

**From the Pastor's Office**

**Special Advent**

**Book Study Planned**

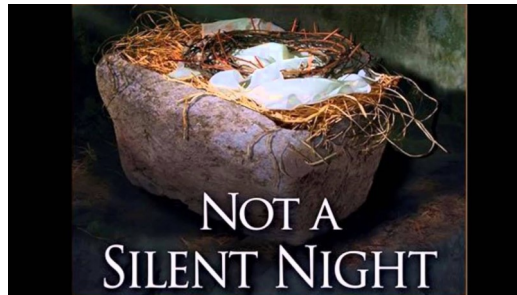


Hello friends!  
By the time you read this, Advent will be upon us!

GOD-IS-WITH-US. How can you connect to God's presence in a new way during this time? Let's keep that in our hearts together, as a community...

I know one meaningful practice for me in this holy season is engaging in a *special*

Every year when this season comes, I find myself wondering: How can the season of waiting also be such a season of hurry and stress? Maybe it does not have to be that way. I am praying that for each one of you reading this, you do something different this Advent that disrupts the status quo of stress and exhaustion that so often accompanies the holidays and grounds you instead in the simple Christmas message:



*Advent book study.* This year, we will be exploring *Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem* by Adam

See "Pastor Jessie," p 2

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**Hangin'  
Of the Greens**



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

5:00 TO 7:30 P.M.

See story on Page 2

## Pastor Jessie, from p 1

[Hamilton](#). This is a very down-to-earth writer whose books have often been used by our Adult Sunday School and Tea & Theology group. This particular book “begins at the end,” as it were, with each chapter considering the stories we know of Mary, mother of Jesus and probably the closest person to Him in His life. These stories range from the cross to prophecy about Him all the way back to the night He was born. It is a different point of view to consider Christmas through her eyes—one that often gets lost in our Protestant churches.

*Copies of this book have been ordered, and several of you have already requested that I save you a copy. If you would like to participate, please call or e-mail me. We will meet weekly early mornings in Advent from*

6:45-7:45 in the church library (yes, this is early, but this is part of our shared discipline of interrupting the routine of the status quo). Coffee will be provided. These Tuesday dates include

Tuesday, December 3

Tuesday, December 10

Monday, December 16

Monday, December 23

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ATTEND EVERY WEEK. All are welcome!

Blessings and *PEACE*,

*Pastor Jessie*

[pastorcoapc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcoapc@gmail.com)

Text or call: (973) 722-3311

# Hanging of the Greens

Please join us for an evening of fellowship as we decorate the church for the holiday season. Come and enjoy great chili and wonderful side dishes. There will be crafts for the

children and for those of you that are into decorating we will need your help to decorate the tree and church. We will also have a carol sing after dinner. Here's the schedule for the evening:

5:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens

Crafts for Kids

Bulletin Painting

6:00 p.m. All Food Items in Place (large meeting room)

6:15 p.m. Tree Lighting, Blessing and Dinner

7:00 p.m. Carol Sing

Hope to see you there!

Yours In Christ,

*COA Deacons*

# **Christmas Season Services of Worship**

**Christmas Cantata, December 15, 10:00 a.m.**

All the choirs join together, in Combined Service of Worship,  
to celebrate the season with wonderful music!

**Time of Meditation for Blue Christmas**

**December 20, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

The Sanctuary will be open for private, quiet meditation.

Prayers and Scripture Readings will be available for your use

**Christmas Pageant – Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m.**

A child friendly service which tells the story of Christmas with  
music and a pageant performed by COA Children and Youth

**Christmas Eve Services**

**Candlelight Service of Worship**

**8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.**

Candlelight Services of Lessons and Carols.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
will be served at the 8:00 pm service

**The Sunday After Christmas**

**December 29, 10:00 a.m.**

Combined Service of Worship

# COA Holiday Giving

Sign-Up Sheets and Information are posted in the Narthex

The Mission Committee will, once again, work with SPAN (Severna Park Assistance Network) to provide food and gifts for three families in the Broadneck area.

Please help in one of three ways: (1) By providing grocery store gift cards (2) by providing **UNWRAPPED** gifts for the children; (3) by contributing money to be used to purchase gifts.

Please be sure to label the item you are providing. The easiest way is to tape the tag you took with you to the item. **All gifts should be brought to the church by Wednesday, December 4.**

If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Cochran-McNeal at 410-974-1713 or by email at [coa21409@gmail.com](mailto:coa21409@gmail.com).

## COA Holiday Wrapping Party

Please join the Mission Committee on **Sunday, December 8 at 12:30 p.m.** in the large meeting room for a Wrapping Party. Enjoy light refreshments and fellowship, while we wrap the gifts and get them ready to be delivered to Severna Park Assistance Network on Sunday, December 15. If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Cochran-McNeal at 410-974-1713 or at [coa21409@gmail.com](mailto:coa21409@gmail.com).

## CATCH UP ON SERMONS

Did you know that our Congregational Connections Committee uploads recordings of Pastor Jessie's weekly sermons? On our church Web site ([under the tab "Music & Worship" click "Sermons"](#)), you can find readable PDFs of sermons you may have missed and also audio recordings.

In particular, we encourage you to go back and check out

the sermons from October because during that Stewardship month, the sermons also all include a link to the video interviews with different generations of members from our church. We know you will enjoy hearing from them!



## Christmas Joy Offering



Christ Our Anchor will be collecting the Christmas Joy Offering during Advent. This special offering brings the whole church together to be with church workers and their families in critical financial need due to illness or a lack of resources. It also equips students of color through

leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to maximize their God-given potential as they become future leaders in our church and in our world.

Thanks so much,

*Paula Kilgore*



# Meet COA's Newest Members

## Em Forbes (and son Jace)

Em is originally from New Jersey but has lived in Maryland since 2006. She is in school to be a Physical Therapy Assistant and works as a PT Tech and occasional dog walker and sitter. She found her way into faith through a youth group and was mostly in the evangelical communities until recently. She is a former stay-at-home mom and teacher who also owned a home childcare. She has a son in 5th grade at Broadneck Elementary and a lab/pit mix.

She is a runner, kayaker, adrenaline junkie, music lover, beach bum, and supporter of SPCA and SURJ. She is also a member of the Liturgists community formed by and for people who listen to the [Liturgists podcast](#). She is involved with the Blue Ribbon Project and runs a game night meetup group—ask her about this if you'd like to join! All are welcome!!



## Wendi Jacklitch (and daughter Jessica)

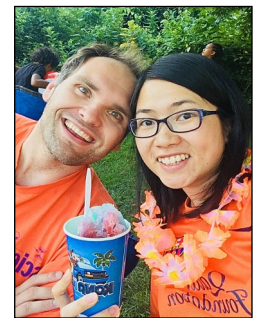


Wendi grew up in Southeastern Idaho but has lived in Maryland for 16 years. She currently works for a small environmental company that does work in the U.S. and abroad. Her other daughter Kimberly is 10 years old. Her hobbies include gardening, helping coach Jessica's soccer team, volunteering for various projects (mostly school related) and anything that gets her outside.

Jessica enjoys drawing, reading, writing stories and playing soccer. She loves learning and “can bore almost anyone with random facts.” She is good friends with Ketzal Barbour in COA's youth group.

## Franklin Kenter and Van Nguyen

Franklin is from the San Francisco Bay area in California. He found faith in graduate school and was active in Young Life. Before moving to Maryland, he spent three years in Houston. Van grew up Roman Catholic and is from San Diego. She lived in Texas and Boston before Maryland. Both Franklin and Van are mathematicians and work at USNA. They enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking and kayaking. Van's hobbies are cooking and reading books. Franklin's hobbies are playing and designing board games (he designed his own game to give out as Van's and his upcoming wedding favors!) They are both excited to be a part of Christ Our Anchor's family!



## Luis and Jen Rodriguez (and daughter Lily)

Luis and Jen have been living in Annapolis for almost eight years. They moved to Maryland from New Jersey in January 2010. Luis works for Homeland Security and Jen is a stay-at-home mom (formerly a teacher at Harbour School). Their five-year-old daughter Lillian is the light of their lives and loves to dance. They enjoy going to the movies, parks and out to eat. Their whole family loves anything Disney.

They found COA because their daughter attends Anchors-A-Wee. They loved the warm atmosphere at the school and decided to give the church a try. They were previously members at St. Andrew by the Bay but had not been attending there regularly and wanted to establish themselves and their daughter to a stronger connection with God. They feel like COA is the perfect fit for them!



## Behind The Scenes

# Pat Latham Serves COA in Many Ways

**I**t takes a motivated and organized army to keep our church running and functioning smoothly. In this Anchor Line and every Anchor Line in the future, we

banners including a 3-D ship, which took a year to make, as well as many others representing stories in the Bible. These include two of the stewardship banners and the Lenten symbols banner. Pat's next act of volunteerism was providing the floral arrangements in the sanctuary each Sunday. Pat has continued bringing the beautiful arrangements each Sunday for 25 years.



will be highlighting a different "willing worker" who gives time and talent so that Christ Our Anchor can continue to share God's love to all who enter. Today we celebrate Pat Latham, a woman of varied talents who volunteers most of them to COA.

Pat has been a member of COA since 1984. One of her first introductions to COA was in 1983. COA was a newly forming church, and Pat was asked by Rob McClure, the founding pastor, to substitute as the Pianist. At the time she was an active member and Elder of Woods Presbyterian Church. Just one year later Pat felt called to join COA, to help and support the new church and congregation.

One of the first tasks Pat took on was creating the paraments and banners for the church. This was a job that she knew nothing about, but as time went by, she learned. Since then she has created many

Anyone who feels called to contribute to the flower arrangements and hanging of the paraments would be welcome, and Pat is willing to provide guidance and training to any willing volunteers. Some other opportunities to support Pat's efforts include helping to prepare the communion table and washing and ironing tablecloths.

Pat's true passions are being a Lay Reader and sharing music by singing or playing the piano. Pat also substitutes occasionally for Adult Sunday School, and participates in the bell choir. Over the years she has also volunteered to be a Session member, has been the chair of the worship committee, and has served as Clerk of Session. Currently Pat serves on the worship committee team.



Many thanks to Pat for the silent gifts she offers us. We might all consider how we could contribute to the light and life of Christ Our Anchor and to our community.



# COA Service Honors Veterans, First Responders

By: *Maureen Thomas, Capital Gazette*

Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church in Cape St. Claire plans to commemorate Veterans Day with special services on Sunday.

One of the church members, Deacon for Life Walter Kolsch, “works tirelessly to seek donations of refreshments from local grocery stores and also personally invites all the local firehouses and such,” according to Pastor Jessie Lowry.

Kolsch and a group of parishioners began the service, which includes the veterans and active military, police, first responders, and local Scouts, in 2002, in response to the friends and relatives lost as a result of Sept. 11, 2001.

Kolsch, a native of Long Island, and his late wife Dorothy, who was also a Deacon in the Church, moved to Arnold in 2001. After attending several area churches, they chose Christ Our Anchor because “the people were so friendly and service-oriented.”

The church community supported Dorothy when Walter battled cancer in the early 2000s. When she was stricken with the same disease and passed away in 2009, after a four-year battle, according to Walter, “they helped me so much. I owe the Church.” Today a bench dedicated to Dorothy sits under a tree in front of the building.

*Photo by Capital Gazette*

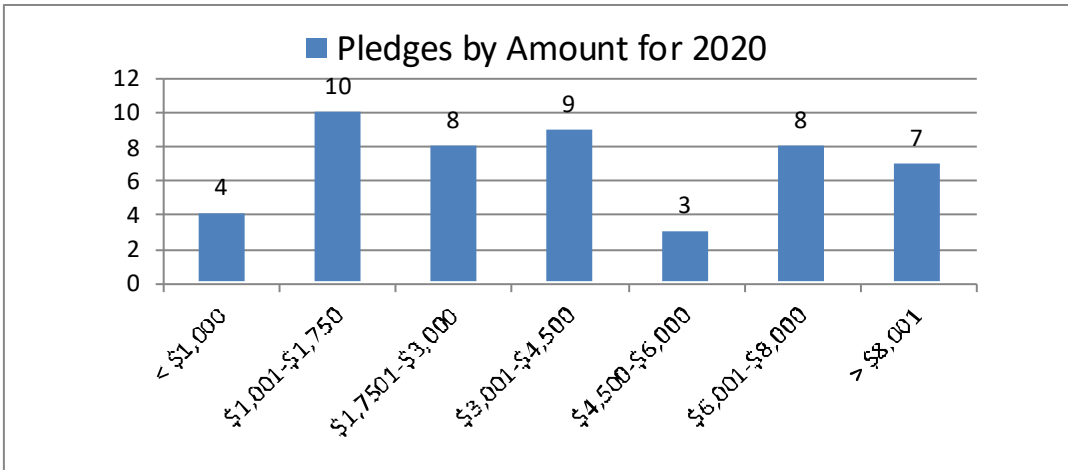
Kolsch helps with many activities, but he makes an extra effort for the Veterans Day services. This year he has obtained donations from Safeway, Giant, and Green Valley in order to buy refreshments for the reception. While there are two services, a 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., the earlier service is the larger one, he said.

“The service starts at 9:30; around 10:10, weather permitting, we come outside. The uniformed Scouts, who are also the greeters and ushers, lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Jessie leads a brief prayer service in memoriam on the property’s Veteran’s Memorial Garden, kept up by the volunteer group called God’s Gardeners,” Kolsch said. “Then, everyone sings ‘God Bless America.’ We have firefighters, uniformed military service people, and police officers. Last year, Cape St. Claire Volunteer Fire Company even brought the fire truck. It looks great with all the uniforms.”



# Have You Made Your Pledge Yet?

**P**ledging enables us to grow in faith and generosity in every phase of our lives. It is a response to God's call and the last year's total! We're also pleased to announce that we have 7 new pledges and 22 members increased their pledges. If you have not yet submitted your pledge for 2020, please do so. Our goal is to exceed last year's pledge amount by 5%!



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Pledge cards are available in the narthex or you can email your pledge to the church office.

abundance in our own lives. At this time of year, it is a statement of Thanksgiving. Giving is joyful. In II

Corinthians 9: 7, Paul writes, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Experience the joy of seeing your pledge combine with

the pledges of others to truly have an impact on the dreams and visions of Christ Our Anchor.

The Generosity Team is happy to share that as of November 10, 2019, 49 members have pledged \$233,915 for 2020 which is 90.8% of

Whatever amount pledged is very important

	2019	2020			
<b>Total #</b>	59	49			
<b>Average</b>	\$4,365	\$4,774			
<b>Median</b>	\$3,000	\$3,600			
<b>Total</b>	\$257,512	\$233,915	90.8%		
			<b>New</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>-</b>
			7		NC
			<b># Increased</b>	22	
			<b># Decreased</b>		4
			<b>No Change</b>		16

to us, as Session uses that to realistically set a budget. Any pledge is not a contract. It is just an idea of what one might plan to give to COA. If circumstances or desires change, pledges can be changed or dropped (or added) at any time.



# COA's Adult Mission Team Makes A Seventh Trip to New Jersey

Six mission team members made the rainy drive to Wall Township, NJ on Sunday, October 20 where we were housed at Camp Evans, a former Army facility dating back to



the early 1900s.

Three more team members joined us on Wednesday to end the week nine strong. We worked with a group called SBP,

which comes from their origins in Saint Bernard Parish, Louisiana. They employ AmeriCorps members who have been trained in construction methods to be the onsite leaders to show us what needs to be done and provide necessary tools and instruction as needed.

On this trip we worked at three homes damaged during Super Storm Sandy: One in Long Branch, one in Union Beach and one in Keansburg. The home in Union Beach got the most attention with almost 200 of the 300 total man-hours our team put in during the week. Putting up

sheetrock and mudding took up the majority of the time along with clean up and painting. Mike Elliott from Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church joined our team this trip and his mastery of mudding the sheetrock proved invaluable.

Three of us worked at a refurbished home in Long Branch for the first three days doing punch list items such as painting, caulking, cleaning and in the process got two upstairs bedrooms ready for final inspection. Four of us spent Thursday working outside at a home that needed mold remediation before interior work could begin. We put massive amounts of construction debris and yard waste into a dumpster, raked, and mowed leaving the property looking good.

**See "Mission," p 10**



## Mission, from p 9

In addition to Mike Elliott, we had Steve and Dotty Sellers and Skip Smith join us from Harrisburg and COA members Bob and Paula Kilgore, Linda Link and Mike and Joan Henderson participate. We got to meet and talk to two of the homeowners and all were very appreciative of our efforts to help them get back in their homes. Many thanks to the Mission Committee for the financial and spiritual support they provide. Watch for details of our next mission trip in the weeks to come.



**B**eginning last September 1 through the end of August, we earned \$795.01 during our first year in the Graul's Receipt program! Please continue to have your receipts stamped at the Express or first regular cashier station and put your receipts in the envelope on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We turn in each month's receipts around the 15th of the next month and cannot turn in receipts that are dated more than a few days before the first of that month we are submitting.

The Administrative and Generosity Committees are thankful to Graul's for their community outreach and to our congregation members for supporting this program.



Thanks to all who have been able to join us at Broadneck Grill for a night out and in support of Christ Our Anchor's mission and outreach programs. I am pleased to announce that we raised over \$600 since August 15. This money is designated to go to the "World Central Kitchen" to support their efforts of feeding the People in the Bahamas. Here is a little more information about them:

*"Just over five weeks after Category 5 Hurricane Dorian devastated the northern islands of The Bahamas, World Central Kitchen has served our 1 millionth meal.*

*With such extensive damage on multiple islands, we have extended our operations to deliver meals by whatever means necessary. In this case, that has included not only 30 vehicles, but also sending 5 helicopters, 2 seaplanes, a 220-foot ship, an amphibious vehicle, and 4 speedboats to more than 250 delivery locations."*

If you were not able to join us, I have great news! We will be continuing our "night out" program in 2020. We are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month:

**December 11, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**January 8, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**February 12, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Mark your calendars!** Whether you dine in or carry out, we hope to see you there!



# Numerous Tasks Both Inside and Out Completed During Fall Workday



We had sixteen people donate their Saturday morning to the church to take part in the Fall Workday on November 16. Some of the semi-annual tasks included

maintenance and cleaning jobs. We were able to complete all of the jobs planned for the day, including washing windows, cleaning the upholstery on the sanctuary chairs, cleaning out the kitchen cabinets, and maintaining the air filters on the classroom heaters.

Outdoor efforts included cleaning the roof drains and removing leaves, raking leaves around the property, improving the path to the Harbour School by leveling the pavers and adding gravel, painting the curb in front of

the church, cleaning out the storm drains on the parking lot, repairing the playground gate and modifying the storage carts for the folding chairs.

The spring and fall workdays are great fellowship opportunities that are essential for keeping up with maintaining our building and grounds. A big thank you from the Property Committee to everyone who was able to help out. Please consider joining us in the spring when we have our next workday.



## Women's Spring Retreat Scheduled for Next May



The COA Women's Spring Retreat is scheduled for next May 1 - 3. Please add these dates to your calendar so you can join us spending time in the presence of God at Shrine Mont Camp and Conference Center in Orkney Springs, VA. All meals are included at \$178 for double occupancy and \$236 for single occupancy. For more details on this exciting fellowship event please contact Anna Werntz at (443) 995-1580.

I will have a signup sheet in the Narthex starting in January. Payment will be due in March to hold your spot. Checks can be made out to Anna Werntz and placed in my mailbox at church.



# COA To Try Out “Fun Day” School at 9:30 Service

COA is working to offer the opportunity for young families to experience both of our worship services by providing FUN-day School for children ages 4 through 5th grade during the 9:30 traditional service. We want to try it starting once a month to gauge interest and participation. Dates will be the second Sunday of the month: January 12, February 9, March 8, May 10, and June 14 (none in April for Easter).



Please save these dates and plan for your child(ren) to come if this appeals to you. They would stay in service until the Children's Message and then depart for FUN-day school. For more information, please contact Debbie Barbour, COA's Christian Educator at the church office or at coapc.ced@gmail.com.

**COA YOUTH GROUP COVENANT**

**Cornerstones:**  
Respect  
Honesty  
Kindness

**I Agree....**

- NO drugs or alcohol
- No talking over adults (or anyone else)
- Wear appropriate clothing
- Respect others and their opinions and ideas
- Agree to disagree ---respect fully

**I Want....**

- To stay focused during youth group lessons
- A positive and fun environment
- To learn something new about my faith
- Snacks!!

**I am Aware....**


- If I touch my phone or remove it from the basket, I must sing a song in front of the youth group (chosen by the leader)
- The adults put time and energy into our meeting SO....
  - I will show up with a positive attitude ready to share
- If I make a mess, I clean up

**I Realize....**

- Everyone has their own issues---don't judge!
- Support + Encouragement = Awesome
- More people participating helps everyone learn more

**It Matters....**

- Use your own bathroom
- Come to Youth Group as much as possible
- TRY to attend worship
- Recycle
- Use inside voices
- Listen to one another
- Respect time and what's being said



## COA Youth Group Kicks Off New Year

Our youth group continues to grow, and we are blessed to get so many new faces among us. We took time at the beginning of this program year to write a special covenant about what we want to be, what values guide our group and what we want newer people to see in our identity. Our plan is to mount this covenant in a frame on the wall of our regular meeting room to always remind us of who we are.

Blessings,

*Pastor Jessie*

*Jen Unlock* (Christian Education Elder—Youth/Adults)

*Megan Ciccarone* (Youth Leader)

