

August 3, 2010

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

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

One of the great mission projects we undertake in our church is our Emergency Assistance Fund. The Emergency Assistance Fund exists to help families who are not members of Ark and Dove. If a family finds themselves in a financial crises and they can get a referral from one of a certain set of social service agencies, we assist with \$40 to \$60 checks written to BGE or Landlords. Over the years, in my unscientific study I figure that 75% of the families we help live pay check to pay check and then encounter a medical emergency that sets them back quite a ways. Suddenly they face eviction and or cut off notices from BGE. Our church helps people to avoid eviction and cut offs.

Number of Families helped by Ark and Dove

2003	17	2007	41
2004	26	2008	64
2005	29	2009	90
2006	19	2010	76 to date

Our Emergency Assistance Fund is a line item in our mission budget. Since the economy has gone south we have seen requests for assistance sky rocket and we are often out of funds by the 7th or 8th day of the month. You can see that the number of families assisted has risen significantly in last 8 years. In fact this year our annual designation is almost drained. If you would like to make a special offering to the Emergency Assistance Fund to help a local family in need (Odenton, Gambrills, Severn, Crofton, Crownsville, Hanover, Jessup) August is the month to help. \$40 might not seem like a lot but if a family can get help from 7 to 10 churches, they can avoid homelessness. Some larger churches are able to give much more assistance than we are.

August has been designated by Session as Emergency Assistance Month. Any size of gift is appreciated.

In Christ,



Finance Team

Stock Gifts

One of many ways to contribute financially to our Church is through gifts of company shares of stock. If you aren't aware that you can donate stock or haven't considered doing so, it is a great way to maximize your giving and to realize some additional personal benefits, courtesy of Uncle Sam. This is especially true if the shares have appreciated in value since they were purchased.

Donating appreciated stock permits the giver to avoid payment of capital gains taxes and also provides the double benefit of a tax deduction for the current value of the stock, not just the original cost of the shares. So, before you sell shares to support your financial commitment to Ark and Dove, consider giving the shares directly.

If you would like more information on this method of giving or to discuss how to arrange a gift of stock, please contact Bob Stevens at robert.stevens@aplfcu.org.

ARK AND DOVE'S 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.

Discipleship Ministry

Craft Fair

Planning is beginning for our annual **Craft Fair** which is scheduled for **Saturday, November 13.** To make the fair a reality we need a team of people to help organize the fair, post signs, do publicity, run the bake sale and help with set up and clean up. The craft fair is a community outreach event and proceeds from the sale of tables and the bake sale usually support a mission-related project at Ark and Dove. If you would like to work on the Craft Fair team, the time commitment is very minimal—about 2 meetings with most the work being done the week of the fair. Please contact Jean Powers if you'd like to help at admin@arkanddove.org or in the church office at 410-674-6400.

Rally Day Picnic—Come and See!

September usually means it's back to school time but it's also "back to church time." Vacations are over and that means those lazy Sunday mornings when you slept in are over. Kick off the church year at Ark and Dove on **Sunday, September 12**, when we host a **Rally Day/Church Picnic**. Sunday School goes back to its normal time and schedule on that day. And after worship on Sunday, from **12:30-2:30**, we'll host our **Annual Picnic** with food and fun featuring a moon bounce and dunking tank along with games and other activities. Topping it off is a **Ministry Fair** with displays of all the ministries at Ark and Dove. *Come and see...* what's in store for the fall and spring at Ark and Dove. What mission projects are being planned? What small groups are being organized? What will the band and choir have in store for the year? How can you get involved in church this year? Whether you've been a member for years or are just visiting Ark and Dove, you're sure to find out something new about Ark and Dove at this ministry fair. So, mark your calendar for September 12—from 12:30-2:30 for a fun-filled Picnic and Ministry Fair.

Update from Nominating Team

The nominating team has been working through the spring and summer, praying about our church and about leaders from among us whom we might call to serve as elders or deacons in 2011. We have asked for suggestions from the congregation as to who we might pray about during our process and have had several discussions about the characteristics of those we will call to lead. One of those discussions was about the length of service for elders and deacons. In the Presbyterian Church, elders and deacons can not serve more than six years in a row (typically 2 three-year terms). While elders and deacons do not automatically get asked to serve a second three-year term after completing their first term, this has often been the case at Ark and Dove. The result has often been burned out elders and deacons. This does not serve the individual or the church very well. And as we continue to think and pray about leaders in our church, making sure we don't burn people out by asking for two consecutive terms automatically will continue to be a discussion for our team during the coming weeks. The members of our team ask for your continued prayers as we go through the nominating process. The nominating team members are: Donna Anderson, Steve Debus, Wes Gordon, Linnie Girdner, Chris Wilkens and Christy Yeager and Tim Stern.

The APB

The spirit of mission, fellowship, and worship at Ark and Dove was wonderfully visible during our VBS. As I sat and had dinner with the kids I asked what was their favorite part and was given enthusiastic answers. I also asked what we could do better and there was silence except for one girl who said that her least favorite part each day was when it would end. I think many would echo her sentiments.

While the children were busy with crafts, Bible stories, recreation, and science, the adults were engaged in a lively dialogue concerning our summer reading: *Forgiving Ararat*. There were many allegories to discover and overarching themes that brought new appreciation for some, who after their initial reading, were not so impressed. Others found the book to provide insights into Scripture and thought the book was full of theological fodder. However, the overarching themes of justice, forgiveness, redemption, and reconciliation provided most with some new thoughts on our lives of faith. The upcoming weeks will give everyone a taste of the themes as we incorporate them into the sermons.

As always many thanks to our tireless volunteers spearheaded by Ellen Smith and Kellie Ramey.

We are also gearing up for the fall and I invite everyone to mark your calendars for September 12. Come and see what exciting ministries are coming up!

Be well,



Music Director's Notes

I'm excited to announce that Craig Sparks will be coming to Ark and Dove on August 29th to sing a duet with me. The song is called "The Prayer" and we did this together for Jim and Judy Cooper's wedding. I hope that you will join us in worship on that Sunday. We will sing this at both the 9:30 and 11:00 services, and Paula will accompany us on the piano as well.



Thank you to everyone who came out and supported me in the opera. It was great show and it's equally great to have time off now! When we began the Summer Opera program at Carroll 3 years ago, we had a 3 person cast, a string quartet, and 50 people in the audience. This year, we had a 28 person cast, a full orchestra, and over 300 people in the audience. It's quite an accomplishment that I'm proud to be a part of.

With Love,

Rebecca

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Eliza Foster and Florence Myers, both recovering from knee surgery; Renee Golden, dealing with terminal cancer; a friend of the Mike and Charlotte Davie who is awaiting test results; Carol Helflebower's sister, Joyce, living with a recurrence of cancer; Bill Kinnick; Dalton Stanton, in hospice care; Walter Wallis and Pam Baker, living with cancer and a friend going through a painful break up.

Mission Team

Help a Young Neighbor Get Back to School

The Mission Ministry is teaming up again this summer with the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services to provide school supplies for local elementary and middle school students. This year, Social Services has matched Ark & Dove with 25 students at Harman Elementary School near Arundel Mills Mall. On August 1 we will set out a sign-up sheet at church with instructions, the supplies list, and directions to the school. Ark & Dove donors will select a student to sponsor, purchase the backpack and supplies, and deliver them to the school before school starts August 23. Feel free to team up rather than sponsoring a student by yourself. We will also be collecting supplies for Meade Middle School (sign-ups and supply list available August 1). For more information contact Greg Makar (301-483-8255, GLMakar@juno.com).



or current resident

*Joyfully Serving God
with Open Hearts
and Open Minds*

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