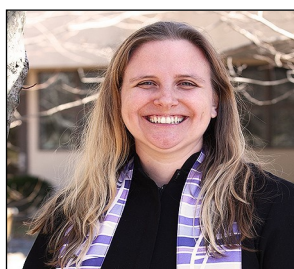


From the Pastor's Office

## A Year Passed — And a New Season Ahead



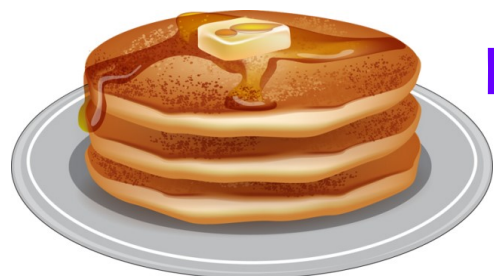
**D**ear friends at Christ Our Anchor and community,  
Today as I write this to you (February 8) I have now been working with you as Pastor for one year! It's official! Looks like we're very happy with each other and have a beautiful future ahead!

I know I was so proud this past Sunday to see more than 130 people come out to support our Youth Sunday. We all had a lot of fun cheering on the football (or "God's Team") theme. If you happened to miss the service, we have it on video and are discussing where and how to post it for public viewing. Ryan McNeal, one of our graduating seniors, did a stellar job of preparing a sermon (or "locker room pep talk") for all of us about unity. We truly are all on the same team as Christians!

We will be entering another exciting season before we know it! Lent kicks off with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 28 from 5:30–7:00 p.m. This was a really fun and social family event last year—feel free to bring friends or neighbors and come to enjoy a sweet short stack and some great company!

The following night, we officially begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. That service is quiet and meditative; reflecting on God's unchanging love in a world with so many unpredictable changes. God's

See "Lent," p.3



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 28  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

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# COA Pancake Supper February 28

Come out and attend **COA's pancake supper** on Tuesday, February 28 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- ❑ The menu includes **pancakes with all the toppings**, fruit, sausage, coffee, and juice.
- ❑ We will also be serving a **traditional king cake**.
- ❑ During the supper, Anna Werntz, from the congregation connection committee, will have a table in the narthex selling **COA polo shirts**. The cost is \$15.00 for adult size polo shirts, adult size

T-shirts for \$8.00, and children size T-shirts for \$6.00.

- ❑ Mike Henderson will also have a table in the narthex selling **peanut butter/milk chocolate and coconut/dark chocolate eggs** at the cost of \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.00. Proceeds will go towards the COA mission budget.

The signup sheet for the pancake supper is located on the Deacon bulletin board. Please come out for a night of fun and fellowship!

## *Lent and Easter*

ASH WEDNESDAY  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
MARCH 1  
7:00 P.M.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
and the Imposition of Ashes

## *Holy Week Services*

PALM SUNDAY  
APRIL 9  
9:30 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.  
Palms will be distributed and there will be a festive parade.

**There will be an Easter Egg Hunt between the two services.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY  
APRIL 13  
7:00 P.M.

A Tenebrae Service of Worship  
Reading of the Passion Narrative,  
the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper,  
and dimming of the lights.



GOOD FRIDAY  
APRIL 14

12:00 PM – 3:00 P.M.

The Sanctuary will be open  
for private, quiet meditation.  
Prayers and scripture readings  
will be available

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE  
APRIL 16  
6:30 A.M.

Cape St. Claire Main Beach  
223 River Bay Road, Cape St. Claire

EASTER SUNDAY  
APRIL 16  
9:30 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

## Lent, from p. 1

love is one that we can count on to ground us no matter what might be making us feel weak or afraid.

Also I want to tell you that **I will be beginning a new sermon series in Lent called [The Reformation for 2017!](#)** Did you know that 2017 marks 500 years since the beginning of the Protestant Reformation? Something that took place that long ago can so often end up seeming irrelevant to today's issues, but I intend to show us how some of the revolutionary ideas about faith and God and grace apply more to us today than ever!! Join us on Sundays from March 5 through April 16 for this series at both worship services.

And in the meantime, keep an eye out for signs of Spring.

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Jessie*

# VBS 2017

This year, Vacation Bible School will be held from June 26 to June 30, 9:30 a.m.

to noon each day. A Kickoff Rally will be held on Sunday, June 25.

Our theme is super heroes. As always,

plenty of volunteers will be needed, so stay tuned for more details!



## ***YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES***

### **MARCH**

**3 (Friday) - LOCK IN**  
7 p.m. – 7 a.m. Saturday  
Movies, games and  
more fun all night  
in the church!

### **5 NO YOUTH GROUP**

**12 Meeting @ Church**  
6-7:30 p.m.

**19 Meeting @ Church**  
6-7:30 p.m.

**26 Meeting @ Church**  
6-7:30 p.m. (**PARENT NIGHT**)

### **APRIL**

**2 Meeting @ Church**  
6-7:30 p.m. (Egg Hunt prep)

**9 Palm Sunday/Egg Hunt**  
both services

**9 Meeting @ Church**  
6-7:30 p.m.

**16 NO YOUTH GROUP**  
(Easter Sunday)

**23 Meeting @ Church**  
6-7:30 p.m. (**PARENT NIGHT**)

**30 Meeting @ Church**  
6-7:30 p.m.

### **MAY**

**7 Meeting @ Church**  
6-7:30 p.m.

**14 Meeting @ Church**  
6-7:30 p.m.

**21 Last Youth Group Meeting**  
(Party details TBD)

**28 NO YOUTH GROUP**  
(Memorial Day)

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



## Sunday Lay Reader (9:30 & 11:00 Services)

Want to try your hand at reading scripture on a Sunday? This is a low-commitment way to get more involved at COA. Everything is provided to you the week before and Pastor Jessie is always available for questions.

E-mail church office ([coa21409@gmail.com](mailto:coa21409@gmail.com)) or go to [Sign Up Genius Link](#)

## Sunday School Teacher (11:00 Service)

You do not need experience. Grab a friend from the church and do it together. Our Christian Education Board provides all the materials you need including lesson and supplies. Help support our vibrant and growing family of faith!

E-mail Diane Rey ([writingink@comcast.net](mailto:writingink@comcast.net)) or go to [Sign Up Genius Link](#)



## Youth Group Adult Helper (Sundays 5:45-7:45)

You do not have to be a parent to help with Youth Group! In fact other caring adults of all ages from our church can make a world of difference to how welcome and connected our youth feel at COA. All you need to be able to do is bring a snack and be prepared to talk with some amazing kids.

E-mail Pastor Jessie ([pastorcoapc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcoapc@gmail.com)) or go to [Sign Up Genius Link](#)

## God's Gardeners

Do you have a green thumb and love to be outdoors? Come join our delightful and down-to-earth group of folks who take care of our grounds and have fun doing it! They meet at varying times and on varying days so get on the contact list to be notified.

E-mail Mike & Joan Henderson ([hjoanandmike@aol.com](mailto:hjoanandmike@aol.com))



## Children's Sermon Leaders (9:30 & 11:00 Services)

Have you ever been a teacher or worked with children? Do you love our little ones and want them to get the message of God's love? Pastor Jessie would love to see more people up in front with the kids during our worship services leading a short lesson for them (less than five minutes). Use your creativity and try it one Sunday!

E-mail Pastor Jessie ([pastorcoapc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcoapc@gmail.com))

# Calling All Youth Parents...

**New in 2017!** Join us for a Symposium Series designed for Parents of COA Youth. Once a month during the Youth Group meeting hour, we will gather to exchange ideas and support one another.

## *January 22 - Teens and Technology*

Do you have a Smartphone-obsessed teen? Come explore ways to engage with kids who can't seem to turn off technology. Learn about various technological tools that can actually *help* encourage your family's faith walk.



## *February 26 - Teen Talk Two*

At the dinner table or in the car? Use these moments to enrich your family faith walk! Using insights from Dr. Jonathan McKee and Rev. Michelle Thomas-Bush, as well as a look at how personality type influences worship preferences, we will explore various ways to develop deeper family faith discussions that include your teens.

## *March 26 - Teens and Stress*

Everyone deals with it. Come explore some tips and techniques for helping your teen deal with stress.



## *April 23 (Tentative) - Open Forum with Teen Panel*

Do you have a burning question for a teen but can't get a real answer? Come meet our youth panel and ask them what's on your mind. We will invite a group of teens from various neighboring schools and churches to "keep it real" and answer your questions during this session.

*All Sessions will be held at COA during regular Youth Group Meeting hours, 6:00-7:30 p.m.*

# COA Spring Women's Retreat

This year's Spring Women's Retreat is again at Shrine Mont Conference and Retreat Center in Virginia on May 5 – 7, the week before Mother's Day. Our Retreat is a time for us to spend in the presence of God, putting our checklists aside, along with our busy schedules, to find security in our lives and to come together as the women of Christ Our Anchor. So please save the date and come join us. A signup sheet will be put up as we get closer, and you can contact Anna Werntz at (443) 995-1580 or e-mail at [werntzedu@comcast.net](mailto:werntzedu@comcast.net) with any questions.

May God bless your life journey!

COA women at last spring's retreat.



The Property Committee is planning to have our **Spring Work Day** on Saturday, April 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is the day before Palm Sunday and will have the church looking great for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. It is also a great opportunity to work side by side with your fellow congregants and get to know them better.

We will be doing chores both inside and outside of the church, so there should be a job



that you will be comfortable doing. As always, we will provide lunch for those present when the work is done. If you can only work for an hour or two, we will be glad to have you for whatever time you can give. Tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite leaf rake, broom, pruning lopper, chain saw, backhoe, or whatever. Work gloves would be advisable.

Hope to see you there. Please contact Mike Henderson, (410) 757-6525, or Linda Link, (410) 647-5301, if you have any questions.

## REFLECTING ON YOUR STAR WORD *by Pastor Jessie*

Most of you took part in our observance of Epiphany Sunday back on January 8 when the congregation received "Star Words." We drew paper stars from a basket that I prayed over. There were more than 30 different 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 towards a word, concept or idea that could shape our understanding of the year as it unfolded. I received the word "renewal." I was fascinated to hear that

several people in couples each got the same word—statistically unlikely but perhaps planned by God for a purpose!

What is your word? 2017 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.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**May 21 Church Picnic**