

# Adelphi Presbyterian Church News



9401 Riggs Road, Adelphi, Maryland 20783  
(301) 434-6337

Web Site: [www.adelhipc.org](http://www.adelhipc.org)

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## PASTORAL LETTER

My dear, dear fellow Adelphi members.....  
It is not easy to be a “multi-cultural” church (if we really mean it not simply on “surface” or on the “norms” of a majority group, be it “Taiwanese” or “Cameroonian” ☞). Some of you like Adelphi because of the “colorfulness” of it. Most of you became members when it was majority white. Now, after 5 years of dramatic shift in demographic changes (almost 180 degrees!), we are perplexed. Those who do not feel comfortable with the “colorfulness” of the church are long gone, have moved far away from the area and have joined a church of their “comfortable-ness.” You ask, “Who are we?”

I applaud your courage, your faith, and your perseverance for “staying” here even when the church has taken a 180 degrees’ change. Are we now faced with an “imminent” “immediate” “drastic” --- adaptation --- of some kind --- in order to survive?!#\$\$?

Brothers and sisters in Christ (it is a privilege and blessing to call you my brothers and sisters because of what God in Jesus Christ has done for all us of on the cross), I believe and trust, if “culture” is part of God’s omnipotent and holy creation, we are here to **thrive** (not just survive!) though not necessarily in number ---- - if and only if we submit and surrender (big words? No, they come with what it means to be a Christian), ourselves to God and let God speak to us, rather than one of us telling the other what the “norm” or

“standard” or “appropriateness” of being a Christian, or a Presbyterian Christian is!

First of all, I am glad, I appreciate, I am thankful..... for all the different ways of “gratitude” I can express, that people are pouring out their hearts and souls to me. Thank goodness!!!! I shed my tears for your honesty. I shouted out to God in the middle of the night, “Tell me, who are we to be a multi-cultural church? We are not loved by the general society! We are so marginalized! Yet, God, isn’t this what the Kingdom of God is (not “is like”) (we are the Kingdom of God if we know what it means to live together peacefully and joyfully and respectfully)?”

As your pastor, I hope we live together in honesty, in purity, in mutuality, and in forgiveness and love because our God in Jesus Christ the Lord has forgiven us through his death and granted a free new life through his resurrection.

I have heard recently that some felt they were not welcome in the church because they were late. **For God’s sake** (I really mean it!), that would be an absolutely wrong impression. You are more than welcome even if you have to come to church 30 or 40 or 50 minutes late. We love you and we love to see you even if you have to be late!!!

All that we were trying to do was to find a common ground for a multi-cultural community. There has to be a common ground before we can start learning to respect and learn from one another’s culture.

In the general church life, I think this common ground is, on the very basic level, that we come to church’s

“formal” functions ON TIME as best as we can, especially Sunday worship. The reason is that we just cannot wait. We have to begin our service when the time comes (11:00AM) because there are many different cultures among us. Each culture may have a different concept of time. There may be visitors who expect that the service will begin at the time we say it will begin. We just want you to be there on time, so that you do not miss too much.

I was told that even in Africa, people go to church ON TIME because it is a “western” thing. Whatever it is, “Western” “Eastern” “African” “Native American”.... Let us strive to be in church on time at 11:00AM. **Yet, Yet, Yet,** please come in to the doors, the red doors, even if you are late. We love you and we love to see you if Sunday is the only time that we will be able to see you before you “plunge into” your “busy” life for the week.

Please feel free to continue to speak to me, to email me, to ask me to visit you in your homes.... I love to get to know you better.... Shalom!! (Peace be with you!)



## CLERK'S REPORT

By Janet Dolen

At the Session meeting in November, Bob Finzel, chair of stewardship and personnel, attended and gave the elders a briefing on the finances. The budget was discussed along with projected income estimates. The Session went over the membership--required annually--and moved members who haven't been attending for some time to the inactive list. On the personnel side, it was announced that our invaluable organist, Elder Kathie James, is taking a year's leave after a long and dedicated service to Adelphi. Thank you Kathie for all the years of lovely organ playing and choir direction. We received a facilities report and discussed one possible group renting our facilities. The Session also discussed the photo gallery and the many unsung contributions by members of the congregation.



## STUDY LEAVE RECAP

By Eunice Yang

I spent the week of October 11 in College of Preachers (COP), which is nested in the beautiful, serene, and greenery compound of the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. COP is an Episcopalian institution established in early 1900s that focuses on the training and enrichment of preachers around the world. COP focuses on preaching, yet, looking at preaching from many different angles. Another unique feature of the workshop is that we preach in small groups twice during the week, an old sermon and a new sermon. We gladly receive feedback and critique from our colleagues.

The title of the conference that I participated was “Preaching and Congregational Transformation,” led by Rev. Anthony Robinson. 21 pastors attended, representing 7 denominations. I was glad to see Rev. Angela Ying in the conference, whom I met in seminary during a racial/ethnic seminarian conference in Lake Tahoe sponsored by our denomination. Rev. Ying is the first Taiwanese-American to be ordained in the PCUSA. Rev. Carla Gorrell, the interim Associate Presbyterian was also there.

Under the able leadership of Rev. Anthony Robinson, we explored the culture surrounding today's church and how that culture has impacted the church and Christians. Rev. Robinson, who is the author of “Transforming Congregational Culture,” shared with us his insights and experience of dealing with congregational transformation. Congregational transformation starts with each and every one of us. The most valuable experience for me during this conference was that I went through a personal transformation and I was renewed through the sharing, the worship, and the prayers together.



## Mildred Fon

### The New Administrative Assistant

I was born and raised in Baltimore. My late husband was from Cameroon. I am the mother of two married children, and proud grandmother of ten and another on the way. I graduated from Coppin State College with a bachelor degree in Early Childhood. I have taught in the public school, childcare centers and was director of several childcare centers. I am certified as a professional trainer by the State of Maryland. I feel God leads my life and has brought me to Adelphi. As a member and Elder of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church for more than nine years, I have served twice on the session and twice on the Pastor Nominating Committee. Currently, I am the chair of the Peacemaking Committee and serve on the Anti-Racism Team of our Presbytery. I am a "Dedicated" member and the current secretary of the first Christian Women Fellowship group in the United States, which originated in Cameroon and has spread out through Africa. Our Motto is to "Serve the Lord With Joy". This I bring with me as I carry out God's work at Adelphi.



## BIBLE BREAKFAST

### CLUB by Kathie James

Our Bible Breakfast Club met on Sunday, November 21, at 9:30 a.m. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Michele Thurber as we heard stories about young Samuel and young Jesus. When Samuel lived in the temple during his early years, he heard a voice calling him at night. He thought it was the old priest Eli and went to him three times to see what Eli wanted.

Finally, Eli realized that it was God calling and sent Samuel back to bed to listen and answer. The next time Samuel heard the voice, he replied, "Speak, Lord,

for your servant is listening."

God told him many important things. The children acted out this story several times, each taking different roles and playing them very convincingly! Then we learned about how Jesus grew up, getting taller and smarter each year, as well as finding favor with God and with everyone around Him.

Since our focus was on **listening to God**, we thought about which creature in the world has the biggest ears, and we decided it was the elephant. Everyone made a felt elephant by gluing parts of the body together. Then we put the elephants in plastic bags, along with Scripture cards with not one but two verses (one for each ear) for our meeting in December. Elephants are also known for remembering things, so we hope children will remember the verses, which are I Samuel 3:10 and Luke 2:52. Children who can say them from memory will earn a sticker for each one. We also reviewed our prayers from last time and saw how God had answered them. We offered some new prayers for the next four weeks. In addition, we sang several of our favorite Bible songs. Don't miss the Christmas meeting of the BBC on Sunday, December 19, at 9:00 a.m.!



## KATHIE'S LEAVE

After 10 years of faithful and willing service at Adelphi as the Organist and Director of Music, Dr. Elder Kathie James will take a year's leave beginning in December. We thank her for her dedication to the music ministry in Adelphi. Keep Kathie in your prayers as she takes her Sabbath and expects to be renewed and rejuvenated during her leave with some possible continuing education in worship and music. She will continue to serve on Session and teaches Bible Breakfast Club every third Sunday at Adelphi.



## THE MUSIC BOX

### Reflections on a decade of music at Adelphi

By Kathie James

First, I give thanks to God for calling me to the ministry of music at this church. It has been a true joy to research, prepare, and practice the music for each Sunday. As I took time to play through a few of the anthems that we sang over the years, I thought of how fulfilling it has been to work with the choir as well. The people in the choir have changed a great deal over a ten-year period (I think only Cherry Smith, Marlene Donaldson, perhaps Renee Milligan, and--surprise!-- Larry James have been present the whole time), but each new combination has brought innovation and enthusiasm to our musical mission. I also thank for their participation Vida Agyei-Obese, Comfort Anigboh, Uche Anigboh, Rachel Milligan, Martin Ojong, plus others mentioned below. And we mustn't forget our recently and dear departed Barbara Kline, as well as our former pastor Sam Alexander.

As our diversity increased in membership, our music took on more multicultural offerings. The choir and soloists have sung in French, Spanish, Latin, Yoroba, Urdu, and a number of African dialects. Over the years we have also had instrumentalists who played saxophone (Ayuk Ojong), violin (Emily Condon-Douglas), clarinet (Royal Tisdale), trumpet (Larry James), trombone (Aima Ojehomon), bells (Harry Patterson, guest), piano (Mebanga Ojong), recorder (Tambetta Ojong), organ (Mebanga again), guitar (Stig Hammond, Jake Masters, Jr., and others), and computerized accompaniment (Paul Clark). As an aside, I must mention that it was a particular joy to teach Mebanga and Tambetta to read or continue reading music so that they could extend their talents on piano and organ. Mebanga decided to go out on her own and learn various hymns; you have seen how well she has played the hymns for Youth Sundays. In addition to current or recent choir soloists (Cherry, Evelyn, Charlotte, Marlene, Aima, Renee, Sarah, Andrew, Paul, etc.), we remember Rick Inguanti, Jim

Gage, Julie Carcamo, Marie Temple, Bill Adams, Ruth Potter's daughter, and perhaps a few others who have moved away but their melodies linger on. Guest artists have also come to perform, such as Timothy Leonard, Harry Patterson, and Evelyn Gonzales (teachers), as well as James Hopkins (an elementary student soloist).

We have had several choirs sing at Adelphi. In addition to our Adult Choir, also dubbed "The Miracle Choir" (in part because only a few people actually could read music but still learned beautifully), we have had the Adelphi Angels, the Adelphi Cherubs, The Winston Peace Choir, The Emeralds of Shepherd, and the Rubies of Rudolph--the last three being choirs from District of Columbia Public Schools.

We had special Music Sundays in November for about 6 years, when choirs and instrumentalists and soloists came and augmented our services by praising the Lord in music. Our attendance sometimes exceeded 100 on those Sundays.

What else has happened in the last 10 years? The choir pews were moved so that instead of facing the organ, they face the congregation. New hymnals were adopted, and some of you dedicated them to loved ones. New choir robes were purchased to harmonize with the new color scheme of the stained glass windows and the sanctuary. We had one jazz vespers service, with many Adelphi musicians offering both religious and secular tunes in a worship atmosphere. At one time, we had hymn sings once a month before the service began.

If I have forgotten any one or any thing from the past ten years, please forgive me and please send it in to the next newsletter. Our musical heritage is so rich that we want to include everything.

Times change, and we often have difficulty in deciding which traditions we should continue and which new directions we should pursue. So long as we heed God's calling and keep as our purpose the dedicated worship of our Lord, we will discern His will.

Meanwhile, I thank each and every one of you for your wonderful support, comments, participation, help, kindness, and all the other ways in which you have been



a part of our musical ministry. Although I am not a trained church musician, I have learned many things in these years, and I have had the opportunity even to compose Introsits and Amens in the days when the choir sang them.

Now, through the encouragement of our pastor, I will take a break and, hopefully, return refreshed with some new ideas and new leadership so that our praise of God in music will be rejuvenated and truly a reflection of our spiritual growth in reaching to the highest heavens, as Psalm 150 inspires us to do. Peace, love, and gratitude to all.



## SUBSTITUTE ORGANISTS FOR DECEMBER

December, we will have substitute organists with special music offered by some of our members gifted with musical talents. We are in the process of searching for an interim director of music/organist. Please keep this process in your prayers that God will lead the "right" person to us.

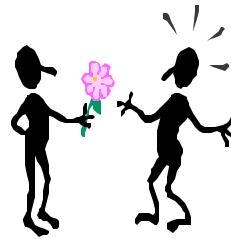
December 5, 12, 19... **Ann Mac Kenzie** is a native of western New York State and resides in Greenbelt, MD. She received training in pipe organ methodology and has thirty plus years experience. Ann has served as an organist/accompanist for adult and youth choirs, soloists and instrumentalists for numerous Protestant and Roman Catholic congregations. Her desire is to serve a church family and to glorify God through the gift and ministry of music.

December 26... **James M. Reed**, Assistant Director of Music at the Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville. Mr. Reed was educated in Oxford University in England and received training in Dallas, Texas.



## ADEVENT SOUP AND STUDY

Beginning December 1 through December 22, we will have Advent Soup and Study every Wednesday. Soup starts at 6:30PM. A short study and a prayer service will follow at 7:00PM. Come join us during this season of waiting.



## THANK YOU FROM EVELYN JONES....

Dear friends, Thank you for the beautiful flowers, prayers, cards and messages. Having the support of one's church family is very special. Thank you all for your support and caring. Evelyn.



## CONGRATULATIONS!!

**Dr. David and Kay Beard** on the arrival of their great grandson, Nicholas Stephen Romig. The baby arrived Oct. 29, 2004 at 2:10 pm and is 7 lbs and 20" long. The proud parents are Rev. Christopher and Mrs. Karen Romig and proud grandmother is Joan Romig. Nicholas has an older brother William, 4.

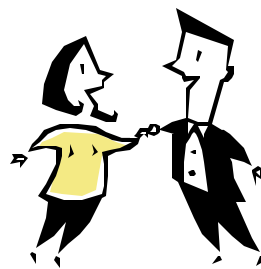
**Jerome Farley and Candace Philander** on the birth of their second child, a beautiful and energetic daughter, Reyna Michael Naomi Farley. She was born on November 3, weighs 7 lbs 7 oz, and is 20 inches long. Daniel is the proud little older brother.



## “Help by Phone”

### BREAKFAST MENU

Beef Stew	Oatmeal	Cold Cereal	Dry Milk
Grits	Pancake mix	Pancake Syrup	Coffee
Juices	Baby Food	Fruit	Tea
Coca			



Paul & Joan Tembunde –December 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Neil & Michelle Wiltshire–December 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Winton & Promilla Almas–December 30<sup>th</sup>

All foods must be canned or dried and in sealed containers to meet health department regulations. Please bring the above items and place them in the grocery basket in the back of the sanctuary.

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## LECTIONARY READING FOR DECEMBER

Dec 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Isa.11:1-10

Ps. 72:1-7

Rom. 15:4-13

Matt. 3:1-12

Dec 12: 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sunday of Advent

Isa. 35:1-10

Ps. 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55

James 5:7-10

Dec 19: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Is. 7:10-16

Ps 72:80:1-7,17-19

Rom. 1:1-7

Matt 1:18-25

Dec 26: 1<sup>st</sup>. Sunday after Christmas

Isa. 63:7-9

Ps.148

Heb. 2:10-18

Matt.2:13-23

## BIRTHDAY WISHES



Les Wattay – Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Uche Anigboh – Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Martin Ojong – Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Charles Yancey – Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Neil Wiltshire – Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Joan Roming – Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Stig Hammond – Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Dave Milligan – Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Angela Bouie – Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Marlene Donaldson – Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Jennie Cardin – Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

## MEALS ON WHEELS



by Cherry Smith

**Volunteers** are needed. If you are able to donate a few hours once a week, don't hesitate to call Cherry Smith. Her number is 301- 384-0775. Please feel free to leave a message on voice mail if she's not available

to answer the telephone. She will get back with you as soon as possible.

### December Servants Day

Date	Greeters	Nursery	Ushers	Acolytes	Liturgists
December 5 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m.	The Milligans	Janet Doeln	Paul Tembunde Neil Wiltshire	Lauren Wettay	Larry James
12 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m.	Gail Rodman	Martin Ojong	Janet Dolen Deborah Penot	Ayuk Ojong	Evelyn Jones
19 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m.	The Lancasters	Dick Smith	Jerome Farley Tad Jembere	Abigail Jembere	Charlotte Ojong
26 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m.	Vida Agyei-Obese	Candace Farley	Jake Masters Gail Rodman	Jerome Wiltshire	Martin Ojong

## Adelphi Presbyterian Church

9401 Riggs Road

Adelphi, Maryland 20783

Pastor: Rev. Y. Eunice Yang

Director of Music: Dr. Kathie James

Administrative Assistant: Mildred Fon

*January Newsletter Deadline Date: December 26, 2004*