge. Has it been the same for years? Now is the time to change it. The challenge is to increase your pledge by 1% of your income. Change how you give to your church. Our goals for Ark & Dove for 2010 need to have you change your pledge. If it's zero, put an amount on that card. If you automatically write down the same amount as last year and the year before and the year before that, change what you write down.

Let God Lead. It will be just fine. God will not lead you astray. Write down the 1% increase. God will lead you and will make it happen. Change. It's a good thing.

To the Congregation of Ark and Dove;

I wanted to send out a message thanking all of you for your dedication, sacrifice, warmth, empathy, and commitment this week. Our guests enjoyed a safe, warm, dry, and well-fed week at Ark and Dove, and it was clear that they appreciated the love, companionship, and hospitality that was offered to them. At the pot-luck last night, the men presented a thank-you card, sharing how much they appreciated all of the people of Ark and Dove. I have posted the thank-you card on the Winter Relief bulletin board in the lobby.

As we reflect on the past week in the days to come, I wanted to point out several things. First, Ark and Dove was blessed with an incredible group of people who sacrificed their time, talents, and treasures to this endeavor. I am so appreciative that when the call for assistance went out, so many people came forward. This Sunday, I will tally up the number of people involved in the project and the number of volunteer hours that were donated. It was a lot!

Imagine how many people it took from Ark and Dove. Set-up, morning drives, afternoon drives, intake, fellowship, maintenance, meals and meals....and more meals, showers, haircuts, overnight shifts, medications and personal needs, TVs, games, and most importantly.....simple conversation and fellowship.

This was one of the largest and complex (perhaps the most) Mission project that our Church has aspired to achieve. I am certain that the soul-enriching sacrifices that were made this week will spur us all to more Mission work and Stewardship. We may be exhausted, but we have served God in serving those who are so less fortunate than ourselves.

The homeless are no longer invisible to us. They have names like Donnel, Mike, Harold, John, George, Darwin, Ed, Doug, Dave. We learned about them as people, and befriended them. Some of them shattered stereotypes, and all of them made us reflect on our own lives. Even after 24 years in law enforcement, I was out of my comfort zone - and am thankful. Today, driving into DC, I observed a homeless man walking along New York Avenue. I am noticing the homeless more than before, and I was pondering this man's path. I was wondering who he was. I appreciate Ark and Dove making me more aware and empathetic.

A huge thank-you to all,

-Josh Ederheimer