

From the Pastor's Office

AS WE JOURNEY ON TOGETHER



We have gotten off to a great start together! I feel like I am gradually getting to know all the ins and outs of COA. With Easter past us and as we head into summer, it is my goal to spend more time getting to know you all more personally as individuals and families. I love hearing such things as how you ended up here, what's im-

portant to you, what you're worried about, and the doubts you have. My absolute favorite part of being a Pastor is having these real, person-to-person conversations and forging friendships with each other. After all, we are all on this journey together.

See "Journey," p 2

Church Picnic



Sunday, May 22, 2016

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Bayberry Beach

760 Holly Drive, Arnold, MD

- ☞ Bayberry beach offers wide views of the Magothy River, a playground, basketball court, open fields, grills, and plenty of picnic tables.
- ☞ The Deacons will be providing hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments, and drinks. We ask that those attending bring a side dish to share.
- ☞ A signup sheet is located on the Deacon's bulletin board in the church narthex
- ☞ Pastor Jessie will offer the blessing at 1:00. Following lunch, we will take our annual church photo.

See "Picnic," p 2

In this issue:

Installation	3
Property	5
Racism	6
Retreat	8

Editors:

Anna Werntz
443-995-1580
werntzedu@comcast.net

Alton Fryer
301-502-1129
afryer@manekin.com

Staff:

Keith Maynard
hkmaynard@earthlink.net

**Christ Our
Anchor
Presbyterian
Church**

1281 Green Holly Dr.
Annapolis, MD 21409
[http://
christouranchorpc.org/](http://christouranchorpc.org/)
Phone 410-974-1713
FAX 410-349-2200

Journey, from p 1

A longer term goal that I have is to think through goals and dreams for COA and come up with a strategic plan for the next five years to hold before us as a vision. This is a collaborative process—one that is done best when the thoughts, hopes, and ideas of everyone are represented. On July 30, I will be leading a day retreat with our church Elders to consider these things, but in the meantime, I would love to hear from all of you about what you envision for COA's future.

What would make this church one that gives you hope for the future? What would make it a place that you'd want to share with your neighbors and friends? What would make it a light in the Broadneck and Cape community with its unique challenges? Big businesses and companies go through this sort of process, but we do not do this for the same reasons they do. We are not trying to make a

profit or get famous: we all work so hard here for COA, and I truly believe that creating a vision that we can believe in is an act of self-care. It helps us not to burn out when we know that we are united for a common purpose.

As St. Francis once said, we are called to "preach the Gospel, and if necessary, use words." I want you all to know that you preach the Gospel to me every time I am with you: through your care and support, through all the behind-the-scenes labor that you may think goes unnoticed, through your welcome of others in our midst. Thank you for inspiring and uplifting me simply by being you. Keep it up and may God bless you this summer with rest and peace.

Sincerely,

Pastor Jessie

Please note COA's new e-mail address: coa21409@gmail.com

Picnic, from p 1

- ☞ Games after lunch include a soccer ball race, noodle pass, water relay, and tug-of-war.
- ☞ Don't miss the famous "Men's Dessert Contest." The signup sheet to enter is located on the Deacon's bulletin board.
- ☞ Picnic tables will be set up, but feel free to bring your own chairs.
- ☞ In case of inclement weather, the picnic will take place at COA.



Look forward to seeing you there!

Pastor Jessie Installed at COA

On May 1, a joyful celebration between the Baltimore Presbytery and Christ Our Anchor was held to install Pastor Jessie Lowry as the official Pastor of our church. This event was not only important in the history of Christ Our Anchor, but marked the “finish line” for the work the congregation has done to select a new Pastor.

The installation service featured many people who have been important to Pastor Jessie in her journey to Christ Our Anchor. We were honored to have the following guests preside at the service:

Rev. Khristi Adams

Rev. Jack Carlson, Moderator of Commission

Elder Joann Clugston

Rev. Kimberley Copeland

Rev. Tracey Davenport

Rev. Roger Powers



music group. A reception followed the event for all to celebrate Pastor Jessie’s installation.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a memorable day for Christ Our Anchor.

Tom McNeal

Clerk, Christ Our Anchor



The service focused on affirming both the responsibility that Jessie has accepted in becoming our Pastor and outlining the responsibility that we as a congregation have to make her successful in the journey. Music was provided by both the choir and the contemporary

Book Club News

In March the women's and men's book clubs met together to discuss *Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown. Rick Clothier, who served as rowing coach at the Naval Academy, and his wife Stephany joined us to answer questions and share this remarkable story. We were hosted by Tom and Marilyn Rorick; there were six men and ten women. It is a blessing to all of us to have the opportunity to discuss books of interest and to learn from each other.

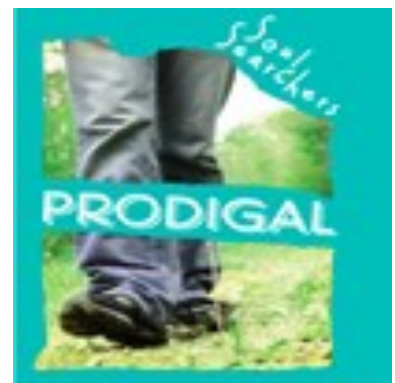
The meeting date for the women’s book club continues to be the third Wednesday of the month. However, the May meeting will be on May 25 at 7 p.m. at the home of Joyce Phillips, 14511 Dew Drive, Bowie, MD. Car pool arrangements are available. *Johnstown Flood* by David McCullough will be discussed and we will discuss books for the next year. Everyone is encouraged to bring ideas for books to add to our list. Maybe we even can choose something that the men's book club might like to share at a joint meeting again.

The Soul Searchers



**Present their 2016 Contemporary
Christian Musical Drama:**

**At COA, June 8
at 7:00 p.m.**



**Plan to come and spend a great evening with a group
of talented youth. Our own Alyssa Perry, daughter
of Beth and Rich Perry, will be performing.**

Our Property Committee Has Been Hard at Work

The Property Committee has been busy in the last couple of weeks. Many thanks go to Mike



Henderson and Tom Rorick for adding the closets in the hallway. They spent many hours constructing

the much needed storage space, which will be shared by the Preschool and the COA Sunday School. If you haven't seen them, take a stroll down to the large meeting room and you can't miss them.



On April 30 more than 25 COA volunteers came out for our spring workday. Crews were inside dusting, washing windows, cleaning the kitchen and cleaning sanctuary chairs. Outdoor crews worked to spread 10 yards of mulch and clear out some of the "jungle" on the side of the building. Dead trees were removed that had

been hanging on by the nasty vines that had taken over. The resulting pile of limbs and vines were chipped away to a small pile. If you didn't notice, the cross on the building has been painted. It is much more noticeable. Thanks to Mike Henderson for its face-lift.



We have recently purchased 18 new plastic folding tables to replace the brown top tables. About a dozen COA members donated these tables. The new tables take up less space in storage and are much lighter so it will be much easier to move them for fellowship events. The old tables are available if you are in need of one. Let Mike Henderson know if you are interested.



**Moses
Mowers
Need YOU!**

Volunteers are again needed to mow the grounds. If you are interested in helping out and haven't been checked out on the riding mower, Mike Henderson, Rick Link or Steve Mainhart can give you a quick lesson. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the Narthex.



Racism is a Spiritual Matter...and It Does Matter

By Alice Robeson

The death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore last April led to numerous demonstrations in the city. The extent of the demonstrations indicated the hurt in Baltimore's communities over the deep-seated inequities of conditions and treatment.

Since then, the Baltimore Presbytery has participated in "Race and Reconciliation" meetings of the Baltimore faith community.

At the most recent Presbytery gathering a presentation on "Unconscious Bias" was made

that was followed by break-out sessions into smaller groups, which included role playing. Following this, participants were invited to discuss questions of race and equity more closely at monthly dinners, the first three to be hosted by Knox Presbyterian Church in Baltimore.

On March 29, the first of these dinners drew more than thirty people—men and women of different ag-

es, black and white, from the city and several counties. Several of the Knox congregation prepared and served a lovely dinner; one of the servers was an eight-year-old boy who was particularly gracious, polite, and helpful.

In our journeys to Emmaus, what does God want us to do?

The bible verse used for the opening discussion was Luke 24: 13–35, which tells of the walk on the road to Emmaus. In our journeys to Emmaus, what does God want us to do? Knox Presbyterian's Rev. Michael Moore

guided the evening and invited each attendee to "take your time and tell us why you are here."

Some spoke of how the faith community responded immediately at the time of the crisis in helping in the streets and of how inspiring this ongoing leadership is today. Some came directly as a result of the insight realized from the discussion on "unconscious bias" at the Presbytery. Several revealed real hurts

See "Racism," p 7

Vacation Bible School at COA is expected to draw a full house this summer. It will run June 20 to June 24 from 9:30 a.m.–noon for children age 4 years through 5th grade.

Volunteers still are needed to help guide students between activities. If you are interested in sharing your time for VBS please let us know by contacting the Church Office at coa21409@gmail.com.

All are encouraged to join us in worship on Sunday, June 26 for our VBS celebration! Children dressed in their VBS shirts will share some music from the week.



Racism, from p 6

experiencing racism in their lifetimes. Many shared different life influences and experiences that have led to personal empathy in this real question of everyday life. Some shared turning points across cultures.

Will this help? The result of listening to each of the attendees' answers was very moving. Indeed we felt the presence of God—the hurts and experiences and insights were generously explored and received with respect. Rev. Moore recommended a book, *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz, to help build this dialogue and help us in this journey.

At the end of the evening, a proposal was made that each person team with another attendee to make a pledge to do something as a follow-up, as a commitment to this journey. I vowed to write an article for my church's newsletter and my partner vowed to tell others of the discussion and get others from his church to join him next month.

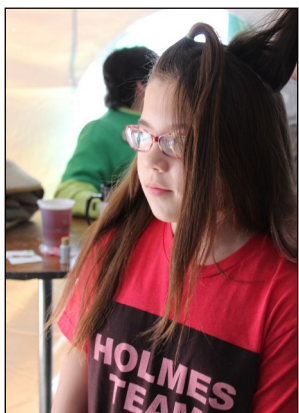
The next dinner at Knox took place on April 19. This time there were more than forty people. The bible verse for the evening was John 9: 1–41, where Jesus

heals a man born blind. The discussion brought out issues of challenging those who hold power and how some people refuse to “see” differently from their deeply ingrained beliefs. It included examples of spiritual blindness, circumstances of slavery and intimidation.

For us today the discussion includes “White privilege” and “Black protest” - with a gut-wrenching question of “is racism permanent?” During the unrest and demonstrations last year, there was a riot at a CVS, but the underlying reality was powerlessness. How do we in the broader community help turn this upside down? Can we become both White and Black prophets for change?

As the “church”—yes we want to strengthen our community and attend to the concerns of everyday life. In the Baltimore Presbytery there are 68 churches, with more than 16,000 people. To me this proposal of encouraging us all to be prophets for change, Black and White together, is a good response to having God walk with us!

HAIR TODAY – GONE TOMORROW



St. Baldrick's Foundation is a national charity that funds the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long, healthy lives. Zoe Barbour and Walter Kolsch participated in the local

8th Annual Brave the Shave In Memory of Joey Sudo on March 6 at O'Loughlin's Restaurant.

Zoe was inspired to shave her head by her Girl Scout Leader Jen Peacock, who participated in 2015. She shaved in memory of Joey Sudo and

in honor of Holmes, a sweet 7-year-old friend of our family with an inoperable cancerous brain tumor. Her nearly 2 feet of hair is being donated to an organization that makes wigs for children with cancer.

Zoe said, “It made me feel good to be able to raise a lot of money for a great organization and help so many people. Thank you to the COA community for your support!”



COA Women Enjoy Spring Retreat

by Anna Werntz

This year's spring Women's Retreat was at Shrine Mont Conference and Retreat Center in Virginia, on May 6-8. Our Women's 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, to come together as the women of Christ our



Anchor and to honor the day God made many of us mothers.

On Friday, we had the great opportunity to laugh, tell stories and just unwind from the long drive. Saturday was packed with Bible Studies, a labyrinth



walk, fellowship through guided activities and time to bring the presence of God in to our life. On Sunday, we had our own service outside under God's beautiful canopy of green and blue with the sun shining through.

Our meals were served in the dining hall, family style on china, with the staff waiting on our every need. We had to do nothing but enjoy our exceptional meals that were truly made with God's love and kindness by folks that really love serving others.

We will have a Day Retreat in the fall so please stay posted for another adventure with the women in our church community. For details on this past retreat and the fall retreat please contact Anna Werntz at (443) 995-1580 or email at werntzedu@comcast.net

Christian Education News

Congratulations to all of our Sunday School students! Stop by the Sunday School bulletin board to see all the "stars" they have racked up on the attendance sheet since January!

Be sure to show some love to our Sunday School teachers who are so dedicated to planting seeds of faith among our children. We will celebrate them on Sunday, June 5, with recognition during our services and our annual "Brunch n' Brainstorming" Luncheon that day starting at noon.

If you are one of our Sunday School teachers or helpers, please rsvp, so we can plan food for our luncheon. Contact Diane Rey, CE Elder, at 410-757-6874 or via -email, writingink@comcast.net, by May 31.

Sunday School will take a break at the end of this month

and begin again when the school year resumes in the fall to give our teachers time to rest, rejuvenate and enjoy time with their families. Please when you attend service with your little ones, take advantage of the activity clipboards and other items in the "little blue wagon" in the narthex.

Remember the "Blessings and Bumpers" Journal each Sunday School student received in the fall? Summer is a great time to find it and work on it together ... it can be a wonderful keepsake of your child's early years.

Interested in joining our teaching group in the fall? We would love to have you. "Many hands make light work." We are always looking for new teachers and people willing to substitute. The curriculum and most materials are provided. If you're interested, please get in touch with Diane, writingink@comcast.net, or 410-757-6874. Thank you!