

Adelphi Presbyterian Church News



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

Web Site: www.adelphipc.org

February 2006

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

Pastor: Rev. Y. Eunice Yang
Clerk of Session: Janet Dolan
Treasurer: Charles Yancey
Assistant Treasurer: Jake Masters

The Session

Class 2006

Candace Farley – Christian Education
Kathie James – Stewardship and Personnel
Charles Yancey – Facilities

Class 2007

Comfort Anigboh – Worship
Stig Hammond – Worship
Bettye Miller – Community Outreach

Class 2008

Renee Milligan – Evangelism and Mission
Charlotte Ojong – Congregational Care
Ernestine Tebong – Transforming Congregation

TRANSFORMATION



A Church on the Move by Bob Finzel

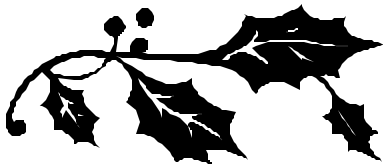
You have been hearing a lot lately about congregational transformation. What is it and why are your Pastor, session and church leaders discussing it? Simply put, it is a process in which our church turns away from a preoccupation with just our survival and the status quo, to focus on new possibilities for strengthening our individual and communal spiritual life, for broadening our mission and for reaching out to new people – in other words, growth.

How much growth, and what form this growth should take, will evolve from your ideas and suggestions as well as from the Pastor and Transformation Team (TCP). The TCP team has been studying and discussing some of these issues for the past ten months and plans to begin exchanges with the session and congregation on the afternoon of February 12th.

Among the goals are a strengthened prayer life, both individually and collectively; a positive attitude; the development of a more energetic and active membership, thus raising our church consciousness, church pride and of course, our dedication to carrying

forth the message of our Lord Jesus Christ. For any of these things to occur, we need to pray more than we do, privately and publicly, and we need the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the Book of Acts, Chapter 2, Verses 42-47, Luke describes how the early church members met constantly to hear the apostles teach and to pray, and that day after day the Lord added new converts to their number.

Please help by examining your own prayer life and strengthening it as your time and schedules permit. Pray for our Church.



MY FAITH JOURNEY

Tad Jembere

Christianity has a long history in Ethiopia, probably dating back to the first century A.D. when the Apostle Philip was led by the spirit to a man of great authority from Ethiopia who had gone to Jerusalem to worship. (Acts chapter 8) He was reading a passage from Isaiah on his way back but was unable to understand it until the Apostle Philip illuminated his reading. He asked to be baptized right then and we read he went on his way rejoicing.

After two thousand years, this is still the central message of the gospel - if we accept Jesus as our personal savior, we can live our life rejoicing.

My parents were Christian. As was the custom in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, I was baptized when I was 40 days old. The liturgy in the orthodox church is in Ge-ez, a language which only priests learn and understand. I recall going to St Emmanuel Church with my mom and reading from the Psalms of David without understanding the message. More recently I am pleased to see major transformation in the church - gospel based sermons are given in plain language that people understand. I have often wondered when the scripture says Ethiopia shall stretch her hands towards God,

whether it would be in praise or supplication. I suspect it is both because amid the ravages of war, famine, Aids and loss of political freedom, millions are turning to the Lord. Congregations have long filled their churches and are now worshipping in large numbers in tents.

When I was 14, a friend of mine and I were taking a walk when we heard singing and we walked in to see what was going on. A covered carport in a residence was converted into a church with benches put in for worship. It was called simply the Finnish Mission. It was ran by two single women from Finland who had dedicated their lives to God. There we had an opportunity to hear the central message of the Gospel. We accepted Jesus as our personal savior and were baptized in a stream.

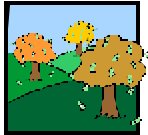
The next four years the energy of our teen years were focused on the church. Tuesday evenings were devoted to testimonials, Wednesday evenings we had bible study, Thursday evenings prayer services, a service in English that we looked forward to as we tested our hold on the language, and regular Sunday services.

In 1964 my family moved to a location close to the university. We rented a house about 2 miles from the university and I walked every day. The church was now too far and I was absorbed in my studies. I attended church only occasionally. After graduating from medical school, I worked as a general practitioner for 3 years.

In 1974 I got a scholarship from the International Eye Foundation to do my residency in ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. I landed at Dulles International Airport on June 12, 1974 armed with 300 dollars and a desire to learn. I worked for many years in Philadelphia after completing my residency.

In 1987, I started attending a Presbyterian Church in the Germantown section of Philadelphia with friends of mine. I liked the church. I spent a year in Saudi Arabia before settling in this area. There is not a single church in Saudi Arabia; the practice of any religion other than Islam is forbidden. Women are not allowed to drive. If they work outside the home at all they have to be out of

the public view. I returned to the States in the summer of 1990 with increased appreciation of the freedom of worship. I was ready to find a church home.



In 1991 I found Adelphi Presbyterian Church in the Yellow Pages and began attending worship regularly. Rev. Joe Condro was the pastor at that time. The church welcomed me and gave me an opportunity to grow in my spiritual life. I feel we have been blessed with a succession of good pastors in this church.

In 1992 I asked the church for help in getting a visa for Atiya. Bob Finzel was clerk of session and he wrote a letter to Atiya to invite her to talk to Adelphi Presbyterian Church about her work in Feed the Children. She took that letter to the Embassy and she got her visa even though she does not speak good English. She landed at Dulles Airport on Christmas day 1992. I consider that a miracle since it is very hard to get a visitor's visa to the US. On a lighter tone, I think Bob may have hit a Presbyterian at the Embassy.

We got married in June 1993. Atiya has detailed knowledge of the bible and has a disciplined prayer life.

I was in the congregation one Sunday morning when he made the statement that if you do not pray you are not a Christian. That challenged my core belief that I am a Christian and showed me that my prayer life needs improvement. I get the daily lectionary from the Presbytery web page in my email and I read the Sunday lectionary regularly and spend time in prayer. I read some of the week day lectionary but not consistently.

In the US congregational Life Survey that we did under Building Spiritual Connections, the very first question was how often do you spend time in private devotional activities such as prayer, meditation, reading the bible alone, our congregation with 60% every day which is higher than the national average of 45%. In discussing the Transforming Congregation Project with Atiya, she says if you want the church to grow, PRAY.

Many of the area churches we surveyed were like us built in the 1950s. Their average Sunday morning

attendance is between a third and one half of their seating capacity. Our TCP consultant showed us a graph which showed membership in 5 mainline denominations peaked at 26.5 million in 1965 to 20.4 million in 1995. Our membership peaked to 270 in 1972, and fell sharply to around 160 in 1976. It stayed around that number for about 10 years and then continued to decline gradually thereafter. On the plus side our Sunday morning worship attendance is a higher percentage of membership especially in recent years after the roll was cleaned. Average worship attendance hovered around 70-80 for about 25 years from the 70s to late 90s. We now average between 50-60.

We have learned in our TCP meetings that all churches have a life cycle which begins with birth and goes through a period of growth to a stable phase after which they decline if they do not re-invent themselves. The TCP will give us some guidelines on how to rejuvenate the church but they have clearly told us they have no magic formula that will solve our problems.

Friends, we stand at a crossroad. Our membership is low and probably below critical mass. Several Presbyterian churches in our areas have closed their doors permanently. As we continue in the Transforming Project in the new year "The Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations." Please pray for our TCP team. Pray that God will reveal his will for our church and open our hearts to act on his will.



Be still and know that I am God.

Ps. 46:10

(Upon the recommendation from TCP, the Session adopted the "blue" Presbyterian Hymnal as our main hymnal. The article below is an adaptation from the introduction written by the hymnal committee.)



WHY PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL?

Y. Eunice Yang

INTRODUCTION

The “blue” Presbyterian Hymnal was published in 1990. It was a response of our denomination in the early 80s to the political, social, theological, cultural, and economic changes in the society. The changes have brought a different day, different agenda, and different constituency to the church. Thus, the birth of a new hymnal was imperative. While no one hymnal is “perfect,” PH does have some characteristics that worth our embracing.

CHARACTERISTICS

Reformed Theology and Presbyterianism

The “new” hymnal first and foremost reflects our Reformed doctrines, our understanding of sacraments, ordinances, and ministry and mission of the church.

An Aid to Presbyterian Worship

The blue hymnal is organized through 4 different categories: the season of the church year, Psalms, theological and ecclesiastical topics, and service music like “Amen” or “Doxology.” It contains a full order of Service for the Lord’s Day, and traditional and ecumenical versions of Apostles’ Creed, Nicene Creed, and Lord’s Prayer which expand our theological language – the way we express our faith.

Inclusiveness

The selection of PH hymns speaks to all God’s people. They are sensitive to age, race, gender, physical limitations, and language.

For example

PH 481 “Praise the Lord, God’s Glories Show”
Green 373 “Praise the Lord, His Glories Show”

The two hymns are the same except that PH changed all the male pronouns of God to simply “God” to remind

us that God is neither male nor female. “God is *like* a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, *like* a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home” (*Brief Statement of Faith*) Others like Doxology, or PH 263/Green 319, deal with similar situations.

Diversity

The effort to be inclusive does not mean to be homogenous. PH seeks to reflect our diversity in many different ways, including hymns old and new, traditional and contemporary, ethnically diverse, and offering expressions of faith both corporate and individual.

The cultural diversity includes hymns from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Native American, African American spirituals, and beautiful old European melodies. The corporate nature of our faith is expressed in hymns like “Today we all are called to be disciples (434)” “We are your people (436).” The hymns encompass from 9th century Latin hymn to hymns recently written in the 1980s by contemporary American hymnists.



Kathie James

BEING GOD'S CARETAKERS STEWARDSHIP

Each month we will take a look at one of the areas in which God has blessed us and check to see if we are being good caretakers of His gifts. You will recall that in October, we focused on our personal gifts and talents, especially how we could use them to strengthen the Body of Christ at Adelphi. In November and December, we paid attention to the way in which God has blessed us financially and how we give back to Him a portion of our income so that His work at Adelphi can be accomplished.

In January, we are reflecting on the Stewardship of Body, Mind, and Spirit--three interrelated entities of every individual. A brief reading was included in the bulletin on January 29, asking each of us to meditate on how we care for our physical well being by properly eating, exercising and resting; how we care for our minds by nourishing them with good information and

thoughts, avoiding "trashy" intake such as violent movies, indecent literature, inappropriate music lyrics, etc.; and how we develop the Spirit that God has given each of us by practicing good disciplines--prayer, Bible reading, communing with other Christians. Let us pause this month, and in the months to come, and be sure that we are living up to the standard of caretaking that God expects.

MUSIC

Music has the power to bless us both individually and as a group of worshippers. It is a very important part of worship; it is a ministry in itself; and God tells us to worship with music (if in doubt, read Psalm 150!).

Our music program has a new design at this time. Since our adult choir members are somewhat scattered right now, we are delighted to have our children singing on (almost) every third Sunday of the month. In addition, we have had soloists from the congregation contributing to our worship through their talents. In January, Renee Milligan sang on two different Sundays, and Evelyn Jones soloed once, in addition to serving as our song leader every week. We expect to have some instrumentalists from the congregation enhance our worship as well.

Another facet of our music program is the hymn sing, which we have begun this year and which helps us to become more familiar with the Presbyterian Hymnal that we began using last November. We hope you enjoy singing a few favorites, as well as learning some new hymns between 10:45 and 11:00 on Sunday mornings.

In all of these events and as we grow, let us unleash the power of music each week as we praise God with music!



BIBLE BREAKFAST CLUB

Kathie James

Bible Breakfast Club met on January 15, a special day indeed. Attendance was very good for both children and adults. Our Bible stories included one about the prophet Isaiah and two about parables that Jesus told:

The Sower and The Good Samaritan. All of the stories fit in very well with our celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., whom some called a prophet, a man who certainly sowed the Word of God and showed all of us how to be "Good Samaritans" to everyone, even those we may not like. The stories also helped introduce our International Dinner later the same evening. In Luther King and sang it during the worship service. Our craft was a gingerbread-looking figure with a heart glued on that said "Jesus warms my heart," which children could take home and hang in their rooms. Our next meeting of the Bible Breakfast Club will be on Sunday, February 19, at 9:30 a.m. As always, we thank Renee Milligan, Michele Thurber, and Candace Philander for providing a delicious breakfast for everyone.



OUR CONDOLENCES TO...

Jennie Cardin upon the death of her grandmother who was 94.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Sunday – 11:30AM immediately following Children's moment

Second Sunday – 11:30AM immediately following Children's moment

Third Sunday – 9:30AM Bible Breakfast Club

Fourth/Fifth Sundays – The whole family of God joining together for worship

February 3, Friday 7:00PM

Youth in Faith Formation

February 11, Saturday 9:00 –1:45

Transformation Workshop at Providence PC

February 12, Sunday after service

Congregational Forum: What is the vision and mission of Adelphi?

February 13, 2006 Saturday 7:00PM – Session

February 16, Thursday 7:00PM

TCP team meets

February 17, Friday 7:00PM

Youth in Faith Formation

February 19, Sunday

Worship with communion

LECTIONARY READING



English as a Second Language continues on Tuesday
10:00 – 11:30AM and Thursday 6:30 – 8:00PM.

5 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa 40:21-31

Ps. 147: 1-11, 20

1Cor.9: 16-23

Mark 1:29-39

12 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:1-14

Ps. 30

1 Cor. 9: 24-27

Mark 1:40-45

19 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa. 43:18-25

Ps. 41

2 Cor.1: 18-22

Mark 2:1-12

26 Transfiguration of the Lord

Kings 2:1-12

Ps. 50:1-6

2Cor.4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Happy Birthday



Kathleen Hong February 15

Percy Agyei-Obese February 18

Crissy Hussain February 19

David Anderson February 29



Help By Phone Menu

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



February 14 Joe and Deborah Penot

February 16 Charles and Jean Yancey



A MORE JUST AND
LOVING WORLD:

TRANSFORMATION'S OUTCOME INDICATOR?

By Lois Stovall

Those committed to the Presbytery's current emphasis on transformation want it to be more than this decade's buzz word, or a thinly disguised mechanism for institutional survival. Yet our known operational mode tempts us to conceive of transformation as a *program* that requires achievable results that we can see.

Isn't transformation at its core about changed hearts and lives? If so, then individuals and congregations living with passion and taking bold risks (without constraint of immediate results) may be core outcome indicators. Programs can help support these two outcomes.

However, as individuals and churches we have to be careful what we include in our goals and expectations. For example, churches wanting to evaluate their progress in more fully developing as a transformational congregation might ask: How is the health of our congregation in regard to:

- Bible study and prayer
- Small groups
- Mission projects
- Pastoral and congregational care
- Outreach and community building
- Church growth – numbers and spiritual maturity

All the above are important indicators. But how do we measure the results of passion and risk-taking?

One way is to examine the lives of those who model Christian passion and risk-taking. Martin Luther King, Jr. engaged in audacious social action and maintained hope in the face of overwhelming circumstances. Reflect once more on these words adapted from King's Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, Dec. 10, 1964.

I refuse to accept the idea that humanity is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround us. I refuse to accept the view

that humankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality. I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow. I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the blood-flowing streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among the children. I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered people have torn down, other-centered people can build up. . . . "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every person shall sit under their own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid." I still believe that we shallovercome.

Martin Luther King, Jr. didn't live long enough to see many results of his life's work. He had to trust that as more and more of us opened ourselves to God's power, a more loving and just world would be evident. Transformational living – what does it mean to you?

Lois Stovall is a church consultant living outside of Washington, D.C. and can be reached at lhgsds@comcast.net.

	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGISTS
February 5	The Milligans	Paul Tembunde Neil Wiltshire	Evelyn Jones
February 12	Gail Rodman	Janet Dolen Deborah Penot	Bettye Miller
February 19	The Lancasters	Jerome Farley Tad Jembere	Martin Ojong
February 26	Vida Agyei- Obese	Jake Masters Gail Rodman	Charles Yancey

Adelphi Presbyterian Church

9401 Riggs Road

Adelphi, Maryland 20783

Pastor: Rev. Y. Eunice Yang

Director of Music: Kathie James

Administrative Assistant: Mildred Fon