

From the Pastor's Office

**Deepen Your Walk With God**



To my wonderful COA family and community,

At the end of February, we are coming soon to another season of Lent! This always coincides with the coming of Spring, and that is no accident. New life is on the way, but just as with the season of Winter, sometimes we have to go through a time that seems colder, darker and even lonelier to get there. In this holy season, there are any number of ways that you can deepen your walk with God.

- Join in church on Sunday. During Lent, I will be preaching a **sermon series called THINGS JESUS WAS NOT**. This series will continue on in the gospel of Mark and help us to examine our expectations of what our savior should

look like as compared with what Jesus actually came to do and to be for us. Many of our concepts of these things in the series are based on values of our world and culture and not on Jesus values. The series will follow this timeline:

- \* March 1: Jesus was NOT...our golden ticket
  - \* March 8: Jesus was NOT...the "greatest"
  - \* March 15: Jesus was NOT...powerful
  - \* March 22: Jesus was NOT...complicated
  - \* March 29: Jesus was NOT...safe
  - \* April 5: Jesus was NOT...who He seems
  - \* April 12: Jesus was NOT...dead!
- Join a small group in the church for an **early**
- See "Pastor Jessie," p 2

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## Pastor Jessie, from p 1

morning study called [Reclaiming Jesus](#). Key principles of this study are civil discourse balanced alongside truth-telling in our increasingly divided world. In times such as these, what do we really believe about Jesus? We will be thinking about this question in worship with the Lenten sermon series, and with this tool, you are invited to go deeper with fellow believers seeking to learn and grow together. We do not have to agree, but we must engage the world as Jesus did.

- \* You are invited to all sessions, but please come as you are able. No book purchase is required, and all are welcome at any or all of the sessions.

- \* Tuesday mornings 6:45–7:45 a.m. from March 3 through April 7 at COA

- Decide to give something up that means something to you (alcohol, screen time, music in the car, etc.) and/or ADD in a practice that could center your day-to-day-life (e.g., meditation, quiet walk, fasting over lunch).

No matter what you do, know that God walks with you! God is one of us — maybe not the way we expect, but in just the way our world needs!

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Jessie*



## **Celebrate the Season of Lent And Easter with Us!**

**Every Sunday** in Lent Regular Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
(March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29)

**Palm Sunday**, April 5, Two Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**Easter Egg Hunt**, April 5, at 10:30 a.m. (between Services)

**Maundy Thursday**, April 9, 7:00 pm Service with Communion

**Easter Sunrise Service**, April 12, 6:30 a.m., at Cape St. Claire Beach

**Easter Services**, April 12, at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.,

*With Communion at 11:00 a.m. Service ONLY*

# Collection Underway for Hope for All

One of the missions Christ Our Anchor supports is **HOPE for All**, a Christian ministry whose mission is to provide basic necessities to families and individuals without sufficient economic resources. In 2019 HOPE for All helped 324 families turn houses into homes, delivered 466 donated beds and provided emergency clothing to 329 people in crisis.

COA is sponsoring a “shower” to assist HOPE for All and will be collecting household items February 16 through March 1. Please see the list posted in the Narthex for items you may donate. Laundry baskets will be available in the Narthex for your donations. In addition to the listed items, HOPE for All is glad to accept new or gently used (and clean) furniture and bed linens. Please contact Judy Clark, [omi\\_3@verizon.net](mailto:omi_3@verizon.net), 410-897-0148, if you wish to donate items of furniture.



## ***Reflecting on Your Star Word***

**M**ost of you took part in our observance of Epiphany Sunday on January 5, where the congregation received “Star Words.” We all drew paper stars from a basket that I prayed over. There were more than 30 words in the pile with four duplicates of each word. The prayer was

that we each would receive the word we were supposed to receive; that God would guide us toward a word, concept or idea that could shape our understanding of the year as it unfolded.

I received the word “wisdom.” I take my word seriously and in the coming year, I will read books and articles, listen to podcasts and have conversations about what wisdom means to different people. I want to internalize this word in my life.

What is your word? 2020 has only just begun. Consider how your word may be taking shape in your life:

Where do you need more of this word in your life?

Where could you offer more of this word to others?

How is God trying to open you up to more of this word in your Spirit?

Praying for you all as you use this small, simple tool to discern.

— Pastor Jessie



# One Great Hour of Sharing

A special collection for One Great Hour of Sharing will be taken on Palm Sunday, April 5. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.



The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial

disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety,



## COA is Hiring: A Part-Time Youth Director

Our church is blessed to continue to have a growing youth group serving grades 6–12, with many kids who do not even attend our church. We are so grateful they can find community here, and we want that to continue to thrive. Therefore, in February we are starting a search for a part-time Youth Director to focus entirely on them. A more thorough job description will be available soon. *If interested (you or anyone you know), please email [pastorcoapc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcoapc@gmail.com)*



## SPRING WORKDAY Saturday March 28

**8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Please mark your calendar to join us as we get the property ready for Easter and spring. We will have indoor and outdoor tasks, rain or shine. There are leaves to rake, mulch to spread, trees to trim and general cleanup and maintenance tasks to keep all hands busy. Bring your garden tools, gloves and a cheerful spirit and we promise a great time of fellowship. Lunch will be provided.



## STAINING PARTY Saturday May 2 and May 9 8:30 a.m.

It's so much fun we're planning two of them! We plan to stain the siding outside on the first two Saturdays in May, starting at 8:30. Please mark your calendar to join us for one or both days. With full participation, we might knock it out in one day. This job can use many hands. The results will be spectacular. More details will be provided as we get closer.



# ACT Drawing People Together



In times of hyper-partisan division like these, we need people who work toward unity. People who reach out and cross barriers. People fighting for what is right and fair. People like those in Anne Arundel Connecting Together — ACT. COA is a member of this new and innovative group making change in our county.

ACT was named the “2019 Non-Profit Partner of the Year” by the Anne Arundel County Affordable Housing Coalition. This recognition was because of our huge win of getting a Fair Housing Law passed in this county after listening to thousands of people when we went knocking on doors.



In 2019, ACT continued the good work of uniting people:

- ◆ Took on Gun Violence using the market-based Do Not Stand Idly By national program
- ◆ Got commitments from County Executive Stuart Pittman and Mayor Gavin Buckley to help lead a new national Gun Safety Consortium for gun safety technology to address issues of illegal guns, gun violence and suicides
- ◆ Stood witness against hate when our sisters and brothers were attacked because of their race or religion
- ◆ Trained more than 200 leaders across the county to lead change

- ◆ Won a Fair Housing Law in Anne Arundel County
- ◆ Organized residents in Woodside Gardens to get safe, clean, and healthy homes
- ◆ After winning a faster timeline for lead testing in Anne Arundel County schools in 2018, kept tabs on safe implementation

ACT won't slow down in 2020. The unity we have been building — one relationship at a time — is driven by



real needs. We will address systemic issues in housing, education, mental health, jobs, criminal justice, and transportation. Will you commit to working on one of these issues this year?

John F Kennedy said that “leadership and learning are indispensable to one another.” For us to keep training leaders, we’ve got to keep learning.”

## Behind the Scenes

# What Does Walter Not Do?

*It takes a motivated and organized army to keep our church functioning smoothly. In this Anchor Line and in future issues, we will be highlighting a "Willing Worker" who gives their time and talent, as well as financially, so that Christ Our Anchor can continue to share God's love to all who enter. Over time, we will highlight all the different ways to participate. This issue's "Willing Worker" that we will highlight is Walter Kolsch.*

Walter Kolsch arrived at COA in 2002 with his beautiful wife Dotty, who sadly passed away 11 years ago. Before they came to us Walter and Dotty visited Broadneck Evangelical Presbyterian Church and

then Woods Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, but both churches seemed too big for them. Someone told them about Christ Our Anchor, and they decided to visit. They came and they were met at the door by Hal and Mary Jane Boyd with smiles and warm welcome. They next were invited to an Eight is Enough dinner by Joan and Mike Henderson, and friendships began to grow. Dotty loved this and after that called us her church.

Walter started doing volunteering when he joined the Deacons in 2010. This helped him continue to move forward after Dotty passed, and really has never stopped. He sees his work in the church as a blessing but mostly as a calling. The church was right by his side when Dotty passed away, and later when he was diagnosed with cancer, so it's his way of paying it forward. It is who Walter is.

As Walter says, "The coffee hour helps me feel like I am serving the people and God wants me to do that. Working with Gods Gardner's I feel

like I am helping to keep the garden beautiful for God. I feel like it is an honor to serve communion, I take communion at first service for me, and the second service is for Dotty. Volunteering keeps me moving and I feel closer to God."

Some other things that Walter volunteers for are:

- Prayer Group.
- Offering usher.
- Greeter.
- Coffee Hour setup and cleanup (he has cleanup helpers — Piper and Isla — he calls Molly Maids).
- Organizing Veterans Day along with Joan Henderson.
- Most cleanup days for the church.
- Congregational Care (for families in need), including:
  - \* Organizing food delivery for the sick.
  - \* Driving folks to doctors.
  - \* Organizing a list for pickup and drop off of Roy Fields and anyone else in need.



Many thanks to Walter for all the work he does at our church and the many gifts he offers us. May we all consider how we also might contribute to the light and life of Christ our Anchor, and our community. Anyone who feels called to contribute their time and talents, particularly to help Walter at any of the services, activities, or with the congregation, will always be more than welcome.

# GET MORE INVOLVED: JOIN A COA COMMITTEE / MINISTRY

Over and over again, members have remarked that the best way to get more connected and to make friends within our church community is to take on a service or leadership role. You can do that by praying about joining one of our Committees. They all are ministries, and we need YOU for them to be complete and to represent the fullness of our faith family. Here are some of the ministries that would particularly welcome your ideas and participation. *Please note that this is not an all-inclusive list:*

## **Mission Committee:**

Committee members to help consider the best use of COA charitable gifts and time with hands-on service projects  
Meetings approx. once/month.  
Contact: Judy Clark  
([omi\\_3@verizon.net](mailto:omi_3@verizon.net))  
Jennifer Wilhelm  
([wilhelm1981@yahoo.com](mailto:wilhelm1981@yahoo.com))

## **Congregational Connections Committee**

Committee members to help with promotion of the church in the community through our website, social media, and connections to our neighborhood  
Meetings approx. once/month.  
Contact: Anna Werntz  
([werntzedu@comcast.net](mailto:werntzedu@comcast.net))  
Debbie Sweigart  
([dgdsweigart@gmail.com](mailto:dgdsweigart@gmail.com))

## **Christian Education Committee**

Committee members with ideas that could enhance our outreach to the Anchors-A-Wee preschool, families in our community, children's programming, youth group and adult educational offerings. *We also need volunteers for specific individual dates to volunteer at our nursery*

*in both services with our little ones under age 4 and with our FUN-day school at the 11:00 service each week and once a month at the 9:30 service.*

Meetings approx. once/month  
Contact: Jen Urlock  
([jenurlock@yahoo.com](mailto:jenurlock@yahoo.com))  
Julie Bieber  
([julie.bicker@yahoo.com](mailto:julie.bicker@yahoo.com))  
Debbie Barbour  
([coapc.ced@gmail.com](mailto:coapc.ced@gmail.com))

## **Worship Committee**

People willing to help on individual planned dates as one or more of the following: Lay Readers, Ushers, preparing of communion, and setting up of church banners.  
Meetings as needed  
Contact: Anne Hatcher:  
([annemhatcher@yahoo.com](mailto:annemhatcher@yahoo.com))  
Rob Werntz ([rwerntz@aacpc.org](mailto:rwerntz@aacpc.org))  
Pat Latham ([patlatham46@gmail.com](mailto:patlatham46@gmail.com))

## **Property Committee**

Committee members to attend to maintenance issues within our church building as well as care for our grounds in conjunction with God's Gardeners.  
Meetings approx. once every 6 – 8 weeks  
Contact: Rick Link  
([rlink196@gmail.com](mailto:rlink196@gmail.com))  
Tom Rorick ([tomrorick@aol.com](mailto:tomrorick@aol.com))

## **Administration Committee**

Committee members to assist with many of the larger scale decisions that help our church run as an honest, professional organization (e.g., policies; hiring and evaluation; financial considerations)  
Meetings approx. once/month  
Contact: Jane Bartlett  
([janegbartlett@gmail.com](mailto:janegbartlett@gmail.com))  
Karen Hoover ([hafa44@yahoo.com](mailto:hafa44@yahoo.com))

See "Committees," p 8

## “Committees,” from p 7

### Generosity Team

Committee members who are passionate about our church's future and its stability. COA is able to give back generously to its members and to the community when the church is able to meet (and even exceed) our budget! COA has so many dreams but relies completely on the giving of the church to get there—fresh ideas on how to inspire that giving are needed on this team! Meetings approx. once every 6–8 weeks

Contact: Bob Kilgore  
(rjkilgore@outlook.com)  
Pastor Jessie  
(pastorcoapc@gmail.com)

### ACT (Anne Arundel Connecting Together) Core Team

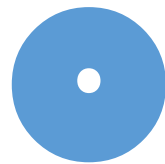
Committee members to join Pastor Jessie and diverse groups from other county congregations in community organizing for social justice in the areas of mental health, gun violence, affordable housing, transportation and education. Each of these areas has a separate action team that meets. GREAT way to connect to the larger community, especially during this divisive election year. Meetings approx. once every 8 weeks

Contact: Pastor Jessie  
(pastorcoapc@gmail.com)

# PITSTOP CONCERT A BIG HIT



Deaconess Juanita Williams joined us with her children. They help you feel the connection with God as they praise Him with their voices.



In January 31, COA continued our tradition of having a concert in January. An audience of 75 heard two gospel groups, that are AMAZING!

Reign, who used to be called “Remnants” have always brought a special love for God with them. As they share their beautiful songs and music with us, you can feel the Lord's presence. Then



This year our very own Contemporary Worship Team opened the night with three songs, Jena Me, Look Up Child by Lauren Daigle, and Reason by Unspoken. If you did not have the opportunity to join us, I hope that next year your schedule will allow it --you will not leave with an empty heart. Thank you from the Women's Group to all who donated food; we raised \$212 towards the women's retreat scholarship fund.

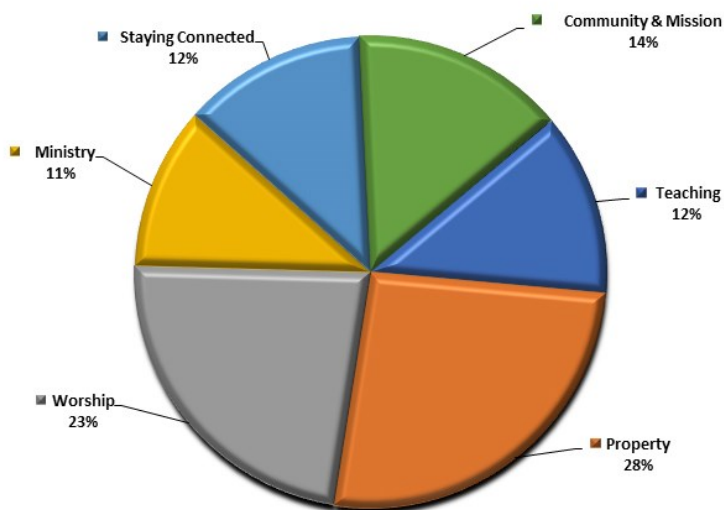




# Stewardship Update

Here's the report on our 2020 Stewardship Campaign.

Total pledge amount = \$269,255  
 Increase from last year +4.6%  
 New pledges = 9  
 # of increased pledges = 26



And, here's where our money goes...



## IF YOU EVER THOUGHT ONE LITTLE ACT DOESN'T MATTER

There is a jar on the credenza in the office hallway. Some of you have put pull tabs in it. These tabs go to Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore where they sell them. This money is used to help fund the shuttle bus used at the house, which transports patients and their families to and from appointments, hospitals and the airport. It saves taxi and parking fees as well as alleviates some driving while distracted situations.

This is a huge blessing for these often stressed, financially strapped and unfamiliar with the area families. If our tabs are able to pay for even one tank of gas, we have made a contribution to a very worthwhile cause and all it took was for you to do that one little act: pull off that tab. Please take the few extra minutes to pull off those tabs, save some up and drop them by COA. RMH is always so thankful when we drop tabs off to them.



## Sign Up Now for Women's Spring Retreat

It's time to sign up on the sheet in the narthex for the Spring Women's Retreat, May 1 - 3. Join us spending time in the presence of God at Shrine Mont Camp and Conference Center in Orkney Springs, VA. All meals are included, and the cost is \$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.

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.



## **Christian Education Corner**

# **COA's Christian Education Program Continues to Grow**

As the population of families with young children attending COA is increasing, I am excited to announce that COA is expanding the Children's Christian Education programming. In addition to our weekly 11:00 a.m. service **FUN-Day (Sunday) School** classes, we are currently piloting a once-a-month FUN-Day School class for children age 4 through 5th grade during the 9:30 a.m. traditional service. Children will stay in service until the Children's Message and then depart for FUN-day school (just like the 11:00 a.m. program). Mark your calendars on the second Sunday of the month for the 9:30 a.m. service FUN-Day school class: January 12 / February 9 / March 8 / May 10 / June 14 (none in April for Easter). Also, COA Nursery is now available for children (newborn to age 4) during both of our services (9:30 a.m. AND 11:00 a.m.).

The children of COA need YOU! Both the FUN-Day School and Nursery programs are cooperative-style programs and rely on adults to volunteer and share their time, talents, and love with the children in our congregation. For Nursery, adults just need to come and assist the COA Nursery Worker with the little ones. For FUN-Day School volunteers, curriculum, materials, and instruction guidance will be

provided by the COA Christian Education Team.

We continue to use the "Living The Word" Sunday School curriculum that follows Pastor Jessie's Narrative Lectionary sermon series. Each week there are a variety of activity choices for the teacher to select from to create a fun and meaningful lesson. If you want to take a peek at the curriculum, here is a link to the Web site: <https://spiritandtruthpublishing.com/products/narrative-lectionary-resources/>.

All volunteers need to complete Safe Sanctuaries training. Volunteer signups for these programs are located on the bulletin board in the COA Narthex. Please contact me if you would like additional information about how you can help with these important ministry programs for our children.

Thank you for your continued love and support. I welcome your ideas, creativity, energy, and feedback to perpetually enrich and improve COA's Christian Education programs.

Seek the joy.

*Debbie Barbour*

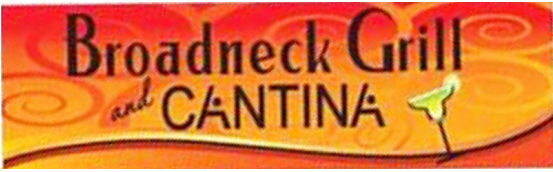
COA Christian Educator  
email: coapc.ced@gmail.com



## **Save The Dates: JUNE 22-26, 2020**

COA Vacation Bible School is coming! This summer we will be putting on the Armor of God and become the "Knights of the North Castle" during the week of June 22 – 26, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Our VBS is geared for children age 4 through rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

I am currently recruiting adult and youth volunteers for Station Leaders (Snack, Crafts, Story-time, Science, Games, and Nursery), Group Leaders, and Decoration Helpers. Let me know how you would like to help this year. Participant registration will begin once the VBS volunteer team is in place.



# FUN AND FELLOWSHIP AT BROADNECK GRILL

COA's Broadneck Grill fundraiser raised \$124 in February. Great job, everyone for continuing to support our benevolence fund. With our 2019 fundraiser totaling \$1,851.00, we were able to help five families with their BGE bill, rental assistance, food, and gas. We also sent a \$600 check to Bahamas relief through the World Central Kitchen. Not everyone needs the same support, but it is nice to finally have the means to help when folks come knocking at our door, or we hear on the news that a neighbor needs our help. The next fundraiser is March 11, and we have once again reserved the small room so that we can try and fill it. So please come and join us between 5 and 9 p.m. to meet new people or

get reacquainted with the those that you have not seen for a while. I will see you there.



## *Christmas Cantata Memories*



# 2019 Christmas Holiday Wrap-Up

The 2019 Advent Season was a festive and busy one for the children and youth of COA. The Youth Group hosted 45 children for their annual Advent Fair, a community outreach fundraiser for the Youth Group Mission projects including their mission trip to Vermont this summer. The morning was filled with music, crafts, games, and cookie decorating.



# ***ABCs of Christmas* Tells Christmas Story**

**O**n Christmas Eve, about forty children and youth participated in the “ABCs of Christmas” pageant. They joyfully retold the amazing story of Christ’s birth using both Christmas carols and the alphabet from A to Z.



## Youth Mission Trip 2020

# Join Us in Vermont This Summer!

This summer, we will be travelling all the way to Rutland, Vermont to do service work with Youth Works. Any youth entering grade 7 or above this fall are welcome to join us. This is a week that truly will transform your faith and how you see the world. It is also a great way to make friends in our church youth group.

When: early Sunday July 19 – late Friday July 24

Where: Rutland, VT

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 March 1 at [pastorcoapc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcoapc@gmail.com) or 973-722-3311.



## **COA's AED Could Save Lives**



Automated External Defibrillators (AED) can save lives during sudden cardiac arrest. COA has an AED for just such emergencies located outside the kitchen next to the men's bathroom. There is a sign in the narthex to help locate the device in the event of

an emergency. This AED is designed so that anyone can use it, even without training. Instructions on how to use the AED are located in the box so anyone can find and follow the directions.

We hope we will never need this lifesaving device, but it is available if needed before emergency personnel arrive. Remember, in the event of an emergency, always call or (if possible) have someone else call 911.