

From the Pastor's Office

# IT'S ALMOST ADVENT



Dear friends at Christ Our Anchor and community,

The Season of Advent is almost here! This is one of the most beautiful seasons in church life, and I so look forward to it. I decided in this season that I wanted to preach each week about the themes symbolized by our Advent candles (Hope, Joy, Peace and Love) using the incredible pop culture parable found

in (I would argue) one of the best movies of all time, **It's a Wonderful Life!**

In preparation for this sermon series, **COA plans to host a MOVIE NIGHT on this Sunday, November 20 at 4:00 p.m.** (NOTE: There is no youth group that night) All ages welcome—bring your own snacks. This is a chance for us to relax together and to get into the spirit of the coming season.

See "Advent" p 2

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## HANGING OF THE GREENS

**Saturday, November 26, 5-8 p.m.**

- 👉 decorate the church and tree
- 👉 great chili and wonderful side dishes
- 👉 crafts for the children
- 👉 carol sing after dinner

*Sign-up sheet in the narthex*

## Advent, from p 1

I also know that as lovely and joyful as this season can be, it is also a time of great pain and longing for many of you for lots of reasons--- maybe you lost someone dear to you; maybe you feel lonely or lacking in purpose; maybe you are in conflict with someone you care about; maybe something feels unmanageable. The holidays tend to intensify whatever is already going on with us, and that is why we all must be that much more intentional about self-care.

If you need a listening ear, a prayer said for you, or just someone to share with, I hope you will

not hesitate to let me know. Even if we have not spent time together before, I want you all to know that, in my opinion, being here for you in the good times and the bad is the absolute best part of being a Pastor.

Again I look forward to sharing the season with all of you!

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Jessie*

# COA HOLIDAY GIVING

The Mission Committee will, once again, work with SPAN (Severna Park Assistance Network) to provide food and gifts for two families in the Broadneck area. This outreach program has been one of the more popular activities in which we participate.

Please help in one of three ways: (1) by providing food items; (2) by providing UNWRAPPED gifts for the children; (3) by contributing money to be used to purchase food and gifts. Please be sure to label the item you are providing. The easiest way is to tape the tag you took with you to the item.



Sign-up sheets and Information are posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Cochran-McNeal at 410-974-1713 or by e-mail at [coa21409@gmail.com](mailto:coa21409@gmail.com).

## COA HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING PARTY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 12:30 P.M.**

Please plan to join the Mission Committee on Sunday, December 11th at 12:30 pm in the large meeting room for a Wrapping Party. Enjoy light refreshments and fellowship, while we wrap the gifts from our Holiday Giving Mission and get them ready to be delivered to Severna Park Assistance Network.

# *Christmas Season Worship Services*

## **Christmas Cantata**

**December 18**

**10:00 a.m. Combined Service of Worship**

All of our choirs join to celebrate the

## **Time of Meditation for Blue Christmas**

**December 21 (TBD)**

The Sanctuary will be open for private, quiet meditation.

Prayers and scripture readings will be available for your use.



# *Christmas Eve Services*

## **Christmas Pageant at 5:00 p.m.**

A child friendly service which tells the story of Christmas with music and a pageant performed by COA Children and Youth.

## **Candlelight Service of Worship**

**8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.**

A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



## **Christmas Day Service at 10:00 a.m.**

### **Combined Service of Worship**

Come celebrate the birth of Christ at this combined service of worship.

## **The Sunday After Christmas**

**January 1, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.**

### **Combined Service of Worship**

Potluck brunch and Worship around the tables for all ages!

Bring a brunch related dish to pass and join us as we consider the gift!



*On a day off from school, fourteen members of our youth group spent the day at West River Camp here in Maryland doing team building exercises, a climbing wall, and a giant swing. Lots of fun was had by all!*



# COA Youth Group Flourishing

The youth group at Christ our Anchor is active and growing! As we come into Advent, COA's youth have multiple events on the horizon. In addition to our weekly Sunday night meetings, we will be preparing for the Advent Fair (see below). It is a great opportunity for the youth to connect with the community and share their wisdom with their younger counterparts. All proceeds will go toward funding the 2017 youth mission trip!

We look forward to the preparation of the luminaries, which the youth will make and place in front of the church for the Christmas eve services along with participating in the Christmas pageant. Anyone can

## COA ADVENT FAIR

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3,  
9:00 A.M. – NOON**

Save the date for a fun morning for your children and a great fundraiser for COA's Youth Group Mission Trips. There will be plenty of activities for the children 3- years-old and potty trained (no pull ups) to 5th grade), including crafts, games, snacks and more Christmas fun!

The cost of the advent fair is \$15 per family and \$10 for each additional child in a family. People can e-mail or call the church office to register.

## Youth Group Calendar

**11/20: NO regular YG---Movie Night with church: "It's a Wonderful Life" (4:00 p.m.)**

**Saturday, 11/26: Youth join the church in Hanging of the Greens (5:00 – 8:00 p.m.)**

**11/27: NO YG**

**12/3 (Saturday): ADVENT FAIR (9:00 a.m. – noon)**

**12/11: Regular Youth Group meeting (6:00 – 7:30 p.m.)**

**12/18: Christmas Luminaries prep (6:00 – 7:30 p.m.)**

**12/25: NO YG**

**1/1: NO YG**

**1/8: Regular Youth Group Meeting (6:00-7:30 p.m.)**

**Revised Spring Schedule will be sent to parents and youth in early January**

purchase and dedicate a luminary to a loved one and all proceeds will go toward funding the 2017 youth mission trip. Order will be available in the bulletin and in the Narthex in December.

In the new year COA's fantastic youth will be in charge of the bake sale at our annual Pitts Stop concerts and will begin gearing up for their spring retreat, Winter Meltdown, at River Valley Ranch in February.

As the youth group thrives, we are in need of more support to help with Sunday night meetings, chaperone trips, provide snacks and supplies, and just about any other support large and small. If you are willing to help or for more information on any Christ Our Anchor youth group events, please e-mail us at coayouthgroup@gmail.com or see Pastor Jessie, Joleen Mays, Megan forms Ciccarone, or Alice Cain.

# Meet Our New Members

On October 23, 2016, Christ Our Anchor welcomed eight new members (and three children) to its faith family. We hope that when you see them around you will take time to get to know them better! Send them a card, schedule time to grab a cup of coffee or simply start conversation here at church!

## **John and Kimberly Kanetzky** **Children Ethan and Emma**

John was born in Port Lavaca, TX and raised in Neches, TX. He joined the Navy in April of 1989 and is currently on active duty. He was stationed in Charleston, SC; Honolulu, HI; Alexandria, VA; Jacksonville, FL; Norfolk, VA; Naples, Italy; back to Honolulu, HI and now back to the Maryland/DC area.

Kimberly was born in Pasadena, TX and raised in Palestine, TX. She attended college until she married John then moved with all over with him.

They have a 16-year-old son Ethan and a 13-year-old daughter Emma. The same Pastor who married John and Kim also baptized their children.



## **Bob and Paula Kilgore**

Bob and Paula moved to Maryland 16 years ago from New Jersey. They have two sons who are both married. One lives in Bowie and the other in Chicago.

Bob recently retired from a career in the pharmaceutical industry and is now a consultant in the same industry. He enjoys boating and together with Paula is working on improving their golf skills.

Paula is a retired teacher who enjoys gardening, baking and card making. When not at home here, they are usually enjoying the beach in North Carolina.



## **Anna Latta (and baby Ella)**

Anna was born in Calgary (Alberta, Canada). Her family moved to Lincoln, NE in 2000 where met her husband Scott Hottovy in high school. They both attended the University of Nebraska and got married in the Congregational Church in 2008. They moved to Tucson, AZ in 2008; Madison, WI in 2013; and finally here to Annapolis in 2016 for Scott's job as a mathematics professor at the Naval Academy.



See "Members" p 7

## Members, from p 6

Scott will be joining COA in the next membership cycle. Anna enjoys yoga, reading, group fitness, hiking cooking and feeding people. Currently, Anna stays home with their baby girl Ella, who turned 1 in late September.

### Karen Whitaker

Karen was born in New Hampshire, but moved to the Maryland area in 1982. She was married in 1991. Karen works at the National Center for Health Statistics in Hyattsville, MD. She enjoys sailing (her boat is called "Remedy"), hiking, beachcombing for driftwood, sea glass and other odd findings and then crafting with those findings. She is pursuing a stronger relationship with God day by day.



### Kyle and Jennifer Wilhelm

Kyle was raised in Ohio where he met his wife Jenny. He was raised in a Christian home and attended church his entire life. He enjoys boating and spending time with his family.

Jennifer Wilhelm grew up in Ada, OH and moved to Bay Village, OH where she and Kyle lived for 16 years. They then spent 14 years in Pittsburgh prior to moving to Annapolis in 2014. She enjoys spending time with family and close friends.



Kyle and Jenny have been married for 35 years and have five grown children (Lindsay, Luke, Eric, Heidi and Brandon) and between them many, many dogs!

## Women's Book Club Sets an Interesting List of Titles

The COA Women's Book Club continues to meet monthly and has already established its ongoing schedule:

December 19, Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George, host Diana Martin at Marilyn Rorick's (309 Grindstone Drive, Arnold) - discussion leader Marilyn

January 18, The Paris Architect: A Novel by Charles Belfoure, host Ann Leipold (883 Laurel Way, Arnold) - discussion leader Judy

February 15, Green on Blue: A Novel by Elliot Ackerman, host Jennifer Wilhelm (914 Blue Ridge Drive, Cape St Claire) - discussion leader Alice

March 15, The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II by Denise Kiernan, host Alice Robeson (1100 Crestview Drive, Cape St Claire) - discussion leader Mary Gail

April 19, A Man called Ove by Fredrik Backman, host Tracy at Marilyn Rorick's (309 Grindstone Drive, Arnold) - discussion leader Linda

May 17, The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah, host tbd., - discussion leader Diana

June 21, The Museum of Extraordinary Things by Alice Hoffman, host tbd., - discussion leader , tbd.

## The Nursery is Back!

Beginning in November, we will once again offer Nursery for little ones at the 9:30 a.m. service. The nursery will be located in the pre-school room off the back hallway on the left, closest to the exit door. Ask an usher to show you! We will continue to maintain the rocking chair in the conference room to provide a quiet space for rocking babies.

Looking for a way to serve? Help out once a month as a Nursery volunteer! Both adults and teen helpers are welcome. Contact Diane Rey, Christian Ed elder, at 410-757-6874 or [writingink@comcast.net](mailto:writingink@comcast.net).

# COA Pledge Drive “Connects the Dots”

By Helen Kelley

Quite a few folk worked hard to make our stewardship campaign a success. We had not only the actual members of the stewardship team and Pastor Jessie who all put in loads of time and came up with innovative ideas, but also spouses and others who pitched in in a variety of ways from writing invitations for member heritage Sunday to giving testimony in church to stuffing envelopes and cleaning up after the luncheon. And then there are all of you who have completed a pledge card for 2017. We thank you all so much.

Although we did not receive the dollar amount that we had hoped for, we still feel that in other aspects we had a successful campaign. Pastor Jessie’s *Connecting the Dots*... sermon series was thought provoking and well received. We heard and saw some moving depictions for putting our faith into action. Approximately 100 people enjoyed our Celebrations Luncheon and we received many positive comments. We have pledges in from 8 new families and 12 families increased their pledges from last year. We have pledges ranging from less than \$500 to close to \$20,000 per year. If we adjust

for the highest and lowest giving amounts, we still have an average pledge of more than \$3,000.

Unfortunately, we lost some significant donor money as the result of some families having

moved. This meant we needed to add more than \$20,000 just to match our 2016 amounts, let alone have funds to apply to general cost increases and staff COLAs/raises as well as programs we’d like to continue or expand. To date, we are significantly below our 2016 pledged amount. 12 families decreased pledges from last year. 11 families did not renew pledges and we cannot realistically expect more than half of them to do so. We have not yet heard from a few families that usually pledge and we are hopeful we’ll soon hear from them.

If we do end up with a total lower than 2016 working amount, Session, our treasurer and Pastor Jessie will all have to work hard to meet our needs with this lesser amount of pledges. We will have to make prudent, cost-effective cuts in programs to ensure we can continue to cover nondiscretionary expenses. but we do want to make sure COA puts its faith into action.

## HERE IS SOME GOOD NEWS

As of press time we have more pledges than last year and we have equaled our 2016 dollar amount. Much of this is due to small pledge increases but it all adds up. We are still short of our modestly increased 2017 budget but we are closing the gap. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up. If that is not you, then in this light, please consider pledging if you haven’t already or increasing your pledge if you have.

We are acutely aware of the financial realities we all live with and only ask that everyone do what they can to help COA continue to be a light for the world outside our walls.



# CCA Women Enjoy Spiritual Renewal

by Anna Werntz

A small group of our women travelled a little over an hour to beautiful, idyllic White Rose Farm in Taney-



town, MD where we shared deeply, prayed, ate a healthy lunch from the farm's garden and made seed circles out of recycled paper, seeds,

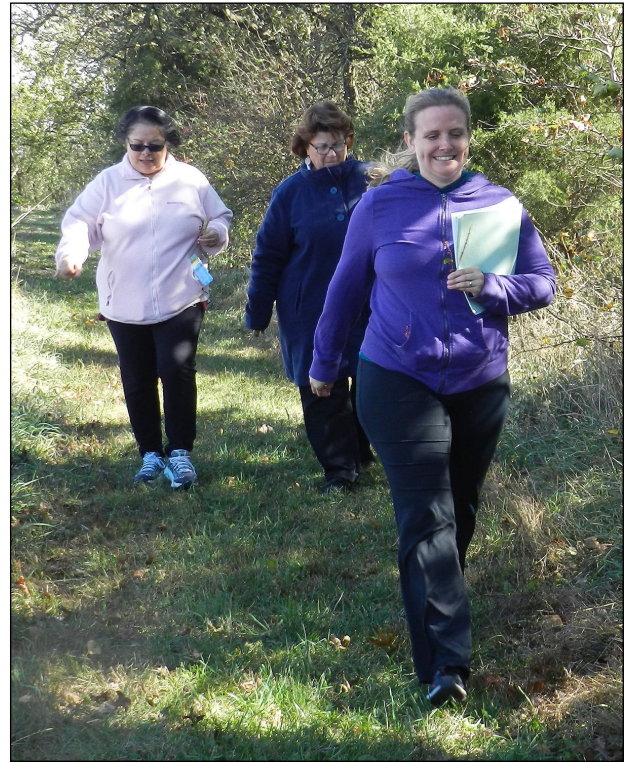
flowers and leaves.

We started with a circle of pillows on the floor. Grounded with beautiful plants and sunlight cascading into the room mixed with some grey shadows from the winds that were pushing the clouds by fast, we opened with a prayer of thanksgiving for the graciousness of our host, Sally, and lit a candle to invite the light of God to guide us. We continued with a short discussion that included Proverbs 2:4 from the book *Jesus Calling* to help us open up and feel God's presence. Then Pastor Jessie led us in a Bible study on Galatians 5:22-23 "The Fruits of the Spirit" and ten Ideas for reflecting *The Fruits of the Spirit*, by Scott Williams.

We had lunch at 12:30, to which Sally contributed some greens from her garden and warm sweet potatoes that went very well with the pasta salad and chicken salad. After lunch, we walked through the field to her art house to continue with the seed circles. Here we dedicated our seed circle to loved ones or wonderful accomplishments.



Artist and educator Diane Wittner created this process to engage and involve people in restoring our ecosystems. She grew native plants in her small yard, collected their seeds, created seed papers



and sowed them along abandoned sites. (see [chesapeakecitizens.org](http://chesapeakecitizens.org)).

We ended our day with a light snack of tea and cookies and a closing discussion on Psalm 21:6, from *Jesus Calling* and a prayer to ask God to help us continue to move forward with more love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

SAVE THE DATE FOR  
SPRING OVERNIGHT WOMEN'S RETREAT IN ORKNEY SPRINGS, VA FROM FRIDAY MAY 5 – SUNDAY MAY 7, 2017!

# Sandy Recover Continues In New Jersey

By Mike Henderson

The COA adult mission team had another successful trip to New Jersey to provide recovery assistance after Super Storm Sandy ravished many coastal areas in the state. This was our fourth trip to the area and as with the other trips, we stayed at the Morning Star Presbyterian Church in Bayville. The team consisted of 5 COA members (Mike and Joan Henderson, Keith Maynard, Rick Link and Frank Cain), our friends from Harrisburg, PA (Bill Toner and Steve and Dotty Sellers) and Glynn Rountree from Arlington, VA, a regular member of our mission team.



Our team was divided up to work on two new modular homes; one in Toms River and the other in Long Branch. We worked with a Methodist group called “A Future

with Hope” who are overseeing the construction of 6 or 7 modular homes that will replace homes destroyed by the storm. The tasks we were assigned included building stairs, installing

composite wood flooring, installing countertops, insulating, caulking, painting, cleaning, drywall finishing and various other punch list items.

We dined out a couple of evenings, but otherwise all of our meals were planned and prepared by Joan and Dotty with assistance from the men as needed. The folks at the Morning Star Church had stopped housing volunteer teams as of July, but were kind enough to allow us to stay at their facility due to the bonds formed over the previous years. A Future with Hope will be trying to line up grants to be able to continue their work and we will likely return next year if there is work for us.



Our next mission trip is planned for Hammond, LA the week of February 19–25, 2017. Please consider joining us if it fits into your plans. For more information contact Mike or Joan Henderson at 410-757-6525 or [hjoanandmike@aol.com](mailto:hjoanandmike@aol.com).

*Top Right: Mike and Rick confer about hardwood floor repair.*

*Right: Nothing beats ice cream after a hard day on the job*





## Veteran's Day Service at COA

Christ Our Anchor held a Veterans Day service on Friday afternoon, November 11 at the church's Veterans' memorial garden. Pastor Jessie presided at the service, during which local scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance. Zach Jarjoura and Molly Fullerton provided music.

The service was arranged by Walter Kolsch and God's Gardeners, who provided refreshments after the service. Some thirty members and friends attended.

Photos by Pj Gilbert

