

From the Pastor's Office

Community Mission Efforts and New Lectionary to Highlight COA's Fall



Hello everyone and happy Fall!

I don't know about you, but I feel like this summer flew by particularly

fast! What a whirlwind—but there are lots of exciting things to look forward to this Fall.

As of Rally Sunday, we are starting back up with all of our educational offerings for adults, children and youth. We have opportunities for fellowship like the Navy football game. We also have opportunities for mission and involvement in our local community. I am particularly excited about this last one.

Please see the separate article in this issue of the Anchor Line about how our church hopes to get more involved with local community organizing on issues like mental health, education and gun violence through the IAF organization. I am confident that for those of you who long to put your faith into action on behalf of more things you care about in this world, this will be an important way for you to live out your faith and your convictions. You can expect to hear more about this from me in the months to come. I, too, am excited to get personally involved!

I want to share with you something new that you can expect to See "Fall" p. 2

Rally Sunday Potluck!

Sunday, August 9
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

- The Deacons will provide hamburgers and hotdogs.
- All those attending are asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert.
- Please sign up now in the Narthex, so we have plenty of food for everybody.
- If you have a dietary restriction, please let one of the deacons know so we can make accommodations.

**COA shifts back to normal 9:30 a.m.
and 11 a.m. services Sunday, August 9**

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“Fall” from p. 1

see in worship in the coming months. I will be preaching following a different plan called the Narrative Lectionary. Some of you may ask: what is a “lectionary”? A lectionary is simply a selection of scripture texts for use in Christian worship. Jews and Christians have used various lectionaries over the past two thousand years. Today at least a dozen lectionaries are available. Many churches, including ours, most commonly use what is called the Revised Common Lectionary. This one is different: the primary goal of the Narrative Lectionary is to help all of us to understand the Bible better as one single story of God with us human beings in relationship.

Too often, we hear the Bible in disconnected snippets and maybe we remember certain characters, but it is hard to see how it is all woven together into one story of how much God loves us. Here is what you need to know:

- ❑ This Lectionary follows a 4-year cycle of readings, with Year One beginning on September 9.
- ❑ Each week focuses in on one particular story and how it is connected to the one before.
- ❑ On Sundays from September through Christmas,

the scriptures begin with the early chapters of Genesis, move through the stories of Israel’s early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile, and return.

- ❑ From Christmas to Easter there is a weekly reading of one of the four gospels (this year it’s Matthew).
- ❑ From Easter to Pentecost the texts are chosen from Acts and Paul’s letters.

What I love about this is that it lifts up parts of the Bible that we often overlook—namely it reminds us that the Old Testament, Acts and Epistles are not simply a preface to or addendum to the Gospel message. The entire Bible has one important message for us as the people of God. The name “Narrative Lectionary” means it is just that—a narrative or more simply, a story. Stories are how we understand the world and our place in it. They form who we are and what we care about. To hear the Bible as one story, I am confident, will help us all to grow in our faith.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jessie

pastorcoapc@gmail.com, (973) 722-3311

Christian Education Corner

COA’s New School Year Starts September 9

My first 3 months as your Christian Educator have been a whirlwind of fun! The summer kicked off with our annual Vacation Bible School program. Seeing the church transformed into a Rolling River Rampage and watching the joy on the faces of the 75 children as they rotated through the Bible Story, Craft, Games, Science, and Snack stations was an amazing experience. I am thankful for all the adult and youth volunteers who made the week extra special and for the opportunity to learn the ropes for organizing future VBS programs from Jennifer Deal and Sarah Taylor.

The children’s **FUN** Sunday School year is starting on Sunday, September 9 for children (4-years-old through 5th grade) during the 11 a.m. service. Our goal this year is for the children of our congregation to have **FUN** and enjoy coming to church. The only missing piece is YOU! We have selected a great curriculum for the school year that not only follows the Bible Stories Pastor Jessie’s sermons

will be based on, but also gives our volunteer teachers and youth helpers lots of options to choose from to make a meaningful and enjoyable lesson for the kids. I am open to innovative ideas and if you have a special talent or hobby you would love to share with the children during a **FUN**day school class, please let me know so I can add you to the rotation. If you are new to teaching **FUN**day school, I would be happy to pair you up with an experienced teacher for your first day on the job. Contact me TODAY to sign up to make a positive difference for our COA children by teaching **FUN**day school!

Let’s make this the best **FUN**day School year EVER!!

Seek the joy!

Debbie Barbour

COA Christian Educator
coapc.ced@gmail.com

COA Considering Participation in New Effort to Address Local Problems

Do you feel helpless or hopeless about bringing change to the big issues facing our community?

Have you ever wondered how your faith impacts these issues?

Are you tired of just talking about the problems around us and ready to act?

Christ Our Anchor is exploring participation in Industrial



Areas Foundation, IAF, a new local organization that will bring faith groups together to do more than talk—we're

going to TAKE ACTION to make changes we could never make alone.

Anne Arundel County IAF is a non-partisan multi-faith-based "organization of organizations" made up of 21 member and friend organizations (including St.

Andrews, St. Margaret's, and Asbury-Broadneck) working together to build community power so that people's voices are represented, and solutions presented at the places where decisions are made. These groups are diverse in faith (Muslim, Jewish, and various Christian groups are currently involved), race, socioeconomic status, sexual identity, political persuasion—but all are committed to taking concrete action to make Anne Arundel County a better place for ALL.

From Band-Aid to Cure

The participating groups all seek to put band-aids on our area's issues as we feed the hungry, house the homeless, and care for the marginalized. IAF seeks to bring our groups together to address the deeper issues and systemic injustices that cause these problems, the sicknesses that cause the symptoms. By pressuring legislators and presenting fair and just alternatives to current policies and practices, we can bring change in our county to permanently address these issues rather

than just stopping the bleeding for a little while.

Some things are too big for us to do on our own, so we are uniting our voices and our power to call upon our leaders to bring change.

What Sort of Problems Will This Group Address?

After listening to more than 2,000 people in our county, we have heard that the following things are keeping people up at night. After researching these six areas, our groups will come together in a meeting of over 1,000 people on October 4 to choose an area to begin with. If any of these issues trouble you or someone you love, IAF may be for you!

- Mental Health and Addictions
- Safe Neighborhoods and Affordable Housing
- Fair and Just Immigration
- Effective and Engaged Education
- Connected and Useful Transportation
- Gun Violence

What Would Our Congregation's Commitment to IAF Look Like?

Congregation members committing to show up for community actions to show county leadership our



strength in numbers, take time to get to know and build relationships with folks from different organizations so we can learn to trust each other and be part of research action teams determining issues to address.

If any of this intrigues or resonates with you, please plan to be part of our October 4 launch and community action (7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., location TBD).

Learn more about what IAF is doing nationally at www.metro-iaf.org

SEE CONTACT INFORMATION ON IAF ISSUE GROUPS ON PAGE 4

Research Action Teams

Annapolis And Anne Arundel County IAF

Mental Health and Addictions

Leads: Toni Pratt, First Christian Community Church
Rev. Sara Yotter, Joy Reigns Lutheran Church

Contact: sarayotter@gmail.com // (608) 630-7942

Safe Neighborhoods and Affordable Housing

Leads: Rev. Tim Stern, Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church
Jo Ann Mattson, Light House, Annapolis

Contact: jmattson@annapolislighthouse.org // (443) 569-4207

Fair and Just Immigration

Leads: Cynamon Butler, Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church
Suzanne Martin, Annapolis Immigration Justice Network
Rev. Dr. Heather Shortlidge, First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis

Contact: aijn21401@gmail.com // (717) 584-4860

Effective and Engaged Education

Leads: Karen Neale, St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Yevola Peters, St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Erin Snell, Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis

Contact: yevola.peters@gmail.com // (410) 224-3820

Connected and Useful Transportation

Lead: Rev. Ryan Sirmons, The United Church of Christ of Annapolis

Contact: pastor@uccannapolis.org // (443) 569-8899

Gun Violence Reduction and Safety

Leads: Rev. Steve Tillett, Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church
Linda Mundy, Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis

Contact: ltmundy@yahoo.com // (443) 995-4769

COA Mission Team Returning To New Jersey

Plans are shaping up for our mission trip to New Jersey, which is planned for the week of October 28 through November 2. We will be staying at Camp Evans in Wall Township, NJ and will be working with a group called the Saint Bernard Project, who will be assigning us work sites and construction supervisors. They are working in areas that we have worked in previously such as Brick and Toms River.

I have told them we will probably have 10 volunteers coming, but would love to have to increase that number if more of you want to join in. We will drive to Bayville on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 28 and drive back after work on Friday, Nov. 2. We prefer to have you for the whole week but can accommodate fewer days if your schedule doesn't permit going the full week.

The cost is usually about \$25 per day for lodging and another \$20 - \$25 per day for food. Our Mission Committee usually provides about \$300 to help out with our expenses. If you are interested in going with us or have any questions, please e-mail Mike and Joan Henderson at hjoanandmike@aol.com or call us at 410-757-6525.

COA Stewardship Drive To Focus on “Building Relationships”

There are changes this year for our Stewardship campaign and its committee, which has been re-named The Generosity Team. We will be handling not only your generous pledging, but also our new online giving option and the Graul’s Cape St. Claire receipts program (See accompanying article on this new offering), as well as our existing account with Amazon Smile.

The stewardship campaign is 4 weeks long this year, and Pastor Jessie’s sermons will be about Building Relationships with God, our Community, and our Church. You do not have to wait for Dedication Sunday—you will be able to turn in your pledge card anytime during the campaign and watch our thermometer rise. As we enter pledge amounts, we’ll be able celebrate what we can do as a church family because of your generosity. Of course, we also will continue to take pledges after the campaign



but early pledging helps us begin to firm up our 2019 budget. Please prayerfully consider how you can help COA meet our financial obligations, as well as enhance our programs for the future!

SHOP AT GRAUL’S CAPE ST. CLAIRE—RAISE MONEY FOR COA!

Christ Our Anchor has been accepted into a generous program offered by Graul’s at Cape St. Claire that will help us raise money for some of our church programs.

Customers have their Graul’s Cape St. Claire receipts stamped at the front office or the express register at the time of purchase (and only at that time) and then bring them in to Church.



I have to turn the receipts in monthly no later than 5 weeks after the end of the

month, so please bring your receipts in promptly. I will do a total of all receipts without the sales tax for each week.

We will receive a payment monthly of a percentage based on each weekly total at the following schedule:

\$ 0 – 2,999	2%
\$ 3,000 – 4,999	3%
\$ 5,000 – 9,999	4%
\$ 10,000+	5%

We can begin having our receipts stamped Sunday, September 2. There will be an envelope that says “Graul’s Receipts” on the bulletin board in the Narthex or you can mail them to the church, Attn. Jane Bartlett.

Thank you for all that you do to support Christ Our Anchor,

Jane Bartlett

Elder, Administration and Stewardship Committees

Remember To Use Amazon Smile for COA

Wow. We received our first monetary refund from Amazon and we are excited. We know you can help us make our quarterly refunds larger just by your shopping at Amazon Smile and choosing us as your selected charity.

Amazon Smile is a charitable foundation that Amazon started several years ago. In recent years they set it up so



that folks could choose favorite local charities to get some money. Of course, this was a good marketing plan for them too. They now have about a million charities from which to choose.

Start by logging onto <http://www.smile.amazon.com>, then choose your charity. We are

See “Smile” p. 6

Youth group

SCHEDULE

September

Sunday, 9 – Pool Party 6:00 p.m. at Fullerton's (504 Leyland Lane, Annapolis MD 21409)

Sunday, 16 – **PARENT MEETING** / first YG Mtg 6 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, 23 – Meeting @ Church 6 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, 30 – NO YOUTH GROUP

October

Sunday, 7 – Meeting @Church 6 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, 14 – Meeting @Church 6 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, 21 – Meeting @Church 6 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, 28 – NO YOUTH GROUP

November

Sunday, 4 – Meeting @Church 6 – 8 p.m.

“Smile” from p. 5 listed as Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church, Annapolis, MD. If you already have an Amazon account, they will pick up all your information from that. If not, you will need to follow the process for setting up an account; they walk you through it online.

We only receive a small refund. It is 0.5% (1/2 cent on the dollar) of your purchase—excluding shipping, handling and taxes. However, every penny counts, and this does add up over time. If you think you will do this just to benefit COA, you might be better writing a check directly to the church but, if you shop regularly at Amazon or you comparison shop and end up at Amazon, by choosing Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church you can painlessly contribute to our quarterly refund from Amazon.

Sunday, 11 – Meeting @Church 6 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, 18 – Advent Fair prep @Church 6 – 8p.m.

Sunday, 25 – NO YOUTH GROUP

December

Sunday, 2 – Meeting @Church 6 – 8 p.m.

Sat. 8 – Youth-Led Advent Fair 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, 9 – Meeting @Church 6 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, 16 – Luminary preparation 6 – 8 p.m.

TBD – Christmas Pageant Practice? (Nancy Jerome?)

Sunday, 23 – NO YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, 31 – NO YOUTH GROUP

2019 Dates to Remember...

Feb 15 – 17 – WINTER MELTDOWN at RVR

July 28 – Aug 2 – Mission Trip to Harrisburg, PA (High School and Middle School invited)



For those of you already using this with another charity, please note that you can easily switch back and forth among charities to help out more than one group over time. In the header where it says 'SUPPORTING – whatever charity', there is a drop-down arrow to click on. This then shows your current charity and a change link from which you would then choose Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church.

Lots of us use Amazon for birthday and holiday shopping, books and household supplies. Just by switching to Smile.Amazon you could generate a little gift for your church too!

Thanks,

The Generosity Team

COA Youth Keep Busy During Week's Mission Trip on Virginia's Eastern Shore

This year Pastor Jessie, Lawrie Gardner and Rob Werntz took eighteen youth (from Grades 7 to 12) to a very rural area of the Eastern Shore of Virginia from July 8 to 13. This trip was coordinated by YouthWorks, an organization where COA's own Brandon Jerome has worked

for the last two summers. The group stayed at churches in Parksley and worked hard! They ministered in the local Kids Club, a nursing home, a food bank, and even a center for traumatic brain injury! One of the primary local groups that they got to know were immigrant families and their children. It was a transformative experience and they thank God for leading them there this summer. Zoe Barbour wrote the following on her experiences:

18 youth, 6 days, 3 chaperones, and a ton of fun! This year, the youth group traveled to the Eastern Shore of Virginia to volunteer in the community of Parksley. On the trip, our youth group assisted the community in a variety of ways, from helping at a soup kitchen to volunteering at a brain trauma center. We also helped to run a "Kids Club" for the children of the community. It was cool to see the smiles on the kids' faces when we pushed them on merry-go-round at the park. One fun evening outing was our trip to Chincoteague Beach, where we went swimming and watched the sunset over the water. I enjoyed getting to connect with others in the youth group and grow spiritually during the whole trip, especially during worship services and youth group time. A big thanks to Miss Lawrie [Gardner], Mr. Rob [Werntz], and Pastor Jessie for chaperoning the trip! Also, thank you to everyone who donated and made this trip possible!

— Zoe



COA youth prepared meals, gave piggy-back rides, played games, and tended gardens while on **their trip**



Food From Broadneck Grill Creates Funds for COA

Thanks to all who were able to join us at Broadneck Grill for a night out that supported Christ Our Anchor's mission and outreach programs. I am pleased to announce that we raised \$181.00—10 percent of the Grill's sales for the evening— with the second Broadneck Grill fundraiser held August 15.



If you were not able to join us, I have great news! More fundraisers are scheduled from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the following dates:

[Wednesday](#), September 12

Wednesday, October 10

[Wednesday](#), November 14

Wednesday, December 12

Mark your calendars! Whether you dine in or carry out, we hope to see you there!

COA Distributes Food to Broadneck Community Neighbors in July

July was COA's month to provide food to the Broadneck Community through My Brother's Pantry. Our distributions are always a great success and July was no exception! Many volunteers from our church helped pack food and deliver food and we had additional assistance from members of Unity By the Bay church. We served more than 135 families in July. Thank you to everyone for making this a great distribution.

Our next distribution will be in July 2019. Even though we are not involved with another distribution until then, we will continue to support the pantry through single item food drives every few months. We are currently collecting jars of peanut butter over the next few weeks. Please bring jars of peanut butter to church and place them in the collection container in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Cochran-McNeal at coa21409@gmail.com or 410-974-1713.

What is My Brother's Pantry?

My Brother's Pantry is an interdenominational food relief organization founded in 1986 to serve people on the Broadneck Peninsula of Anne Arundel County. This unique food pantry provides monthly nonperishable food to more than 130 needy households, ranging from families with children to individual adults and senior citizens. My Brother's Pantry is staffed entirely by volunteers from 12 area congregations.

Our church has been an active member of the pantry from the beginning. In order to serve families, the pantry relies on food donations and volunteers from member congregations, individual donations, local food drives and the Anne Arundel County Food Bank, as well as monetary donations from member congregations and the community. The pantry is located in the parking lot of the College Parkway Baptist Church on College Parkway. Each congregation is responsible for one or two distributions each year. When it is COA's turn to distribute food, there are many ways to help. It is a great way to serve our community.

COA'S VBS Draws 75 Campers to Enjoy The Rolling River Rampage

By Debbie Barbour



From June 18 to 22, Christ Our Anchor was transformed into a Rolling River Rampage! The church was filled with evergreen trees, trail markers, tents, and even a 20-foot-high waterfall and river with the nearby Outfitter Station where “Romper the River Otter” hung out. More than 45 adult and youth volunteers shared their time, talents, and love with the 75 children attending this fun-filled VBS week. Focusing on the passage “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you” (Isaiah 43:2), the week was spent finding Acceptance, Adventure, Rest, Peace, and Joy on the river.

One of the most meaningful parts of the week for me was the generous outpouring of love and school supplies donated by our VBS & COA families to fill 8 backpacks for children in need at Cape St. Claire, Germantown, and Tyler Heights Elementary Schools. I also want to extend a special thank you to Jennifer Deal and Sarah Taylor for their endless energy organizing and coordinating the VBS program this summer and for the past 4 years. It was an amazing week “on the water” that would not have been possible without these two phenomenal women and our wonderful volunteers!



Top to bottom:
A camper “rollin’
on the river”;
Jennifer Deal and
Sarah Taylor prove
that VBS is fun for
the staff, too;
campers jumping
for joy.