

Adelphi Presbyterian Church News



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

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

March 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.



My Faith Journey by David Beard

My journey started before birth. How could you know anything before you were born, you may ask? I know because one of the first things I remember as a small boy was my mother and dad quoting frequently from the Bible what must have been their favorite verse, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Not only did they quote this verse, they practiced it by doing those things necessary to carry it out. Not only did they bring the family together almost daily for worship, but going to Sunday school and church every Sunday was a family affair. In fact, when the horse and buggy was the prevailing means of travel, an early memory was going to church on Sunday in the family carriage drawn by "Billy" who was part of the family and a favorite horse on the farm my dad operated as a means of feeding and clothing the family.

My mother was a school teacher until she married and started rearing a family. After marriage she taught a Sunday school class as long as she lived. In fact, the class, consisting of young married people, was named

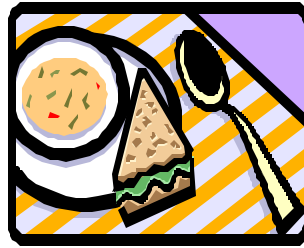
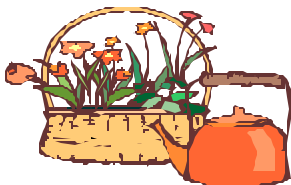
after her until the church merged with the other small church in town and the new merged church reorganized.

As youngsters growing up all my brothers and sister were not only exposed to church and church activities, it was (the church) the center of our lives all week.

Did the family-church life continue in adult life? It did with one notable exception – after leaving home! It became easier to skip church and forget about devotional activities without the regularity of family associated and supported activities. Other, new attractions quickly took over. The secular pull made it easy to forget about going to church, participating in regular worship and all those things nurtured by a growing family-church relationship. Except for this brief period of church-neglected life, the early teachings and habits of church life prevailed and a closer walk with God resumed. Nothing proves to me the importance of church life more than this early life experience. To quote from a recent sermon of my grandson, Christopher Romig, “why does God want so much for us to be part of His church and to share our blessings and gifts for building up the church? What is so special about the church?”

Paul answers this question in Ephesians 3:10-11, “God’s intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities on the heavenly realm, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

A closer walk with God every day can best be assured by faithful attendance and participation in church every Sunday and at services that may be provided throughout the week! Having lived both within and outside the church (briefly) I can attest to the fact that being involved as part of a local church we are also part of God’s worldwide church, the collective body of Christ.



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!

Scriptures for Soup and Study are as follows :

Feb. 28 – Acts 1:1-14

March 7 - Acts 4:32 – 5:11

March 14 – Acts 9:1-19a

March 21 – Acts 15:1-21

March 28 - Acts 16:11-15



CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

By Bob Finzel

The **whole congregation** is invited to meet with **Rev. Ann Philbrick** on **Sunday, March 18th after worship 12:30-3:30PM**. Light lunch will be provided after worship by the generosity of the Congregational Care Committee. 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.

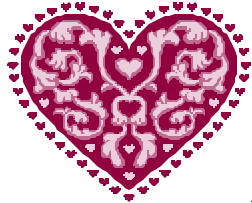
BIBLE BREAKFAST CLUB



by Kathie James

Our Bible Breakfast Club met on Sunday, February 18, 2007, as we cheerfully huddled in one of the warmer rooms downstairs. Twelve was the magic number again, this time a mixture of adults and youth. We noted that February is a month of love—Valentine's Day, Black History Month which reminds us to love all people and strengthen our bonds of brotherhood, and the opening of Lent, when Jesus showed His great love for us. We studied two particularly loving persons in the Scriptures—the Apostle John, also known as “the Beloved Disciple,” and Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. We sang “Jesus Loves Me,” and the club members created a second verse expressing how “We Love Jesus,” which they sang during the worship service. Children received plain heart-shaped boxes, which they painted or colored, placed candies inside, and took them to give to someone they love. Many thanks to Renee Milligan for the wonderful breakfast (some of which came from the delicious AAFG party), for supervising children who

needed more time to finish their boxes, and for cleaning up the “art room.” Thanks also to Joan Tembunde, Cecilia Molungu, and Bettye Miller for their participation and support. We will meet again on March 18 at 9:30 a.m. People of all ages are welcome.



ADELPHI ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP

by Kathie James

An even dozen is the number of adults with warm, loving hearts who braved the icy streets and very cold temperatures to go to the Adelphi Adult Fellowship Group’s Valentine party, hosted by Dick and Cherry Smith on February 16. Everyone dropped a Valentine card into the basket and then enjoyed the delicious canapés, beverages, and desserts while socializing. Later, everyone took a Valentine out of the basket and read aloud the card he or she had received. After much laughter and fun, the group decided that Charlotte Ojong held the winning card, designed by Cherry, and Ann Dudley had the second-place card, created by Dick, who emphasized the “hereafter”—very appropriate for the group (at least the envelope was)! Thanks to another guest, Pia, everyone left with a box of Godiva chocolates. Stay tuned for details of the AAFG’s next gathering; we hope to see more adults—singles, couples, groups, friends, neighbors, etc.—enjoying wonderful fun together



Special Lunch and Coffee

by Jennie Cardin

Because of the beautiful snow storm on February 25, church was canceled. Also canceled was our monthly coffee hour. A very special thank you to all Congregational Care Committee Members and

volunteers who went out of their way to prepare for our “Louisiana feast.”

The good news is there will be two coffee hours for March. The first one will be a special workshop lunch on March 18th. Then, on March 25th, we will have our regular monthly coffee hour. Please plan on attending both events, and come hungry.



REMINDERS:

by Jennie Cardin

Suggestion Box: Please be reminded we have a suggestion box on the table in the back of the sanctuary. As you prepare your hearts and minds for worship each week, please take a moment to share your comments and suggestions on a note card and place it in the box.

Name Tags: All members should please remember to wear their name tags. Sunday greeters should please put the plastic bin out each Sunday. We want our visitors to know who we are! *If you do not have a name tag, please contact Jennie Cardin (301) 933-2972*



OUR CONDOLENCES TO....

Priscilla and Hudson Lancasters. Priscilla’s brother died in Trinidad in February. Please keep the family in your prayers as they grieve their loss.



Happy Anniversary

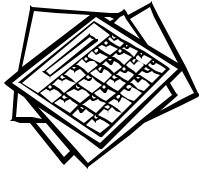
March 15 David and Kay Beard

March 27 Richard and Cherry Smith



Happy Birthday

March 11 Rhonda Nixon
 March 12 Percy Agyei-Obese
 March 12 Mebanga Ojong
 March 12 Michelle Wiltshire



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 3, Saturday – Adult Group Fellowship

March 4, Sunday 11:00AM – Sunday Service

March 5, Monday 7:00PM – Nominating

March 6, Tuesday 7:00PM – Worship and Music

March 7, Wed. – 6:30PM Soup and Study (2)

****DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS****

March 11, Sunday 11:00AM – Sunday Service

March 14, Wed. – 6:30PM Soup and Study (3)

March 16, Friday – 6:30PM – Women’s Prayer Dinner

March 18, Sunday –
 9:45AM – Bible Breakfast Club
 11:00AM – Sunday Service
 12:30 – 3:30PM Rev. Ann
Philbrick meets with congregation

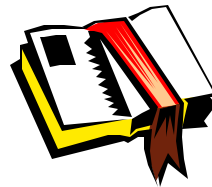
March 20, Tuesday 7:00PM - Session

March 21, Wed. – 6:30PM Soup and Study (4)

March 25, Sunday – 11:00AM – Sunday Service
Food Sunday, Coffee Hour – Congregational Care
- Following the worship service

March 27 Tuesday 6:00PM – Presbytery meeting

March 28, Wed. – 6:30PM Soup and Study (5)



Lectionary Reading

March 4, 2007

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 11, 2007

3rd Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 18, 2007

4th Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 25, 2007

5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Sunday Servants

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgist
MARCH 4	The Milligans	Paul Tembunde	Matilda Che
MARCH 11	Gail Rodman	Janet Dolen	Evelyn Jones
MARCH 18	The Lancasters	Jerome Farley Tad Jembere	Bettye Miller
MARCH 25	Vida Agyei-Obese	Jake Masters Gail Rodman	Martin Ojong

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