

Adelphi Presbyterian Church News



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Adelphi, Maryland 20783
(301) 434-6337

Web Site: www.adelphipc.org

September 2004

The Session assignment for 2004-2005
is as follows:



	Chair/Co-Chair	Vice Chair	Member
Worship	Comfort Anigboh	Stig Hammond	
Christian Education	Kathie James & Candace Farley		
Mission & Evangelism	Martin Ojong		
Congregational Care	Evelyn Jones		
Stewardship & Personnel	Bob Finzel	David Milligan	Stig Hammond
Facilities	Charles Yancey	David Milligan	
Community Program	Bettye Miller		

Moderator: Rev. Y. Eunice Yang
Clerk: Janet Dolan
Treasurer: Charles Yancey
Assistant Treasurer: Jake Masters



A "Few" Words from the Pastor ...

Peace be with you! Peace is precious in this chaotic world. It has been a busy and eventful summer for me. The trip to suburban Toronto last month was fun being with families, especially my 2-year-old nephew, Wesley.

Summer is a time to reflect on the past and to plan for the future. Attached you will find a copy of our fall Wednesday night study schedule. It includes a series of study on "What do we believe?" and a couple of wholeness/healing service (See the article on "Healing service"). Advent season will have a different series of study.

Our church will be going through a transformation process sponsored by our presbytery beginning in 2005. Yet, transformation is not about a new program, a church growth strategy, or a mission study or even putting together a mission statement. Transformation and renewal of a congregation as well as individuals are rooted in our renewed faith and re-commitment to God in Jesus Christ. Renewed faith and commitment comes from our solid understanding of what we believe, of whose we are, of what it means to live as a faithful disciple of Christ wherever we are. The study in the fall provides an opportunity to get together, and to wrestle with tough questions of faith and life.

The last week of August, the church had a break in. Seven doors/locks were pried open and damaged. Two phones and some stamps were stolen. We are recovering well. But please pray for the thief/thieves "for they did not know what they were doing." Pray for a just and peaceful society where people have jobs, have a roof to cover them, have food on the table, have access to health care, have confidence on themselves, have dreams and hopes for the future, and are willing to live a life of dignity and integrity. The only reason I can think of why we had a break in is that we must have caught people's

attention through all the work that we have been doing to the exterior of the church. The red doors and the beautiful flowers certainly are visible and very inviting!!!

Lastly, as you know, **our secretary Claudette Street** found a full time job a few months ago and cannot come to the church on regular hours. We are looking for a new secretary. Yet, please continue to keep Ms. Street and her families in your prayers, especially for her health. She has been a great help to me this past year. We really appreciate her genuine character and her faithful service! (Claudette finished parts of this newsletter. Thanks to Jennie Cardin who helped copying and mailing of this issue.)



FAITH JOURNEY

by Charles Yancey

My faith journey was launched at an early age, but I followed a detour sign for many years. Born in Charlottesville, Virginia to loving Southern Baptist parents, I was baptized at about age 7. Throughout my formative years, I regularly attended Sunday School, Sunday morning worship and Sunday evening worship. I lived in a small town where many elders assumed the persona of your parents. Looking back, I was more concerned with my actions being reported to my parents than I was with being judged by God. Also, the rule in our house was if I could not go to church on Sunday morning, I was not going to be allowed to do any “fun stuff” for the rest of the day.

My parents were quiet Christians who taught me more about faith in God by their actions than by their words. Thanks to them and our pastor, Rev. Isaac Abraham Jacob Kennedy, I was well grounded in the Christian faith. But, then I went away to college, albeit a church-related institution, and tried to become in my mother’s words “a heathen.” In college, we were required to read the Old and New Testaments in their entirety, but I did not discern that the scriptures had very much meaning for me. After two years at a liberal arts college, I returned home to attend the University of Virginia. Attending engineering school in a hostile environment was a perfect setting for leaning on my faith in God. I went to church occasionally but felt “if it was to be, it was up to me.” I maintained that individualistic attitude from that point until I was married and had children.

Realizing that I had been standing on my early Christian foundation more than I wanted to admit, I, along with my wife Jean, wanted to ground our kids in Christianity. We sporadically attended a number of churches, mostly Baptist, but never really settled on one to join.

It was at the invitation of Les Wattay that I started attending Adelphi Presbyterian Church. After a few visits, I had a hunch that God’s plan for me was unfolding. That is the only way I could explain the scenario: me a black American male, raised a Southern Baptist in a segregated town, whose world view was strongly influenced by the Civil Rights movement, now attending a suburban, majority-white Presbyterian church (and what is a Presbyterian anyway), headed by a white male pastor. Then, God and I really started to wrestle.

God spoke: “You like to associate with small, unpretentious congregations, you believe strongly in a democratic polity, you are a champion for cultural diversity, you like highly-educated ministers who are not afraid to be challenged, and you do need to learn a lot more about My Scriptures.” I spoke meekly: “Okay I will start to attend worship service more often and I will join a small study group, but ...” After participating in a Wednesday night study group with Rev. Sam Alexander, Joyce Finzel, Comfort Anigboh, Bunny Sours and several others, I submitted to God, joined Adelphi Church and have worked at getting my faith journey back on track. The wrestling match is not over, but, as you might have guessed, God is winning.

A WORD ABOUT

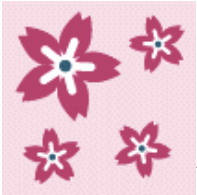


STEWARDSHIP

by Bob Finzel

As Labor Day fast approaches, with fall weather not far behind, your stewardship committee has begun to plan for the upcoming stewardship campaign. A little early perhaps to be thinking about it? Not really. Stewardship commitment Sunday this year will fall on November 14th, the second Sunday of that month. Our church and its mission will be facing major challenges as we plan for 2005. We will be losing rental income, and facing the usual rising costs of operations. We are asking all members to search their consciences and do their Christian utmost to help the church grow in numbers, vitality and mission responsibilities next year.

Your will receive more information on this subject from the committee by letter in the near future. We do want to alert you to a series of brief talks during worship by members of our congregation concerning the subject of stewardship and what it means to them. These presentations will be brief, no longer than 5 minutes, and will be given every other week or so, until November 14. Kathy James will lead off on Sunday, September 12th and Martin Ojong will follow on September 16th.



WHAT IS WHOLENESS/HEALING SERVICE?

by Eunice Yang

“Healing was an integral part of the ministry of Jesus which the church has been called to continue as one dimension of its concern for the wholeness of people. Through services for wholeness, the church enacts in worship its ministry as a healing community.” (W-3.5401, Book of Order)

All of us are in need of healing and wholeness. Our faith journey is characterized by temptations, by challenges and frustration, by enormous pressure to compete, by anxiety, by uncertainty, by chaos, by threat. In a way, if not our bodies, our souls and spirits are worn out in all of these. Wholeness and healing is the gospel’s promise through Jesus Christ. Those who seek him will find him; those who are thirsty or hungry will be fed.

Wholeness/Healing service will focus more on prayers, which will be a response to the Word read and proclaimed. Enacted prayer in the forms of laying on of hands and anointing of oil has biblical foundation (James 5:14). The promise of wholeness in Christ will be sealed in the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

As Reformed Christian in Presbyterian Church, we firmly believe that healing and wholeness is not of our own doing through our faith, but a gift and grace of God who is sovereign above all. “**Healing** is to be understood **not** as the result of the holiness, earnestness, or skill of those enacting the prayers, or of the faith of the ones seeking healing, **but as the gifts of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.**” (W-3.5405)



WHO AM I?

I am 40-something years old, two stories tall, made of brick, surrounded by 2+ acres of wooded land, was ailing with termite and carpenter ant infestation, have aging plumbing and electrical systems, and had molded, unsightly basement walls. I am now undergoing an extreme makeover and with God’s continued blessings I am on my way to being an attractive and

appealing place of worship. Who am I? This is a game show, so I can’t tell you. But, let me give you a few clues.

During the first seven months of this year, I have been the recipient of loving attention from a number of my friends. Without much fanfare, they have removed a dumpster full of trash from my basement, scraped and treated my moldy basement walls, painted the entire basement, stripped and waxed the floors, installed new phones, and equipped some of my rooms with new furniture. Oh, you need some more clues. Well, let me talk about my exterior facelift. You know I had a few roof leaks, with water actually running into the Pastor’s office and a bad water problem along one of my basement walls. With some good ole Adelphi (oops, I didn’t mean to be so generous with my clues) ingenuity, those water problems are no more. And how do you like my freshly painted doors and colorful flower garden? I bet that freshly painted cross out front has to be a dead giveaway as to my identity.

Well, I was about to divulge my name, but we are out of time. Tune in next month for a continuation. By way of a disclaimer, members and associates of the Adelphi Facilities Committee are not eligible to win game prizes.



MUSIC BOX

by Kathie James

The summer days have given us at least two of our Preludes in August: "It fell upon a summer day...Mothers took their children...to His knee...." and "Sheaves of Summer," also known as "Una Espiga" in Spanish. Renee Milligan sang the beautiful solo "Jesus Paid It All" on August 15, then she sang "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" to complement a passage in Hebrews on August 29. As we look toward the beginning of the school season, we hope to reconvene our choir shortly after Labor Day. Anyone who is reading this article is invited and encouraged to become a part of our choir; please watch for our first get-together.

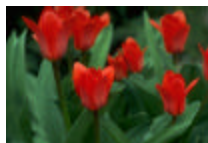


BIBLE BREAKFAST CLUB

by Kathie James

Our Bible Breakfast Club met on August 15, with 15 people in attendance--little ones, school age children, teens, and adults. We studied about Samson, whose parents asked God to help them raise their son. God sent an angel to guide them, and Samson--although a colorful character with some flaws--did the work God sent him to do. We also read about the apostle Peter in jail and his rescue by an angel. The craft for that day was making angels that could stand up; on the back of their wings was the memory verse for next time from Hebrews 13:2: "Some people have entertained angels without knowing it." We sang several favorite songs, and we offered a number of prayers. The Bible Breakfast Club will meet on September 19 at 9:30 a.m. People of all ages are welcome, so please come!

A Church Garden Committee



Would you be interested in this Stewardship Service? We would very much like to beautify the church grounds with new landscaping and flowers. This will be a labor of love.

If you can do any one of the following, please join the committee:

- ?? Make suggestions as to what plants you thing would be appropriate.
- ?? Be available to do some planting and transplantings.
- ?? Make donations fo the committee to buy plants, mulch, etc.
- ?? Care for the plants by watering, weeding, etc.

To join, just put your name on the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary. Please sign up during the summer so we will know if there will be a Garden Committee. Our First meeting will be September. The Garden Committee will come under the Facilities Committee. You may call Janet Dolen,

301-572-7353, or Joyce Finzel, 301- 572- 7956, if you have any questions.

Meals on Wheels



by Cherry Smith

Volunteers are needed. If you are able to donate a few hours once a week, don't hesitate to call Cherry Smith. Her number is 301- 384-0775. Please feel free to leave a message on voice mail if she's not available to answer the telephone. She will get back with you as soon as possible.

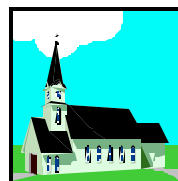


“Help by Phone”

DINNER MENU

Beef Stew	Rice	Jello	Dry Milk
Spaghetti	Northern Beans	Pudding	Coffee
Macaroni & Cheese	Red, Green & Yellow Vegetables	Fruit	Tea
Pork & Beans		Baby Food	Cocoa

All foods must be canned or dried and in sealed containers to meet health department regulations. Please bring the above items and place them in the grocery basket in the back of the sanctuary.



News around the church

Pray for those who are returning from their summer vacation that the Lord will give them traveling mercies as they travel the highways, byway and pathways returning home.

Pray for those who have not showed up in church for a while. Look around and see who is not here!! Give them a call and let them know you notice and you care how they are doing.



September 7, Tuesday, 7:00PM
Stewardship committee

September 12, Sunday
Communion
Stewardship moment by Kathie James

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Uzo and Comfort Anigboh – September 16
Albert and Rhoda Nixon – September 19
Harrell and Barbara Gordon – September 24
Martin and Charlotte Ojong – September 28

BIRTHDAY WISHES



Cherry Smith – September 2
Vivian Takang – September 4
Claudia Volz – September 8
Helen Nausbaum – September 13
Renee Milligan – September 17
Ifeanji Anigboh – September 29
Duane Wattay – September 29

September 13, Monday, 7:00PM
Session

September 15, Wednesday, 7:00PM
Bible Study 1

September 19, Sunday, after service
Training for those interested in
Teaching English as a Second Language

September 22, Wednesday, 7:00PM
Bible Study 2

September 26, Sunday
Stewardship moment by Martin Ojong

September 28, Tuesday, 10:00AM
Presbytery Meeting

September 29, Wednesday, 7:00PM
Bible Study 3

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVANTS

Date	Greeters	Nursery	Ushers	Acolytes	Liturgists
5 TH 11:00 a.m.	The Milligans	Janet Doeln	Paul Tembunde Neil Wiltshire	Wesley Tembunde	Charlotte Ojong
12 TH 11:00 a.m.	Gail Rodman	Martin Ojong	Janet Dolen Deborah Penot	Abigail Jembere	Bob Finzel
19 TH 11:00 a.m.	The Lancasters	Dick Smith	Jerome Farley Tad Jembere	Jeremy Wiltshire	Charles Yancey
26 TH 11:00 a.m.	Vida Agyei- Obese	Candace Farley	Jake Masters Gail Rodman	Lauren Wattay	Comfort Anigboh

Adelphi Presbyterian Church

9401 Riggs Road

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Pastor: Rev. Y. Eunice Yang

Director of Music: Dr. Kathie James

October Newsletter Deadline Date: Monday, September 27th

