

December 8, 2009

⊕
The Arkive
⊕

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

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, our choir, with the help of some soloists and friends, shared with us a beautiful presentation of Vivaldi's Magnificat at the 9:30 worship service. It was one exceptional job. Thank you to Rebecca Bell for pulling such a wonderful piece together. In the evening we had a very very nice Advent Pot Luck Dinner/Concert. The choir returned with some Vivaldi. The Band and youth band did a combined piece. Andrew Foster made his Guitar debut (he is a student of Mark's in the School of Music) The Carol County Community College Jazz Choir shared four pieces and Mark performed a Guitar solo piece. The children shared three segments from the upcoming Christmas Pageant and there was much applause for everyone. Thank you to Mark and Rebecca for organizing our entertainment and thank you to Donna Anderson for organizing her team around preparing for the Dinner.

The Let God Lead Stewardship effort continues with 63 households to date pledging. Our goal is to have all 135 Ark and Dove Household pledging to our Mission and Ministry work.

Changes are coming to Christmas Eve. We will have two services at 6:00 and 8:00 like we have in previous years. Our 6:00PM service will again be lead by the band but will be preceded this year by the singing of Christmas Carols at 5:45. The 6:00 service will be family friendly: taking into account that about one quarter of last year's attendees were children, we will shorten the service and simplify the liturgy. The 8:00 PM service will be the traditional Service of Lessons and Carols with Music lead by the Choir. The Band will also lead one anthem at 8:00pm. I think these changes will make for a beautiful and smoother Christmas Eve for all. Yes - we still will light candles and sing Silent Night by candle light at the end of each service.

Well we just had our first week as a one pastor church and well still are standing. Corinne informs me that she has actually read the morning paper cover to cover on several days. In my second sharing on the subject of Corinne's retirement, I would like to point out to all of us that retirement means answering God's call in a way other than paid employment. Retirement for Corinne means travels to other churches and travel to be with grand children. Retirement means we are not paying Corinne. We are not cutting her any checks. We are not compensating her. There is grief in a congregation when a pastor retires because our relationship changes. Corinne Baker is no longer a Pastor of this church. She is still our friend but she does not work for us anymore and we should not make claims on her time. This is a shift, this is a change and it might be a little hard because there is a hole. Should we send her a Christmas Card - you betcha? Should we ask her about her grandchildren when we see her in the store? Yes. But no, we should not be engaging her with questions about Adult Education and the nursery volunteer schedule. We should not be expecting her to serve as our pastor. Our call as a congregation is to respect Corinne's time and to respect her retirement.

I want to thank Vaughn Brown and the Mission Ministry for preparing an Alternative Giving Fair for this past Sunday. The display remains in our Lobby as a way of continuing our congregational commitment to the Advent Conspiracy by which we strive to **Worship Fully** during Advent and Christmas, by which we strive to **Spend Less** and be less consumed by a consumer Christmas, By which we strive to **Give More** of our ourselves to our family and our friends, the gift of presence -----and by which we strive to **Love All** by helping to work for God's kingdom by supporting the poor, the needy and oppressed with the money we saved by spending less. For further information visit Adventconspiracy.org

I am looking forward to the School of Music Holiday Concert of Friday, December 18 at 7:00 PM. Don Anderson and Joe Hanchrow, who have shared music together for 40 years, will be our performers.

In Christ,



Christian Education Ministry

New Science & Theology Class Coming in January!

The Science & Theology group will be starting a new class on January 17, 2010. We'll be reading the book *The Devil's Delusion: Atheism and its Scientific Pretensions* by David Berlinski. With the rise of militant atheism over the past decade, religious belief has been mocked as backwards and unscientific. But with a rapier wit, Berlinski deflates the intellectual pretensions of the scientific atheist crowd and exposes the unreason from which they presume to criticize religion. There is more information and a sign up sheet in the church. Books will cost about \$11. Please join us!

Worship Ministry

The worship team is looking for a couple of people that would be interested in helping fold bulletins on Friday or Saturday before Sunday Service. If you are interested in answering the call please email Debbie Saylor at debsaylor@aol.com.

Stewardship Team *Let God Lead*

As a member of the Navy, my wife Cathy and I have moved quite a bit over the course of my career and become members of many different Presbyterian Churches. We first joined Ark and Dove in 2001 but moved away for two years to Connecticut. During that tour we again found a welcoming, family oriented church. If we still lived there, I am sure we would continue being members and be very active in that Church. Since our two stints here at Ark and Dove bookend that experience, it made it easy to draw comparisons between the two churches. Both were about the same size but our Connecticut church was more established. I don't know exactly when they opened but they were already in their current building when I was an Ensign in 1990 so I think they have a good 20 years on Ark and Dove. Still the congregation is a good mix of young and old, especially with the transient communities from the Navy and pharmaceutical companies in the area. What most differentiates this church from Ark and Dove, however, is that they are "comfortable". That is not meant as a criticism, just an observation. Our Connecticut church was happy where they were and not really looking to do much more. Their sanctuary fits their congregation, as does the fellowship hall and the classrooms. They don't do snacks after every service (just coffee) but have a luncheon once every couple of months for the full congregation. They do Sunday school, an annual blood drive and a summer mission trip for the teens. It is a happy church but a bit stagnant.

When I look at Ark and Dove in contrast I see a congregation and church that are accelerating. When we joined in 2001, the Ark and Dove room and right alcove were just being added. When we left in 2005 we had just started planning our latest expansion and we returned in 2007 for the ground breaking and construction of the fabulous facility we share this morning. We have grown even more than just physically, though. I like to say that the Church is now growing out of adolescence and reaching our adulthood. When we first joined we were still the "new church development". Now we look to help other new churches. Now we also look to aggressively raise our missional impact in our community as we just did in hosting the winter relief homeless shelter. The energy and outward growth of Ark and Dove are part of what excites me to be a member here. Yet growing into an adult church also means taking on adult like responsibilities for planning and preparation. Stewardship is how we, the congregation, help in the plans of the Church. Last week was dedication Sunday and good progress was made in receiving our pledges for next year but there are still many that have not sent in their pledge yet and others that would be pledging for the first time. If you are among this group I ask that you look around you and think of what makes Ark and Dove special to you as you prayerfully consider the decision to pledge. If everyone pledges what they are able, we can do truly remarkable things here at Ark and Dove. We only have to Let God Lead.

- *Steve Debus*



Last Chance to have your photo taken for the Ark and Dove Church Photo Directory. If you haven't had your photo taken for the Church Directory, it's not too late. Sign up today!

The final date and time when Olan Mills representatives will be here to take photos is: Tuesday, January 12 from 3 pm to 9:30 pm. Sign up in the Church Lobby today!

Our church directory helps build connections between members and friends. We would like every family to be a part of the directory. Every participating family gets a free 8 x 10 photo and the opportunity to purchase additional photos if desired.

Prayer Concerns Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Marge Stern, Pastor Tim's aunt, who has entered Hospice care; Dot Bruno, recovering from surgery; Tara, Dot Bruno's daughter who is dealing with a difficult pregnancy; Alta Paronto; Les Dabbs; Erin Quigley, Betsy Baer's daughter, who has been hospitalized with pneumonia; Ted Powers, Pepper's brother, also down with pneumonia; Franzi Stoller and her family mourning the loss of her grandmother last week; the family and friends of Terry, a co-worker of Linda Lewis, who died this past weekend; a friend of Kim Dabbs, going through a tough time and a member who is job hunting. Lake Shore Baptist and St. Andrews Episcopal will host the Winter Relief Homeless shelter this week. Please pray for the volunteers and the homeless men and women they will shelter.

INTERIM INTERLUDES

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you,

The send-off I received on November 29th my last Sunday of leading worship, was such a blessing! Thank you all for your kind words, emails and cards. It was a very emotional day in many respects as it marked the end for me of 35 years of church ministry, 25 of which has been as a pastor. It is so much in my blood to think and act as a pastor; it will take some time to adjust to living out my faith differently. Thank you, Pastor Tim, for your affirmation during the children's time of the way the two of us have respected one another as we have worked hard at equipping and implementing the vision of the congregation, all the while enjoying partnering together in ministry over the last six+ years. It has been the most fulfilling way to finish my ministry! Best of all, you all have gifted me with the opportunity to work with and to love your children. And now, it is time for us to trust God as we both start down different paths.

Yes, I continue to believe and affirm that your future is bright and full of possibilities. As you listen to the Spirit's guidance, you will prosper in this transition period as you step forward to fill any gaps and provide leadership now and in the future with a new Associate Pastor who will be called to partner with Pastor Tim, your leaders, congregation and community. I will pray for you as you continue to grow in direction and faith, as I know you will pray for me as I listen to God's direction in my coming sabbatical year.

I am thrilled to spend part of this next year in Iona, Scotland, worshipping, praying, and participating in their justice oriented community for a week. Thank you so very much for making this dream a reality – I'll remember it for the rest of my life!

PARTY, Party, Party...

I continue to get emails, cards and phone calls from people commenting on the food, the friendly people and the fun time they had at my retirement party. "Pastor Tim and the people at Ark and Dove were so friendly, they acted like they knew us", "The people at your church really enjoy having a good time together," "I laughed so hard at Terry Schoener's jokes and the parodies and skits!" It seems obvious now that a new A&D drama team emerged that night, with the talent of Aimee Schafer, (between laughs, it hurt to admit your impersonation was right on, Aimee) Donna Anderson, Beth Foster, Russ Hester, Jean Powers, Mark Edwards, Rebecca Bell, Scott Foster, Kelly Burnett, Dawn and Wes Gordon, Marilyn Speir, David Schafer, and Pastor Tim. People also positively commented on the variation of the program with the short narratives and personal comments from Betsy, Beth, Brooks, Mary, Denise, Rich and Tim, interspersed with Mark and the band, and Rebecca's in-jest song, and jokes! If you don't already know, *I grew up on a farm...and real farm girls LOVE good parties* - thank you so much!

You should see how smashing the Ark and Dove Prints and plaque look on the entry wall in my home! Those who have already seen them appreciate how lovely they are almost as much as I do!

Until we meet again, care for one another, welcome the stranger... "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8). And, always remember that "*God Loves Everyone!*"

In Christ, *Corinne*

ALSO,

- 1) **Please**, let me know which one of you gave me the wonderful National Geography Book at my retirement party! There was no card attached to it! (BakerCorinne@aol.com)
- 2) If you have borrowed a book or something else, please return it to me or to the church office.
- 3) I will be putting on all the photos taken at the party and on Sunday, the 29th, on FACEBOOK - do take a peak – they are great fun to look at!



Music Director's Notes

I am still on cloud 9 after our presentation of Vivaldi's Magnificat this past Sunday. It was truly stunning. Thank you to everyone in the choir and especially to Paula for playing! We really could not have put it together without her. And I can't say enough about the choir. They are so talented and dedicated!

The Advent Concert was great. The kids sang beautifully as always and are anxiously getting ready for the pageant. They will be performing 'The Grumpy Shepherd' on December 20th at the 11:00 service. I hope you will come see it! I was so happy to have brought my jazz choir for the concert as well. They are an outstanding group and they were excited to be there. They will do anything for food! This week I will be doing a total of 6 concerts! It's a hectic time but I feel so lucky to be able to share my gifts with others. On Thursday and Friday evenings I am soloing with the Annapolis Chorale at Maryland Hall for their holiday concert. If you are interested in coming you can purchase tickets through the Annapolis chorale website or through Maryland Hall's website.

We have some beautiful music planned for the Christmas Eve services so I hope you will come and share it with us.

Love,
Rebecca

Band Banter

In the Edwards household, we have put our first Christmas tree up, and have decorated it with multicolored lights and ornaments, and it has (of course) become the favorite place for our two cats to lounge around and munch on. I'm glad to see that they are getting in the Holiday spirit.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and came to the Advent Concert. It was a great event to get us all in the Christmas spirit during this Advent season. Rebecca's jazz choir was fabulous, as well as the Vivaldi Singers, and the Grumpy Shepherd excerpts definitely peaked my interest for the pageant on the 20th. I was also glad to have the Youth Band and Adult Band combine to sing one of my favorite songs, Immanuel. Last but not least, I was quite proud of my very first student at the Ark and Dove School of Music, Andrew Foster, who played Jingle Bells with nerves of steel in front of 100 people.

God Bless,
Mark

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.

Ark and Dove School of Music Presents -

A Musical Holiday



Looking for a relaxed evening of great music and good conversation? The Ark and Dove School of Music cordially invites you to a holiday concert and sing-along featuring veteran musicians Don Anderson and Joe Hanchrow on the evening of Friday December 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary of the Church. Don and Joe have over 40 years of collaborative experience together and have performed all over the country. Bassist Joe Hanchrow has appeared on the Tonight Show and has performed with the Marine Band and several orchestras throughout the country. All members of the Church and surrounding community are invited to attend. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students/seniors.

Mission Ministry

PRAYER VIGIL: Fighting Poverty with Faith

On December 15 from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. the Maryland Interfaith Legislative Committee (MILC) is holding a prayer vigil to bring attention to the vulnerable of Marylanders and to ask State leaders to preserve programs impacting the most vulnerable. The prayer vigil will be held at Lawyer's Mall, in front of the State House, in Annapolis. Please contact Shelley Franklin at (410) 987-0465 for additional information.

MILC is Maryland's oldest and largest interfaith organization. It advocates for the poorest and most vulnerable citizens of Maryland on public policy positions that stem from its members' shared religious values. The Presbytery of Baltimore is a member.

Advent Conspiracy

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. This Sunday morning, December 13, visit our "Alternative Giving" displays in the church lobby to get ideas on wonderful new ways to give more in love this Christmas.

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