

Adelphi Presbyterian Church News



9401 Riggs Road
Adelphi, Maryland 20783
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Web Site: www.adelphipc.org (Jerome Farley, Webmaster)

February 2007

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

The Session

Class 2007

Stig Hammond, Bettye Miller

Class 2008

Renee Milligan, Charlotte Ojong, Ernestine Tebong

Class 2009

Jennie Cardin, Eric Yemoh

Pastor: Rev. Y. Eunice Yang

Clerk of Session: Janet Dolen

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY



AND THE LENTEN SEASON

by Y. Eunice Yang

*“Remember, O mortal, that you are dust; and to
dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19)*

What is the death rate of human beings? One per person. It is 100%. No one can escape from not dying. Facing our own mortality is the theme of Ash Wednesday. We live in a culture that prefers to ignore death. Mourning is either extremely brief or not acceptable. Grief must be hidden underneath a pretended smile, “I am doing alright” so that other people can say, “She is very strong.” **Ash Wednesday service (7:30PM on February 21)** invites all of us to once again face the inevitable and unpleasant reality of death and to face God nakedly.

However, death is not the final claim of us. Ashes, the sign of death, are imposed on our forehead in the shape of a cross, on which Christ died yet was raised from the dead 3 days later. The ashy cross helps us face the reality of death and who we really are, yet in the meantime, reminds us of the new life given to us through the resurrection of Christ. If the Lord’s Supper is

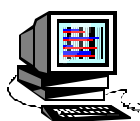
celebrated as part of Ash Wednesday service, it is a strengthening and reassuring sign of God's grace that we can pass through the darkest valley and reach the great resurrection feast in the Kingdom of God. It is a hope-filled future.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is known to have 40 days. Forty in the Bible is a round number referring to a span of time needed to accomplish something. Israelites were wandering in the desert for forty years. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for forty days. Yet, if you count the number of days beginning on Ash Wednesday until the day before Easter, there are 46 days. In the tradition of the church, every Sunday is considered the Lord's Day, a day to remember and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore the forty days do not include the six Sundays in between.

The focus of Lent has always been to "give up" something, giving up food, or movie, or entertainment. It has the connotation of "I sacrifice something..." The discipline becomes an obligation or duty. This kind of sacrificial or obligatory exercise does not last. Once Easter arrives, the old way of life returns. "Wooo.... Boy! I can enjoy life again. Give me my chocolate!" Nothing significant has changed in our inner being, in our relationship to God or other human beings.

Lenten discipline is not about temporary deletions or additions of any sort. Lenten discipline is a way of life. It includes spiritual exercises that can permanently transform us, that can deepen our faith, alter our relationship with God, with ourselves, with other human beings, and our surroundings. I look forward to an important time of the liturgical year when we devote ourselves to **a new way of life that will last beyond the Lenten season and onto the resurrection day.**

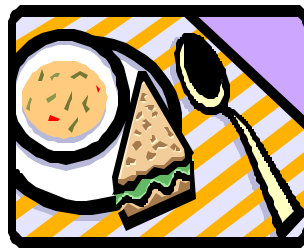
(Reference: Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church, by Laurence Hull Stookey, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1996)



COMPUTER NEWS

WhooooooWeeeeeee..... Adelphi Presbyterian Church has entered the 21st century technology! We

are on DSL and better yet – Wireless! Anybody who has a wireless laptop can get on line in the church. See Jake Masters about it!



LENTEN SOUP AND STUDY

What happened after Jesus Christ was resurrected?

~ *Lectio Divina* on the Book of Acts ~

Lectio Divina is a Latin phrase meaning "sacred reading." It has its roots in Jewish tradition and has been used by Catholics, Reformers like Martin Luther, and has gained a renewed interest in recent years. *Lectio Divina* invites us to pray with the scripture, nature, music, community, or life situations. It invites us to pray the "text" and listen deeply for a word, a phrase, an image, or a sound through which God wants to speak to us, to lead us and guide us.

The church always spends much time and energy preparing for Easter. Yet, the great Christian movement that began after Easter is often overlooked. The Book of Acts is about an earthshaking and relentless movement enabled by the Spirit and carried out by the disciples of Jesus Christ. The story of Acts changed history and changed our world!

As Adelphi moves forward and continues on the transforming journey, may you come join us for **5 weeks of *lectio divina* on the Book of Acts** – to learn this useful way of reading the scripture, to discern the life in the church, to open up to the working of the Spirit, and to enjoy the hospitality of the soup makers and the fellowship with one another!

Every Wednesday beginning on February 28 at 6:30PM!



CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

By Bob Finzel

The **whole congregation** is invited to meet with **Rev. Ann Philbrick** on **Sunday, February 25th** after worship **12:30-3:30PM**. Coffee Hour is provided after worship. Our focus of this time will be on forming a consensus on who we are and what we are doing here at Adelphi!

Rev. Philbrick is the consultant who has been assisting our TCP team and congregation for the past two years in the challenging task of refocusing our congregation's ministry. That is, a congregation turns away from a preoccupation with its survival to focusing on Christ's call to new possibilities for ministry, including internal spiritual growth as well as outreach to new people. Ours is one of three churches that Reverend Philbrick is working with in our Presbytery. She is sure to have some interesting things to say to and about our congregation and its efforts to grow. She has met with many of us before and has analyzed a great deal of statistical and other data about our congregation and the Adelphi community.

Adelphi's TCP has met regularly for two years and has reviewed our church life, in particular our attitudes toward God, church and prayer. We have attempted to strengthen our spiritual energy and to assess our potential for spiritual, physical and financial growth. This year we hope to develop a clearer vision for the future and to concentrate our outreach as well as inward development. The team has also worked on interpersonal relationships, getting better acquainted with our entire membership and with each other. You have all responded to team members' articles and personal testimonies from the pulpit, such as life journeys and experiences.

We are determined this year to interact more with the Session, to communicate with Session members in a positive way and to get new ideas and a clearer view of what their church interests and needs are.

Key issues we hope to address this year include:

1. Strategic choices the congregation faces in our community and in our church's life cycle (retirement—empty nest or otherwise).
2. Conclusions drawn from our seminars with our consultant and from all of our data gatherings
3. Mission and vision formulations to point a direction and to energize our present and near future ministry.
4. Goals and initiatives to be advanced and funded.



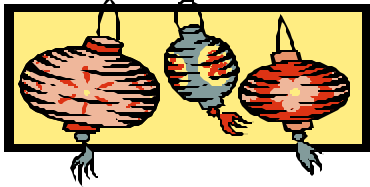
STUDY LEAVE JANUARY 2007

By Eunice Yang

The world is revolving endlessly and changing rapidly. All clergy of Presbyterian Church (USA) (and many other denominations) are required to take study leave each year. Adelphi has been generous in providing study leave fund for her minister. I use that money to go to special conferences, workshops, training events, or buy lots of books to read and study on my own. The week of January 29, I went to Cathedral College located inside the National Cathedral Close for a week of study on the Book of Acts with Rev. Anthony Robinson, who is the author of "Transforming Congregational Culture" and co-author of "Called to Be Church—The Book of Acts for a New Day." A group of 15 clergy from as far as Canada and Seattle attended. We exegeted Acts and discussed its implications for the 21st century Church, the context of which in many ways resembles the first century Christian Church.

Cathedral College (used to be known as College of Preachers) provides preaching workshops like this all

year around on many different topics. Each clergy is required to preach 2 sermons in a small preaching group facilitated by a local preacher. We critique and learn from one another. We bring one old sermon. The other one is written there based on the new learning. Life at Cathedral Close includes daily prayers and Eucharist. I was grateful to spend that time with a group of intellectually and spiritually inquisitive, reflective, and fun clergy! Thank you all at Adelphi for providing me this kind of learning possibility through your generosity!



NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

Last month the TCP team asked you to make a New Year Resolution. We got some good feedback. Whether you turned in your New Year Resolution or you wrote them on your heart, God is our witness of our resolution. Let us continue to pray for strength and perseverance this year as we do our best to live out our resolutions!

BIBLE BREAKFAST CLUB



by Kathie James

The Bible Breakfast Club met on January 21, with 9 children and 10 adults in attendance. We opened with prayer and then proceeded to study about the Apostle James the son of Alphaeus (Matthew 10), who spread the Gospel in many foreign countries and was martyred in Egypt; then we read about Ruth (Ruth 1), who helped to bear her mother-in-law's sadness after the death of two sons. We read from Galatians 6:2: "Bear one another's burdens." Our craft was making a stuffed bear to remind us to bear or help with troubles of others. We were delighted to see that one of the hymns used in worship the same day included the lines, "We share (The Holy Spirit descends upon us in many ways!) We sang verses of "We Shall Overcome"; then children colored pictures of Ruth and Naomi while

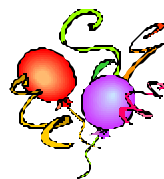
adults tried their hand on some challenging puzzles that related to the story. We thank Renee Milligan for her wonderful cheese eggs, sausage, bread, fruit, and juice, as well as thanks to Candace Philander for serving and making sure everyone was well fed. Our next meeting is Sunday, February 18, 9:45 a.m. Come one, come all!



Women's Breakfast/ Dinner Meeting Jennie Cardin

It was hardly the type of weather for a Saturday in December: warm temperatures, sunny clear skies, a small kitchen, and lots of laughter. That's what you missed at the December Prayer Women's Breakfast. Through cups of hot coffee and tea, and mouthfuls of scrambled eggs and bacon, we continued our bible study using *The Purpose Driven Life* as our focal point. Reactions from us all came pouring out as we discussed bitterness, honesty with God, differences in family upbringing, stress, happiness, our kids, our husbands, and more. It's wonderful to learn from one another through God's word. We truly enjoy this time together.

For 2007, we decided to mix things up a bit to allow flexibility for our busy APC women. January's meeting was an evening meeting held at the home of Renee Milligan. February's meeting will be back to Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m.; location to be announced. March's meeting will be a Friday dinner meeting at 6:30; location to be announced, and so forth. A full calendar will be mailed. Please hang it on the fridge and prepare your hearts, minds, and schedules to attend when you can. We remain "purpose driven" for 2007.



Birthday Celebration Thanks

A HUGE THANK-YOU!

Thanks to all of you for making my 75th birthday so very special. I truly appreciated your personal good wishes, e-mails, cards, phone calls, gifts, and many other expressions of affection. I am thankful to God for taking me through some life experiences that were difficult, allowing me to see 75 years. Within those years, I have found many warm friendships among the people of Adelphi Church, and I am very grateful. Again, many thanks, and may God bless you **all!**

--Larry James



Happy Anniversary

February 16 - Charles and Jean Yancey



Happy Birthday

February 15 Kathleen Hong

February 18 Percy Agyei-Obese

February 19 Crissy Hussain

February 29 David Anderson



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 4, Sunday, 11:00AM – Worship Service
Elder Bob Finzel leading and preaching while Eunice is away for study leave.

February 11, Sunday, 11:00AM Worship Service

February 13, Tuesday, 7:00PM – Session

February 16, Friday, 7:30PM – Valentine's Day Party at the Smiths' - Bring a card.

February 18, Sunday –
9:45AM – Bible Breakfast Club
11:00AM – Worship with Communion

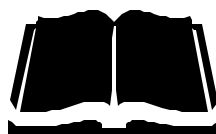
February 21, Wednesday – 7:30PM
Ash Wednesday Service

February 25, Sunday

11:00AM – Worship and Food Sunday,
Coffee Hour – Christian Education

**12:30-3:30PM, Rev. Ann Philbrick
meet with the congregation**

February 28, Wednesday – 6:30PM Soup and Study
(1)



Lectionary Reading

February 4, 2007

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 11, 2007

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalms 1:1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

February 18, 2007

Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

Corinthians 3:12—4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 25, 2007

1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Sunday Servants

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgist
FEB. 4	The Milligans	Paul Tembunde	Charles Yancey
FEB. 11	Gail Rodman	Janet Dolen	Matilda Che
FEB. 18	The Lancasters	Jerome Farley Tad Jembere	Bob Finzel
FEB. 25	Vida Agyei-Obese	Jake Masters Gail Rodman	Chester Guild

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