

November 24, 2009

THE Arkive

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

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

Let God Lead is the name of our Fall stewardship effort. Our Stewardship Ministry has been asking us to pray about our giving and to make a pledge to the Mission and Ministry Fund. Thank you to each household that turned their pledge cards in on Sunday. 53 Pledges have been received to date and that is a great start. We have about 135 households in our church, so we still have a way to go; but a good start. See details in the Stewardship Article.

Thank you to everyone who attended Pastor Corinne's retirement dinner on Saturday night; it was a wonderful time. There were ten speakers and each one gave us some insight into the depth and scope of Corinne's ministry not just at Ark and Dove but in the many places she served before she came here. Thank you to all the folks that contributed to her retirements gifts, which are on display in the lobby. Part of our gift to Corinne is a pilgrimage to the Iona Community in Iona, Scotland. You can google Iona if you would like to learn more; but Iona is place of prayer and worship, a community of people devoted to personal spirituality and justice for all people. As I said on Sunday Morning, we have enough in the fund to get Corinne to Scotland and we could use some more contributions to make sure we get her home.

Thank you to Wes Gordon who seven months ago volunteered to shepherd Corinne's retirement celebrations. Thank you to Dawn Gordon who planned the dinner with Wes and thank you to David and Aimee Schafer, Scott Foster, Kelly Stern, Mark Edwards and Rebecca Bell who helped Wes and Dawn with planning various components of the dinner and thank you to everyone who helped – there were many and we are grateful.

There are many components to a retirement and how they affect a church community. At this moment we all are feeling some angst and grief over the loss of Corinne. She has been a wonderful presence in our midst. As we walk through the next months, I shall reflect in my letters about what her retirement means to us. Today I would like to focus on how important it is to say thank you to Corinne for her ministry. I hope you will send her a card and tell her and I hope you will be present for her last Sunday in worship as our Associate Pastor which is this Sunday November 29. For six years she has served at our church faithfully. We want to honor that. Please be present to give hugs and thanksgivings.

Advent Conspiracy Sunday is December 6. The four themes of the Advent Conspiracy are Worship Fully – take time at Advent to worship the Christ. Spend Less – Christmas is not about money it is about Jesus. Give more – of yourself to your family and friends. Love all – through hands on work and generous giving help to transform the world in mission.

Give more of yourself to your family and friends – Come to the Advent Concert and Pot Luck Dinner Sunday evening December 6 at 5:30. It is going to be terrific.

In Christ,



Mission Ministry

Holiday Sharing 2009

Ark & Dove will be participating again in the Holiday Sharing Program administered by the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services. Through this program we will have the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts and share some of our blessings with families in our community. The Holiday Sharing office has already matched us with local families we will sponsor (80 children from age 0 to 17). We will have the sign-up for sharing available on Sunday, November 22. Contact Nicole Howe for more information (410-674-6035).



Mission and Scouting

Girl Scout Troop 298 is collecting gently worn women's suits for **Dress for Success**. The Dress for Success Program provides suits and professional attire to disadvantaged women returning to or entering the workforce. Tricia Franklin will be collecting women's suits in January and February. If you have any questions please contact Tricia at (410) 987-0465 or at shelleyfranklin@comcast.net.

Another Girl Scout Troop in our area will be collecting pajamas during January for Sarah's House families. They will have flyers with information after the holidays.

Our Mission Statement

Ark & Dove is a community of disciples that embodies the life & spirit of Jesus Christ so that lives are transformed and God's dream is carried into the world.

Advent Conspiracy

The concept of "Advent Conspiracy" which we at Ark and Dove embraced last year is built around four themes:

- **Worship Fully** — Worshiping Christ can become the greatest and most enjoyed focus of the season.
- **Spend Less** — Decrease the volume of purchasing and receiving costly Christmas gifts.
- **Give More** — God gave his Son as a relational gift; Christians can try to give more meaningful, relational and experiential gifts instead of just expensive ones.
- **Love All** — In the Advent, Jesus enters our poverty so we will no longer be poor. With the money saved by giving relationally and resisting consumerism, people can redistribute that money to the "least of these" in their communities and the world.

Our Mission Ministry invites us to continue the joy of Advent Conspiracy this year. Just buy one less gift from a merchant this year, or if you give a lot buy one less per person. Then on Sunday mornings, December 6 & 13, visit our "Alternative Giving" displays to get ideas on wonderful new ways to give more in love the Christmas.

Facilities Ministry

The Facilities Ministry is looking for persons who can organize or join a team to inspect, repair or replace as needed, caulk, and paint exterior wood window and door trim on the older sections of our building. The recent Nor'easter storm pushed rain water into the Sheppard kindergarten classroom, and the kitchen hallway EXIT door to the driveway. The office window area to the left of the building entry door needs work, as well. Please contact Building Maintenance Team leader Mike Davie (443-370-81247 davie1020m@aol.com) or Facilities Ministry Elder Rob Yeager (facilities@arkanddove.org) if you can help take care of this need.

Prayer Concerns Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Jim Duman, Jane Biondolillo's father who is ill; Dot Bruno, undergoing surgery this week; Alta Paronto; Les Dabbs; Scott Howe; a co-worker whose mother's health is failing; and all of our members and friends who are traveling to be with family this Thanksgiving. Asbury Towne and Calvary UMC will host the Winter Relief Homeless shelter this week. Please pray for the volunteers and the

INTERIM INTERLUDES

Wow! Last Saturday's party was beyond belief! From the moment I walked into the beautiful decor of the room until I "danced" out to the Rumba music next door, I was overwhelmed, amazed and stunned at seeing so many people that I loved in one room. Intense emotion swept over me in a way that I'll never forget! There was my Ark and Dove family alongside friends from churches I've served, next to colleagues and leaders from the Presbytery. There was my family, David, Christine, Erica, Samantha, Anna, Jenna Dyroff from St. Louis, Dan Dyroff and Denise (Jackson wasn't able to join us) from Columbia, MO. Debbie, Mark, Kayla, Kevin and Karson Koski are from Carroll Ct. My brother, David Ostermeier and Sally joined us from Knoxville, TN. , with daughter, my niece, Amy and Jim from Alexandra and Wesley's daughter Becky and Ron Staut from St. College, PA and my friend Janice from TN. Seeing everyone all together...my eyes teared up and I fogged over! After a delightful time of socializing, we all sat down to a delicious dinner of tender, moist, beef and chicken topped off with yummy cake!

You wonderful people of Ark and Dove continue to surprise me! The planning that went into every little detail of celebrating our ministry together was way beyond anything that I ever expected or anticipated. You were a joyful gift to me... and to each other. Terry Schoener's jokes from my "imagined sermon" brought gales of laughter! The Program was beautifully planned and printed. Mark and Our Band played and sang with gusto. Rebecca treated us all to a singing spoof of some particular habits of mine - I wasn't sure why people were laughing? And then many people shared kind words with passion, gesture, fun and frolic!

From the bottom of my heart, I thank Dawn and Wes Gordon for the months of superb planning along with days and days of minute scheming, plotting and writing by Pastor Tim. They had help from David, Aimee, Mark, Rebecca, Jean, Betsy, Kelly S., Rich and the Session, Kelly B. and the Deacons and all who participated in "The Drama". Thank you Denise, for the words you brought from Senator Mikulski, and Pastor Tim for the certificate from the County Council. I appreciated all of you who shared tidbits of my history, as well as the words of our former and present Executive Presbyters Herb Valentine and Peter Nord.

"The Drama - The Never Ending Children's Sermon" by Scott Foster, Kelly Stern, Pastor Tim and Aimee Schafer (who played me always fumbling poster board pictures of the 66 books of the Bible as she points to her "favorite") Assisting were several of you playing the part of the airplane throwing kids! It was very funny and cleverly written. (Look on the lobby table).

A few excerpts: I grew up on a farm and God loves everyone! Several of the 66 books of the Bible are each my very favorite. ...Genesis has the Noah story where God saved Noah and his family and all the farm animals by twosies, twosies because God Loves Everyone. Even the animals. Yes God loves everyone.

Leviticus is my favorite because it teaches us to tithe and bring in our pledge cards... My favorite book of the Bible is Ruth, because Ruth is a strong farm woman...My favorite Book of the Bible is Luke. Because God Loves everyone - God sent Jesus to earth as a baby... (child) Pastor Corinne, Pastor Corinne, Pastor Tim has fallen asleep - and he is snoring! (my reply) I guess he didn't get much sleep last night - oh well, don't worry... My favorite is the Book of Revelation. Well actually Presbyterians don't like Revelation as much as a good farm book like the Book of Ruth! But Revelation is one of the 66 books and God Loves Everyone so we must include even Revelation - Well, that's my short message for today!" Hmmm...

Pastor Tim and Clerk of Session Rich Speir overwhelmed me with two prints of "The Ark" and "The Dove" (the ships who brought the first settlers to Maryland) I am still amazed! My kids picked out their place at the top of the stairs so I'll remember A&D as I enter my home! Do look at them on the lobby table. I haven't yet found the words to adequately thank you for the **"Pilgrimage to Iona Scotland Fund"** that has been established. It has always been a dream to go there and explore this ancient Island and their spiritual practices. I have a little article printed about Iona on the lobby table. Before the closing prayer, Pastor Tim shared heartfelt words of appreciation for my ministry after which I shared my thanks and gratitude for your trust these last 6+ years and for being the recipient of your loving care during the time of Wesley's death. I continue to give thanks to God for having the privilege of serving with Pastor Tim. I will greatly miss his rich laugh, wit, humor, commitment, support, shared goals, deep faith and belief in the leading of the Spirit to do God's will, our daily chats, our friendship of 23 years, and hearing "fricken" echo down the hall! He has enriched my spiritual journey in numerous ways. We are indeed brother and sister in ministry. Everyone should experience an exaggeration party like the one you gave me! It was great fun!

Even though I will not be relating to you as one of your Pastors, and will not be attending church functions for the next year, I look forward to chatting with you as we see each other around the neighborhood. I can hardly wait to see the fruits of the new relationship that you will form with your new Associate Pastor. In the meantime, Pastor Tim cannot do his and my job...talk to Elder Beth Foster about the ways you can participate in this transition.

With loving and thankful appreciation,

Corinne

Scouting at Ark and Dove



Cub Scouts

Cub Scout Pack 119 meets on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Thursdays of the month at 7pm. If you would like to be part of the scouting adventure please contact the pack at

cubscoutpack119@hotmail.com, or

you can come to our meetings. Are you in grades 1 thru 5? If so we are looking for you! Are you going to be in 1st grade Sept. 2010? If so come see us in may. Please let your friends and family know we are here to help them thru their scouting adventure.

Attention Parents!!!

Do you have a baby or child that you are planning to baptize? 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. **Tuesday, December 1 at 6:00** and **Sunday, February 21 at 12:15.**



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



*Joyfully Serving God
with
OpenHearts
and
OpenMinds*

Ark and Dove
Presbyterian Church
8424 Piney Orchard Parkway
Odenton, Maryland 21113
410-674-6400, Balt. 410-551-4406
answers@arkanddove.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 233

Music Director's Notes

Thank you to everyone for your overwhelming support after the passing of my Grandfather. I was so thankful for the emails, cards, and love that I received. I am especially grateful to the people who stepped in to help with all of my responsibilities that weekend- and there were a lot of them!! Thank you so much to Paula Sparks, for not only playing on Sunday, but for running the Children's Choir rehearsal, playing an extra Saturday rehearsal, and playing the service on Sunday. Thank you to Wendy, Helen, and Kathy for running the table for the Children's Choir's craft and fundraiser at the Craft Show. What a busy weekend it was, but I felt so confident that everything was in the best of hands- I was able to really spend quality time with my family. My Grandpa was a great man- he was by far my biggest fan, and the only other musician in my entire family (he was a clarinetist and saxophonist in the Marine Band before becoming a Judge). The funeral was a beautiful tribute to his life.

I am so excited to welcome 3 new members to the Adult Choir- Don Anderson joins the tenor section, Steve Jones joins the Bass section, and Tracy Churchill joins the Soprano section. Any altos out there? We even had to make 3 rows in church this past week! The Adult Choir is sounding fantastic on Vivaldi's Magnificat. I really hope you will all come to the 9:30 service on December 6th to hear it! Paula Sparks will be playing the piano, Elijah Wirth will be conducting, and our soloists are all Masters and Doctoral students at the University of Maryland in the Maryland Opera Studio- not to mention Vivaldi's Magnificat is an extraordinary work in itself! December 6th is a big day, because after the Magnificat, we will also put on a concert that evening. Each of our music groups will perform- the Dove Choir, Children's Choir, Adult Choir, Band, and my Vocal Jazz Choir from Carroll Community College. It's a big day that you don't want to miss!

And last but certainly not least, I want to say a special thank you to Pastor Corinne for all of her support during my time here at Ark and Dove. She has been such a joy to work with and will truly be missed! Corinne, you have certainly left big shoes to fill!

*God Loves Everyone,
Rebecca*

Band Banter

As the Advent Season is upon us, I am nearing my one-year anniversary of joining the staff at Ark and Dove. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to spend the year with. There is some irony in the fact that Corinne's last Sunday on staff is the first week in Advent, while my first week on staff was the first week in Advent last year. I will miss Corinne, and will remember that when she returns, it will be on my two-year anniversary at Ark and Dove, which I will look forward to.

It has been a great year because of the groups that I get to make music and worship with. The Adult Band has been doing so much lately, with the CAP fundraiser two weekends ago, Corinne's Retirement dinner, as well as Sunday services and Tuesday rehearsals; we have been seeing each other more days than not, which I am thankful for, because of the good time that I always have making music together. Thank you all for your hard work and commitment to the group.

I would also like to let everyone know about an upcoming performance that I am having. I will be playing "Carols and Lullabies" with the Arundel Vocal Arts Society at Calvary United Methodist Church on Rowe Boulevard in Annapolis at 2:00 p.m. on December 6. This is the same day as the Advent Concert at Ark and Dove, so it can be an entire musical day! That's all for now!

*God Bless,
Mark*

Stewardship Ministry

Thank you to the households in our church who are using November to catch up on giving. We appreciate your offerings because as of October 31 we were \$14,00 behind in pledging.

Thank you to the 53 families who have already turned their pledge cards in! Fantastic. So far we have received 8 new pledges and 31 households have increased their pledging. 2 more households have committed to EFT giving.

87 of 135 households pledged last year.. Our goal is to have all our church households pledging to our mission and ministry fund. Please pray about your giving to Ark and Dove.

