

Adelphi Presbyterian Church News



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Adelphi, Maryland 20783
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Web Site: www.adelphipc.org (Jerome Farley, Webmaster)

December 2008

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

The Session (July 2009 – June 2011)

Class of 2009: Janet Dolen, Eric Yemoh, Bettye Miller

Class of 2010: Jerome Farley, Kathie James, Priscilla
Lancaster

Class of 2011: Jake Masters, Rose Tangham, Joan
Tembunde

Moderator: Rev. Karen Doty

Clerk of Session: Janet Dolen

Treasurers: Charles Yancey, Jake Masters

Clerk of Session: Janet Dolen

Treasurer: Charles Yancey

Assistant Treasurer: Jake Masters

God calls us at Adelphi Presbyterian Church to
be a Christ-centered community of people
experiencing spiritual awakening by praying,
caring, welcoming, sharing the Word,
and forming relationships with one another.
At Adelphi Presbyterian Church, we are called
to use our gifts and talents to serve God
with energy and love.

~ Our Vision Statement adopted by Session,
September 2007 ~



SESSION MEETING

Janet Dolen

At the Session meeting in November the Elders discussed the Church's financial status, the budget layout, and accessing the Otto Trust Fund. A request was made to provide Communion on special occasions to the residents of Hillhaven. After checking the Book of Order the session approved the motion to approve Kathie and Larry James to serve Communion at Hillhaven. The Christian Education Committee requested that a survey on the adult education be put in a bulletin for the congregation to fill out. New coffee cups have come in for visitors, and the Session discussed ways to improve communication. The Session also discussed the progress in filing the Interim Pastor position.

Also, congratulations to Charlotte Ojong. She was elected to serve on the Presbytery Council at the Presbytery meeting in November.

Janet



A SEASON OF ROYAL BLUE

Advent began on the November 30. Advent is a period of expectant waiting that leads to Christmas - the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Yet, Advent also means the second coming of Christ for which we continue to wait in patience, love and dedication to service in the world.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 -- Summary

In the desert, a voice is crying out to prepare for the good news of the Lord's coming. The Psalmist remembers God's deeds in the past and anticipates God's coming in future with justice, peace, righteousness, and love.

As we wait during Advent, November 30 to December 21, let us rejoice!



(Even) The Church Must Change

by Jan Edmiston

National Capital Presbytery Newsletter

This is written in honor of longtime volunteer and elder "ETC" – one of my favorite people -- whose life has changed. She recently left our congregation and community in Northern Virginia to move to a retirement community near her daughter after turning 90 last summer. She's been a part of our congregation for so long that she's witnessed ...

- the coming and going of numerous pastors and associate pastors
- the change from the congregation that needed multiple pastors to a solo pastor church
- the creation, closing, re-opening, and re-closing of our preschool
- the shrinking of our Presbyterian Women Circles
- the ordination of women elders, deacons, and ministers of the Word and sacrament
- the evolution of our office equipment from a Smith Corona manual typewriter to an IBM Selectric to a Canon digital copier that also scans, faxes, emails, and digitizes
- the shift from a congregation filled to the rafters with well-dressed young families to a smaller congregation made up of similar young families along with immigrant members, interracial couples, gay men and women, homeless worshippers, and lots of single people – who may or may not be “well-dressed.”

ETC once commented to me that it was disconcerting to watch the world changing so rapidly. She tried to keep up though, getting a home computer and learning how to send email. She even learned how to use the digital copier in the volunteer office. But she said that, with all the world changing, she counted on the church to be the one thing that would never change. She wanted to sing familiar hymns on Sunday mornings. She wanted the order of worship to be recognizable. She wanted to see familiar faces in the pews. Therein lays the challenge.

We who love the church need to ask ourselves what we love about it.

- *Do we love that it serves our personal needs and satisfies our private tastes?*
 - *Or do we love the church because it is transforming our community? Because it is giving the people in our neighborhood a glimpse of heaven on earth? Because it is saving the lives of people who are sorely in need of a Savior?*
- “For I the Lord does not change” (Malachi 3:6, NRSV). Times change. People change. Things change. Even the church must change. Only God never changes. And if we want the church we love to thrive, we need to let go of the things we don't want to change. Even at the age of 90, my friend has been willing to embrace this truth.

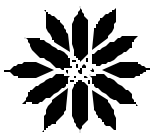
Contact Jan: jan@fpcusa.org

Hour of Sharing, and its program work is additionally funded through designated gifts.

Strategic Vision

We recognize that the task before us is to bring God's intended wholeness to disaster survivors in order that they may be strengthened and encouraged for the task of rebuilding their communities and livelihoods.

We recognize that we cannot be all things to all people and have an effective ministry, therefore we invite Presbyterians to trust in and support this vision whose purpose is to continue to build and expand the scope of disaster ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

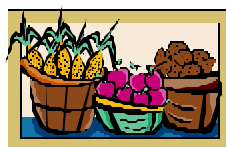


A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering provides congregations with a direct way of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for programs that provide assistance to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other 50 percent helps fund Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the General Assembly Council.

Your congregation is invited to support these programs on December 21.

— [receive the Christmas Joy Offering](#)



Thanksgiving Meal

by Priscilla Lancaster

The Congregational Care Committee wants to thank everyone for coming to the Thanksgiving dinner, bringing food, serving food, helping out with set up and clean up. Special thanks to Cherry Smith for her work. It was a delicious meal and community sharing in our thankfulness for our blessings.



Church Safety

Many thanks to Pastor Pagan of the Iglesia de Dios Church, who share the space at Adelphi, for installing the safety plates on the church front doors!! Pastor Pagan says that Adelphi Church has been very good to his congregation and is glad to help.



PRESBYTERIANS – WHO ARE WE?

Who We Are –Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great



BIBLE BREAKFAST CLUB

by Kathie James

Bible Breakfast Club met on November 16, with 16 in attendance, including Mimi, Yazmeen, and Wesley Tembunde; Daniel and Reyna Farley; Kayla Sellers; Percy, Verna, and Vonda Agyei-Obese; plus the adults—Joan Tembunde, Bettye Miller, Candace Philander, Cecilia Molongu, Vida Agyei-Obese, and Kathie & Larry James. Mimi played the role of the prophet Deborah as we learned how Deborah judged Israel, conquered a foe with the help of Barak, and gave people good advice with their problems. Our modern-day Deborah and the other youth gave some truly outstanding advice to problems that were raised. We learned that God gives us good advice, too, through prayer, friends, family, the Bible, and in other ways. Imagine our delight when the worship service also featured the story of Deborah! Our craft was making molds of pumpkins and leaves; then we practiced songs to be sung on our visit to Hillhaven in December and enjoyed a light breakfast. Our next meeting will be on December 21 at 9:45 a.m. All are welcome.



A MUSICAL INTERLUDE

On November 16, nine-year-old Percy Agyei-Obese presented a beautiful musical interlude on the piano between the reading of the Scripture passages. Percy played “Amazing Grace” and provided a moment of meditation for all. Thank you, Percy, and we hope to hear more of your musical talent in the near future.



MUSICAL NOTES

We are pleased that the Adult Choir (also known as “The Miracle Choir” because of the working of the Holy Spirit with irregular schedules and various choir

members and voices) has resumed its practices and will plan to lead the congregation in singing as well as offering special music on occasion. On November 23, the Adult Choir sang “I Wanna Thank You, Lord,” a gospel tune by Patsy Ford Simms, to contribute to the Thanksgiving theme that day. We appreciated the presence of Joan Tembunde, Marlene Donaldson, Cherry Smith, Ernestine Tebong, Renee Milligan, Evelyn Jones, Martin Ojong, Kenneth Spreeman, and Larry James; and we welcome more voices, so come and add yours!

On the same day, we were honored with a solo by Mrs. Nina Khouri, the pastor’s wife, who sang “My Tribute” by Andraé Crouch. Mrs. Khouri brought a very special touch to our worship with her lovely voice, and we look forward to hearing her again.

In addition, we are enjoying the artistry of José Zambrana, guest organist, on occasion during this season. He, too, has lifted our spirits as we worship the Lord in music.

Let us all continue to praise God in song!
by Kathie James



WORSHIP AT HILLHAVEN

by Larry and Kathie James

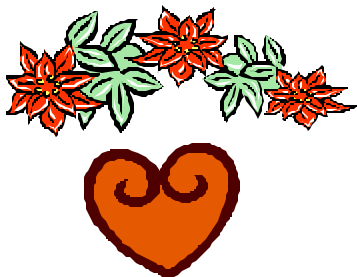
As many of you already know, we have been privileged to conduct worship services for the residents of Hillhaven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on the first Sunday of every month at 10:30 a.m. Three of those residents are or have been members of our church—Dr. and Mrs. David Beard and Ms. Lynn Mears. We follow an Order of Service that is modeled after Adelphi’s worship, tailored especially for persons who are in wheelchairs, who may be hard of hearing, who may not be able to see well or at all, and those recuperating from accidents or illnesses, as well as fairly able-bodied senior citizens.

Staff members often attend, and sometimes visiting family members join us as well, such as Joan Romig, when she is in town. We include a Prelude, a Call to Worship, several familiar hymns that are printed in large type, three short segments of Scripture followed by “Words of Sharing” about the passages, morning prayers, a Benediction, and a Postlude. We always prepare bulletins so that the “congregation” may have something to read and remember afterwards. The attendance varies from about 10 to almost 30, usually filling the parlor area. Following the 30- to 45-minute service, we enjoy visiting briefly with the people before we return promptly to Adelphi to join our service in progress.



Peace Notes – Things to Pray For --

The true meaning of Christmas – celebrating the birth of Christ -- sometimes gets lost in all of the excitement of gifting and joyful sharing. As we come together as families and friends this holiday season, let us pray that the loving, peaceful spirit of Christ lives within us and that we may be loving, patient and peaceful with others and ourselves, as Christ was.



Sharing Your Heart from your secretary

Now that I have extended an invitation to you to share your “thoughts, dreams and inspirations” in your newsletter, I hope to continue a place in the newsletter for you to write a short or longer note about what

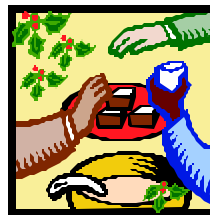
influences your life and sustains you. Consider letting your church family know what touches your heart -- Bible verse, favorite quotation, an experience, or something else that assists you, a kindness someone has done for you, or you for them. Your children are encouraged to share too.

For me in this season, I am thankful for the welcoming, warm and friendly members and visitors at Adelphi Presbyterian Church. You shared a lovely service and Thanksgiving dinner with me and made me feel at home in your community on November 23. I thank you.

What are you grateful for? Everyone has something important to say! Young and older.

You may call me here at Adelphi on Tuesdays or Thursdays, 9:00AM – 2:00PM, or other times leave me a message, and I will be glad to write down your note for you. You may send me an email at: www.adelphipec@yahoo.com. Your name will be kept private if you so request.

Thank you. Elaine Wilcoxson



HOLIDAY DINNER December 14

Sunday, December 14th, immediately following the worship service, the Congregational Care Committee will be hosting our annual Christmas Party with a special luncheon downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited !

Fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, garden salad, rolls, ice cream with various toppings, as well as beverages and table service will be provided. You need only to bring yourself, your family and friends. We may even get a visit from Santa, with a bag of gifts! Parents will get an extra treat as a gift from the church, a photo of your child with Santa. If there are families

that are unable to stay after church, parents, please see Priscilla Lancaster or before you leave.

Please invite friends and family to attend our Christmas luncheon on December 14th. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Priscilla Lancaster at 301-322-4144.



Happy Anniversary

December 23 Paul and Joan Tembunde
December 30 Winton and Promilla Almas



FOOD SUNDAY – EVERY 4th Sunday

Please bring your donations to Help-by-Phone on the 4th Sunday and bring forth your offerings during worship! Thanks.

Help By Phone

This is an especially difficult time for those in need. Please continue your support the Help By Phone food program.

Please continue to choose from the list here to share your food item with your designated pantry. All foods must be canned or dried and in sealed containers to meet health department requirements.

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

Help by Phone is a tax-exempt agency under Section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, for those of you who contribute financially to it. For questions call Lois – 301-699-9009



Happy Birthday

December 4 Atiya Jembere
December 5 Uche Anigboh
December 5 Martin Ojong
December 6 Richard Smith
December 7 Charles Yancey
December 10 Matthew Smith
December 18 Joan Romig
December 18 John Anthony Thurber
December 19 Stig Hammond
December 22 Dave Milligan
December 25 Marlene Donaldson
December 30 Jennie Cardin



Children's Sunday School

Sunday, 11:00AM (after children's moment)
3rd Sunday, 9:45AM Bible Breakfast Club



Lectionary Reading 2008

December 7 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 14 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126:1-6 or Luke 1:47-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21 (4th Sunday of Advent)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96:1-13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 25 (Nativity of Jesus Christ/Christmas Day)

At Dawn:
Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97:1-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20
Christmas Day:
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98:1-9
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

December 28 (1st Sunday After Christmas)

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148:1-14



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 7, Sunday - 11:00AM Sunday Service
Communion Rev. Thomas L. Jones, HR

December 14, Sunday -11:00AM Sunday Service
Rev. Karen Doty preaching
Holiday Dinner after service

December 21, Sunday 1:00AM Sunday Service
Rev. Karen Doty preaching
SESSION after service

December 28, Sunday – 11:00 AM Sunday Service
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgist
DECEMBER 7	The Milligans	Paul Tembunde Chester Guild	Chester Guild
DECEMBER 14	Gail Rodman	Janet Dolen Ndema Ojong	Bob Finzel
DECEMBER 21	The Lancasters	Jerome Farley Tad Jembere	Evelyn Jones
DECEMBER 28	Vida Agyei-Obese	Jake Masters Gail Rodman	Bettye Miller

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