

December 22, 2009

# THE Arkive

The Newsletter of  
Ark and Dove  
Presbyterian Church  
[www.arkanddove.org](http://www.arkanddove.org)  
410 674-6400

## From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

Christmas Joy is upon us. Kelly and I wish you all a deep, meaningful Christmas with much hope peace and joy.

Thank you to Ron Yeager, Rich Speir and Mike Davie who worked together with snow "plowers" to get our building ready for delayed Sunday and Monday worship. We appreciate your inspiration and perspiration. Thank you to Rebecca Bell and several Band and Choir members who banded together to provide music at our 3 PM service, on Sunday. We appreciate your leadership. The Christmas Pageant was excellent. Rebecca, Wendy Wellington, Kelly Burnett and Julia Kirby did a wonderful job of organizing our children. Thank you to Paula Sparks for playing the piano at all the rehearsals and for the Pageant. We appreciate your nimble fingers

If you read this Arkive on line, you may read it before Christmas Eve. Our Christmas Eve services are at 6:00 and 8:00 pm. The 6pm service is a family friendly service lead by the band. There will be a Christmas Carol Sing at 5:45. Our 8:00 service is our traditional service of Lessons and Carols led by the choir.

Your gifts are needed in the Cribbery. This September we split our Nursery into two groups. Two year olds – Our Toddlers have been with Rose in the nursery and they have enjoyed supervised play as well as age appropriate Christians instruction with story music and activities. Younger folks have been in the Cribbery. The Cribbery is totally run by church members like you and this is where we need you. We have been a little short of leadership. In a permission giving equipping church, you only undertake ministries for which there is passion and support. Many of us think that splitting the very young into two age groups is a wonderful and better way to minister to their needs. In order to continue with this ministry we are going to need more support for the Cribbery.

Thank you to Karen Dodson and her team who led our Let God Lead Stewardship effort this fall. Karen has reported to Session that about half of our households in the church have pledged to date. This puts us substantially behind our goals. Please pray for our Let God Lead stewardship effort and please turn in your pledge cards before the end of the year. The Session will be meeting in early January to plan next year's mission and ministry and is truly dependent upon the congregational pledges.

In recently analyzed my checking statement from the bank and I realized that about 80% of the checks I wrote were to the two church funds. This is silly I thought. In my financial world, I live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, conducting most of my financial business on line. In the church world, I live in the 19<sup>th</sup> century conducting most of my business by paper. No more. Kelly and I have signed up for EFT, electronic Funds Transfer giving. EFT giving ensures that I always will get my pledge to church on time. That will help the finance team pay those summer bills. When I am on vacation my pledge will still come to church and I will never need to feel guilty about falling behind.

Thank you to Nicole Howe and Greg Makar who led our Holiday Sharing mission program. Not only did they have to coordinate the giving of gifts to 83 children but they had to deal with snow delays and postponed worship services.

Kathy Emmert, Lorrie Yates, Vaughn Brown and I recently met with Jayna E. Powell the Faith relations Coordinator for Habitat of the Chesapeake. I am very impressed with their plans for the future. They hope to build over a hundred homes per year by 2011. One of those homes will be our West County house. It now costs well over \$100,000 for Habitat to build homes in Anne Arundel County. We at Ark and Dove have now realized that it is time to move forward and get some help to get this house built. We met with Jayna to start working on gathering a "coalition" of interested churches to get this project completed. We all support this house through our Walking in Faith Growing In Grace giving.

And a blessed New Year as well!

In Christ,

## Discipleship Ministry

**New Members/ Inquirer's Class**  
**Saturday, January 9th 8:30am-12:30pm**

Want to find out what Ark and Dove and the Presbyterian Church is all about? What do we believe? What does membership entail? How can Ark and Dove help me on my spiritual journey? All these questions and more will be answered in a short Saturday morning seminar led by Pastor Tim and other church leaders. Light Breakfast will be served and childcare will be provided upon request. Sign up in the church lobby.

## From the Deacons

Spread Some Cheer Throughout the Year!



The deacons are looking for helpful folks who would like to spread some cheer by making and delivering meals to Ark and Dove families. If you could make a main course or a sweet or just have a few minutes to deliver an already made meal to a waiting family, please contact Judy Quigley at 443-975-7245.

## Fellowship Team

The Fellowship Team needs your help to bring the Ark and Dove community together. We will have a **meeting on Wednesday, January 13th at 7pm** at the church to brainstorm ideas for the new year.

It will also be a great time to let us know how you would like to participate in bringing our church closer.

*Refreshments and childcare will be provided.*

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Shelly Fletcher** at **[unifletch@yahoo.com](mailto:unifletch@yahoo.com)** or **(928) 446-6595**



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, email**

**[admin@arkanddove.org](mailto:admin@arkanddove.org) or call the church office!**

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.

## 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.

## Prayer Concerns

**Please keep the following people in your prayers this week:** Dot's daughter Tara and her family. Tara delivered her baby, Michael, at 28 weeks and he is in neonatal care at just over one pound; Tom Ross's father who had a heart attack; the Good family who lost their home in a fire; Crystal Dunbar, niece of Connie Kinnick, diagnosed with Lupus; Lorrie Schmidt; Kang Ofori, Philomena's sister, Sara, a friend going through a divorce and all of our friends and neighbors who will be traveling this week for the holidays.

Our Lady of the Fields Catholic Church will host the Winter Relief Homeless shelter this week. Please pray for the volunteers and the homeless men and women they will shelter.

## Christian Education Ministry

### ***Did you know that Ark and Dove :***

- Offers Sunday school at both services – PreK- Grade 12 at 9:30, PreK-Grade 5 at 11:00?
- Has 17 wonderfully talented Sunday School teachers? Uses an engaging, age appropriate curriculum called “Rock Solid” for PreK-5th grade that has online activities to access at home? Just go to: [www.Iamrocksolid.com](http://www.Iamrocksolid.com), and click on “The Hangout” for interactive games and puzzles.
- Provides care for our very youngest children (ages 0-24 months) in the Cribbery
- Employs a trained child care provider, Rose Telak, who teaches our Toddler Class for ages 24-36 months in the Nursery?

What do kids have to say about Sunday School?

“I love the crafts we do to take home”

“I get to see my church friends”

“The games we play like Christmas Jeopardy help me learn about the Jesus and the bible”

“My teacher makes the class really fun – we have so much to do, we run out of time!”

“I love Mr. Mike!”

“I learn so much from my teachers and the other kids” (Senior High!)

Thank-you for sharing your children with us!

### **The “Word” from Logos**

The Logos Ministry has just finished it’s fall semester! It was a busy fall with re-introducing the “Beadle” to Sunday Worship and a significant increase in youth leading worship! Many thanks to our Worship Skills leaders for challenging the youth and providing the opportunity for them to share their gifts with the congregation! Logos will resume on Tuesday, January 12, 2010. All youth in grades 5-12 are welcome to join Logos. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 5PM-7:45 PM for Bible Time, Worship Skills, Family Time, and Recreation. For more information, contact Sarah Salkeld ( [sarah-jsalkeld@yahoo.com](mailto:sarah-jsalkeld@yahoo.com)) or Beth Foster ( [BJFoster12@aol.com](mailto:BJFoster12@aol.com)).

Check out “Heartfelt”, a monthly e-newsletter from the Logos Ministry for information and resources in raising children as young Christians. There is information for all ages!

[www.thelogosministry.org/heartfelt.html](http://www.thelogosministry.org/heartfelt.html)

### **Adult Education Offerings:**

Small groups are a wonderful way to deepen your faith, continue on your spiritual journey and get to know other members in a more personal setting. Beginning in January, Ark and Dove will offer two new groups that will run for 6 weeks each:

- Pastor Tim will lead, **Embracing the Way**, from the Companions in Christ series, a small group for spiritual formation on Thursday evenings at 7PM beginning January 7th.
- Kim Champagne will lead, **The Way of Forgiveness** from the Companions in Christ series, on Wednesday evenings at 7PM beginning on January 6th.

Please sign up in the lobby to order your book! We hope to see you there!

### **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!

### **Lenten Study 2010**

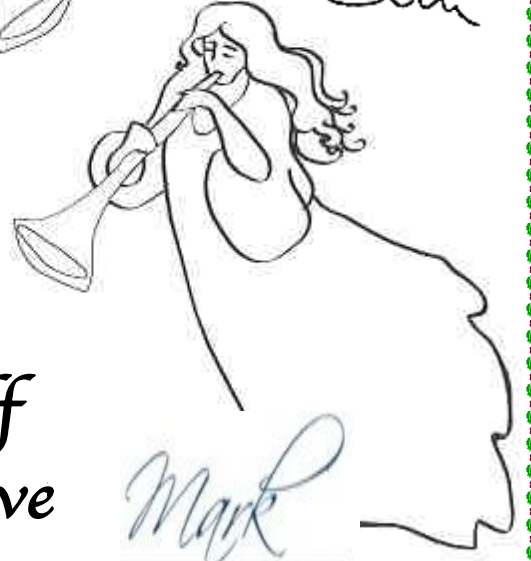
Please join the congregation as we study “The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’s Final Days in Jerusalem” by Marcus Borg. As in the past, several small groups will form to meet for 6 weeks to discuss the book and Pastor Tim will use the text to prepare his Lenten sermons. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks!

# Merry Christmas!



Rebecca

Jean



Jean

From the Staff  
of Ark and Dove

Mark

Joyfully Serving God  
with  
OpenHearts  
and  
OpenMinds

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## From the Finance Team

### *Report on the Mission & Ministry Operating Fund*

- **Thanks to everyone who caught up and donated more! November was a good month.**
- We are still behind in pledging but it is well within our operating reserve of ~\$14,000. However, with the snow impacting us this month and higher than expected costs of heating and air conditioning repair & electricity we are afraid that we may still end up in the red. Please keep your pledges & donations coming and consider a year-end tax free gift.
- **Family Contributions Statements** are available in the church lobby reflecting pledge balances & contributions as of November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **The Pastor Corrine Travel Fund** has only about \$1800. We would like to have at least \$2500 in it to get her safely to Iona, Scotland, and back. Please consider donating to this once-in-a-lifetime trip for Pastor Corinne.
- **Good News!!** We collected \$95.00 for the Fort Hood Disaster for Presbyterian Disaster Relief and \$100 for our missionaries in the Congo.
- The Craft Fair table rentals and bake sale took in \$1074.68 for the A&D Habitat for Humanity house. The Deacon's diner took in \$520.50.
- \$116 in donations was given in memory of Beth Foster's father and sent to St. Bernard's Soup Kitchen in Maine.
- Ark and Dove sold \$1932.50 worth of Fair Trade goods which resulted in a net of about \$200 for the Habitat for Humanity fund but the best news about this is that craftsmen & women the world over got fair pay for fair work and the chocolate & coffee were great.

### November 2009

	Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Ahead (Behind)
Pledged:	\$24,076.45	\$204,898.62	\$217,475.50	(\$12,576.88)
Unpledged:	5,766.00	47,360.00	45,833.37	1,526.63
Loose Plate	678.00	3,293.99	3,575.00	(281.01)
Total:	\$30,520.45	\$ 255,552.61	\$266,883.87	(\$11,331.26)

### Another Snow Storm Issue

Help! Another casualty of the blizzard was our income. Typically the last 2 Sunday's in December are when people catch up on their pledges. That was a problem this past Sunday with only 50 people in attendance. Please – we have one more Sunday in December to catch up. It is also your last opportunity to get that tax deductible contribution for your 2009 taxes. Open up those checkbooks, get your tax deduction and help Ark & Dove so that we do not carry over a deficit into 2010. Let's end the decade (or start a new one) on a positive note.

### Let God Lead Update

To date we have received pledge cards from 73 families for a total pledge amount of \$243,260. This is a very small increase over our 2009 budget, but short of our goals for 2010. If you have not yet sent in a pledge card for 2010, we are still accepting them. We would like to finalize the church budget in the next week or so. The budget for 2010 is based on our pledges. In 2009, we had 87 families pledge for a total of \$239,646. Please help us as we strive to reach our visions for 2010. We need more to accomplish those goals. Every little bit helps. Some of our families are facing challenges next year. Take a leap of faith and Let God Lead. Put God on the top of your list. He will help you reach your goals and in turn you can help Ark & Dove reach our goals. Let God Lead you as you support your church family.

If you have an EFT set up and have not turned in a pledge card, please consider turning in a card so that we can include your EFT in our pledged amount. If you would like to increase your EFT, please let us know.

## Music Director's Notes

Congratulations to all of the kids involved in the pageant. The Christmas Pageant was wonderful!! Thanks to all of the parents for being so flexible with the snow and scheduling issues. Thank you so much to Wendy, Kelly, Steve, Mike, Jeff, Scott and Paula, who all went above and beyond to make the pageant come together. Wendy really did a great job directing and was so helpful! I hope that all of the kids involved in the pageant will come back for Children's Choir, which will resume on Thursday, February 4th. After attempting the "Mommy and Me" group, I have come to the conclusion that 2-3 year olds do better in a group setting where there are older kids to model after. Therefore, I would like to invite the 2-3 year olds to the Dove Choir rehearsals, which are from 5:30-6:00 on Thursdays (beginning again in February), and I would ask that the parent stay nearby incase the child needs them for any reason. Christmas Eve is just around the corner, and the Adult Choir has a beautiful evening of music prepared for the 8:00 service. We will also have a trumpet player, Rachel Zephir, and Chris Sies on drums. I'm so excited to be spending the holiday this year in New York, with my boyfriend and his family. Last year we spent the holiday in Florida with my family, so this will be my first year away from home. It's bittersweet, but I can't wait to go to New York. We will be seeing Hansel and Gretel at the Met (can you believe I've never been to the met?!), so I'm thrilled about that. On Sunday, December 27th, Shelly Fletcher, who recently moved here and began attending Ark and Dove, will be playing the service while I'm away. I'm SO excited that we have another pianist in the congregation!!! I hope that you all have a lovely holiday with your friends and families, and I look forward to seeing you when I get back.

*With Love,*

*Rebecca*

## Associate Pastor Nominating Team

Since March of this year the Associate Pastor Nominating Team (APNT) has been receiving and reviewing applicants for our open position. To date we have reviewed more than 80 Personal Information Forms (PIF) from a variety of candidates. Collectively we have read over 650 pages from these PIFs, enough, literally, to span two football fields if laid end to end. Thankfully many of us printed the PIFs double-sided or scaled down.

As you can imagine, finding the right person to invite into our family as a leader is a serious undertaking and we do so steeped in prayer for God's guidance. We honor this assignment and it is not lost on us that we are doing this on your behalf. We have been meeting weekly and staying in touch daily via a private networking portal. Our goal was to have 15 candidates at the end of December slated for phone interviews, and we have reached that milestone on schedule. From these 80+ candidates we have whittled them down to 21 who will be considered for the next phase. In the upcoming weeks we will likely be taking those 21 down to a more manageable number of 12-15.

We are very excited and thrilled in what we have seen in these candidates and are confident that our next Associate Pastor lies before us.

Thank you all for your patience with us in this important decision and we ask that you keep us in your prayers as we continue our work.

*- Steve Debus*

# *Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper*

**Sunday January 31st**

**5:30 pm for supper 6:30 pm for meeting.**

Childcare will be available for the meeting as well as activities for the older children. Look for sign up sheets in the lobby soon.