

August 31, 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,

Thank you for participating in what I am calling Prayer Station Sunday – experimental worship. Instead of a sermon, the congregation had a choice of visiting five prayer stations and undertaking about eight forms of prayer. At this moment our feedback is running about 80% positive with many suggestions for improvement if we ever decide to try it again. Some people really liked the prayer stations and had a deep experience. Some people were put off by the changes. Many comments were in the in between. We will gather all the feedback and give a report. I do appreciate everyone's willingness to at least give it a whirl. Every time we stretch it either gives us an appreciation for our current practices or it helps make us more flexible.

“Going Green” has become a rallying cry for many. Pollution and waste are stressing them out. Going green is in many corners of our society considered chic. People pay some big bucks for hybrids, organics and energy savers. For others going green is politically correct. You just must or you are archaic. Just because a movement or a thought or a practice is chic and pc, it does not necessarily mean it is the best path for a disciple of Christ.

I am starting a green group on Tuesday nights at 7pm. We will be using the book Green Church by Rebekah Simon Peter who is a Methodist Minister; and we will be using some resources from ThoughtfulChristian.com and the Care For the Earth Task Force of the Presbytery of Baltimore. Our first order of business will be to discuss “greenness.” Is God green and does God call us to be green? Does the Bible call us to be green? Assuming we get some sort of a yes answer, we will go for about eight weeks on Tuesday nights. Sign up at Come and See Sunday.

Because we are participating in the Interfaith Build of the Habitat For Humanity of the Chesapeake; two of us from Ark and Dove were invited to attend Iftar, evening prayers and the breaking of the fast at our local Mosque. It is their season of Ramadan during which they neither eat nor drink during the daylight hours. For Moslems this is a spiritual discipline which makes them stronger in faith. Lorrie Yates and I were among 15 to 20 Jewish and Christian citizens of our county who were invited. The members of the Mosque bent over backwards to show us hospitality and served a delicious meal after prayers. There were definitely some interesting discussions during dinner; too bad most of our local politicians who attended, mostly talked to each other. My understanding of Islam grew a bit as I sat with a Jewish congregant, an Episcopal Priest and the President of the Mosque and one Islamic member. Non of the Jewish and Christian male visitors knelt and prayed in the Islamic fashion. I am not sure if we were not invited or if their respect for us was so deep, they did not want to impose. And now I am pondering – what would it mean for a Christian to kneel and say prayers in a Mosque? Much to think about, as we continue our mission project with our Islamic and Jewish brothers and sisters. Pastor Michelle and Vaughn Brown will be attending services this week. Our prayers go with them.

I am very much looking forward to the autumn launch which begins on September 12 with Come and See Sunday and our church picnic. I hope we have a space problem!

In Christ,



Charity Function At Ark and Dove

Ark and Dove is opening their doors and helping NCRC Racing host their 4th annual ALS Charity Race benefiting the ALS Association. More than \$9000 has been raised to aid individuals and families in the MD/VA/DC area coping with their diagnosis and needed care. More than 70 cars come to compete from as far as South Carolina, New York and Massachusetts. With nationally and internationally ranked drivers, some of them professionals. The event is running all day **Saturday (Oct 23)** and is open to drivers for practice Friday evening from 5pm-9pm. Through generous contributions from sponsors and support this has turned into one of the largest events on the East Coast. Racing is open to the public, but if you aren't a driver you are welcome to come and watch any time during the day. This is a great use of Mission for our facility so I would strongly recommend that you come and see some of the greatest RC drivers in the nation battle it out – a very rare opportunity so close to home. For more information visit www.ncrcracing.com or see Russ Hester.



New Member's / Inquirer's Class

Saturday October 2nd
8:30 pm to 12:30pm



A morning seminar designed to help those who are thinking of joining Ark and Dove or just want to know more about the Presbyterian Church and what we believe. A light breakfast will be served and childcare will be available upon request. Sign up in the church lobby.

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.

Mission Ministry

Winter Relief 2010 is Approaching

Wow, a year sure goes by quickly! Its time to gear up for another Winter Relief project! I'm sure everyone remembers how the spirit of giving and sacrifice turned out to be so rewarding. Our Winter Relief guests truly appreciated our hospitality and friendship.

This year, Ark and Dove is hosting Winter Relief from Monday November 1st through Monday, November 8th. During this time, we will provide shelter, meals, chaperones, fellowship, and other services to 25 homeless men.

Once again, we need volunteers, including several team leaders. There is a BRIEF general meeting after Church this **Sunday, September 5, 2010, from 12:30pm - 1:00pm**. This will be the springboard for the greater planning effort.

Of course, look for our exciting and fascinating sign-up sheets that will be posted in the coming weeks :). If you have questions, please see Josh Ederheimer, Clay Heflebower, or Scott Foster.

Let me know if you are interested in participating in Winter Relief this year, especially if you are willing to lead one of the teams. We are utilizing the same 14 teams/tasks that we did last year (see below):

- Donation Coordination
- Monday Set-up
- Morning Transportation
- Afternoon Transportation
- Daily Guest Intake
- Afternoon Chaperone
- Meals (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner/Snacks)
- Evening Fellowship & Chaperones
- Overnight Chaperones
- Shower coordination and Transportation (2 nights)
- Laundry and Linen
- Sunday (breakfast and all-day chaperoning)
- Monday Breakdown
- Church clean-up

Thanks everyone!

Biblical Storytelling Event - September 27th

Please don't forget to register for the "Biblical Storytelling Workshop" which will take place **Monday, September 27, 2010 at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church. The deadline to register is September 13, 2010.** The cost to attend is \$15.00 per person and includes lunch. This event is for pastors, educators, church school teachers, youth leaders and volunteers....anyone who loves the stories of the bible and would like to communicate them more effectively. This is an event you don't want to miss! More information and registration details in the church lobby.

The APB

For the past six months the session has been reading *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* by Joan S. Gray. In the first chapter she defines a spiritual leader as “one whose way of life is centered in relationship to the God revealed in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Spirituality is about a way of life.” In the five short months that I have been in ministry with Beth Foster, she has been such as leader. Every decision Beth has made and approach to CE has been done with a clear vision and understanding of her role within the greater ministry of the church. Always patient and steady Beth was the calm in the sometimes-chaotic times of ministry. Therefore, it is understandable that Beth will be missed as she steps down as the Education elder. But we are fortunate that she will remain within the Education Team as a co-leader of LOGOS. Thank you Beth for your faithful service.

There are exciting times coming up in the month of September. If you have not heard we are kicking off the fall season with a party! Come and See is September 12, 12:20-3:00pm. Come and See what Ark and Dove has planned for the coming year. We will have food, door prizes, games, dunk tank and much more. On September 11 we will have a teachers training for Sunday School teachers and all subs from 8:00am to 9:00am. Come and find out about all the ins and outs of the curriculum as well as some teaching tools. Please contact Lisa Ferrer or Michelle Hwang if you have any questions.

Peace,



Band Banter

Summer is coming to a close, and it was great for Jennifer and I to go see our families, and also gave me a chance to see how other contemporary services are. I am happy to say that I enjoy what we do at Ark & Dove very much, but wanted to tell you a little about the service I went to in Montgomery, Alabama, especially after having our own experimental worship this past Sunday.

The form of the service is different. At the beginning, they have six hymns all together, and even if the hymns are brand new to the congregation, everyone learns it together, and there is no spot for special music. Then, after the music, there is the reading for the day, and the message. After the message, the Pastor gives the Benediction and gives some announcements, and then the service is over. Quite different from ours! I have to say, I thought it was really cool, even though I like what we do at Ark & Dove too.

In the way of announcements, Youth Band is starting back up for the year, starting this Sunday, September 5, and begins 10 minutes after the end of the 11:00 service in the Sanctuary, and runs for 1 hour. It is a great time for new people to join, because all of the music is fresh to everyone, and so there is no learning curve, and our group is great at meeting new members.

That's all for now. God Bless!
Mark

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.

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

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Amy Benson's father dealing with kidney stones; Florence Myers, recovering from difficult knee surgery; Darlene Butler and her family on the death of her husband; Elis Wirth and the First Presbyterian Church in Yuma who sustained damage from a storm.

The love and sympathy of the congregation goes out to Mary Stum and her family on the death of her brother in law, John Kendig.

Come and See...

Sunday, September 12th 12:30-3 pm



Come and See...

Old and new friends at Ark and Dove as fall Sunday school Kicks off. It's a great day to invite a friend to worship and stay for the picnic/ministry fair after worship.

Come and See...

What's happening in ministry at Ark and Dove at our Fall Ministry Fair after worship.

Come and See...

How much food and fun you can have at the church picnic. We'll have food, a moon bounce, dunk tank, face painting, crafts for the kids and games for all ages.

So, wear your picnic clothes to church and bring lawn chairs on September 12th for a fun-filled Picnic and Ministry Fair - 12:30-3 pm

or current resident

*Joyfully Serving God
with Open Hearts
and Open Minds*

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