

March 16, 2010

⊕ The Arkive ⊕

The Newsletter of
Ark and Dove
Presbyterian Church of
Odenton
www.arkanddove.org

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

This is the Sunday that Michelle Whang “candidates” at Ark and Dove. That is a Presbyterian jargon word which means that the nominee of the Associate Pastor Nominating Team seeks the approval of the congregation. In the Presbyterian Church we elect our leaders; our leaders are not appointed. Michelle will pretty much be spending the whole weekend with us. On Friday she will meet the Session, on Saturday morning the Deacons, on Saturday afternoon there will be an open house at the church from 1 to 4. On Sunday Michelle will preach at both services and on Sunday afternoon at 12:20 we will hold our congregational meeting. At that time our Associate Pastor Nominating will officially place her name in nomination.

You might remember that we elected our Associate Pastor Nominating Team on January 25, 2009 at our annual congregational meeting. Soon after that the APNT as we called them began training. They attended the church leadership retreat, met with Presbytery representatives and me and then they began writing the church dossier which is called a Church Information Form. They asked for feedback from and met with Session and Session approved the Church Information Form in the summer. The APNT helped the communications team scrub our website and we started advertising with Presbytery approval of all our documents. From Oct to Jan the APNT met early, late and often and reviewed over 84 Personal Information Forms (Dossiers of those seeking a call). They focused on the top 24 and through a series of discussions and evaluations very much liked 12. They asked me to review the 12 PIF’s and give feedback, which I did. Telephone interviews were conducted by the APNT. They asked me to conduct additional telephone interviews with one member of their team, which we did. They zeroed in on the final 5. References were checked. From five they unanimously chose Michelle.

Literally thousands of hours of work have gone into this process. Please honor their work, your church and our way of conducting church business by being present in worship this Sunday and being present at the Congregational Meeting at 12:20 PM. It is important that we vote. I will be the smiling guy up front with circles under his eyes.

Ok we are going to try something new this Holy Week, just one time. Since so many of us have been reading the book The Last Week by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan and I have been using the book to preach about each day of Holy Week, we are going to have a short prayer service or a worship service on each day- Monday through Friday of Holy Week. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be much the same; but we are adding three short prayer services Monday through Wednesday at 7pm. We will focus in on the historical events of those days as they are recorded in the Gospel of Mark.

Thanks for supporting the youth Spaghetti Dinner and the Silent Auction. They youth were very excited to raise over \$4100.00.

Lastly, please keep the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering in your prayers. We receive One Great Hour of Sharing during Holy Week.

In Christ,



The Associate Pastor Nominating Team Presents

Michelle Mikyung Hwang

as

Associate Pastor Candidate for Ark and Dove

Please read through Michelle's bio and be at church on Sunday, March 21st to hear her preach. We will hold a congregational meeting at 12:20pm to hear the report from the APNT and to nominate new members to the church nominating team (nominates elders and deacons).

Michelle Mikyung Hwang

Education:

- 2006–2008 Princeton Theological Seminary Princeton, NJ
 - Master of Divinity
 - Board member of Women's Center
- 2004–2006 Union-P.S.C.E. Richmond, VA
 - Masters of Art in Christian Education
 - Wade and Lou Boggs Scholarship for excellence in Theology
 - Chalice Press "Outstanding Seminarian" Award
- 1999–2000 University of North Texas Denton, TX
 - Completed 12 hours towards Masters in Ed. Admin.
- 1996–1997 University of North Texas Denton, TX
 - Secondary Sciences teaching certification
- 1989–1992 Oklahoma State University Stillwater, OK
 - Bachelor of Science in Biology (Dean's List)
- 2008–2009 LOGOS training, Godly Play certified Baltimore, MD
 - Spark Bible training, Jesuit silent retreat

Past Experience:

- 2009-Present Second Presbyterian Church Baltimore, MD
 - **Director of Christian Education** (urban, 528 members)
- 2006–2008 Praise Presbyterian Church Somerset, NJ
 - **Director of Senior High Youth Ministry** (suburban, 800 members)
- 2004–2006 Richmond Korean PC Richmond, VA
 - **Director of Children's and Youth Ministries** (suburban, 200)
- 2003–2004 Westchester High School Los Angeles, CA
 - **Teacher-Biology**
- 2000–2003 Creekview High School Carrollton, TX
 - **Teacher-Advanced Placement Biology and Pre-AP Biology** - Prepared students for college level Biology and end of course examination
 - 2003 92% pass rate with 100% more students
 - 2002 100% pass rate on AP Biology exam
 - 2001 Selected Educator of the Year
- 1997–2000 R. L. Turner High School Carrollton, TX
 - **Teacher-Integrated Physics and Chemistry, Geology, and Biology**

- 1997–2000 Quality team member geared toward problem solving
- 1999 Completed Gifted and Talented Certification
- 1999 District Book Adoption Committee
- 1998 Developed district curriculum for Integrated Physics and Chemistry

Other Services:

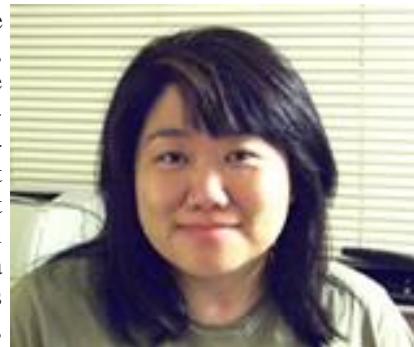
- 2009 Member of Self-Development of People Baltimore, MD Committee
- 2005 Intern at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation Louisville, KY
- 2000–2003 Binnerri Presbyterian Church Richardson, TX
 - Youth Sunday School Teacher

Characteristics of Desired Church:

A church that I would like to serve would be a welcoming community for all who desire to follow Jesus Christ. The church would be open to thoughtful and critical exchange where the knowledge of Scripture, theology, and social issues are taken seriously. Additionally, the church would seek to increase the faith life of all members by offering opportunities for spiritual growth. Rooted in their spiritual and intellectual knowledge of God, the church would live out their responsibility to take care of those who are in need. Social justice and care for our neighbors would be viewed as part of our call as Christians. Mission would be vital to the church not only with regards to the local and global community but mission and care for those within the immediate body.

Accomplishments in Present Call:

As the Director of Christian Education I am responsible for all of the educational programs for our congregation. From overseeing the nursery to coordinating our adult seminar speakers, I have enjoyed nurturing these programs and teachers as they increased in number. Currently our Sunday school classes are doubled up with two grades in each class. Next Fall we will have to have one grade per class due to our increased enrollment. This year I have put together a worship booklet for our children that complements the service as well as the worship bulletins that I also create. As DCE I am responsible for Rally Day, Christmas Pageant, and continued training of our teachers. The position was expanded to include some pastoral roles such as preaching and pastoral care due to my education and experience in ministry. Second Presbyterian has ventured into campus ministry partnering with other mainline churches to organize and lead a worship service that occurs twice a month in which I have preached and part of the leadership. My background in education has also provided opportunities to write several Leaders' Guides for The Thoughtful Christian, which is an online resource published by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. The most significant accomplishment this past year was my spiritual growth. I took part in a silent retreat for eight days at a Jesuit retreat center, which was transformative.



(Continued from page 2)

Leadership Style:

Having served three churches, my leadership style has evolved and matured. Although each congregation required a slightly different and unique leadership style, there are some aspects of leadership that were foundational to all three that I bring with me. First and foremost is establishing trust. With this foundation I have experienced the willingness of those under my care to take risks and know that we are working as a team. I am a leader that empowers those around me to take ownership of their ministry and gives the freedom to make mistakes without fear. I seek those around me to voice their opinion and give constructive criticism. I am a hands-on leader who does not ask those around me to do anything that I would not do myself. I also recognize the potential fruits and nuances of confrontation when necessary. All of these aspects of my leadership style is a reflection of my belief that ministry needs to be regarded and lived out as a team effort.

Key Theological Issues:

Our society is richly enhanced and blessed by our diverse ideologies and theologies. However, these blessings have posed challenges for the Protestant faith community. The qualities that were once unique to church-community service and fellowship-can now be found in other organizations. Compounding the challenge is the abundance that is unique to this country. Our wants are now our needs and the desire for more has created a culture of busyness that has left us spiritually sedated. The social shift from a Christian culture to a secular culture has resulted in the realization that the church has lost its way. Our identity as children and followers of Jesus Christ has been blurred and overshadowed by the secular culture. Given these challenges the Church has tried many different forms of ministry, which should be applauded. I have been part of and appreciate the diversity of worship experiences. However, the message of Christ cannot be or needs to be compromised. People desire genuine experiences of faith and continued growth. These experiences have led me to always ask myself how a new program, event, or any aspect of ministry enhances the identity of our church members and their faith life. A new way of doing ministry is needed, but the message of God's love cannot be lost in the process.

Band Banter

I am very excited to meet Michelle and to hear her preach on *The Last Week*. On the music side, both the adult band and the Youth Band have been working hard to prepare music for this week and onward. This week, the Youth Band will sing an anthem called "Love is Here" for the Good Friday themed Sunday in Lent. We are also preparing a new project which I am very excited about, and also quite an ambitious one for a group of any age - to write a song. The Youth Band will be sharing it with service soon. I have also been loving the anthems that the Adult Band has been doing, and have really enjoyed everyone's solos within them...we are all so lucky to have such talented singers to lead us on Sundays.

I also wanted to invite everyone to a local concert that I am doing this Sunday, at 3:00 pm at Catonsville Presbyterian Church. I don't get to play locally very often, and would love to see everyone there after the congregational meeting!

*God Bless,
Mark*

Administration Ministry

There's No Business like "Snow" Business

Well, the good news is that snow removal companies really did well this year. The not so good news is that they did so at the expense of many community members including Ark and Dove.

This year's snowfall has exceeded all of our expectations, including our budget expectations. Since our budget does not provide for "blizzard-level" snow removal, we have had to advance hundreds of dollars in extra costs to keep our Church and facilities available.

In addition, the snow has made regular attendance a challenge during these past two months, which has "snowballed" into a further shortfall in our resources.

As we were able to get out and about, many of us have caught up our pledges in the weeks that have now followed. If you have not, please consider the impact of these Winter events upon the Church in your prayers and your thoughts about Stewardship.

If you or your family give to Ark and Dove but have not completed a pledge for 2010, please prayerfully consider the costs of this Winter to the Church in the coming weeks and months as you make your decisions about giving.

Lastly, a recognition and thanks to members of the congregation that give through EFT. Giving through EFT is impervious to even the nastiest of snow storms and contributes to our ability to rely on our Mission and Ministry and Building Fund resources to fulfill their many important purposes.

- Bob Stevens

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Don Anderson and Linnie Girdner, recovering from surgery; Dot Bruno; Les Dabbs; Michael Johnson; Alta Paronto; Vaughn Brown; Joe Austin, Charlotte Davie's father and Katie Taylor, recovering slowly from a skiing accident with multiple injuries including a broken back.

First Christian in Annapolis and St. Martin's in the Field Episcopal Church in Severna Park will host the Winter Relief homeless shelter this week. Please pray for the volunteers and the homeless men and women they will shelter.



The One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering will be accepted throughout Holy Week and is shared by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People programs. Look for more information in your Sunday bulletins in the next few weeks. Help the children fill their fish boxes and prayerfully consider

giving generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Envelopes are available in your offering boxes, in the chair backs or from an usher. Thank you.

Holy Week Flowers

The Flower Team is accepting donations for flowers and palms for our Holy Week sanctuary decorations. Your honorariums will be printed in the Easter Sunday Bulletins. Please fill out the forms available on the sign up table in the church lobby.



Member Kudos!

Fifteen educators from all levels of the public school system were named today as semifinalists for the 2010 Anne Arundel County Teacher of the Year award. Ark and Dove's own **Lisa Ferrer** (a teacher at Hillsmere Elementary School) was one of them. ***Congratulations Lisa!*** They will announce the finalists in April.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

**PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP,
MARCH 28, 9:30 AND 11:00 AM**

PRAYER SERVICE, MON. MARCH 29 7PM

PRAYER SERVICE, TUES. MARCH 30 7PM

PRAYER SERVICE, WED. MARCH 31 7PM

**MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP, APRIL 1, 7:30
PM COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED**

**GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP,
APRIL 2, 7:30 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP, APRIL 4, 9:30
AND 11:00 AM**

*joyfully serving God
with
OpenHearts
and
OpenMinds*

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