

January 5, 2010

THE ARKIVE

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

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

The church calendar is changing again. Christmas is leaving us and we head now into the season of Epiphany. Epiphany (Jan 6) begins with a celebration of the three magi presenting gifts to Jesus and then quickly jumps thirty years to the Baptism of Jesus (Jan 10 this year). Epiphany is a season that is squeezed or lengthened by the date of Easter and the six weeks of Lenten preparations which precede Easter. Some churches refer to the Sundays after the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus until Lent as Ordinary time. Others and I prefer to refer to this whole time as Epiphany because the lectionary readings on these Sundays reveal the light filled identity of Jesus. The last Sunday of Epiphany is February 14.

Epiphany with its cold January and February days has always been a time of restarts and planning for Ark and Dove. We always hold our Annual meeting in this period. Please hold January 31 open for our annual meeting at 6:15 pm. It will be preceded by a Potluck supper at 5:30. Each of our Ministries will celebrate their accomplishments in Ministry at the meeting and we will elect church officers, review the budget and get an update from our Associate Pastor Nominating Team. I often hear very profound words of thanksgiving at our Annual Meeting as well as exciting plans, so I always look forward to it.

Epiphany is also very often the time we hold our annual church leadership retreat. With Six elders, 8 deacons, 29 team leaders, 15 Sunday School Teachers, 18 Logos leaders, scout leaders choir and band members we literally have scores of leaders in this church. This retreat is for them and this retreat is for any member who might want to dip their toe into the pool (you can dip and run if the water doesn't seem right). This year we will be focusing on Long Range Planning. Where do we see ourselves in three years? What are our plans for five years? We will be staying at the beautiful Bon Secours retreat center in Marriottsville MD on Friday night February 12. We will finish our time on Saturday afternoon. Bon Secours has private rooms with private baths; it's not like we are going to camp. I hope you will be able to attend.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday – February 17. Lent is a time of introspection and self evaluation. Lent is a time to take stock of faith and give it a look over. I usually develop a preaching series for Lent and for the last two years we have also run multiple small groups on a book with a Lenten theme. This year I will be preaching on and our small groups will be discussing a book called The Last Week by biblical scholars, Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. What happened to Jesus and the disciples during Jesus' last week before his death? It really is a fascination look at the time line of Holy Week and the theology in the Gospels. We are telling you of the title now so you may begin reading. The books have been ordered and will be in church by Sunday January 17. Soon we will have sign ups for small groups in the Lobby. Last year we had one on just about every day of the week. I hope you will consider participating and attending worship each week of Lent. I think this book will add many dimensions to our Taize Lenten Services and our Holy Week celebrations.

Speaking of Small Groups; We have three January starts. Quick sign up and you can get into one. *Embracing the Journey* of faith with me, *The Way of Forgiveness* with Kim Champagne and *The Devil's Delusion* with Pepper Powers who leads our Science and Theology group.

The Stewardship Team tells me they are still waiting for pledges in their Let God Lead effort. Things are not yet rosy folks. We are calling a full time Associate Pastor this year and well that jump is a significant one. Please pray for our ministry and our congregation. 2010 will be a huge stride forward.

Our Finance Team has placed 2010 offering envelopes in the Lobby by the front door. Please pick up your envelopes this Sunday after worship. EFT givers get a small box of envelopes that have special offering envelopes and envelopes for extra commitment giving.

Grace and Peace to you and your family in the new year.

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 410 846-5430 (new phone #).



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 child-care will be provided.* If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Shelly Fletcher** at unifletch@yahoo.com or (928) 446-6595.

Christian Education

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! Books will be available soon for \$10.

2 New Small Groups starting this week -

The Way of Forgiveness - Wednesdays at 7pm starting January 6th. A six week class that follows the "Companions in Christ" education series. Led by Kim Champagne.

Embracing the Journey - The Christian life is a journey but what do we do along the way? In Embracing the Journey we will explore how to read and pray with scripture, new ways of praying, ways to answer God's call with our lives, spiritual growth, accepting God's grace, living in a faith community. Grow your faith, come join us for five weeks starting this Thursday, January 7th at 7pm.

The Science and Theology Small Group will begin discussing the book, *The Devils Delusion* by David Berlinski on January 17th. The Group meets Sundays at 12:15pm. All are welcome to sign up at church or contact Pepper Powers at Phippsburg@verizon.net. Books will cost about \$11.

2010 Lenten Services

The 2010 Lenten Taize Teams will form the first part of January. Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2010. Taize Services will begin to be held the following week for five weeks. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to become part of a Taize Team for the 2010 Lenten Season. The first planning meeting will be held on January 27th. For more information please communicate with our Taize Coordinator, Breinny Mosella, breinny@verizon.net. For information on the history and background of Taize worship, please visit their official website at <http://www.taize.fr/>.



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! Call the Church office for photo times. 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 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.

From the Finance Team

Last Chance to make 2009 Contributions --

Ark & Dove will be accepting 2009 Contributions through Sunday, January 10th. Please mark them "2009." They will appear on your 2009 Tax Deductible donations statement.

Delay in Start/Changes to EFT withdrawals --

If you use EFT (Electronic Funds Transactions) for your Ark & Dove contributions, please note that there will be a delay in start of changes to EFTs and new starts. Due to weather delays, these changes will not show up on your bank balance until after January 20th. Another deduction will occur to catch up the amounts that should have been withdrawn on January 5th. Sorry for the inconvenience --

New Offering Envelopes Available for 2010 --

New offering envelopes for 2010 are available for pickup in the Lobby.

Mission Ministry

What's New in Mission as we enter 2010?

First Volunteer Opportunity of the New Year!

Off-site Winter Relief Jan 28

Building on our October hosting success and repeating our first experience last January assisting the small Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Glen Burnie, we've been invited to cover just one day in their church Jan 28. This is your chance to get a small taste of hosting homeless men or to sample a different role in considering how you may want to be involved again when we host for a week in November. We need several people for each function:

Jan 28 5-7pm Intake and Early Hospitality 5pm Evening Transportation (within Glen Burnie)
6-11pm Evening Hospitality 11pm-7am Overnight

Jan 29 6:45 Morning Transportation (within Glen Burnie)

Find out for yourself how this touches the heart and awakens the need to serve our neighbors. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. For info, contact Clay Heflebower, Josh Ederheimer, Scott Foster or Vaughn Brown, vlbrown@comcast.net, 443-618-3089.

Our growing relationship with a Guatemala Mission Co-Worker. The ministry of Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll (who attended seminary with Pastor Tim) is doing remarkable things to educate new ministers for the Mayan peoples of Guatemala and to equip the oppressed women of that culture to create change for a better life. We're now looking for Ark and Dove folk who may want to help us develop a closer relationship with Karla and broaden our areas of support.

Our new relationship with Congo Mission Co-Workers. The new ministry of veteran mission workers Elder John Fletcher, MD and Elder Gwenda Fletcher (parents & grandparents of the Fletcher family who have been worshiping with us for six months) promises much needed medical and educational care to families in the Congo and provides Ark and Dove the more personal connection we have sought in our two years of giving to mission work in Africa.

Our Habitat House in West Anne Arundel County. Our long held dream is inching closer to reality as we reach the midpoint of saving through our three year capital campaign and as we engage leaders of the new regional Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake. We are preparing to lead discussions in the local community to build a coalition, expand fundraising, and network to find potential site(s). There is something for each of us to do in this evolving plan.

An Interfaith Habitat Build in Annapolis. While preparing for a west county build in 2011-2012, we are also exploring the opportunity to participate in an extraordinary relationship based effort to cross cultural lines by bringing Christians, Muslims and Jews together to build a house on Clay Street in Annapolis as early as spring/summer 2010. If we do this, there will be many ways to participate. Consider what it might mean for us and let us know what you think of the idea.

Alternative Giving All Year Long. Your Mission Ministry has endeavored to keep Advent Conspiracy alive this year through expanded Alternative Giving during Advent. We'd now like to compile a listing of Alternative Giving options we can each turn to throughout the year when any of us has occasion to give something. Please submit to vlbrown@comcast.net by January 24 whatever you would recommend to the rest of our Ark and Dove Community. Let us know if you'd like to be involved in compiling it.

Christmas Joy Offering. Thanks to your wonderful response totaling \$3,693, we were able to make generous contributions to (1) assist retired clergy and mission workers in need; (2) support racial and ethnic Presbyterian schools; (3) help fund the ministry of our Mission Co-Workers in Congo, Gwenda and John Fletcher, and in Guatemala, Karla Koll; and (4) complete our covenant relationship for 2009-2010 with Arundel House of Hope to support the Winter Relief traveling homeless shelter.

Upcoming Youth Events. SouperBowl Sunday is just around the corner. Information sessions and planning for Hau Kola/Hau Koda and Youth Habitat Build (as well as Logos Conference) immediately follow. It's time to think about these things and speak with others who have previously done them.

Check out the new Mission Display going up at church and contact Vaughn Brown at 443-618-3089 or vlbrown@comcast.net for more information on these initiatives.

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Dot Bruno; Michael Johnson; Tom Williams; Joan Berry; Lester Dabb's aunt, having surgery this week; Bill Kinnick, undergoing a procedure this week; Alta Paronto, having surgery this week and Mary Stum's brother also undergoing surgery this week.



One day away to get together and dream about what Ark and Dove is being called to do and be in the world. Long Range Planning will be the focus of this year's Leadership Retreat on February 12th and 13th. Anyone who is currently in a leadership position at Ark and Dove or anyone who thinks they may feel called to serve at Ark and Dove in the future will want to come to this fun and rewarding retreat. We will meet at Bon Secours for dinner on Friday the 12th and think and dream together until Saturday around 4pm. The cost is \$140 for a single room and three meals. Couples sharing a room get a reduced rate. Sign up in the church lobby or call the church office.

Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper

Sunday January 31st

5:30 pm for supper 6:15 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.

*Joyfully Serving God
with
OpenHearts
and
OpenMinds*

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