

From the Pastor's Office

The Shutdown, Lent and a Book Study



Dear friends at Christ Our Anchor and community,

As I write this, we are experiencing

the cold and snow of another winter. Some of us (like me!) were lured into a false sense of an easy season because the weather has been so mild, but as is often the case here in our area, we remember that we must expect the unexpected! Good old Maryland! The other major thing that happened recently was more than 30 days of the government shutdown. In case any of you are unaware, our church has some funds to help families in need in our

community, and if any among us is having trouble getting by during such an uncertain time, we hope you will approach me for help—that's what the money is there for!

Also, very soon we will be entering another season of Lent! We will be continuing with the Narrative Lectionary that we have been using since the fall, which follows the Bible as one connected storyline. In Lent, we come to stories about Jesus, as well as some of the stories Jesus tells us about how to live our lives. These may be among the most familiar stories in the Bible, but it is always my goal and my prayer that we would see them with fresh eyes and new experiences to draw on.

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Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper

March 5

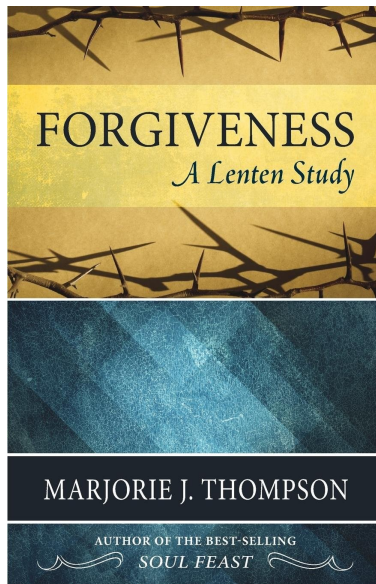
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

See details on p 2



Pastor Jessie, from p 1

In addition, **ALL ARE INVITED TO A LENTEN BOOK STUDY:** join me and other church/community members for an informal book study and discussion throughout the season of Lent based on the book *Forgiveness* by Marjorie J. Thompson. This is such an



important theme during this season, and we will think together about what forgiveness looks like in ourselves, our families, and in our divided world. We will be meeting early on Tuesday mornings (between March 12 and April 16 from 6:45 to 7:45 a.m.) in hopes that some of you can join us before work. If you cannot come every week, feel free to drop in when you can. Your perspective will enrich the rest of us, I am certain. *Please RSVP to me at pastorcoapc@gmail.com so I can order enough copies of the book.*

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jessie

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

COA's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 5 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. marks the beginning of the 40-day Lenten season the next day. All are invited to join us for our annual supper in the sanctuary.

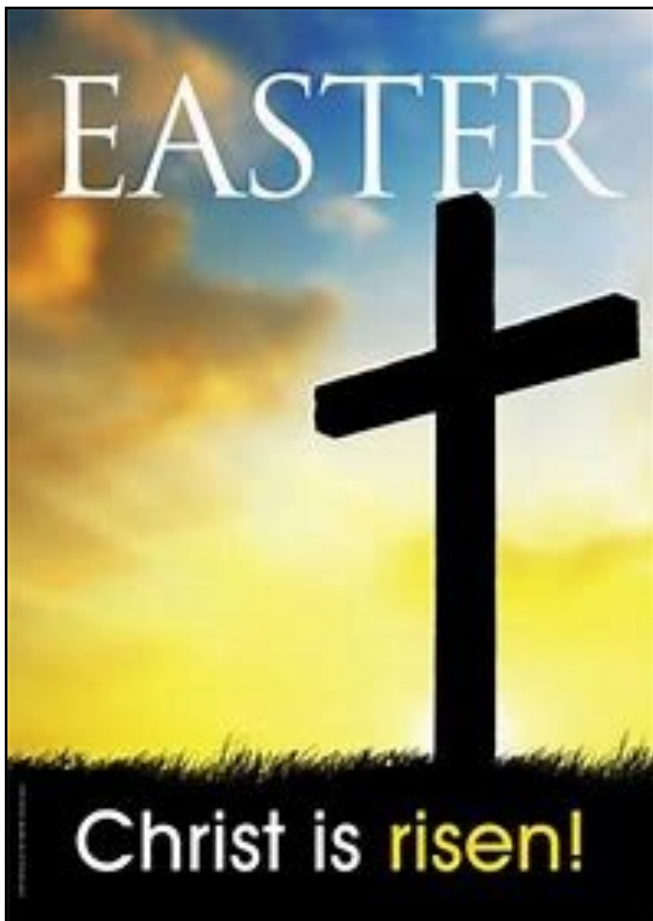
We will be serving pancakes with all the toppings, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee and traditional King Cake! The event provides food, fun, and fellowship for the whole family! Admission is free. Donations will be accepted.

The signup sheet for the pancake supper is located on the Deacons' bulletin board in the narthex. Please sign up and come out for a night of fun!

TEA AND THEOLOGY

T&T, an active small group of COA, meets every Tuesday (except during the summer) from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the church library. We discuss DVDs, books, Scripture and life. Over a cup of tea and a sweet we learn more about each other and our Godly relationships.

The group just finished "The Daniel Plan," the story of how Rick Warren and his church modified their lives based on faith, family, food, fitness and focus. It was a good way to start 2019. As we go forward to the Lenten season we will watch and discuss the video "The Story of Heaven" by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. This will help us see how the end is only the beginning. We encourage others to join us as we move forward in learning more about the hope and promise of heaven.



Celebrate the Season of Lent and Easter with Us!

- ✠ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper March 5, 5:30 p.m.
- ✠ Ash Wednesday March 6, 7:00 p.m. Service with Communion
- ✠ Every Sunday in Lent (March 10, March 17, March 24, March 31 and April 7), regular services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- ✠ Palm Sunday April 14, services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and EASTER EGG HUNT AT 10:30
- ✠ Maundy Thursday April 18, 7:00 p.m. Service with Communion
- ✠ Easter Sunday April 21, Sunrise Service at Cape St. Claire Beach
- ✠ Easter Services April 21, with Communion, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing, and we at COA will again be able to participate on Palm Sunday, April 14. In doing so, you will share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Your generous gifts to this special offering help provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping empower the poor and oppressed.

Please, look for the envelope in your bulletin on Palm Sunday. If you write a check, please note that it is for One Great Hour of Sharing. You also can contribute using on-line giving.

Thanks so much,
Paula Kilgore



Chocolate Easter Eggs Are Back!

Mike Henderson will be taking orders from February through April 7. You can order peanut butter eggs with white, milk or dark chocolate coating or coconut eggs with dark chocolate coating.

Eggs are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. You can pay when you order or when you pick them up. Proceeds will be used to cover adult mission trip expenses. Call Mike at 410-757-6525 for more information.

COA's "Old Rugged Cross" Resurrected

A couple of weeks ago the cross that stands between our church signs near Green Holly Drive blew down due to rot and insect damage. This cross and the signs were erected in May of 2005 under the leadership of Norm Hall. The cross did a lot to make our church look like a religious facility instead of a library. Those helping to put up the new cross were Norm Hall, John Thompson, Hal Boyd, Dave Williams and Mike Henderson.

To resurrect the fallen cross, Mike Henderson and Tom Rorick built a prosthetic leg out of galvanized angle iron to replace the rotted portion. A team of many helped to stand the cross up again on February 6 including Norm Hall, Mike and Joan Henderson, Rick and Linda



Link, Bob and Alice Robeson, Bob and Paula Kilgore and Walter Kolsch. Now you know the history of the Old Rugged Cross at COA.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES—all 6th - 12th graders are always welcome!

MARCH 2019

Sunday 3 Meeting @Church 6 to 8 p.m.
 Sunday 10 Meeting @Church 6 to 8 p.m.
 Sunday 17 **NO YOUTH GROUP**
 Sunday 24 Meeting @Church 6 to 8 p.m.
 Sunday 31 Meeting @Church 6 to 8 p.m.

APRIL 2019

Sunday 7 Meeting @Church 6 to 8 p.m.
 Saturday 14 Meeting @Church 6 to 8 p.m.
 Sunday 21 **NO YOUTH GROUP—EASTER**
 Sunday 28 Meeting @Church 6 to 8 p.m.

MAY 2019

Sunday 5 Meeting @Church 6 to 8 p.m.
 (Pastor Jessie on Women's Retreat / Other leaders lead)
 Friday 10 Saturday 11— **LOCK-IN**
 Sunday 12 **NO YOUTH GROUP—MOTHER'S DAY**
 Sunday 19 Meeting @Church 6 to 8 p.m.
 Sunday 26 **NO YOUTH GROUP—HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

JUNE 2019

Sunday 2 Meeting @Church 6 to 8 p.m.
 Sunday 9 **CONFIRMATION AT BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES**
 Sunday 9 Last Youth Group—Pool Party?
 TBD

COA's Adult Mission Team—A Brief History

by Mike Henderson

I'm sure most of you remember Hurricane Katrina's striking Louisiana and Mississippi in August 2005. That disaster was the moving force behind the formation of COA's Adult Mission Team. Joan and I had Air Force friends living in the path of Katrina and after watching the pathetic government response to the disaster, we were ready to load up the truck and head down to assist our

where our friends had served. We stayed at a camp made up of corrugated plastic two-person tents, shower tents, porta-potties and a food tent. Many of the volunteer groups did the difficult job of mucking out flood-damaged houses and mold remediation, but since Tom had construction experience, our team did interior finish work at a house that was much further along in its restoration.



Over the years since this trip, COA Mission Teams have made 12 more trips to Mississippi and Louisiana and 6 trips to New Jersey where Super Storm Sandy struck in 2013. We help people whose insurance didn't fully cover their repairs or who had been ripped off by shady contractors. Many homes in flood areas had to be raised 10 feet or more, which is very expensive. This is required in order to get homeowner's insurance. On many trips we are able to meet the owners of the houses we were working on and could hear firsthand the details of the storms and their struggles to get back into their homes.

friends. Since their damages were not that severe and they had family coming to help, we delayed our trip and started looking for ways to provide assistance. COA Pastor Steve Tisinger put us in contact with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), who gave us several options where we could serve and help those affected by the storm.

On others the owners may have been living or working away from the house location, but we were still told about

In February 2006, six months after Katrina struck, Joan and I along with Tom McNeal and former member Jim Hall headed to Di'lberville, MS to help rebuild damaged homes. This site was chosen due to its proximity to Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS



See "Mission," p 6

Mission, from p 5

their circumstances. We always feel good when we leave knowing we have helped people overcome a tragic event.

Our groups have numbered from 4 to 12 on the various trips and 22 different people have participated over the years. On the first trip I made to New Jersey, I met Bill Toner who is a member of the Paxton United Methodist Church in Harrisburg, PA. He goes on 8 to 10 mission trips a year with various mission teams and he expressed an interest in joining the COA team for a future trip to New Orleans. He and several other members from his church have become regular members of our team. Bill is a retired contractor and we have learned much from him over the years. He also manages the group at his church that makes those delicious Easter eggs that I've been selling at COA to raise money for mission trips.



Besides preparing most of our meals during the week and keeping our lodging facilities cleaned up, we do all kinds of interesting work at the job sites. We have hung doors, installed siding, laid various kinds of flooring, hung drywall, tiled bathrooms, installed cabinets, trimmed around doors and windows, caulked and painted. There are job supervisors wherever we work that can show us how to do jobs we are not familiar with and there are always jobs for all skill levels.



Our next trip is planned for the week of March 17 – 22 to Kinston, NC, where we will be rebuilding houses damaged by Hurricane Matthew and ensuing floods in 2016. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions about our mission trips, please call us at 410-757-6525 or e-mail us at hjoanandmike@aol.com. Thank you for your continued support.

WE DID IT!

The happiest people on earth are the people who have discovered the joy of giving.

The Generosity Team is happy to share the news that our final pledged amount for 2019 is \$255,012.00. At the annual COA congregational meeting we told you that we did not even match what we had for 2018; we were about \$2,000 short. However, some additional pledging after that meeting gave us our needed boost.

It is also with joy that we tell you that 22 pledgers increased their 2018 pledges while only 6 lowered theirs. We also have 8 new pledges this year. We did have 9 that dropped off from 2018 for a variety of reasons. Altogether we have 58 pledges (2018 was 59) with a median pledge of \$2,400. Our average pledge after the 5 highest and 5 lowest are removed is \$3,684. Whatever amount pledged is very important to us, as Session uses that to realistically set a budget. They do factor in unpledged offering, but it is a more secure feeling when Elders know what people might plan to give. 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.

We also want to emphasize that we truly appreciate those who choose not to pledge but still give regularly. This is an important aspect of our income. We have a line for non-pledged offering in our budget. We try to set up a realistic but conservative amount there as we are not as sure of this income coming in as the pledged amounts. However, recently this portion of our giving has been generous and steady so that in the last few years we have listed this as a higher amount than in the past and are comfortable with doing so.

So, thank you to those who pledged and to everyone who is planning to make 2019 financially a good year for COA. Because, with that, we can joyfully go forward with God's work.

Your stewardship has the potential to influence lives, provide hope to others, and make an eternal difference.

DID YOU KNOW? Our Youth Group collected an entire housewarming kit for Lighthouse Shelter!

This fall our youth and their families worked together to collect more than fifty items worth hundreds of dollars needed for a housewarming kit for a family served by Lighthouse Shelter. This family is transitioning from homelessness to their own apartment, and these items will help them to get started. Lighthouse staff and this family was very grateful for their generosity!

- If you would like to contribute to Lighthouse and their mission to help our area's homeless, check out their current needs [at this link](#).
- Also if you're looking for a great place for a date, try the [Lighthouse Bistro](#), a restaurant where all the staff are former Lighthouse clients.



FRIDAY PiTsSTOP

CONCERT A BIG HIT

This year's 2019 PiTsStop was different than previous concerts. We moved from a mid-week



concert to a Friday night event and merged two outstanding groups into one show. The concert began by giving the opportunity for Christ Our Anchor's Worship Team to share their ministry. They opened the PiTsStop concert with three selections from their favorites.



Next in the lineup was Reverend Juanita Williams sharing her ministry with us and joining her on stage was her family. Last, was a local favorite, Remnant. For the sixth year in a row, they shared their ministry, music, message about being a follower of Christ and did so joyously. They also



COA'S FUNDRAISER WITH THE BROADNECK GRILL

Thanks to all who have been able to join us at Broadneck Grill for a night out from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in support of Christ Our Anchor's mission and outreach programs. The dates for the next few months are:

March 13

April 10

May 8



provided opportunity for audience members to jump in and sing with them. Stay tuned for another PiTsStop event!

COA Women's Retreat May 3 – 5

Save the date for the COA Women's Retreat, May 3 through 5. Please add this important date to your calendar so that

you can join us at Shrine Mont Camp and Conference Center in Orkney Springs, VA, spending time in the presence of God. Boarding and all meals are included in the cost, which will be \$178 for double occupancy and \$236 for single occupancy.

Please consider this weekend—you have earned it. For more details on this exciting fellowship event please contact Anna Werntz at (443)995-1580. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex starting late March. Please make checks out to Anna Werntz to hold your spot and place them in my mail box at Church.



ACT Door-Knocking Campaign For Safe and Affordable Housing by Darrell Nash

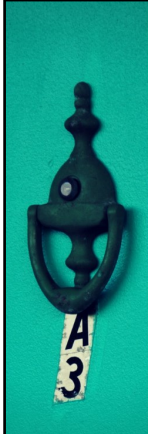
How can we move our world to a better place? There are many possibilities we may wish existed. One of these is by supporting a strong organization—Anne Arundel Connecting Together, known as ACT.

ACT is a county-wide organization whose members include more than 20 houses of worship and community groups. A primary basis of ACT is to find out from people who are affected by discrimination and lack of power, what their lives are like now and to build collective power around the solutions that will create change.

On March 30, we will be training for and conducting a Door-Knocking Campaign. This campaign that will be done in Annapolis and County communities that lack safe and affordable housing. We will learn how to hear the issues of concern directly from people rather than assuming we know what they are. I attended the first door-knocking training on January 12, and it was a real eye-opener for me to listen to persons living in such communities and learn how to

approach residents and what to say and not say.

Please join us for this training and the actual door-knocking. It will be March 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Choose either location at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, [730 Bestgate Rd., Annapolis](#) or Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church, [8424 Piney Orchard Pkwy, Odenton](#). Training, breakfast, lunch and childcare will be provided, but an RSVP is required at ltmundy@yahoo.com for childcare.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Join the ACT Affordable Housing RAT in a Door-Knocking Action |
| | Saturday, March 30 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. |
| Two locations: Annapolis: St. Philip's Episcopal Church County: Ark & Dove, Odenton | |
| Childcare available. RSVP Required. | |



Christmas Pageant Memories



CALLING ALL YOUTH (and potential adult chaperones!)

JOIN US ON OUR SUMMER MISSION TRIP

This summer, we will be travelling to Harrisburg, PA to do service work with [Youth Works](#). Any youth entering grade 7 or above this Fall are welcome to join us, and any adult in the church older than 25 is welcome to be a chaperone—you do NOT have to be a parent to participate.

This is a week that truly will transform your faith and how you see the world.

When: Sunday July 28 – Friday, August 2



Where: Harrisburg, PA

Why: It will bond you to others in the church who are on the same journey of following Jesus and learning to be His hands and feet.

Who: We hope you! (Pray about it and please respond to Pastor Jessie if you are interested no later than 3/1/2018 at pastorcoapc@gmail.com)

Join the COA Team

For the NAMI Walk on June 1!

Are you excited and inspired by COA's mission focus on mental health? Come and be a part of it and "walk the talk"! On the morning of Saturday June 1, COA is planning to have a team that will participate in the annual NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) walk at the Baltimore Inner Harbor.

This is an important witness—showing the world that faith communities do not buy

into the stigma of mental illness and believe those with mental illness and their loved ones deserve care and advocacy.

We need to gauge interest in this for planning purposes so if you would like to be a part of this team, please contact Mission Elder Judy Clark at omi_3@verizon.net as soon as possible.