

Adelphi Presbyterian Church News



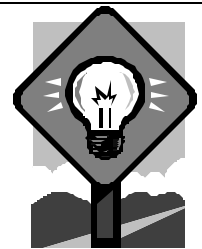
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Web Site: www.adelphipc.org

December 2005

**Minister: Every member of Adelphi
Presbyterian Church**

Pastor: Rev. Y. Eunice Yang
Clerk of Session: Janet Dolan
Treasurer: Charles Yancey
Assistant Treasurer: Jake Masters



MY FAITH JOURNEY

celine nchako

The Session

Class 2006

Candace Farley – Christian Education
Kathie James – Stewardship and Personnel
Charles Yancey – Facilities

Class 2007

Comfort Anigboh – Worship
Stig Hammond – Worship
Bettye Miller – Community Outreach

Class 2008

Renee Milligan – Evangelism and Mission
Charlotte Ojong – Congregational Care
Ernestine Tebong – Transforming Congregation

My upbringing facilitated my journey to become a Christian. Before I became a Christian, my thought process about God was a little selfish. I had the tendency to question God on any negativity that occurred in my life or the lives of those surrounding me. I grew up in a Christian environment and each Sunday morning, I was compelled to go to church with my family. My Mother is a devoted member of her church and a faithful believer of Christ. She sings in the choir; she has once been the vice president of the choir and she is now the treasurer of the choir. My journey to Christianity is credited to my parents who relentlessly engaged me in the activities of Christian hood and to two remarkable and unforgettable incidences.

Two remarkable incidences in my life, let me to question my faith in God. The first incident was when my brother - Theodore had a severe accident. He was a very young, intelligent, handsome, free spirited and tender loving young man. He was engaged in a motor vehicle accident in his early twenties and that unforgettable incident left him paralyzed from waist down. The second time my faith in God was shaken was when my father died of a heart attack

approximately seven years after my brother had his accident. My father was the sole provider of my family. After he passed on, I thought my life and that of my siblings was over. From that moment, I questioned the infirmity of my faith and God's divinity.

While on a shaky ground on God's whole being, my mother reaffirmed my faith in God. Waking up every morning without my father let me to question God every morning. On one of those routine chores, my mother over heard me and said, "My daughter, God doesn't give you a burden that you cannot bear" and I turn to her and said, "mother, this burden is more than we can carry" and she responded by saying, "no my daughter, God will show us the way to over come our misfortune". I reckoned to what she had said to me and was waiting for that divine moment when I will be able to bear my burdens.

My coming to the states revealed how opportune I was unlike most others. I encountered beggars and the homeless on the streets; sometimes they would come up to me asking for money and I later learned that some of them use the money to get drugs and continue their cycle of addiction. I became heartless with the conception that these people are blessed with both hands and feet, they are able to stretch their arms and walk up to you for a penny or more; I have a brother who doesn't have two feet, yet he is not out there begging on the streets. I thought these people were complete with no frailty and they should be able to get a job like any other individual. But later on in life, I realized that some of these people might not have physical deformities but they might have psychological problems that prohibits their ability to sustain a job. I stopped judging them and I tried to help them the best way possible. I had an encounter with a friend who said, "give money to the beggars because you don't know who really needs it and who uses it for drugs, at least you will end up helping some one who truly needs it". I yielded to her advice and now I give them money without pre judgments. By doing so, I know I am at peace with God. If someone was to ask me for money and I don't give it to them, I would feel guilty and be worried the entire day; I would ponder if that was God disguising in the form of a needy beggar.

Knowing Christ has been a wonderful experience for me. I am not too uptight nor do I take things for granted. I am a much happier and appreciative individual. God has performed miracles in my life in so many ways and God is still working in my life. Each day of my life starts and ends in prayers. I find myself talking to God as if I am talking to someone close by. I don't worry about things as I did before because I know God is in control and all of my burdens have been surrendered to him. As Ernestine mentioned in her Faith Journey, I also find myself singing and dancing behind the wheels praising God like the birds that sing in the sky. I am not a good singer but the moment I start singing, I don't care if I go from solo to the base or somewhere in between, what I really care about is the fact that I am talking to God and God is listening to me.

When I moved from Georgia to Maryland, I was looking for a church to call home. My roommate told me about Adelphi and Silver Spring Presbyterian Church. Adelphi was at close proximity to my home and I said to my self "why not visit Adelphi this Sunday and then Silver Spring the next Sunday". When I came to Adelphi, the warmness, togetherness and friendliness of the church members caught my attention. My decision was made that same day and I decided not to search for warmness any further. Adelphi was my first and last stop and I became a member three or four months after I started attending the church. Although I am already a Christian, gaining extra biblical knowledge will enrich my spirituality. The Sunday sermon alone might not be sufficient; if Adelphi could organize for bible studies and prayer sessions, it will help the members grow spiritually.

Growing from a Christian home, my greatest joy has always been to draw people closer to God. I often invite people to come to church with me, encourage them to read their bibles and to pray to God on a regular basis. Prayer is the key to every solution. When you go down on your knees and pray to God, whatever you ask for, you will receive it. It might take days, weeks, months or even years. The bottom line is God will respond to your needs.



FROM SESSION CLERK

janet dolen

SESSION NEWS

At the November Session meeting the Elders discussed the upcoming plans and logistics for the Advent season and the Christmas party, which is Dec. 18th. We approved a motion to ask the congregation for a donation \$3 per new Presbytery hymnal to be given for the Presbytery disaster relief. Also, the Session agreed to continue with "Harvest Sunday" for the next 6 months. "Harvest Sunday" will be the fourth Sunday of every month on which people will bring forward their offerings of tithes and food for *Help by Phone*. On the facilities front--a contractor has been found to replace the doors to the church. The Session discussed further the issue of removing pews from the sanctuary.

Also, there will be hymn singing every Sunday starting at 10:45 until the end of the year. Please bring your favorite hymns to Ann MacKenzie so we may all enjoy singing everyone's favorite hymns.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

Rev. Yang and I attended the November Presbytery meeting. Items of interest were:

- Listening to the candidates for ministry speak on what it means to be a Presbyterian and share their faith journey;
- The new vision statement for the National Capital Presbytery was passed;
- Approval was given for Beltsville United Presbyterian Church to relocate to where the former Wheaton Presbyterian Church was; and
- Rev. Yang was elected as a Minister Commissioner to the 217th General Assembly, which will be held in Birmingham, AL in June 2006. Congratulations Rev. Yang!



TRANSFORMING CONGREGATIONS PROJECT



SUMMARY REPORT

ernestine tebong

In January of this year, Adelphi Presbyterian Church embarked on a multi-year Transformation Project, along with other churches in the National Capital Presbytery. The team of five, Bob Finzel, Martin Ojong, Tad Jembere, Ernestine Tebong, and Pastor Eunice Yang have worked hard to learn about transformation, and to engage the church leadership, and congregation in the process. It is an ongoing process of searching and learning of God's will. Throughout the year, with the leadership of our pastor, we keep asking ourselves one question: What is God's Plan for Adelphi Presbyterian Church?

TRAININGS

The TCP team has had four training events this year with other churches. During these sessions, led by the Reverend Dr. Ann Philbrick, we have learned that Transformation is people carrying out the mission that Jesus gave the church, which is to MAKE DISCIPLES. We learned that this transformation begins with each and every one of us. We also learned about assessments and surveys, and how they can help us to know our leadership, our congregation, and community. At our third training, we learned about personal spiritual disciplines, and corporate spiritual disciplines, and how they can be applied to help our congregation grow spiritually. In our November training session, we learned how relationships affect spiritual growth. We shared information with other churches on what is working, and what is not working, and discerning what ways will work best in our church.

WHAT HAS THE TCP TEAM BEEN DOING?

The TCP team has been meeting almost monthly to pray together, to decipher the information, and to discern the direction that the leadership of the church should take to move us along our transformation

journey. Some of the things that the TCP team has worked on are:

- ? Conduct a community survey by driving through all the neighborhoods around the church, and writing our observations, interviewing some community leaders to get information about the neighborhood, and opinions about the church, getting community maps, demographics, and mapping a church history timeline.
- ? Monthly Pastoral training with Rev. Ann Philbrick.
- ? Brainstorming ideas on how to move forward with transformation.
- ? Reading recommended books, and materials on transformation.
- ? Preparing the congregation for the church surveys and assessments.
- ? Working with session to discuss assessment report, and implementing changes.
- ? Informing the congregation about the transformation process through oral reports, and newsletter.

REVEREND ANN PHILBRICK'S VISITS

During Rev. Philbrick's visits, she toured the neighborhood, and church building. She conducted interviews with lay leaders, met with TCP team, and session. She provided a comprehensive assessment report with recommendations. At the last meeting with the leadership, Rev. Philbrick had a training with session and TCP which emphasized team building, and helped us with starting a conversation on a direction and vision for our congregation. She will be coming back to have a training session with the congregation in December.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- ? We have learned that change is hard.
- ? We have learned that we are a multi-racial church, and not necessarily a multi-cultural church.
- ? We have learned that our church is in the retirement stage.
- ? There will be conflict during transformation, and that conflict if seen as a tool for discussion is good.
- ? There are those who will embrace change and those that will resist.

- ? Our history is important, and we should learn from it and draw from it, but not let it hinder our transformation.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED SO FAR IN OUR TRANSFORMATION?

- ? We had an energetic and spirit-filled Wednesday night prayer in the month of September where we prayed for various activities that take place in every room of our church. We also prayed for all the people that call Adelphi their church home, and those in the community around us. We prayed for our pastor, and our leaders.
- ? We have started experimenting with different styles of music.
- ? We have changed our hymnals to the Presbyterian hymnal.
- ? Sunday school is more active, and consistent
- ? We have had five new members.
- ? We are paying more attention to our visitors.
- ? We are building stronger relationships by having each member of session to have undershepherds, and report monthly to session about contacts.
- ? TCP team is working on building deeper relationships by meeting in each other's homes.
- ? Individual members of congregation report personal transformations, and a closer relationship with the Lord.
- ? We are learning new ways to help one another with our spiritual journeys...through sharing our faith journeys, and giving testimonies about how God is working in our lives.
- ? We will have a series of Advent Soup and Study on being "A Praying Congregation" which will be led by the 4 TCP team members.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ? Continuing to find out what God wants for us individually and as a congregation.
- ? Looking forward to second year of transformation with different kinds of training.
- ? Working more closely with session and congregation to determine our vision.

- ? Getting to know one another in more meaningful relationships perhaps through the development of small group ministry.

ATTENTION!!!

- ? During advent, there will be Wednesday night soup and study, and each and everyone is encouraged to come join in Bible study, and also share soup with each other.
- ? Reverene Ann Philbrick will have a training session with the congregation on **December 11, 2005 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm**. We will work together to explore our 50 years of history and learn what it means to us today and to our future as a church. Mark your calendars and please stay for some great information that will benefit all of us greatly in our transformation journey.



STEWARDSHIP NEWS



kathie james

Thank you, *merci, gracias, danke, grazie*, and sincere appreciation in all other languages! We are pleased to report that we have received almost 70% of our pledge cards, showing that Adelphi members and friends are supporting the Body of Christ here in our church for the work God has for us to do.

We hope that the remaining pledge cards will be arriving soon so that we can plan, based on the giving faith of everyone, for the coming year. We must have a written plan (budget) by the end of the calendar year in preparation for the congregational meeting in January, and it takes time to compile all the information.

If you have not had a chance to turn in your pledge card, please bring it or mail it to the church as soon as you can. If you have misplaced your card, you may indicate your pledge in a letter or note that can be brought in or mailed. If you wish to speak with

someone about your pledge, please feel free to call the pastor or myself, and we will be glad to talk confidentially with you.

We know that God has a plan for Adelphi; now we must make our plan for His work. Please help us by giving as much as you are able, by submitting a pledge card, and by following up with your giving in 2006. Again, many thanks!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

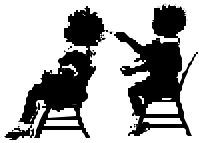
candace philander

We're entering the season of Advent. The Christian Education committee is especially pleased with , and very thankful for, the response to the weekly Sunday School classes held during the month of October. This is a congregation filled with energy, love, and faith, and we would like to continue providing everyone a meaningful Church life experience. Based on feedback from Sunday School parents, we've prepared a Sunday School schedule for the time between now and the end of February 2006. We hope that this will be a starting point to a more comprehensive program, one that helps us teach the children how to be disciples of Christ by Faith, and the Joy that comes with it.

Sunday School will be held on the First and Second Sundays of each month, directly after the 'Time With Our Children' segment of the Sunday Service (at around 11:30 AM). On these two days, instead of being dismissed to their seats in the sanctuary, the children will go downstairs directly.

*** Bible Breakfast Club, on the Third Sunday, with the usual delicious breakfast (YUM!!) will continue to be held at 9:30 AM.

There will be no Sunday school on the Fourth and Fifth Sundays of the Month. On these Sundays, children will remain in the sanctuary with their families and friends, to experience the full worship service.



BIBLE BREAKFAST

CLUB

kathie james

On November 20, twenty-one people attended Bible Breakfast Club at 9:30a.m. The session began with some Bible games, followed by our prayers.

Various members of the group then took turns reading stories about people who gave thanks--God's people in the Old Testament, who brought their first fruits; King Solomon; the apostle Paul, when God saved his boat from sinking in a bad storm; and the leper whom Jesus healed. At that point, we enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Candace Philander, with a donation of homemade banana bread from Mrs. Judy Khan, our oftentimes visiting teacher.

The old Scripture verse was recited, and a new one was given (Psalm100:4) for next time--December 18. Mrs. Khan taught the group some songs, one of which the children sang during the service later that morning. The session concluded with the young people making colorful Thanksgiving cups that they can use at home.

Happy Birthday



- December 2 Winton Almas
- December 2 Les Wattay
- December 4 Atiya Jembere
- December 5 Unche Anigboh
- December 5 Martin Ojong
- December 6 Richard Smith
- December 7 Charles Yancey
- December 9 David Jones
- December 10 Matthew Smith
- December 17 Neil Wiltshire
- December 18 John Anthony Thurber
- December 19 Stig Hammond
- December 22 Dave Miller
- December 25 Marlene Donaldson
- December 30 Jennie Cardin

CALENDAR

Worship starts at 11:00AM Sunday

Hymn Sing 10:45AM

- December 4, Sunday 12:15PM
Special Session Meeting
- December 13, Tuesday 7:00PM
Stated Session Meeting
- December 11, Sunday, after worship
Congregation meets with Rev. Philbrick
- December 15, Thursday 7:00PM
TCP team meeting
- December 18, Sunday, after worship
Christmas Luncheon
- December 24, Saturday, 7:30PM
Christmas Eve Service
- December 25, Sunday, Food Sunday
Coffee Hour after worship

Wednesdays – 6:30PM Soup and Study

Sunday School

- First Sunday – 11:30AM after Children's moment
- Second Sunday – 11:30AM after Children's moment
- Third Sunday – 9:30AM Bible Breakfast Club
- Fourth & Fifth Sundays – No Sunday School

December 27-30, Tue-Fri, Girls' Scout meets at the church from 9:00am – 3:00pm

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

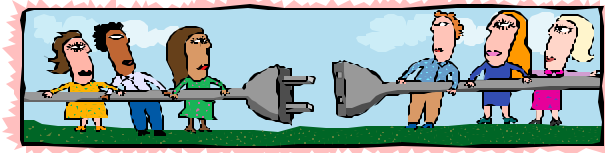


- December 23 Paul and Joan Tembunde**
- December 27 Neil and Michelle Wiltshire**
- December 30 Winton and Promilla Almas**

Help By Phone Menu

Beef Stew	Jell-o	Dry Milk	Pudding
Macaroni & Cheese	Pasta	Coffee	Pancake mix
Spaghetti	Soups	Tea	Pancake Syrup
Pork & Beans	Peanut Butter	Cocoa	
	Fruit		
Dried Northern Beans	Apple sauce		Red, Green & Yellow Vegetables
Tuna Jelly	Baby food		Rice
	Cold Cereals		Pudding
	Grits		
	Oatmeal		

Advent Study Series 2005



~ *Preparing for the coming of the Lord by*

Preparing our hearts to learn to pray

Are you yearning for a deeper relationship with God and with your brothers and sisters in the Christian community? Do you believe prayer works? What do you mean by “working”? Who is the God we pray to? How does God want us to pray? What does it mean to listen to God in prayer?

For many centuries, Christians do not have the bible we have today to read at their homes. The center of the life of Christians lies in prayer. Personally and corporately, early Christians pray, sing, and break bread together every Sabbath when they gather to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and to wait for His return! In the very beginning of the church, “*All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, ...*” (Acts 1:14)

Some church leaders have advocated that once in a while, *we should drop all church programs for a year and just teach our people how to pray!* Prayer is a lifetime learning.

Come this Advent to learn what prayer is about, to ask hard theological questions, and to practice prayer with your fellow Christians. Your Transforming Congregation Project Team members will lead the four study series. The study is based on “*A Praying Congregation*” by Jane E. Vennard.

Wednesday 6:30 PM Soup and Bread
 7:00 PM Study

November 30 *Praying Congregations* Bob Finzel

December 7 *Learning to Pray* Martin Ojong
December 14 *What do you believe about prayer?*
Ernestine Tebong

December 21 *Images of God* Tad Jembere

Childcare available upon request! Please call ahead of time!!

LECTIONARY READING



December 4, 2005 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalms 85:1-2,8-13
Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 11, 2005 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11
Psalms 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8,19-28

December 18, 2005 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7:1-11
Luke 1:47-55
Roman 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24, 2005 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalms 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

December 25, 2005 Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalms 97
Hebrew 1:1-4
John 1:1-14

DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVANTS

	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGISTS
December 4	The Milligans	Paul Tembunde	Charles Yancey
December 11	Gail Rodman	Janet Dolen	Comfort Anigboh
December 18	The Lancasters	Jerome Farley	Matilda Che
December 25	Vida Agyei-Obese	Jake Masters	Bob Finzel

Adelphi Presbyterian Church

9401 Riggs Road

Adelphi, Maryland 20783

Pastor: Rev. Y. Eunice Yang

Interim Director of Music: Ann Mac Kenzie

Administrative Assistant: Mildred Fon