

February 2, 2010

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**The Arkive**  
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The Newsletter of  
Ark and Dove  
Presbyterian Church of  
Odenton  
[www.arkanddove.org](http://www.arkanddove.org)

## From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

The snow may have diminished our attendance a bit on Sunday but it did not diminish the spirit of our youth and children who led us in worship. The youth wrote and led the liturgy and the sermon. The children and the youth sang all the anthems and led us in hymns. Top to bottom they did a terrific job. Thank you to each worship leader and thank you to the Logos and music leaders who led them.

Speaking of snow, it looks like we may have another Saturday snow event this week. Please check the website and look for special editions of the e-arkive so you can stay on top of changes. We always will have worship on Sunday. We will never cancel worship; however we may adjust worship times to give people a chance to dig out. (Even if I have to walk to church and worship with eleven people (1996) I'll be there and we will have church.)

The Annual Congregational meeting was held on Sunday evening also with diminished attendance. The potluck dinner before the meeting was wonderful; and thank you to Shelly Fletcher and Donna Anderson for the arrangements. The meeting went without a hitch and was in fact pretty much a yawner. I am going to huddle with our Clerk of Session and elders and brainstorm about ways to make our meetings more grounded in meaning, more participatory and more interesting. Over the years as our congregation has grown, our attendance at the Annual Meeting has in fact dropped. Let's not drop the ball anymore. Let's make our annual meetings count.

Part of the Annual Meeting was the opportunity to say thank you to Vaughn Brown for serving three years on Session as our Discipleship Elder and Mission Elder and to say thank you to Rob Yeager for serving one year as our Facilities Elder and Steve Pugh for serving one year as our Admin Elder. Martha Anderson and Wes Gordon were reelected as Deacons but I want to acknowledge they have already served terms. The work of church officers is significant and we have been blessed by dedicated leaders.

With three elders cycling off of Session; it was time to elect three new elders. Bob Stevens will serve as Administration Elder, Kathy Emmert will serve as Mission Elder and David Schafer will serve as Facilities Elder. I am looking forward to working with this new group as they are multi talented and excited about coming on board.

This Sunday is *Souperbowl* Sunday and I will be bringing my cans of soup to worship. Our youth will be manning the collections tables at Safeway on Saturday; try and stop by and give them some encouragement. All our donations will go to the Odenton Food Pantry. With unemployment as high as it is, it is important for us to support the youth in their efforts to raise funds and collect soup for the pantry.

This Sunday is also Scout Sunday. All Scouts - All Boy, Girl, Cub Scouts and Brownies, please wear your uniforms to church, no matter where you are involved in scouting.

Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2010. Our Ash Wednesday service marks the beginning of Lent and begins at 7:30 pm. Lent is a time of personal reflection about the state of our own faith. Which one of us can say our faith is perfect? On Ash Wednesday we acknowledge we need God's grace. The service is usually about 40 minutes and is for children and adults.

In Christ,

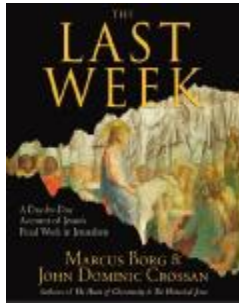


## Christian Education

### Lenten Study

This year's lenten study will be: The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

Several small groups will be forming - sign up sheets are in the lobby! Books will be available for purchase for 10.00 after each service.



### SouperBowl of Caring

THIS SUNDAY! FEBRUARY 7th the youth will once again be collecting your donations of canned soup and dollar bills for the Christian Assistance Program! Our goal is to surpass our collection of \$1200.00 last year! We will also be taking collections at the Safeway at Waugh



Chapel on 2/6 from 9:00AM - 3:00 PM.

Please bring your cans of soup to church this Sunday, February 7! Youth will be standing by with soup pots that day to collect your dollar bills as well! Please help us support the youth in their 8th consecutive year of participating in the SouperBowl of Caring.

### Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction

March 6th - Seatings at 5:30pm and 6:30pm

Tickets - \$5.00 for children/\$10.00 for adults - on sale beginning 2/14. Some of our church's small groups and Teams will be putting together "baskets" for the Silent Auction. If your group would like to create a basket to help the youth raise money for their summer trips contact Ray Bussey or Beth Foster. Mark your calendars now and support the youth and adults going on the summer trips!

## Communications Team

The Communications Team within Ark and Dove is in it's adolescence stage and is looking to grow and mature. Currently we are looking for members who would like to participate in any of the various areas the Communication Team is responsible for maintaining (i.e. Website, road side message board, press releases, etc.) Please consider how God is calling you to serve. I encourage you to attend a Communications Team meeting to discover more about what we do and how your gifts might benefit our ministry. Our next meeting will be held at the church, Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm. For more details, please contact Dawn Gordon, [dawngordon@verizon.net](mailto:dawngordon@verizon.net), or by phone at 443-691-5322.

## Associate Pastor Nominating Team

Since our last update we have completed 9 phone interviews of our leading candidates for filling the open Associate Pastor position. Of the 14 we originally identified, some of them had already taken other calls while a couple did not have an active interest in a job change. Many of the phone interviews cemented our interest in a few candidates, leading us to moving 5 candidates into our next phase.

We are quickly, but deliberately, moving into the next stage. This is the critical juncture where we start more in-depth research of the remaining few. Background investigations will happen through our Presbytery while we plan for additional phone conversations and face to face interviews.

The face to face meetings with the final 5 will be occurring during the month of February with additional steps in March to make the offer to our final choice. It has been a long road to where we are now and it will happen sooner than we think where we see our final candidate joining our congregation.

Things are still on track so we are entering the exciting home stretch with our plan to have our new Associate Pastor installed by May.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

### Session Members - 2010

These people serve on the church's governing body – Session of Ark and Dove. We thank them for their service. If you have any questions, comments or would like to participate in any area of the church please feel free to contact the elder concerned. If you are unsure which elder you should contact call Jean Powers at the church office 410 674-6400 between the hours of 9am-12pm Mon-Fri.

<b>Admin Elder -</b>	<b>Bob Stevens</b> (Policy, finance and communication)
<b>Worship Elder -</b>	<b>Spencer Keyes</b> (Music and Worship Services)
<b>CE Elder -</b>	<b>Beth Foster</b> (Educational programs - adult, youth and children)
<b>Facilities Elder -</b>	<b>David Schafer</b> (Maintenance and growth of our building and grounds)
<b>Discipleship Elder -</b>	<b>Donna Anderson</b> (Welcome, outreach and growth of the church, gifts discovery and equipping leaders)
<b>Mission Elder -</b>	<b>Kathy Emmert</b> (Local, national and world mission)
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<b>Moderator -</b>	<b>Tim Stern</b>
<b>Clerk -</b>	<b>Rich Speir</b>
<b>Moderator of Deacons -</b>	<b>Kelly Burnett</b>

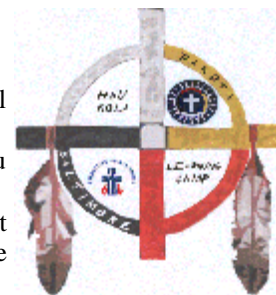
## Mission Ministry

### **Weeklong Summer Mission Trips – Plan Now!**

A presentation on this year's Hau Kola Learning Camps on Lakota Sioux reservations in South Dakota will be held Feb 28, 12:30-2:00 in the Marshall Room. Join us for pizza, salad and excitement.

The Presbytery of Baltimore is arranging another Youth Mission Experience to Guatemala in August. You can still sign up for that trip.

While these two trips are more expensive than some of the other mission trips there is financial support available from the Presbytery and the Ark and Dove Mission Ministry for those who are interested. Please talk to Kathy Emmert asap if you are interested.



### **Haiti Disaster Assistance Update**

We want to thank everyone who donated so generously of their funds and their time. To date we have collected \$2,387 dollars in cash donations and 79 Hygiene kits and 11 baby kits have been delivered with more coming! This is all in less than three weeks after the earthquake. Thank you. We will be continuing to collect money and kits for several more weeks.

On Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Christine Connally** hosted the **Annual Au Pair in America Cultural Fair**. The au pairs and host families brought donations of items for the Haiti Hygiene Kits. It was wonderful to see the au pairs from all different countries and their host families join together to complete this service project. They assembled 40 kits to be included in Ark and Dove's donation to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. She shared the information with some other au pair counselors in the local area and they have also done collections to be included with Ark and Dove's.

**Winter Relief Activity** - Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer hosted the Winter Shelter last week and we covered a whole day for them. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped out. In March we will cook and serve dinner at Nichols Bethel so keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities. Sign ups will be out soon.

### **Ribbons of Remembrance Team**

The "Ribbons of Remembrance" team has determined that the sleeves holding the names of the men and women lost in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are falling and failing. The ribbons are holding fast. A new way of keeping these soldiers in our thoughts is being prayed about. As you drive by the location at the end of the driveway should you notice any sleeves on the ground please pick them up. We will present a new and more permanent way to remind us of the sacrifices made very soon. Don Anderson

## Music Director's Notes

Congratulations to all of the youth who participated in Youth Sunday! It was so great to see so many young people working together to make such an inspiring service! I am especially proud of my Children's Choir, who never cease to amaze me with their beautiful voices. The Logos and Youth Band groups were really fantastic- I haven't seen that many people sing up there since the Hallelujah Chorus last Easter!! Congrats to Mark for everything he has done with both of these groups! I want to formally welcome Jackson Myers to our choir- I hope you were able to hear his beautiful solo on Sunday! Thank you also to Brittany Wellington, who not only sang a solo, but played the cello for the beautiful prelude. I continue to invite youth ages 7 and up to participate in Children's Choir on Thursday evenings from 6:15-6:45. In 2 weeks, they will join the Adult Choir for their anthem at the 9:30 service. I'm excited to have the Dove Choir begin this week. This week only, the Dove Choir will begin at 5:45 instead of 5:30.

Tucker is getting bigger every day- in only 3 and a half weeks, he has gained 7lbs and weighs in at a whopping 25lbs! I can't even believe it. My mom is flying up from Florida this week. She says she's coming to visit me, but I know she's truly coming to visit the puppy!

*Love,  
Rebecca*

### **Prayer Concerns**

**Please keep the following people in your prayers this week:** Dot Bruno; Michael Johnson, the premature grandson of Dot Bruno who had a hard week; Florence Myers; Joan Berry; Garry Dabbs; Linda McCarthy, awaiting a liver transplant and Carl Blazek. Our Shepherd Lutheran and Our Lady of the Crucifixion Catholic Churches will host the Winter Relief Homeless shelter. Please pray for the volunteers and the homeless men and women they will shelter.

# Deacon Contact List

Who's your Deacon? To better serve the congregation, each Deacon is assigned a portion of the congregation based on the first letter of each member's last name. Please use this list to contact your Deacon with your joys or concerns.

Alpha	Deacon	Contact
A-B	Vania Lauer	410 541-6991, <a href="mailto:rlauer@aol.com">rlauer@aol.com</a>
C-E	Judy Quigley	410 846-5430, <a href="mailto:jquigley@umd.edu">jquigley@umd.edu</a>
F-G	Scott Howe	410 868-3676, <a href="mailto:Scottspe1@comcast.net">Scottspe1@comcast.net</a>
H-K	Wes Gordon	410 551-4405, <a href="mailto:wgordon_88@yahoo.com">wgordon_88@yahoo.com</a>
L-O	Cathy Debus	410 451-4489, <a href="mailto:smcw@debus.name">smcw@debus.name</a>
P-S	Martha Anderson	410 305-0877, <a href="mailto:donmartha@aol.com">donmartha@aol.com</a>
T-Z	Sarah Salkeld	410 729-0129, <a href="mailto:sarahjsalkeld@yahoo.com">sarahjsalkeld@yahoo.com</a>

Moderator of Deacons - Kelly Burnett, 410 544-5779, [kellyb327@aol.com](mailto:kellyb327@aol.com)  
 (Prayer requests should be directed to Kelly)



We are still collecting the Special Offering for Haiti Relief for the next several weeks. If you are putting together the relief kits we will be collecting them for the next several weeks also. Check out our website for more info and links to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website.

## Spaghetti Dinner/ Silent Auction

**The fundraiser you wait all year for.....is back!!!  
 Save the Date!!  
 March 6th  
 Seatings at 5:30 and 6:30  
 Tickets - \$5.00 for children/\$10.00 for adults -  
 on sale beginning 2/14  
 Mark your calendars now and support the youth and adults going on the summer trips!**



Joyfully Serving God  
 with  
 OpenHearts  
 and  
 OpenMinds

**Ark and Dove Presbyterian  
 Church of Odenton**  
 8424 Piney Orchard Parkway  
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[answers@arkanddove.org](mailto:answers@arkanddove.org)

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## Finance Team

### **Per Capita Offering for 2010 is \$31 per member**

Every year at this time, Ark & Dove takes the Per Capita offering (see the blue envelope in the very front of your envelope box). We ask our congregation each year to support the \$31 per active member that Ark and Dove is required to send to the governing body of the Presbyterian Church USA. Per capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. Per Capita supports the governing structures of the Presbyterian Church USA, including the Presbytery of Baltimore and the General Assembly. Per capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected and participate in the work of the wider church.

#### ***Per capita makes it possible for Presbyterians to govern ourselves the way we do.***

Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. By providing the primary means through which commissioners and advisory delegates can gather to do their work, per capita dollars help to undergird our governance system.

Our Constitution provides a moral and theological compass that builds community and calls us to Christian faithfulness in gratitude to God.

#### ***Per capita makes possible our effort for visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ.***

The PC(USA), as with other faith traditions and denominations, is but a small part of the one church of Jesus Christ. We affirm that God's call is for the church to be one.

#### ***Per capita makes it possible for us to maintain our historical awareness.***

Our heritage helps us make informed decisions for the future. The Presbyterian Historical Society is our national archives and historical research center. It collects, preserves and shares the history of the American Presbyterian and Reformed tradition.

## Administration Ministry

### **The "Costs of Convenience"**

After working for financial institutions for 30 years (no boo's please), it never ceases to amaze me how willing many consumers are to pay for financial convenience at almost no concern for the cost - even if there are ways to avoid doing so.

- Are we paying a \$2.00 fee (or more) for that \$20 ATM withdrawal plus service charges on our bank accounts or are we looking for the many ways to get free ATM access and low or no-cost accounts? That's 10% or more just to get your own money!
- Are we taking advantage of a free internet bill payment service to pay recurring monthly obligations or are we still spending \$150 per year in postage at .44 cents per piece (and rising)?
- Are we paying late fees and extra charges on our bills and loans, if and when we can avoid doing so?

Convenience has costs outside the world of financial institutions as well.

- Are we making that list before shopping for our food and looking for bargains or are we impulsively making our way through the store each week?
- Do we pay \$4.00 for that gallon (gallons at my house) of milk at a convenience store or \$2.25 at a grocery or warehouse store - 40 or 50 times per year?
- Are we making our own compost or buying it? (Yes Tim we were paying attention)

The reality is that in the world today, we all need that occasional convenience or indulgence in order to move through our busy schedules and enjoy our lives, but some basic financial planning and a measure of discipline is not only important, but can add up to hundreds of dollars in real savings each year.

If you have one or more "soon-to-be-consumers" in your household the principle of cost for convenience can be important to their financial future, their perceptions about the value of money, and in their development of good financial stewardship. Many of us and our children are much more familiar with the convenience in our world rather than the cost(s).

**The good news is** that some conveniences still come without cost. Having a choice of times to attend church regularly is a great convenience available to all of us. EFT giving is also an important free convenience that helps assure that the missions of our church are maintained even when we can't be there.

**Prayerfully,  
Bob Stevens**

***P.S. – FYI due to some changes in regulations, the financial institution you use is required to start providing you with a summary of certain fees you pay for the month and year-to-date, starting in 2010 on your periodic bank statements.***