



JUNE 2009 ISSUE

Convenience Store Religion

From my perspective June is one of the most special months of the year. We celebrate Membership Anniversary Sunday, Father's Day, and the last Sunday morning service of the school year. All of this comes on the heels of Pentecost and Memorial Sunday. Wow! What a great time of the year to celebrate special moments in our lives, worship the loving and ever present God in all our days and be with one another in church. Church is really special and Sunday mornings come alive.

Along comes July and people, especially in our area, which is affluent and has lots of opportunities to do other things on Sunday and suddenly head for the doors. It's an unfortunate reality of church in the Washington D.C. area. We have money to spend, places to go, other people to be with and lots of "fun" waiting for us. Places in the mountains, places at the beach, camping, picnicking, boating, vacations, touring favorite places all beckon and church attendance suddenly drops way down. I've seen it my whole life. It makes me sad and disappointed.

There are so many sirens beckoning us that like Ulysses of old have to chain ourselves to the mast in order to keep from being drawn ashore. Instead of being chained to the mast we should chain ourselves to the Master. I speak of this with a sense of reality knowing that there will be Sundays when many of us are gone. I go on vacation; it would be unfair of me to suggest others don't. That's not what I'm talking about. What I am talking about is not taking the whole summer off. What I am talking about is remembering that the need to be in worship, together with our fellow disciples, worshipping God and growing in God's grace is just as important in the summer as it is during the rest of the year. What I'm talking about is keeping church a priority in our lives, year round. No free passes here for taking the summer off.

While we're at it, maybe some of us need reminding of the importance of church in our life at all times of the year. Maybe you are among those who stopped coming to church as one thing after another claimed your heart on Sunday morning. Maybe you are among those who find excuses for why you aren't in church on a regular basis. Maybe you are among those who have forgotten how important and how special being in church with fellow disciples is. If so, I hope you will pray about, think about it, and pray some more. I hope you will come back and be a part of the gathered fellowship. I hope you will rejoin us and experience again how much fun it is and how much it adds to your life to be among the church on Sunday morning. I hope you know how much you are missed and how much you have to offer us and we have to offer you. I hope you will come this Sunday. Church on Sunday is one of the first priorities of our lives – or it should be.

D. Robert Chance

NEWS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our thoughts & prayers are with:

Wentworth Wilder....

Dorothea Fildes

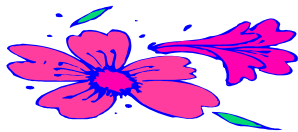
Dorothy Kenney

David Watterworth...

Ralph Hockman

Lucy Wachtman

Carolee & Ralph Norton



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and cards I received while I was in the hospital. I know all your thoughts and prayers helped in my speedy recovery and I really appreciate your thoughtfulness! May God bless each of you. I am very lucky to have so many caring friends here at AHCC.

Debbie Smith

OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS are extended to:

Dr Chance & Family... Dr Chance's cousin, Charles Greaves passed away on May 17th. Services were held on May 21st in Arbutus, Md. Please keep the Chance family in your thoughts and prayers.

George Speidel & family... Peggy passed away on May 13th. Please keep The Speidel Family in your thoughts and prayers. Dr. Chance is doing the Memorial Service on June 2nd in Manassas, Virginia for Peggy.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES JUNE



- | | |
|----|---|
| 3 | Jessica Knott |
| 4 | Jeanie Harper
Betsy Winfield |
| 5 | Beth & Rich Konzmann |
| 7 | June Jordan |
| 13 | Sasha Treasure |
| 14 | Jessica Lastre |
| 16 | Shane & Rhonda Hensley
Ella Macwright |
| 19 | Phyllis Capellman
Cassie Chance
Claudette Demetruis |
| 20 | Beth Leslie |
| 22 | Norm & Jeanie Harper |
| 23 | Carl Pedersen |
| 24 | Amos & Kim Harris |
| 25 | Irvel Jerome |
| 26 | Amy & Blake Buckingham |
| 29 | Carlton Higgins |
| 30 | Carol Parrish |

A Sincere Goodbye-

The words "Thank you" or "I'm going to miss you" don't remotely get across what I want to say to you all as I head back to Indiana to begin my full-time ministry. I feel as though I'm leaving home even as I'm going home. Hanover College is my alma mater, my old stomping grounds, and I'm thrilled to be serving there as chaplain next year. But in many ways, AHCC is a spiritual home to me, the place that has nurtured me, challenged me, and loved me as I journeyed through seminary and ordination. There is simply no way to say thank you for that, no way to tell you what that support has meant and will always mean to me. What I do know is that in many ways, you're going to Hanover with me. Much of what I know about Christian community, I know from you, and what you've taught me will inform the way I serve in Indiana. It's so hard to leave, but as I go from here I'll do so with deep joy and gratitude for the time I spent at AHCC. Please keep me and my ministry in your prayers as I keep you fondly in mine.

Laura Arico



From The Assistant Minister: No colors match like the colors in nature. There is no art like that. The way healthy spring leaves with just the tiniest touch of blue reach up to a cerulean sky, sparkling with just a hint of white as the breeze blows. The way the northern parula (a tiny little bird!) flaunts deep blue and bright yellow, accented with a splash of olive, colors that all seem made for reflecting soft yellow sunlight. Or the way so many pinks, reds, and yellows mingle with the blue, blue sky out in the American southwest with such a satisfying perfection that you'd think no other art in the world ever needs to be done.

We do ourselves a disservice when we set ourselves apart from this physical world that God created for us to live in. There is this moment in my drive to work where I crest a hill and it seems like the whole of Maryland opens up before me, trees all over the place, framed by azaleas in the yards on each side of the street, cradled by a big, blue sky. I can't believe that I ever, ever drive down that stretch without allowing myself to be awestruck and thankful for this world. Most mornings, though, with my eyes on the road and my head in whatever they're talking about on NPR, I miss that moment. In my car, without so much as my feet on the ground, it seems that I live fully inside my head.

Maybe we throw out the baby with the bathwater when we hear the phrase, "Be in the world, but not of it" (an exact phrase that I feel obligated to mention is not in the Bible. Romans 12:2 and John 17 are good analogues). As we struggle not to be *of* this world, we often forget that we are made to be *in* it. We forget that God painstakingly fashioned planets and stars and flowers and birds and flavors and colors and breezes and sunshine and raindrops to sustain us, to shelter us, and to bring us joy in this gift of life. To ignore those things, it seems to me, is to ignore God's work.

As summer rolls in, as the greens get greener and the raindrops get fatter, I am going to try to keep my feet on the ground and remember that I am wholly a part of this creation, wholly in this world. What a gift is God's creation! This summer I plan on being truly thankful for it.

From The Music Director: In the last newsletter we considered the breathing process for singing. As promised this month phonation or how to produce an efficient and comfortable sound is our topic.

You recall that that if you take a deep breath and expand around the waist line, as if recovering from a laugh, you will have the optimum breath for singing. This process also usually causes the larynx (voice box) to descend as it also does when yawning. If we speak clearly in that position, a larger than usual, clearer and more comfortable sound will result. When we sing high notes they should be approached as if calling out to someone 50 to 100 yards away while maintaining the lowered voice box position. Each subsequent breath should again be as if yawning or recovering from a good laugh.

These explanations may seem a little abstruse or difficult to understand. If you would like learn more about the wonderful gift of singing and see these theories in practice, come join us Thursday nights for choir practice. We would love to see you there.

Congratulations to our 2009 Graduates!
May God bless you in your future endeavors.



NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES



OUTREACH

Mario Mendoza, Chairman

2009 Pentecost Offering

Expanding the Table

Each year the New Church Movement is supported primarily by funds raised by the annual Pentecost Offering. This special-day offering provides support for new church planter training, coaching, special project grants and additional services to support the New Church Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). And, importantly, half of the money collected through the Pentecost Offering remains in the region to benefit new churches.

Due in part to your gifts to the Pentecost Offering and New Church Ministry, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have started 583 new churches since 2001, reaching more than 40,000 new Disciples in communities where once we had no witness. That is good news worth celebrating!

This year we are combining our Pentecost Offering and our Special Stewardship Campaign "Go For The Gold." Your gift will benefit both-in a Board approved division of the proceeds.

Even in the challenging times we face currently, we should be mindful of the Lord's words:

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. John 21:17 (NIV)



EVANGELISM/MEMBERSHIP

Karen Shpiece

The Share the Good News contest finished the end of April. Thanks to all who participated in Sharing the Good News! Our winners were: Adults: Orlando Lastre High School/Middle School: tie between Taylor Lynn and Riley Caruso, and Preschool/Elementary School: Nicholas Shpiece. Remember that it's our joy and our responsibility to Share the Good News!

The Scrap-booking class was held in April with great success. Plans are underway for a follow-up session. If you're interested, please contact Karen Shpiece

Mark you calendars for June 28. Eric Long will be presenting a class on How to take better pictures. I know you won't want to miss it! And don't forget to invite a friend.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mary Chance, Chairman

May 3 was truly a very special day for the education ministry. May 3 was Youth Sunday. Under the direction of Charles Capellman, the youth did an absolutely wonderful job of leading the worship service. I never cease to be amazed at what young people can do if we only let them.

Sunday School classes will continue through June 28. There will be no classes held in July and August - giving our teachers a short break. Please be sure to thank your teacher for their hard work, care, and devotion to our children. Youth Sunday was a great example of what happens when you have a caring and committed group of teachers. We will resume classes again September 6, refreshed and ready for another great year.

With the end of the school year, and the beginning of Summer, comes Vacation Bible School. Bible School will be held in the evenings during the week of July 13 through July 17 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. We are going to try a slightly different approach to teaching this year. We are looking for group leaders, craft leaders, music leaders, games leaders, science experiment leaders(?!?!), decoration coordinator, and refreshment providers. Please let Mary Chance know right away if you would be willing to help in any of these areas. It takes a lot of folks to provide an effective and fun-filled program and it certainly is worth our effort. Please call Mary right away and let her know how you can help.

(cont'd on next page)

Amy Buckingham has been leading our children in a children's church program during the second half of the worship service. We are in need of some general craft supplies to help with the program. We are in need of things like beads, pipe cleaners, sequins, marbles, etc. Look around your house and bring some of those extra supplies you have just laying around to Amy. We would greatly appreciate your contributions. Special thanks to Amy for this wonderful ministry!



WORSHIP

Arlyn Sanchez, Chairman Where has this year gone?!? We had a wonderful Youth Sunday thanks to Charlie Capellman, the church youth and everyone else involved. It was truly inspiring to see the ENTIRE service

run by kids. Awesome!! The Mother's Day Sunday was also made special with a wonderful service and, once again, the kids made and delivered very nice bookmarks thanks to the efforts of Amy Buckingham.

Coming up is the Pentecost Sunday service on the 31st and our Church Anniversary Sunday on June 7th. This year we're planning to take "decades" photo so make sure you're here to stand with your decade buddies!! See you at church!!



FELLOWSHIP

Amy Buckingham, Chairman The summer sign-up for fellowship hour has a few openings - please check your calendar and sign up to host one fellowship hour!!! Thanks so much to everyone who has done this already! Thanks also to Eric Long and Jack Hanson who have been helping take care of the 9:30 Sunday School fellowship! Only a few more weeks to go!! Please see me if you can help with this!!!

Get out your flip-flops and beach towel, and sunscreen too! It's Bethany Beach retreat time!!! We have one of the best weekends we have had in years reserved - September 18-20! It promises to be perfect weather - not too hot, not too cold! And the cost is an amazing deal! 2 nights lodging just 2 blocks from the beach, 3 meals Saturday, 2 meals Sunday, all the fellowship you can squeeze in to 2 days, worship and spiritual growth to boot! And its all only \$115 for adults, and \$55 for children (5-11). Please sign up in the fellowship hall, and send your reservation form with deposit to the church office. We only have 40 spaces, so sign up now and guarantee your place! If we have more people sign up, we may be able to get more spaces!!! This is a truly wonderful weekend - hope to see you there!



STEWARDSHIP

John Small, Chairman Summer time is fast approaching. As you make plans for your vacation etc. it is important to remember that our church's expenses do not take the summer off. Please make it a priority to keep your giving current this summer.

It is so important to keep our giving up and even ahead. Please keep us current during the summer – not to mention the rest of the year!

Gad A Bouts News

The last monthly Gads meeting until Fall will be Wed., June 3rd. As usual, we will meet at 10:30 A.M. A potluck lunch will follow along with a short program. All are welcome. Beverage will be provided.

Wed., June 24, the Gads will travel to near Staunton, Va., to visit Ralph Hockman. We will car-pool, leaving the church at 8:45 a.m. for the three-hour drive, eat lunch at a nearby restaurant where we will have reservations, visit with Ralph at his Royal Care residence, and plan to arrive back in Silver Spring by 6:00 p.m. For car-pooling arrangements and lunch reservations, it is necessary that we have an exact count of those planning to go. PLEASE call Marge Skucas (301-438-2275) no later than June 10 if you want to be included and if you can help with transportation.

Please bring to Nell Rys no later than Sun., June 14 the bottle/jar lids we've been saving over the winter months for the Head Start program.

Mark on your calendars the date of our first Fall meeting: Wed., Sept. 2, 10:30 a.m.

Have a happy summer and stay in good health!

Devotional Given at the May St Paul's Breakfast by Andy Mott

I don't know where this came from. It's ascribed to one Mark Littleton and I do not know Mr. Littleton, either. It was most likely sent to me as an email—possibly from one of you!

"To this you were called because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps." --1 Peter 2:21

Imagine you and the Lord Jesus walking down the road together. For much of the way, the Lord's footprints go along steadily, consistently, rarely varying the pace. But your prints are a disorganized stream of zigzags, starts, stops, turnarounds, circles, departures and returns. For much of the way it seems to go like this. But gradually, your footprints come more in line with the Lord's, soon paralleling His consistently. You and Jesus are walking as true friends. This seems perfect, but then an interesting thing happens: your footprints that once etched the sand next to the Master's are now walking precisely in His steps. Inside His larger footprints is the small "sandprint" safely enclosed. You and Jesus are becoming one.

This goes on for many miles. But gradually you notice another change. The footprint inside the larger footprint seems to grow larger. Eventually it disappears altogether. There is only one set of footprints. They have become one. Again, this goes on for a long time. But then something awful happens. The second set of footprints is back. And this time it seems even worse. Zigzags all over the place. Stops. Starts. Deep gashes in the sand. A veritable mess of prints. You're amazed and shocked. But this is the end of your dream. Now you speak. "Lord, I understand the first scene with the zigzags and fits and starts and so on. I was a new Christian, just learning. But You walked on through the storm and helped me learn to walk in You." "That is correct." "Yes, and when the smaller footprints were inside of Yours, I was actually learning to walk in your steps. I followed You very closely." "Very good. You have understood everything so far." "Then the smaller footprints grew and eventually filled in with Yours. I suppose that I was actually growing so much that I was becoming like You in every way." "Precisely." "But this is my question: Lord, was there a regression or something? The footprints went back to two, and this time it was worse than the first." The Lord smiles, then laughs. "You didn't know?" He says. "That was when we danced."



A BIG thank you to our Sunday School teachers. They are devoted and caring individuals and they do a GREAT JOB!
Last day of SS will be June 28th for the summer.
We will see all of you in the Fall!



Vacation Bible School

July 13-17

7:00-9:00 P.M.



Let's all give the choir a **BIG HAND** of **APPLAUSE!**

Job well done to all of you. The choir is taking a
break for the summer and will resume in the fall.

The Choir's last Sunday is June 28th.

