

From the Pastor's Office

AFTER SIX MONTHS



Dear friends at Christ Our Anchor and community,

Fall is already here after a whirlwind of a summer! I hope you had as much fun as I had. I can't believe I've already been with you for over six months. Words cannot describe what a great job you've done of making me feel welcome and helping me feel at home. In looking forward to Fall, I want you to

know about a few things that are priorities for me:

First is continuing to get to know you all better. The absolute best part of pastoral work in my mind is the privilege of getting to know individuals and families---getting to know the things that matter to you most, that worry you and that make you who you are!

See "Six Months," p 2

Rally Sunday Potluck !

Lots of Food
and Fun

**Sunday, September 18
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.

A time to reconnect with our COA family

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[NOTE: New Content]

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Six Months, from p 1

Second is helping to build up our church leaders (which technically is ALL of you). For some of you, that means equipping you to do more; to try more and take risks in using your gifts. For others, that may mean giving you “permission” to do a little less; to simplify and protect yourself from burnout; to make sure you are living out your highest priorities. If you are fulfilled and growing spiritually, the church will too!

Third is cheering COA on toward growth. This means making sure that newer folks feel welcome and heard, but it also means keeping the amazing people we’ve got! That is why, in addition to welcoming new members this October, we also will be celebrating a Pillars of the Church Sunday on October 16 at both services. In this service, we will have special liturgy and prayer honoring those folks who have been a part of COA for 15 years

or more! If you are one of those people, make sure the church office knows as we plan ahead for this special day.

Finally, When I was hired, I was struck by how many young families are a part of COA. In the midst of hymns and prayers, we hear giggles and squeals of our children who energize all of us. Our youth group is getting huge and most of them grew up going to Sunday School here. A church who prioritizes its children is much more likely to grow. So please see Diane Rey’s article below and consider growing in your faith this fall by teaching Sunday School a few times

Love to all of you! I know there are great things ahead!

Pastor Jessie

Pay it Forward

Please Teach Sunday School! **By Diane Rey**

Sunday School for the 2016-17 year begins Sept. 11, at the 11 a.m. service. Sunday School is at the heart of the church. Spread the love by joining our Sunday School staff of dedicated volunteers. We also need subs and teen helpers to strengthen our program.

Here are some other reasons you should consider teaching:

- ☞ Ministry to the children is ministry to their families.
- ☞ NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY! We use a curriculum to guide you through a lesson so you do not have to come up with something all on your own.
- ☞ Our Christian Education Elders and Pastor are available to guide you with any and all questions you may have.

☞ We use a Team Teaching approach with another adult teaching next door and preparing the same curriculum for another age group. That is someone else who can help you.

☞ Since Sunday School is only during the 11:00 service, on the Sundays you teach you can attend the 9:30 service and still be fed spiritually by worship.

☞ Our kids are adorable!! Who wouldn't want to spend an hour with them!

To help or for more information, please contact VOA’s Christian Education elders, Diane Rey, writgink@comcast.net, 410-991-2196, or Alice Cain, alice.johnson.cain@gmail.com, 202-460-0229

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

STEWARDSHIP SERMON SERIES PREVIEW

October will be a month where COA thinks, prays and talks about stewardship. In October, Pastor Jessie will be preaching a sermon series connecting our faith to our growth in other important areas of lives. We know that all our friends and members of COA give of themselves to many wonderful organizations and we believe that if you give to our church, we must make sure that we are helping your faith grow and connect with your real life. Here is a preview of what is ahead:

SUNDAY 10/2/2016: STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF
Sermon: *Connecting Faith to....MY BODY AND MY HEALTH*

Theme: God made our bodies and they are sacred temples

SUNDAY 10/9/2016: STEWARDSHIP WEEK 2
Sermon: *Connecting Faith to....MY STRUGGLES AND MY WEAKNESSES*

Theme: God allows ups and downs in our lives for a reason. Can we do more than just “get through it” and instead grow and inspire others?

SUNDAY 10/16/2016: STEWARDSHIP WEEK 3

NOTE: This week our worship services will honor our longtime members---of 15 years or more---and be termed Pillars of the Church Sunday. More information to come!

Sermon: *Connecting Faith to...MY RELATIONSHIPS*

Theme: our faith and our lives are bound up in each other

SUNDAY 10/23/2016: STEWARDSHIP WEEK 4

Sermon: *Connecting Faith to....MY CORNER OF THE WORLD*

Theme: how do we use our “sphere of influence”/ getting involved in what we care about/doing what we can where we can

SUNDAY 10/30/2016: CELEBRATING CONNECTIONS SUNDAY (Pledge Sunday---ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 11:00 AM)

SAVE THE DATE: CELEBRATING CONNECTIONS LUNCHEON: 12:30 pm at Cape St. Claire Clubhouse---all friends of COA invited!!

Sermon: *Connecting Faith to....MY LEGACY AND WITNESS*

Theme: what we create for the future church/next generation

COA Mission Team

The COA mission team will be making its fourth and possibly final trip to central coastal New Jersey to do repairs in response the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy.

We plan to leave from church about noon on Sunday, **October 9** and return **Friday evening, October 14**. Although Morning Star Presbyterian Church officially ended their program hosting volunteer groups at the end of July, they have agreed to allow our group to stay in their facility for this trip. Anyone over age 18 who is available for part or all of that week and interested in participating should contact Mike Henderson at 410-757-6525 or hjoanandmike@aol.com by September 9.

Save the Dates

9/11 Sunday School starts

10/2 Stewardship Campaign begins

TBD Fall Work Day

10/10 New Jersey Mission trip

10/30 Pledge Sunday – One service at 11:00 AM with lunch to follow at Cape St. Claire Clubhouse

11/20 Youth Sunday and Hanging of the Greens – 4 to 7 p.m.

11/27 Beginning of Advent

12/3 Advent Fair

Check It Out!

The new COA Web site is now up at <http://christouranchorpc.org/>. It is—in a word—splendid! Thanks are due to Anna Werntz and Alton Fryer for a superb job.

YOUTH MISSION TRIPS: SUMMER 2016

This summer, eight of our youth attended Youthworks mission trips. Three high schoolers (Zach Jarjoura, Drew Urlock and Brandon Jerome) went to Brooklyn, NY with our own Robbie Wertz as a chaperone. Five middle schoolers (Hannah Urlock, Sean Cain, Zoe Barbour, Sydney Lawlor and Michael Jerome) went to Harrisburg, PA with Pastor Jessie as Chaperone. We worked hard, had a blast and we have the pictures to prove it!

Middle Schoolers in Harrisburg

By Sean Cain (Grade 7)



Five middle school youth (Zoe Barber, Michael Jerome, Sydney Lawlor, Hannah Urlock and I) spent a week of July in Harrisburg, PA on a Youth Service Trip with Pastor Jessie. The highlights included volunteering in a soup kitchen, where we cleaned their beautiful sanctuary and received a generous lunch. It was delicious and tasted like a gourmet meal! The homeless people were extremely grateful for the food, so grateful that many of them stayed afterward to help clean up to show their gratitude. The lady who was in charge of the soup kitchen impressed us with her can-do attitude and proved to us that no matter how small you are (she was only 5'3") you can make a big difference!

Our other volunteer activities included helping at therapeutic riding stable, where we fed horses, cleaned the water troughs (which is very, very difficult work) and assisted with therapy for people with disabilities. Lastly, we helped a low-income elderly couple with home improvements. We helped renovate their kitchen—including putting in a 2 by 4—moved furniture, cleaned and did chores. It

made me want to do the New Orleans and New Jersey Mission Trips with my dad when I'm older. The couple enjoyed talking to us and were very grateful for our work. They showed it by giving us as much candy as we wanted at the end!



Pastor Jessie was a wonderful leader who led devotions every morning, pitched in on all the jobs and drove us to and from Harrisburg safely. The best part of the trip: seeing the goodness of people's hearts as we all worked together. It was an enlightening trip and I'll do it again.



High Schoolers in Brooklyn

By Drew Urlock



Our mission trip was a very unique experience, since we not only went to New York, but Chinatown as well. We got to work with kids, help maintain a community garden, and visit a senior center. All of us very much enjoyed talking with the people at the center. The daily devotionals also were fun and led to much discussion. The Youth Works staff were amazingly social and fun to be around.



Connecting the Dots

Some Reasons You Might Consider Making A Financial Pledge to Christ Our Anchor

... Pledging can indicate a commitment to a growing relationship to God, the Church (particularly COA) and its future; you help us thrive. It can provide a sense of ownership as well as a responsibility to COA.

... Pledging, and the quarterly giving statements, allow you to better manage your budget and keep track of what you give to the church. The documentation they provide makes it easier to claim your charitable giving deduction with IRS.

... Someone said Christian stewardship is everything we do after we say we believe. Financial commitment is one aspect of stewardship. It is one way to connect your life to the Church.

... Pledging allows Session to develop a realistic annual budget based on the total amount of income we expect to receive the next year (based mostly on pledges)

... Pledging allows you to reflect on the gifts God has given you and to show your thanks to God and the Church for your blessings.

... Pledges are not contracts; if your situation changes you can stop or modify your pledge at any time without any need to explain. Pledges to COA can be of any dollar amount.

... Pledging supports salaries, buildings, programs and the greater vision of the church; it allows us to begin to carry out the work which Christ has commanded us to do in the world. If enough dollars come in in pledges, we might even have money looking for a mission!

... Pledges can be paid as you wish: yearly, quarterly, monthly, weekly to best fit your personal financial plan; they can be put into the collection plate or mailed in to the church thus allowing COA's work to continue even when you might be absent.

... Pledging is quite private; only a few people within COA know what anyone commits to and the information is kept confidential.

... If you haven't been pledging, this year consider pledging just a portion of what you have given COA in the past if that makes you more comfortable or you want to leave room for other financial giving opportunities. Even \$1 a week pledged means there is \$52 more that can be placed into the annual budget.

Won't you help COA connect the dots from your faith to financial giving by pledging this year?

Save That Pull Tab!

There is a jar on the credenza in the office hallway. Some of you have put pull tabs in it. These tabs go to Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore where they are sold and the money is used to help fund the shuttle bus used at the house.

This shuttle transports patients and their families to and from appointments, hospitals and the airport. It saves taxi and parking fees as well as alleviates some driving while distracted situations. This is a huge blessing for families who often are stressed, financially strapped and unfamiliar with the area.

If our tabs are able to pay for even one tank of gas, we have made a contribution to a very worthwhile cause and all it took was for you to do one little act—pull off that tab.

Tea and Theology

Tea and Theology will begin meeting again Sept 20. This group meets every Tuesday from 2:30 to 4 p.m. to have tea and some form of discussion. We are always happy to have new folks join us. We will begin our year with tea and discussing personal statements of faith, a Gandhi reading we did over the summer, and choosing our next area of study and discussion. We have discussed current events, shared personal stories, studied chapters of the Bible and read interesting faith-based topics. Our tea, sometimes hot, sometimes cold, has been almost as varied as our discussions. Come on Sept. 20 and help us choose our path going forward.

NEW YEAR FOR YOUTH GROUP!

Ready for another amazing youth group year??

Sunday 9/11 from 2 to 5 p.m. – we will begin again with a kickoff pool party at the Fullerton's house (504 Leyland Drive Annapolis MD 21409). Bring yourself, a bathing suit and towel and a snack to share with the group.

On Sunday 9/18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. there will be a mandatory parents' meeting at the church with all kinds of information you'll need for the year ahead.



On Thursday 10/20 and Friday 10/21 we will have an overnight retreat at West River Camp in MD. **We need three parents to volunteer.**

MAKE SURE YOU ARE GETTING EMAILS ABOUT YOUTH GROUP EVENTS! Some have already been sent out. If you are not currently receiving these, please email Pastor Jessie at pastorcoapc@gmail.com.

Women's Book Club

We invite all of you to join us! For more information contact Alice Robeson at 410-757-6967.

Circling the Sun by Paula McLain, Wednesday, September 21 at 7 p.m. Hosted by Linda Link, 235 Waycross Way, Arnold.

I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb, Wednesday, October 19 at 7 p.m. Hosted by Susan Storm, 66 Franklin St, Annapolis.

The Paris Architect: A Novel by Charles Bel-foure, Wednesday, November 16 at 7 p.m. Hosted by Mary Gail Kokish, 1253 Timber Turn, Arnold.

Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George, Wednesday, December 21 at 7 p.m. Hosted by Marilyn Rorick 309 Grindstone Drive, Arnold.

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger, Wednesday, January 18 at 7 p.m. Hosted by Ann Leipold 883 Laurel Way, Arnold.

Women's Retreat Scheduled for October

All women of COA are invited to spend a day of fellowship at White Rose Farm in Taneytown, MD from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our day at the farm will include the following:

- ✝ prayer, bible study
- ✝ a short tour of the gardens
- ✝ lunch
- ✝ a powerful craft and seed circle (more information will be given on this later)
- ✝ afternoon tea

For more information, please contact Anna Wertz at 443-995-1580 or at wertzedu@comcast.net.

Make a Joyful Noise Join One of COA's Choirs

The Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir will be beginning rehearsals for the fall **on Thursday, September 8.**



The Sanctuary Choir sings regularly at the 9:30 service and is open to anyone middle school age and above with a desire to sing to the Lord. The Sanctuary Choir meets regularly on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Bell Choir plays approximately every six weeks and would like to extend an invitation to adults and youth in grades 6 and up to join us. The Bells choir meets in the large meeting room from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.



These choirs will be participating with the Worship Team and Children's Choir in December for our annual Christmas cantata.

Come join us and **Celebrate the Lord through Music!**

Any questions, e-mail Diana Martin at msdsmartin@aol.com or call 410-703-2208.

NEW MEMBERS

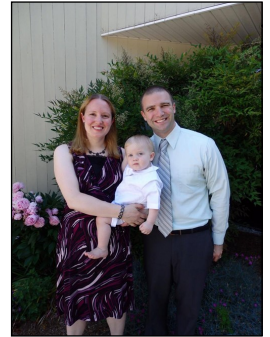
On June 19, Christ Our Anchor welcomed seven new members to its faith family. We hope as you read about them and see them around that you will take time to get to know them better! Send them a card, schedule time to grab a cup of coffee or simply start conversation here at church!

Matt and Julie Bieber (son: Nathan)

Julie grew up in Barrington, NJ as a member of a local Catholic church. She has been a teacher in Anne Arundel County for eight years and in Prince George's County for one year.

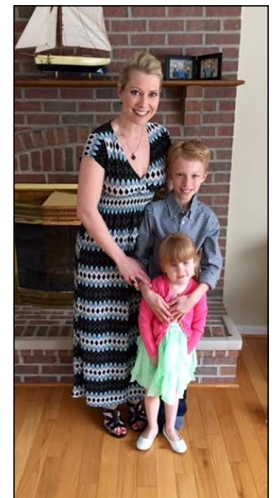
Matt grew up in Exeter Township, PA as a member of a Lutheran church. Like Julie, he worked as a teacher for seven years and has been an Assistant Principal for three years at Southern Middle School.

Nathan was born on May 20, 2015 and was baptized here at COA on May 29.



Jill Allen Clouse (children: Calvin and Lexi)

Jill was born, raised, baptized and confirmed at Center Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA. She came to Maryland her senior year of high school when her family moved to Bel Air. She attended college at UMD College Park with a degree in Metabolic Dietetics. She currently works for Sigma Aldrich, a chemical company, and works with researchers in labs at UMD Baltimore, UMCP, UMBC, and Georgetown University. She enjoys CIZE videos when she can do them and loves being out on the water! She even has her Captain's license. She lives on the edge of Cape St. Claire with her son Calvin who turns 10 in September and daughter Lexi who turns 4 in September.



Nick Jacob

Nick has moved a lot! He grew up in Severna Park, and moved to Arnold, Annapolis, Virginia Beach, back to Severna Park, Cape St. Claire, Middletown DE, Glen Burnie, Brooklyn MD, Severna Park, and now to his current location in Eastport. He attended three different high schools and connected to COA through the Werntz family. He enjoys hiking, kayaking, and spending time with his buddies. Aside from moving, he has been to see a ton of concerts and has traveled to about fifteen states in the past ten years. He loves going on road trips and seeing new things that he wouldn't normally get to see and do. He has skydived, glacier climbed, zip lined in a cavern, white water rafted, and more. He is the middle son of three boys. His family is mostly local and he enjoys getting to see them regularly.

