

# Adelphi Presbyterian Church News

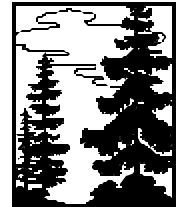


9401 Riggs Road  
Adelphi, Maryland 20783  
(301) 434-6337

Web Site: [www.adelphipc.org](http://www.adelphipc.org) (Jerome Farley, Webmaster)

December 2006

**Minister: Every member of Adelphi  
Presbyterian Church**



## The Session

### Class 2007

Comfort Anigboh, Stig Hammond, Bettye Miller

### Class 2008

Renee Milligan, Charlotte Ojong, Ernestine Tebong

### Class 2009

Jennie Cardin (2008), Eric Yemoh

Pastor: Rev. Y. Eunice Yang

Clerk of Session: Janet Dolan

Treasurer: Charles Yancey

Assistant Treasurer: Jake Masters

We are striving to be

A Praying Congregation...

Deepening with God.

A Caring Congregation...

Deepening with one another.

A Welcoming Congregation...

Deepening with the world.

## FROM THE PASTOR...

My prayers go with this newsletter to you – may you find true joy and peace especially in this season of Advent! At the end of the year, I would like to express my gratitude to you and to God.

**To you**, I am grateful for who you are, for your presence here and the gifts and talents you bring to this faith community, and for the grace and love you have shown me. **To Session**, I am grateful for their faithful dedication and giving of their best in their own ways. **To Transforming Congregation Project team** – Bob Finzel, Tad Jembere, Martin Ojong, and Ernestine Tebong – I am grateful for their company and truly blessed by their fellowship on this journey of transformation as we spent the last 2 years together – learning, praying, wondering and wandering, grieving, laughing, eating, having deep and good conversation, wrestling with hard questions. God's presence was deeply felt through many of our "meetings." I am profoundly thankful for the amount of time, energy, love, imagination, intelligence, perseverance that they have given and shown through this process. I am greatly encouraged and joyfully surprised to "see" their own changes. They told me "***We have been transformed!***" which is almost equal to the acclamation of the weeping Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb, "I have seen the

Lord!” (The Gospel of John) On that note, I have encouraged them to find a prayer partner for the next year. I hope and pray that this **circle of transformation** will grow from 4 to 8, to 16, to 32..... by the grace of God, in God’s time and in God’s way!!!

**To God**, I am grateful that the past year and half has been a transforming journey where and when God has re-shaped and re-molded me, and re-created a new being and a new life in me. I used to experience some cosmetic changes in my life and soul even though at the time I resonated with Job “*I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you.*” (Job 42:5) This time – this transforming journey – is an experience of re-creation in the essence of who I am – of my heart, my soul, and my mind. Most parts of the journey were in chaos, in abandonment, and in wilderness through all of which I received a gift to trust God, to know God, to love God in a profoundly brand new way! Paul says, “*Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.*” (2 Cor. 5:17) The Good News is this new life is given to us again and again, and we are given the gifts of seeing God anew also again and again – if and only if we are willing to take the risk (there is a risk involved) of being open to God!! I have come to embrace true joy and peace that I never knew before!

Transformation, as I have wrestled with it and understand it now, first and foremost comes in the form of personal transformation. It is about changed lives and changing lives. Only when people have encountered God for the first time or anew – have been converted and transformed again and again – can there be institutional transformation! It takes risks and courage to be open to the Holy Spirit! We do not know where the Wind may want to blow us to! After a rattling of sound, the dry bones come together, covered with sinews and flesh – yet, there is NO breath in them. They remain dry bones nonetheless without the breath of God!!! Only God can breathe this new breath of life into our lives. (Ezekiel 37)

As Robinson and Wall point out in *Called to be Church – The Book of Acts for a New Day*, “*The early Christian communities are all about change, about changed and changing lives..... the church is*

*a community of believers that sustain such change, transformation, and conversion experiences as we grow in the likeness of Christ and image of God – this shall be the core purpose of the church.*” (Quoted and paraphrased, p80) The church is also a group of sinners who yearn for redemption and forgiveness.

Unfortunately, today, churches have become merely an institution, adopting the secular world of operation, language, and mindset. Churches do not equal to a volunteer or charity organization or even a country club – The Pastor is not your boss and you are not your pastor’s boss either! The pastor and the congregation are called together to be partners in ministry for the time designated by God. All churches have a long way to go in order to go back to the original love – what church needs to be about – a community of believers who have been (should have been) converted and transformed by the Triune God that witnesses to the resurrection of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, and that embodies “resurrection practices” in their way of life together.

God is ready to bless you, to transform you, to create a new being in you, and to give you a new life full of holy joy and peace ***whenever and wherever you are ready to open yourself to God!!!***

In this Advent – in the waiting of the coming of the Lord, may you find peace and joy, and most of all, may you open yourself and be found by God!!!



## **TO MEET GOD – Prayer in Silence**

Advent is a time of waiting...and praying...and worshipping. We will continue to be here at church 7:00PM – 8:00PM EVERY Wednesday in silent prayer (with a short meditation) – **to listen to God, to commune with God in silence, and to receive newness of life from God!** Come join us for 10 minutes, 30 minutes, or the whole hour of holy silence.

Silence is God's first language; everything else is a poor translation.

In order to hear the language, we must learn to be still and to rest in God.

~ *Thomas Keating, Invitation to Love* ~

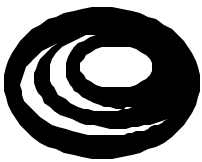


## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship in a church of our size is vital for our continued existence. Generous financial contributions make the difference in a faith program that can grow versus one that is restricted by lack of resources.

Please get your pledge cards in soon so that the session can continue to plan for the dynamic course that the transformational committee has set.

Thanks, Eric Yemoh and Renee Milligan



## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – In the Presbyterian Church USA

(Extracted from the Directory of Worship in the Book of Order of PCUSA)

Baptism is the sign and seal of incorporation into Christ. In Baptism, we participate in Jesus' death and resurrection – we die to what separates us from God and are raised to newness of life in Christ. In Baptism, the Holy Spirit binds the Church in covenant to its Creator and Lord. The water of Baptism symbolizes the waters of Creation, of the Flood, and of the Exodus from Egypt. Thus, the water of Baptism links us to the goodness of God's creation and to the grace of God's covenants with Noah and Israel.

God's faithfulness signified in Baptism is constant and sure, even when human faithfulness to God is not. Baptism is received only once. The efficacy of Baptism

is not tied to the moment when it is administered, for Baptism signifies the beginning of life in Christ, not its completion. God's grace works steadily, calling to repentance and newness of life. God's faithfulness needs no renewal. Human faithfulness to God needs repeated renewal. Baptism calls for decision at every subsequent stage of life's way, both for those whose Baptism attends their profession of faith and for those who are nurtured from childhood within the family of faith.

Both believers and their children are included in God's covenant love. Children of believers are to be baptized without undue delay, but without undue haste. Baptism, whether administered to those who profess their faith or to those presented for Baptism as children, is one and the same sacrament. The Baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The Baptism of those who enter the covenant upon their own profession of faith witnesses to the truth that God's gift of grace calls for fulfillment in a response of faithfulness.

Baptism is received only once. There are many times in worship, however, when believers acknowledge the grace of God continually at work. PCUSA recognizes all Baptisms with water in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit administered by other Christian churches. For reasons of order, Baptism shall be authorized by the session, administered by a minister of the Word and Sacrament. Baptism is celebrated in a service of public worship. The congregation as a whole, on behalf of the Church universal, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized person in the Christian life.



**ADVENT BEGINS**  
**on December 3**

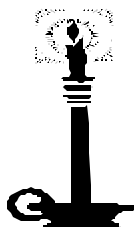
## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT ADELPHI

Advent begins the church year by calling us to wait for Christ's coming. This season has its earliest roots in Spain and Gaul (France), where it was first celebrated. The word *Advent*, which comes from Latin, means "to come;" and the weeks of Advent spark a sense of eagerness and anticipation. After all, when we are expecting the arrival of someone or something important, we organize our lives around this anticipate event.... A season of waiting seems almost out of place in today's world of instant gratification: our culture is used to having what it wants and having it now. We don't like to wait for anything. Thus, we should not be surprised that our society has little appreciation for Advent.

Yet we Christians know that God's promises often take time to be born. Our spiritual ancestors waited thousands of years for the fulfillment of God's Word. Countless generations of Hebrews hoped they would see the promise come true in their lifetime; and as they faded into history, each generation handed on that promise to the next generation. Finally, in the fullness of time – when God saw that all was ready – a young woman named Mary bore the final months of waiting as the promised Savior grew within her.

**Christmas** – the season of Christmas lasts for twelve days, from Christmas Day (really beginning with Christmas Eve celebrations) until January 6, the Feast of Epiphany of Twelfth Night. The Twelve Days of Christmas are a period of celebration that date back to ancient times.

(Excerpt from "*All Through the Day, All Through the Year – Family Prayers and Celebrations*" by David B. Batchelder. This book has an excellent collection of ideas, rituals, and prayers to help the family celebrate the presence of God throughout the year. After all, we cannot make Christians on only an hour a week.)



Every Sunday in Advent and Christmas seasons, our worship will be featured with **lighting** of the Advent wreath by a variety of people, with **music** from different traditions, and with **sacraments and rituals** that embody God's presence in our lives.

**First Sunday of Advent**, December 3

**Second Sunday of Advent**, December 10 – Baptism for Becky and Vanessa Takang (Ernestine Tebong and Cherry Smith are the sponsors.)

**Third Sunday of Advent**, December 17 – Communion and the ritual of "Placing the cloth on the cradle"

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**, December 24 at 11:00AM  
**Christmas Eve Service** at 7:30PM

**First Sunday of Christmas, December 31 – PRAISE AND PRAYER SERVICE** – At the suggestion of Worship and Music Committee, we will be singing and praying and sharing testimonies throughout the whole service. **Volunteers needed to sing or to offer instrumental music – soloist, duets, or a "choir" or two! And remember to think about your favorite hymns.**



### SESSION

The session reviewed the Christian Education program and the English as a Second Language program. The Elders talked about various ways for the congregation to become more involved in the ESL program. The Elders thought it was an important ministry for Adelphi, and it was decided to continue the program with a paid teacher. We set January 14<sup>th</sup> as a day of special offering for ESL.

The Elders also decided another way to get the congregation involved was to put a suggestion box in the back of the church. Any suggestions or comments would be welcomed. We also discussed the Wednesday night prayer service and prayer requests.

Other items discussed at the meeting were: budget requests, the Christmas luncheon, the Undersheperd list, setting up a scholarship program for the youth of Adelphi, and a training session attended by Rev. Yang and Elders Tebong and Yemoh on ministry evaluation.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Ava Helen Feit was born on September 8, 2006, 10lb and 6oz to Sara and Barron Feit. Proud grandparents are Jake and Pattie Masters.



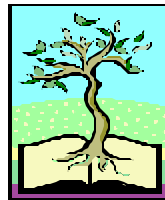
## A FEW MOMENTS

### in our lives together

**Worship and Music** – The Worship and Music committee met on November 27 to discuss and plan for worship for the Advent and Christmas season. In attendance were Evelyn Jones, Cherry Smith, Matilda Che, and Pastor Eunice. We are still in the process of obtaining a regular accompanist. Please remember this in your prayers. We are grateful for many who offered their musical talents during worship in the last few months: Prommila Almas, Evelyn Jones, Ayukosso Ojong, Joan Tembunde, Kathie James, Martin and Charlotte Ojong, Cherry Smith. Jennie Cardin shared her faith journey on Sep. 10. TCP team (Bob, Martin, Tad, Ernestine) led a grace-filled worship on Oct. 8. At the assistance of Jennie Cardin, homebound communion was given to the Beards and Sharon Anderson on Nov. 19. About 6 people stood up to count God's blessings and express their thankfulness to God and to one another on Nov. 26.

**Facilities** – Eric Yemoh, the new chair is working extraordinarily hard in getting to know the ins and outs of the enormous job of taking care of our facilities. We are thankful that after recovering from the surgery, Les Wattay is back on looking after our church – the ESL sign is up and he is working on another sign that is to be put up! Thanks to all those who remember all the details of the building needs: papers, gutters, light bulbs, heat and air conditioning, yard, etc. Without them, we will not have a clean and nice place to worship and fellowship.

## BIBLE BREAKFAST CLUB



by Kathie James

The Bible Breakfast Club met on November 19, and participants enjoyed a delicious breakfast contributed by the Women's Prayer Breakfast group, as well as additional items from Jan Tembunde, Jennie Cardin, and Bettye Miller. The lesson consisted of studies about the Apostle Philip and of Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, from the Bible (Luke, John and Philippians) and other historical sources. Our craft was construction of a colorful Thanksgiving Tree, allowing everyone to write some of the things for which they are thankful on "leaves" that were then put on a tree, forming a beautiful picture, suitable for hanging at home. It was interesting to note the items which children had written on the leaves, included: The Bible, parents, friends, food, shelter, toys, school, and "myself." Some of these themes were repeated during the Children's Moment in the worship service later. Before the meeting was over, prayers were offered, and we also practiced a few Christmas songs. Our next meeting will be on December 17, which will be a busy day! We hope everyone will dedicate that Sunday to God and the season by coming to BBC for studies and crafts, attending worship, and then enjoying the fellowship of the Christmas luncheon.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**December 12**, Tuesday 7:00PM – Session

**December 17**, Sunday

9:30AM – Bible Breakfast Club

After worship – Christmas Luncheon

### \* **THE HOLIDAYS QUICKLY APPROACH!!!**

Our annual Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, December 17, 2006, immediately following worship. Please plan to stay and spend your afternoon with delicious food, invaluable fellowship, and fun with the kids. We've received news that a special visitor will stop by!

\* **Wednesday Prayer Meetings:** We continue to meet each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. for a time of silent prayer in our sanctuary, followed by prayer in unity for all prayer requests. Please fill out and leave an index card located in the back of the sanctuary every Sunday and express your thanksgiving and concerns to the Lord. At the end of each prayer meeting, all requests will be lifted up. (Anonymous requests gladly included.) Also, for the month of Advent, our pastor has suggested that we find a prayer partner. As the busy season comes upon us, we need to keep Christ first and foremost in our thoughts and hearts. Let us pray lovingly together for on another.

\* **Pregnancy Aid Center:** Once again this year, we have chosen the Pregnancy Aid Center in College Park as the recipient of Adelphi's mission of gift-giving. While you make your Christmas lists and check them twice, please include a trip to the store for baby diapers, formula, diaper wipes, and/or baby bottles. It is not necessary to wrap anything. All purchases should be brought to church on or before **Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**. Please call Renee Milligan (301) 513-9730 or

Jennie Cardin (301) 933-2972 if you have any questions. Financial contributions also accepted, and we will do the shopping for you!

\* **Supporting our troops:** No matter your position on our current war situation, our troops need our love and support. The Ki-Women of Shepherd Park are looking for donations of **unread** newspapers and magazines, and also phone cards of any denomination to send overseas **by December 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Please contact Kathie James (301) 434-6614 or Jennie Cardin (301) 933-2972 if you would like to be included in this wonderful gift idea. Let's stay connected with our troops.

\* **International Dinner Night:** Our annual International Dinner Night is Sunday, January 14, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. All APC members, guests and friends are welcome. Monday, January 15 is a holiday for a lot of people, so we encourage you to spend the extra night out having lots of fun at church. **\*\*NOTE:** We will have a special ESL (English as a Second Language) offering during worship. Please reflect thoughtfully on making a donation to defray out-of-pocket expenses for our ESL classes. If you cannot make the Sunday service, please bring your special ESL offering to dinner.



## **Lectionary Reading** **1st Sunday of Advent**

Jer. 33:4-16

1 Thess. 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

Mal. 3:1-4  
 Luke 1:68-79  
 Phil. 1:3-11  
 Luke 3:1-6

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zeph. 3:14-20  
 Isa. 12:2-6  
 Phil. 4:4-7  
 Luke 3:7-18

## 4th Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)

Mic. 5:2-5a; Heb. 10:5-10; Mark 10:35-45  
 Luke 1:39-45; Isa. 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14;  
 Luke 2:1-14

## 1st Sunday after Christmas

1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26  
 Col. 3:12-17  
 Luke 2:41-52

December 27 Neil and Michelle Wiltshire  
 December 30 Winton and Promilla Almas

## Happy Birthday



Winton Almas December 2  
 Les Wattay December 2  
 Atiya Jembere December 4  
 Uche Anigboh December 5  
 Martin Ojong December 5  
 Richard Smith December 6  
 Charles Yancy December 7  
 Matthew Smith December 10  
 Neil Wiltshire December 17  
 Joan Romig December 18  
 John Anthony Thurber December 18  
 Stig Hammond December 19  
 Dave Milligan December 22  
 Marlene Donaldson December 25  
 Jennie Cardin December 30



## Help By Phone

Beef Stew Macaroni & Cheese Spaghetti Pork & Beans Dried Beans	Soups Tuna Peanut Butter Baby food	Dry Milk Coffee Tea Cocoa	Red, Green & Yellow Vegetables Fruit Apple sauce
Pasta Rice	Cold Cereals Grits Oatmeal	Pancake mix Pancake Syrup Jelly	Jell-o Pudding

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



December 23 Paul and Joan Tembunde

## Sunday Servants

<b>Date</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>DEC. 3</b>	The Milligans	Paul Tembunde Neil Wiltshire	Chester Guild
<b>DEC. 10</b>	Gail Rodman	Janet Dolen Deborah Penot	Larry James
<b>DEC. 17</b>	The Lancasters	Jerome Farley Tad Jembere	Evelyn Jones
<b>DEC. 24</b>	Vida Agyei-Obese	Jake Masters Gail Rodman	Bettye Miller
<b>DEC. 31</b>	Bettye Miller	Winton Almas Hudson Lancaster	Martin Ojong

## **Adelphi Presbyterian Church**

**9401 Riggs Road**

**Adelphi, Maryland 20783**