

Adelphi Presbyterian Church News



9401 Riggs Road
Adelphi, Maryland 20783
(301) 434-6337

Web Site: www.adelphipc.org

November 2006

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

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

The Session

Class 2007

Stig Hammond, Bettye Miller

Class 2008

Renee Milligan, Charlotte Ojong, Ernestine Tebong

Class 2009

Jennie Cardin, Eric Yemoh

Pastor: Rev. Y. Eunice Yang
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Assistant Treasurer: Jake Masters

We are striving to be

A Praying Congregation...

Deepening with God.

A Caring Congregation...

Deepening with one another.

A Welcoming Congregation...

Deepening with the world.



SESSION NEWS – Significant Discussion and Decision

By Janet Dolen, Clerk of Session

June 13, 2006 Stated Meeting

English As A Second Language

The Session approved the proposal from Elder Bettye Miller of hiring a teacher, Elizabeth Burke, at \$25 an hour to teach ESL for the 12-week semester. Rev. Yang said at the end of the year we should take a closer look. Also, members of the congregation are not really involved in ESL and she said we could offer prayers for the students or perhaps one Elder can come and greet the students each time. This would give Adelphi a sense of community. It was suggested that we look for ways to support the students and a suggestion was made for a special offering for ESL. A motion was made and approved to designate September 24 to offer a special offering for ESL.

Transforming Congregation Project

Elder Tebong reported on a training session that dealt with leadership and change and resistance to change. The Session discussed different ideas of becoming a

Welcoming, Caring, and Praying Congregation – the Goals set up by TCP and endorsed by Session early this year! Elder Hammond is working on the map listing where members of the congregation live. Elder Tebong will get the flags put up (Unfortunately, the flags had to be taken down due to wet ground) and will have gifts to visitors ready. The Session discussed the food for Jazz night and Elder Milligan showed the flyer to the Elders for their review.

Regarding a praying congregation, Elder Ojong said the committee met and passed out some ideas on prayer. The Session agreed to go ahead and continue with the Wednesday night prayer hour (like it was done during the Lenten season). Rev. Yang suggested one Elder be responsible for one month—that Elder should be there even if Rev. Yang is not. Letting the community know was raised. Elder Ojong also went over some other prayer suggestions, such as prayer chains, prayer cards (fill out and give back at the end of worship and people can pick the cards up and pray for the requests). Elder James said they did something similar for the children. Also, all meetings should be started and ended with prayers. Also, perhaps start a small prayer group by geographical area.

The Session discussed the Sunday (May 28th) that was set aside for **the “speed dating” experiment** (proposed by Elder Farley) where members of the congregation would get to know each other with short, one-on-one conversations. Most of the members of the congregation did not stay. Two of the theories put forth for it not working were that it was Memorial Day weekend and the congregation did not get the concept. **The Session then discussed how much the congregation really wants to get to know each other and are we really a “friendly” church. The Elders talked about the culture of Adelphi—do we just want to be a Sunday family or do we really want to get to know each other. If that is something we want to achieve it would take a long time to change the dynamics.** It was suggested that if we know each other better we would pray differently for each other. Although some people will not feel comfortable sharing their personal lives, we want to create an environment where people will have a place to come to when they

need it. Rev. Yang said we should probably try the “speed dating” experiment again. But we should go ahead with the prayer chain and prayer cards.



June 25, 2006 Special Meeting

The purpose of the special Session meeting is to examine Jennie Cardin and Eric Yemoh as the new officers for the Class of 2009.

Ms. Cardin said she felt the time was right to serve on Session. She’s been a member for about 10 years and had served on the Session once before. Mr. Yemoh has never been an Elder before but was a very active member of the church in Ghana. He worked closely with the Pastor and was a choir member. The Presbyterian Church is the largest church in Ghana and he is familiar with the workings of the church. Ms. Cardin and Mr. Yemoh were asked what particular gifts/strengths they felt they had to contribute to the Session. Mr. Yemoh said he was good at fixing things, and Ms. Cardin said she was very domestic—she likes to cook and looks forward to coffee hours. Ms. Cardin also said she could bring her organizational skills to the Session.

August 13, 2006 Special Meeting

The purpose of the special Session meeting is to confirm Uche Anigboh and Mebanga Ojong as members of Adelphi Presbyterian Church. Elder Jennie Cardin was Ms. Ojong’s mentor and Elder Candace Farley was Ms. Anigboh’s mentor.

September 12, 2006 Stated Meeting

Transforming Congregation Project

The TCP team felt that even though they have learned a lot through attending workshops and reading, done a lot, and shared information through newsletters, and worship, some congregation members are still not on board with the transformation process. Some have the idea that transformation is a TCP project and not for

everybody. In view of this, the TCP team felt stuck, and felt that it had perhaps not shared enough or educated the congregation enough. TCP also said it would do a better job communicating with the congregation and sharing the goals suggested by TCP, which the session has been working on. The Session discussed how to communicate more with the congregation and how to bridge the gap between the TCP and the congregation.

Stewardship and Personnel

Motion was made to approve withdrawing \$1500 from the Otto Trust Fund to give \$300 each to the five high school graduates: Tambetta Ojong, Aima Ojehomon, Ndema Ojong, Mebanga Ojong, and Uche Anigboh.

Facilities: The Session approved a request to use the church on Saturday's for 1-1/2 hours by Maryland Marathi School to teach Indian language.



Pastor's Report

Rev. Yang handed out a summary sheet on a chapter from the book "Called to be Church—The Book of Acts for a New Day" by Anthony Robinson. She will be sharing her reading and reflection from the book with Session in each of the future meetings.

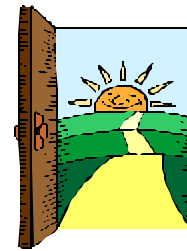
Rev. Yang handed out A Covenant of Leadership that the Session read. Discussion followed on mutual support of the Pastor and session elders. Rev. Yang said that we are partners in ministry. She would like to support the elders and regular, open and honest conversation is the way that she knows how to support the elders in their ministry.

October 10, 2006 Stated Meeting

Elder Bettye Miller reported on ESL. The ESL teacher has started and so far there have been four to six people attending. Elder Cardin showed the Session the names tags she and Elder Tebong are working on for

the congregation. Wearing nametag is one of the ways suggested so that our small congregation can get to know one another better!

The Session discussed the music/organist situation. Rev. Yang has been asking members of the congregation to participate and the Elders expressed their opinions on having an organist playing at the Worship service. The committee on music was exploring what Adelphi really needs in terms of music and the direction Adelphi should go. Until the next Session meeting it was decided that we would try worship services without an accompanist.



AMONG THE BENEFITS OF PRAYER

by Bob Finzel

Prayer is an opportunity for spiritual growth and personal discipline. I was reading a fitness brochure advertising a course in Stress Management. The article was titled "Practicing Safe Stress." It extolled the value of creatively managing stress and conflict through "humor" and stated that team building and cooperation were also benefits of this program. It occurred to me that this applied precisely to prayer as well. We can channel stress and frustration into cooperative, creative action and team building at Adelphi through prayer. When Jesus prayed and recommended it to His disciples He was providing an ideal form of stress management, not to speak of an opportunity to receive the graces of a benevolent God.

Each Wednesday evening, we urge every member to join us—the Pastor and TCP team—in an hour set aside for prayer from 7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m., or if your schedule doesn't permit an hour, any part thereof. Please join us!

We will add a brief meditation, 5-10 minutes, in December during the Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Savior. Please come if you

can and by all means remember our church in your personal prayers.



THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION AND ME

By Martin Ojong

When I think of transformation Romans 12: comes to mind. In this passage Paul spells out the duties all Christians must carry in God's service. Paul exhorts us to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to God.

He advises us not to conform to the standards of the world, but to let God transform us from within by a complete change of our minds. That way we will know the will of God, what pleases Him and is perfect.

We should not think of ourselves too highly. Rather we should be humble and consider ourselves a part of the body of Christ. In a body there are many parts, each with a different and specific function. We should therefore use our various, God-given, gifts to joyfully serve others. Be it the ability to speak God's message, to teach, or to comfort others.

Those in authority should work hard and show kindness to others. He wants us to be sincere in our love, to hate evil, to love and respect one another. We have to serve the Lord with devotion.

Our hope should keep us joyful, make us patient in our troubles, and we should pray at all times. We should share our belongings with the needy and open our homes to strangers. We should bless those who persecute us, be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep. We should not be proud, but accept humble duties.

We should not take revenge, but rather do everything to be at peace with everyone. We should feed our enemies if they are hungry; give them a drink if they are thirsty. We will thereby conquer evil with good.

In the past 20 months we have had ample opportunity to learn all about church transformation. We have heard all about the life cycle of a church, how to celebrate happy moments in the past but also the need to let go of what is likely to hold us back. Personally, I have learned to be more open-minded with worship and praise styles. I now know being multiracial is not synonymous with being multicultural. I have learned to be content with the small numbers here but stay hopeful for growth in the future. I have learned to be more accepting of people who are different from me, to be more forgiving, and to serve in whatever capacity I am needed.

However, I still have a lot to do. I wish I could boast of having yielded myself completely to the Lord or could declare that I am the clay in the Great Potter's hand. I have not yet acquired the boldness to preach the word, whenever the occasion arises. Neither am I sure of my readiness to bless my persecutors. Am I willing to feed my enemies or give them a drink when they are thirsty? I have not made it that far yet. Whatever the case, I am sure God's amazing grace will continue to transform and sustain us all.



TRANSFORMATION

by Tad Jembere

One of the things I learned attending TCP meetings is that all churches have a life cycle. Congregations start their life cycle as an expression of a God-given vision of the life of the newly emerging congregations. The life cycle then proceeds through infancy and childhood to full development and maturity. It takes about 25 years or approximately a generation to reach maturity. This is followed by a gradual decline. The life cycle applies even to evangelical churches which I thought were growing as their churches pop up everywhere. If we look at an individual church we will find that the general rule applies.

Adelphi has kept careful records of membership and Sunday morning attendance since its founding in 1955 in

large part through the hard work of Verna who served as volunteer secretary for many years. Membership grew to over 260 in 1973 and then began to decline. As a church I believe we can draw inspiration from the book of Acts. A core of 12 disciples, who had learned from their master every day, were able to spread their faith rapidly throughout Asia all the way to Rome and beyond in a short time.

How did they do it? As the Gospel of Luke ends and Acts begins we do not find the church busy at its task. The apostles are told to return to Jerusalem and wait - wait for the Holy Spirit. The message to us in the first chapter of Acts is not to ask what we can do but to ask what God wants to do through his Holy Spirit. The churches message is distilled in Acts 2, verse 21 "whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved". The message to the Jews was that the Messiah had come. God had made a new covenant with Jews and gentiles based on the forgiveness of sin and on His grace. This is the message that we should share with our neighbors, coworkers and the community.

To discern God's will prayer is vital. In Acts 2, verse 14 we read "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus". There were about 120 in number in the room praying together. And on the day of Pentecost, again we read they were all together with one accord and in one place.

My prayer life has improved since coming to Adelphi. I have learned to thank God as part of my prayer. I read the daily lectionary fairly regularly and pray for a short time. I was telling Bob in one of our meetings that I spend more time reading the lectionary than on prayer after the lectionary. He made the comment that it is easy to read. Since joining the TCP, I am learning that a good deal of my prayer can come out of the scripture reading for that day. I can certainly thank God for His Word.

I got a raise at the beginning of the year. Atiya and I gladly decided to give 10 per cent of that to support her church. I am still a long way from tithing in the biblical tradition. But I believe God will show us the way. We had decided to support a child in Ethiopia several years ago. A group I met in Atiya's church called Eternal

Gospel Missionary were running a program assisting children who had lost their family to the scourge of HIV. It was appealing to me because instead of placing them in orphanages, they attached them to families and taught them the Gospel. It only cost three hundred dollars per year to support a child.

When Atiya and Abigail went to Ethiopia this past Summer, they were able to visit the family. I was glad that we had the opportunity to meet the family. We found out that the family had lost their breadwinner and were actually begging at church entrances as is the custom in Ethiopia. The faithful would offer them a few coins. I had received a hand written letter of thanks from the child. I was fighting tears to read how grateful she was. She said that this would save her from a great deal of difficulty. She is fourteen and has three siblings.

While thinking about what to say in today's sermon it occurred to me to pray for that family. There needs to be a human and spiritual link to that family and not just a financial commitment. I will also pray that God would enable us to do much more for that family. I want to end by reminding us of the scripture we read from the Epistle of James two Sundays ago that I feel summarizes transformation. In chapter 4 verse 8 we read "...draw near to God and He will draw near to you". Let us pray for a vision from God regarding the future of our church.



BIBLE BREAKFAST CLUB

By Kathie James

Bible Breakfast Club met on Sunday, October 15, at 9:30 a.m. Nineteen enthusiastic participants were present to share a wonderful breakfast, faithfully prepared by Renee Milligan, as well as Bible lessons and crafts. We continued with our study of one Apostle and one woman each month, beginning with Thaddeus (also known as Jude). We learned that he was Jesus' cousin, that he had a gentle and kind personality, that he preached the Gospel in Armenia and Persia (modern-day Iran), and that he was martyred in Persia. We then read about Deborah the

Prophetess in Judges, specifically how she and her general Barak defeated the evil Sisera and his army, which was much larger and more fully armed; but God gave Deborah and Barak the victory, proving that He can do things which seem impossible to us. After that lesson, we learned how the Trinity could be understood by starting with a solid ice cube, melting it into a liquid, and watching it evaporate as steam; this demonstration showed how one entity could indeed have three different forms, just as the Holy Trinity is one entity but is composed of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Finally, as we thought about Halloween approaching, we decided that every time we see a "ghost," we will think of the Holy Ghost, or the Holy Spirit. Children made "Holy Ghost" necklaces with figures, strings, and beads. Afterwards, they made "Holy Ghosts" out of marshmallows to eat later so that the Holy Ghost would be "in them"; then they would ask God, as all of us should, to give us the Holy Spirit so that it would indeed be **in us**! Our next meeting will be on November 19. People of all ages are invited to come, learn, eat, and enjoy our activities.



NEW ARRIVAL

Greetings from your new administrative assistant at Adelphi Presbyterian Church! I am pleased to be joining your welcoming family.

It feels comfortable here because I grew up in the First Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, Ky. My family was active in the church. Since that time, I have become a member of Paint Branch Unitarian Church here in Adelphi. I am a retired Federal employee from the FBI and U.S. Senate and enjoy my life in my cozy, sixty year old town-home in Greenbelt, Md. I look forward to my work with you and thank the members I have met whom welcomed me so warmly. Sincerely, Elaine



WOMEN'S PRAYER DINNER

By Kathie James

On Friday, October 20, the Women's Prayer Dinner took place at the church at 6:30 p.m. A few of our regulars were missing, but four dedicated ladies came and enjoyed a delicious pot-luck dinner of homemade lasagna, salad, bread, vegetables, and lemon meringue pie, as well as beverages. After a wonderful time of warm fellowship over dinner, we filled our souls with the study of two chapters in The Purpose Driven Life, led by Jennie Cardin. The focal points were (1) It's all for God; everything is for His glory; when anything in creation fulfills its purpose, it brings glory to God; we bring glory to God by worshipping Him through our love for Him, not out of duty; where in my daily routine can I become more aware of God's glory? (2) Bringing enjoyment to God, living for His pleasure, is the first purpose of our lives; when we fully understand this truth, we will never again have a problem with feeling insignificant; the Lord takes pleasure in His people; God has feelings, too; take your everyday, ordinary life-- your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around--and place it all before God as an offering. These nuggets are just a few of the discoveries that were made.

For our next meeting, we will resume our Saturday morning time. Here are the details:

Date: Saturday, November 18

Place: Bettye Miller's house: 9203 Tuckahoe Lane, Adelphi



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 4, Saturday – Ministry Evaluation Workshop
November 14, Tuesday 7:00PM – Session
November 18, Saturday 10:30AM – Women's Prayer Breakfast

November 28, Tuesday 6:00PM – Presbytery Meeting

Every Wednesday 7:00 – 8:00PM - PRAYER

Children's Sunday School

First and Second Sunday – 11:30AM immediately following Children's moment
Third Sunday – 9:30AM Bible Breakfast Club

English as a Second Language continues on Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 – 8:00PM.
Registration fee is \$25. Contact Bettye if you have questions about this program.

THE HOLIDAYS QUICKLY APPROACH!!! Our annual Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, **December 17, 2006**, immediately following worship. Please plan to stay and spend your afternoon with delicious food, invaluable fellowship, and fun with the kids.

PREGNANCY AID CENTER: Once again this year, we have chosen the Pregnancy Aid Center in College Park as the recipient of Adelphi's mission of gift-giving. While you make your Christmas lists and check them twice, please include a trip to the store for baby diapers, formula, diaper wipes, and/or baby bottles. It is not necessary to wrap anything. All purchases should be brought to church on or before **Thursday, December 21st.** Please call Renee Milligan (301) 513-9730 or Jennie Cardin (301) 933-2972 if you have any questions. Financial contributions also accepted, and we will do the shopping for you!

Happy Birthday

- November 3 Daniel Rodman
- November 3 Mary Wattay
- November 6 Betty Miller
- November 7 Jerome Farley
- November 14 Albert Nixon
- November 17 Wesley Tembunde
- November 25 Sara Masters



November 28 Robert Finzel



November 12 Stig and Sharon Hammond
November 24 Robert and Joyce Finzel

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	Baby food		Rice
Jelly	Cold Cereals		Pudding
	Grits		
	Oatmeal		

LECTIONARY READING



31ST Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nov.5
Ruth 1:1-18
Heb. 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

32ND Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nov. 12
Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
Heb. 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

33RD Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nov. 19
1Sam. 1:4-20
Heb. 10:11-14
Mark 13:1-8

34TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nov. 26
2Sam. 23:1-7
Rev. 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGISTS
November 5	The Milligans	Paul Tembunde Neil Wiltshire	Charles Yancey
November 12	Gail Rodman	Janet Dolen David Jones	Matilda Che
November 19	The Lancasters	Jerome Farley Tad Jembere	Bob Finzel
November 26	Vida Agyei- Obese	Jake Masters Gail Rodman	Chester Guild

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Administrative Assistant: Elaine Wilcoxson