

MANY GUIDES, ONE JOURNEY

By Tom McNeil, Outgoing Clerk of the Session

Due to her mother's health, Pastor Jessie is taking this issue off.

Jeremiah 29:11:

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

While God has a plan for each of us, sometimes it may seem to follow a circuitous and bumpy path up a mountain. I think that best describes my four-year journey as Clerk of COA.

I started my clerk journey at the base of the mountain with my first guide, Pastor Steve Tisinger. Pastor Steve and I had known each other a long time and had discussed taking the journey up the mountain together. With enthusiasm

and excitement, I decided to undertake the journey.

Pastor Steve provided me maps and discussed with me the best way to the top. He guided me on the path until we arrived at the first crossroads—Pastor Steve needed to take a different path. I wished him well and we parted ways. I felt overwhelmed that I would have to take this long trip alone.

I quickly met up with some wonderful

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Church Picnic

Sunday, May 21

Bayberry
Beach

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details



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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://coa21409@gmail.com/
<http://www.christouranchorpc.org/>
Phone 410-974-1713
FAX 410-349-2200

“Journey,” from p 1

COA members on my journey. We walked for a time without a guide. I have to admit it was scary, but we had each other. We continued to pray for God to show us the way and provide a new guide for our journey. Through prayer, mutual support, and lots of map reading we were blessed with Pastor Alison Halsey as our next guide.

Pastor Alison had enthusiasm for climbing the mountain. Before we started each day, Pastor Alison would ask us to pray about what brought us on the journey and what we hoped would be at the top of

Pastor Alison would ask us to pray about what brought us on the journey and what we hoped would be at the top of the mountain.

the mountain. We found this gave us good perspective. We understood what we had accomplished together, and what we needed to do to reach the top. We shared fun (and sometimes difficult) experiences with Pastor Alison. She even taught us sign language and new songs to pass the time. Then Pastor Alison informed us she could not continue to journey with us. She assured us we were on the right path, had the right maps, and had God in our heart. We would find the top of the mountain and the future we were looking for. We said goodbye to Pastor Alison, and started off again.

We were very close to the top, but alone again. We prayed together, made lists of what we wished for in our next guide, and continued to read the map for our journey to the top. God provided blessings again on top of the mountain with Pastor Jessica Lowry joining us as our new guide. We told Pastor Jessie of our wonderful journey as a group. We talked of our past guides, things we experienced walking the path, and our shared fellowship with God. Pastor Jessie was energized by our story, and told us of many more mountains to climb, and she could not wait to do it with us. Together we could continue our journey, bring new members along, and tell all the wonderful story of Jesus Christ.

Thank you all for an unforgettable journey!

Tom

Hail And Farewell

Navy ships and bases periodically have parties for those who are getting ready to leave the command and to welcome those newly reported on board. While Christ Our Anchor's ordination and installation of officers isn't an exact parallel to those "Hail and Farewells," there are many similarities. Not only are those leaving thanked for their service, they are presented "lovely parting gifts," usually a ship's plaque. And so, too, did COA present gifts to those ending their term of service:

Alice Robeson	Presbytery Representative
Amy Jarjoura	Deacon
Diane Rey	Christian Education
John Hussey	Admin
John Kokish	Admin
Linda Link	Property
Ryan McNeal	Deacon
Stephen Bardsley	Deacon
Tom McNeal	Clerk
Toni Derenzo	Deacon
Walter Kolsch	Deacon

While those reporting for duty aren't given gifts, they receive encouragement and thanks for their willingness to serve.

Jane Bartlett	Admin
Julie Bieber	Christian Education
Jenny Wilhelm	Mission
Judy Clark	Mission
Tom Rorick	Property
Amy Jarjoura	Clerk
Aimee Derenzo	Deacon
Matt Bieber	Deacon
Jake Wagner	Deacon
Mary Parsons	Deacon
Walter Kolsch	Deacon

will be commencing 3-year terms of service except for Amy and Aimee, whose terms will run for 1 year.

Women's Retreat in Virginia Truly Special Once Again

For a second year, we had our spring Women's Retreat at Shrine Mont Conference and Retreat Center, in Virginia, on May 5 through May 7. Blessed by a beautiful weekend and 16 women this year, we spent our time getting in touch with the gift of God's Spirit within us.

On Friday, we had the great opportunity again to laugh tell stories and just unwind from the long drive as we got to know each other again. Saturday, we started with a Bible Study that opened us up to receive the lesson that Pastor Jessie put together on the 12-step Journey, followed by a blindfold activity that helped us get closer connected on hearing Gods words throughout our days. Finally, we created a Vision board to help us stay focused throughout the year.

Sunday, we had a very special service given by Pastor Jessie and for the first time at a retreat we had communion.

This year's meals were served by buffet in the main dining hall. We had to do nothing but enjoy the exceptional meals that were truly made with God's love and kindness by folks who really love serving others.

For details on this past retreat please contact Anna Werntz at (443)995-1580 or e-mail at werntzedu@comcast.net

May God bless your life journey!



Church Picnic At Bayberry Beach

Please join us for the COA Annual Picnic on Sunday, May 21 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Bayberry Beach located at 760 Holly Drive, Arnold, MD. This will be an afternoon of fun and fellowship!

- ☞ There is a signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- ☞ Please plan to bring a salad or side dish to share.
- ☞ The deacons will provide hotdogs, burgers, and drinks.
- ☞ There will be team building games, our church photo and of course, the **Men's Dessert Contest**.

There is a beach for those who would like to swim, so be sure to pack a swim suit and towel. There are picnic tables, but feel free to bring your own chair, sunscreen and sunglasses.

The Soul Searchers



**present their 2017
Contemporary Christian
Musical Drama**

“Rescue 101”

**Christ Our Anchor
Presbyterian Church**

Thursday, June 15, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Adult Sunday School Continues to Study Ecclesiastes

Adult Sunday School meets in the library from about 10:40 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. each Sunday during the school year. Through June 18, we will be studying the book *Why Everything Matters: The Gospel in Ecclesiastes* by Philip Ryken. Ecclesiastes asks some of the biggest and hardest questions that people still have today—questions that lie at the heart of life in a fallen world. What is the meaning of life? Why is there so much suffering and injustice? Does God even care? Is life really worth living? Join us as we attempt to wrestle with these questions.

May 21 For Everything There is a Season

May 28 Death and Injustice

June 4 Satisfaction NOT Guaranteed

June 11 Why is there Suffering?

June 18 The Final Analysis

Spring Workday Volunteers Get a Lot Done

On April 18, a beautiful spring day, 33 COA volunteers came out for our annual spring workday to spruce up the church, both inside and out. All generations, from the youngest to the oldest, came out to help.

Crews outside spread eight yards of mulch throughout the grounds, trimmed and removed dead trees and vines, cleared the roof of leaves and pine needles, scrubbed and cleaned the picnic table and outdoor worship benches, and picked up many twigs and branches



to prepare for mowing. Crews also freshly painted the signs along Green Holly and the curb along the front of the church.

Inside crews worked hard to clean sanctuary chairs, wash windows, clean or replace filters and clean the hand bells. Almost all were able to stay and enjoy pizza, salad and cookies after a job well done! Thanks to all of those who attended. Look for news on the fall workday coming in September or October.

Getting To Know COA's Dedicated Staff

Diana Martin, Music Director

Diana has been COA's Music Director since 1986 and leads the Sanctuary Choir and Hand Bell Choir for the Traditional Service. Her two favorite hymns are "How Great Thou Art" and "Precious Lord." She has many favorite Bible passages "because they were set to music."

She and her husband Joe, whom she met at Frostburg State College while working at a summer job for a computer firm in Virginia, have resided in the St. Margaret's area for the past 33 years and raised two sons, Joe E. and Jonathan. They are blessed with five grandchildren. Her mother, Barbara, who gave birth to Diana in the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, lives in Solomons, MD and visits them often.

Diana retired from a lengthy career teaching chorus and theatre, and directing plays and musicals for Anne Arundel County Public Schools. She also spent some time teaching at the Naval Academy Primary School and tutoring private piano and voice lessons. Other time has been spent as a soloist in Alexandria, VA. She holds a B.A. in Music Education from Frostburg and a Masters of Music Pedagogy from Catholic University of America.

Her hobbies include reading, sewing, crocheting, knitting and cooking. The family's favorite vacation spot is Rehobeth Beach, as Diana admits, "I love the beach."

What does Diana enjoy most about COA? "I especially love working with my choirs and getting to know them. I have made some very close friendships over the past years that I truly treasure."

With the arrival of Spring, the **Youth Group** revived its fruit sling-shot tradition, which was part of their send-off celebration and appreciation for our



Christian Education intern Pam —one she won't soon forget. Look for news of future Youth Group activities in our next issue.

VBS

We still need a few volunteer group leaders for Vacation Bible School. Also, decorating setup help is needed for Wednesday, June 7 at 7 p.m., and again on Wednesday, Jun 21 at 7p.m.

Please contact the church office at 410-974-1713 or coa21409@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed for Strawberry Festival Booth and Parade

The annual Cape St. Claire Strawberry Festival will be held on Saturday, June 3 this year. COA parade participants should gather at the Cape St. Claire Fire Department at 9 a.m. to decorate the church float for the parade, which starts at 10 a.m. Wear your COA or VBS t-shirts!

The Festival itself runs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Cape St. Claire Festival Grounds (Main Beach) with food, crafts, live music, and a wide variety of

activities for the whole family. Go to <http://cscstrawberryfestival.com/> for more information. A shuttle service to the Festival will be provided, with a stop at COA.



We need volunteers to help staff our booth and greet our Cape neighbors on behalf of COA (sign-up list in the Narthex). Our booth is an excellent opportunity to represent our church to the community, and spend some quality time with other COA members.

Christian Ed Announcements

Contact: Diane Rey, writingink@comcast.net, 410-757-6874

This Sunday is Last Day for Sunday School

Children's Sunday School wraps up another great year May 21! We'll start again the weekend after Labor Day. Please join us June **11 (start of our summer schedule, at 10 a.m.)** where we will recognize our outstanding teachers and leaders from children's Sunday School, adult Sunday School, Tea & Theology, Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, and Anchors-A-Wee Preschool. (You know who you are!)

OINK-OINK- We Got a Little Piggy!

Congratulations to COA children who contributed to our children's collection this year! We met our goal and raised enough to buy a pig through Heifer



International to provide a better living through sustainable farming for a far-away family in need. Great job, kids!