

From the Pastor's Office

THANK YOU—AND A LOOK AHEAD



Dear friends at Christ Our Anchor and community,

I have felt so cared for and supported during my pregnancy. As I get closer and closer to this incredible journey of

parenthood, I feel like I have a huge second family standing behind me, cheering me on. So THANK YOU! Thank you for the beautiful and generous baby shower you put on for me. Thank you for all your stories and encouragement, reminding

See "Thank you" p 2

Rally Sunday!



**SEPTEMBER 10 is
a big day at COA!**

We return to two services, the traditional service at 9:30 a.m. and the contemporary service at 11:00 a.m.

- ✝ During the Children's Sermon, 3rd graders will be given a special gift, acknowledging their shift to the older Sunday School class and we will have our annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" for all students returning to school.
- ✝ Sunday School begins again at the 11:00 service following the Children's Message.

- ✝ Our annual Stewardship campaign will kick off (see the article on pg. 3). You will be given a Time & Talent Survey, asking about areas of life in our family of faith where you might be able to contribute some of your gifts.
- ✝ After the 11 o'clock service, all are welcome to join us for a picnic and fellowship hosted by our awesome COA Deacons.

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“Thank you,” from p I



me that this is such a privilege to be growing my family; a privilege larger than all the stress and worry and unanswered questions. You all are great models for me of what family life can look like.

That said, I also want to be sure to address any questions you may have about what will happen here at COA when I am on maternity leave. So here is the plan (for more detailed information please address questions to our Clerk of Session, Amy Jarjoura, or the Administrative Committee):

- ❑ Beginning: Sunday October 1, 2017 (after worship service)
- ❑ If I deliver early, the contacts above also know about my detailed contingency plan for coverage



- ❑ Ending: Sunday November 26, 2017
- ❑ Preaching from October 15 through November 19 will be Rev. Dottie Lapenta, my mentor and dear friend

- ❑ Pastoral Care Coverage, should needs arise:

- Call Stacie in the church office
- Contact one of our Stephen Ministers: *Ann Leipold, (410) 757-8129/annleipold@comcast.net* or *Susan Storm, (443) 223-7585/gastorm@verizon.net*, who are trained to be able to visit you in the home or hospital for any number of



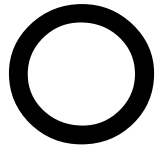
issues. They will decide whether the intervention of another pastor is required.

NOTE: While I am on this leave, I will not be responding to e-mail or phone calls except from Stacie (Office Manager), Dottie (Pulpit Supply) or Amy (Clerk) and in emergencies only. I will be putting my focus on our new little girl as absolute top priority.

I know you all understand and will support me when I am out as much as when I am here with you! Please know how much I appreciate you all!

Pastor Jessie

New Focus for COA Mission — Mental Health



Our church is broadening its vision for mission. In listening to prayer requests each week as well as to our community (of all ages), what we hear over and over is that one of the

great unmet needs is in the area of mental health and addiction. We think the church could be a great witness in these areas by getting more involved. If this resonates with you, you can get involved by joining COA's team for this year's Out of the Darkness Walk.



The 4-mile walk on September 16 in downtown Annapolis has the goal of suicide awareness and prevention. Did you know that suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people in Anne Arundel County? This is important to all of us who believe in hope.

If you want to join COA's team on a walk this year, you can sign up at: <https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=141633>. If you can't walk, you can go to this site to make a donation either generally or in support of one of our walkers.

Why I am Walking *by Judy Clark*

Pastor Jessie asked me to consider becoming an active elder with COA, focusing on Mission. She is passionate about sharing resources and education and supporting mental health initiatives within our community. This is an effort I'd also like to be involved with.

The America Foundation for Suicide Prevention sponsors the annual Out of Darkness Walks. One of the goals of AFSP is to create a culture that's smart about mental health. The Mental Health Awareness Web site states that currently 18.29% of adults struggle with a mental health problem annually. This equals 43.7 million Americans; Maryland's numbers are 16.30%, equaling 735,000 people.

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. The percentage of adults reporting serious thoughts of suicide is 3.94%. While this data is the most accurate we have, the actual numbers are estimated to be higher, as the stigma surrounding suicide leads to underreporting. There is no single cause to suicide. It most often occurs when stressors exceed current coping abilities of someone suffering

from a mental health condition.

So, why am I passionate about the Out of Darkness Walk? I am supporting this year's effort in memory and in hope. In memory of my son, Paul Hillier, who took his life November 26, 2008, and in hope that one of my granddaughters, who has been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder II and has attempted suicide twice will be able to continue with her medications and live a full life.

Several of my family members and I suffer with depression and other mental illnesses. You may know people in your family or circle of friends who also suffer with a mental illness. Often we feel it necessary to keep this knowledge hidden and in the darkness. We cannot be inoculated against it, there are no antibiotics to help in our healing. But shining the light on mental illness and supporting efforts that will make us smart about mental health can help.

Please consider walking with the COA team and supporting our efforts to make this faith community really *smart!*

Christ Our Anchor was transformed into Hero Central for Vacation Bible School, which took place the week of June 26. It was an amazing week sharing the message "Do good, seek peace and go after it" Psalm 34:14. We had 78 children participating and 50 volunteers from church members, youth group and parents of our VBS children.



The participating children were involved in a VBS mission project to fill six backpacks with school supplies for children at Cape St. Claire Elementary. The participants did a great job bringing in school supplies, backpacks and gift cards to support the mission.

Love, Sarah Taylor and Jen

Deal
VBS Co-Directors



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

“CONNECT THE DOTS ...” EXTENDED *by Helen Kelley*

Our Stewardship campaign this year is adding a dot so we can **CONNECT the DOTS ...** more fully. We want to emphasize that we are not stagnant but moving forward toward our COA vision. We have brought back the idea of lifestyle stewardship with the re-introduction of time and talents being part of our giving along with our financial commitment.

We are excited about what we will offer from September 10 through October 8. Plan to join us on September 10 at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. for our campaign kickoff as well as Rally Day. Each Sunday we will present a “Did you know?” moment where we explain something from within COA as well as hear testimonials from folk involved and committed to supporting the church, its purpose and its future. Come hear about what we are doing now, what we plan, and what we dream about as we continue to grow in vibrancy and vision.

What can you do?

☞ Join us and let God speak to you and your hearts as you hear about our immediate and future activities and goals. Our hope is that during these five Sundays you will have at least one moving moment that will help you consider

pledging (or increasing a pledge) to show your commitment that we should all work together to manage God’s work in our home, lives and community.

☞ Look for your pledge card to arrive in the mail during the campaign. Please prayerfully consider what you can give, can you increase this year, and what your giving could mean to the church. What would a 5% increase mean or even a 10% or 15% increase? Can you help realize continued stability for COA and our ability to look to our visions and future?

☞ Think about where within COA your personal skill set or interests could best be used. What amount of time could you realistically commit to God, your faith and this church? Each person’s time and talents are important to us. That is what makes lifestyle stewardship and a viable church.

☞ On Celebrating Connections Sunday, October 8, at our single 10 a.m. service, plan to commit your pledge and share your dreams. Join with us right after worship for a sweet fellowship time here at church as we share some goodies with you all.



Hannah

New Nursery Staff

If you attend the 9:30 service and use the nursery, we now have more help! COA has hired two experienced youth workers, Hannah Urlock and Jill Carty, for the nursery. One of them will be posted in the nursery to help every Sunday beginning in September. We will have a sign-in sheet for children checked in where you can leave information such as your child’s age, birthday, food allergies, and the best number to reach you by text if needed.

NOTE: *We still will need at least one parent volunteer to stay with them for legal reasons, but we sincerely hope this allows more freedom for parents of infants and toddlers to enjoy the services without worry.*



Jill

Women's One-Day Retreat October 21, 2017

**Sinking Spring Herb Farm
843 Elk Forest Rd.
Elkton, MD 21921**

Cost: \$25

Arrival 9 a.m.

Lunch Noon

Bible studies 1p.m.

Closing with tea time 2:30 p.m.



I would like to invite all women to join me at Sinking Spring Herb Farm in Elkton, MD for COA's Second Annual Fall One-Day Retreat. We will be learning about the herbs of the Bible with discussion. Our day at the farm will include prayer, bible study, a tour of the gardens, lunch from the gardens, a craft, and end with tea



time before departing at 3 p.m. This is a place to connect with the Holy Spirit that resides in each of

us and the beauty, bounty and balance of nature that Our Lord has provided.

I hope to see you all there.

Please see the sign-up in the Narthex or call, text or e-mail me at 443-995-1580

(werntzedu@comcast.net)



Anna Werntz

Youth Group To Meet September 17

Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church Youth Group

Sunday nights at 6:00 P.M.- 7:30 P.M.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Address: 1281 Green

Holly Drive

Annapolis, MD 21409

Cell: (410) 974-1713

Email: pastorcoapc@gmail.com



CAN YOU BELIEVE IT! This year, we expect our youth group to grow to more than 40 members in grades 6 through 12! Youth Group will be kicking off its fall meeting schedule on **Sunday September 17 with a parent meeting introducing the year ahead (6:00 – 7:30pm).**

We meet and learn about the Bible and our faith, but we also pray together, play crazy games, take trips and serve others. This year, because Pastor Jessie will be on maternity leave for much of the Fall, our wonderful youth leader Megan Ciccarone will be in charge. She has been working with the youth group faithfully ever since she was in youth group herself!

If you are an adult in the church age 21 or older who would enjoy getting to know more of our youth, we need you! Please contact Alice Cain (the Christian Education Elder and Parent Liaison for Youth Group) at alice.johnson.cain@gmail.com with dates for a Sunday night or two where you might be able to help with our youth group meetings. You won't regret it! We love our kids and youth at COA!



COA To Discontinue Churchwide Support for Habitat

by Lynette Delprete

I wanted make you aware of a change to COA's support for Habitat for Humanity. The decision has been made to discontinue monetary and church volunteer support for Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake. While this was a difficult decision, it was necessary so that the church mission team could focus resources on fewer projects.

The 123 Clay St. house is Habitat Chesapeake's last property in the historic Clay Street Community and completing it is critical to the neighborhood's success. Unfortunately, serious structural flaws in the foundation were recently discovered that will cost \$20,000 to address. The total needed to complete the home, including fixing the foundation is \$132,000. Volunteer efforts on the house cannot resume until a significant portion of that amount is raised. The hope is that this amount can be reduced by securing in-kind donations of products and

services like plumbing, electrical, and engineering. Beyond funding, the other challenge is that this property does not have a family matched to it and Habitat tries not to progress too far on homes that are not matched because of the risk of theft and vandalism.

Although Habitat is paused on construction volunteer opportunities at 123 Clay St., help is needed in many other ways—specifically fundraising, securing of in-kind services and products, volunteering in our Glen Burnie ReStore and homeowner recruitment. For more information on how to get involved and help Habitat Chesapeake put more Anne Arundel County families into safe, stable homes, contact Diana Kean, Community Partnerships & Events Manager, at dkean@habitatchesapeake.org or 410-366-1250.

COA Youth Group Mission Trip

This year COA's middle school and high school youth combined for a mission and service trip to York, PA, run by Group Missions. Twelve youth grades 6 through 12, two youth over 18 and three adult chaperones participated.

We were lucky enough to hear about their experiences from many of them during Sunday worship after their trip. Their service included such activities as helping with community gardens, a local nursing home, and a food bank.

Did you know it costs on average \$250 per person to attend these trips? Donations are accepted at any time for future youth mission trips to defray costs and help more kids be a part of this life-changing experience. You can submit a check to the church with the memo line "Youth Mission."



Calling All Kids!

Join us for Sunday school at the 11 a.m. service (following the Children's Message) beginning Sept. 10. All children ages 4 years through 5th grade are welcome!

Pay it Forward: Teach Sunday School!

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.

All teaching materials are provided and we have many longtime teachers to offer suggestions and support. We try to make it just a once-a-month commitment, but the impact on our



youngest members can last a lifetime! Sunday School for the 2017–2018 year begins Sept. 10, at the 11 a.m. service. To help, or for questions or suggestions, please see your Christian Education elders, Julie Bieber, julie.bicker@yahoo.com, 856-816-6759, or Alice Cain, alice.johnson.cain@gmail.com, 202-460-0229.

JUST A REMINDER!

We go back to **TWO services Sunday, September 10**. The traditional service is at 9:30 a.m. and the contemporary service is at 11:00 a.m.

The fall schedule is:

September 10 – Two services

September 17 – Two services

September 24 – Two services

October 1 – Two services

October 8 - ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m.