



Ardmore United Methodist Church

Newsletter

September - 2014



A Word From the Pastor...

Greetings Ardmore Church!

Welcome back to another exciting Fall, filled with promise and expectation. I trust that with vacations behind us, we are ready to look ahead with passion and excitement about the ministry and mission of the Ardmore United Methodist Church.

It has been a blessed and challenging year, as we have been about the task of merger and blending. With the official merger vote now behind us (8/5/14), one final celebration remains, on Sunday, October 12, 2014, Bishop Peggy Johnson will be with us to celebrate our merger. At 4:00 p.m. we will have a worship service of union and blessing. We hope you join us! (Mark your calendar now).

As we look ahead, the question before us is: **How will we live out our life together!**

To that end, I encourage you to share your voice, and be part of the Strategic Planning Sessions which will kick-off on September 14th, 2014.

To be sure, God is with us as we celebrate, bless and create this sacred community. Join us for all of the exciting opportunities to "Grow, Proclaim and Serve"

-Pastor Tim

Fall Schedule Begins...

Sunday, September 7th

Worship at 11:00 a.m.

(With children's sermon,
Sunday School & Nursery)

Everyone is invited to the

"Welcome Back Breakfast"

9:30 in Bailey Hall

**Choir Rehearsal
at 9:45**



The Vegetable Garden



Once again, Kathy Romine and her helpers, planted and nurtured the church vegetable garden. Boxes overflowing with fresh tomatoes, green peppers, zucchini and carrots, continue to be packed and delivered to Philabundance as part of their "Share the Harvest" program. Thanks to Kathy, who worked tirelessly throughout the season to make this mission to feed the hungry possible!!

Strategic Planning Meeting/Dinner

Come to a potluck dinner in Bailey Hall on Sunday, September 14th from 5:00 to 8:00 - to kick off our strategic planning and meet the **Partners for Sacred Places** staff who will guide us. During four sessions over the next few months, we'll work together to inventory our assets and needs, and find a shared vision for Ardmore United Methodist Church's ministry, both to our members and the community.

Partners for Sacred Places, a national organization headquartered in Philadelphia, is creating a special version of its New Dollars/New Partners training just for us. Partners has worked with more than a thousand congregations around the country to help them discover their assets, the services they provide to members and the community, and find new ways to minister to both. Usually the training requires about ten congregations to join together for the sessions. We're fortunate to have our very own, designed just for us.

The training is interactive, and the kick off dinner will feature some fun examples of the activities we'll tackle. Congregations love the training and its results - finding a vision for the church's ministry and opening the door to support from the larger community. We hope most members will come to the dinner and the three day-long sessions to follow over the next nine months.



Generous of Spirit and
Providers of Plenty...



Many thanks to our 2014 Summer Patio Hosts...

Kim Timmons & Ruth Althouse, The Christian Family, Noni Nelson, George & Paula Ellis, The Calhoun Family, Millie Feske, Lane Brown & Susan Christie, The Neckowicz Family, Doug & Nancy Lowe, C.J. McGinnis, Katherine Beskid & Tracey Saunders, The DeMichele Family, Marilyn Schnieder & Ann Edwards, The Flood Family, The Vigiotta Family, and the Hopkins Family.

In Memoriam

William S. Dinwiddie

August 27, 2014

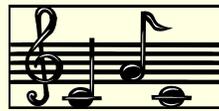
It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we say good-bye to our very faithful friend and servant, Bill Dinwiddie. Bill served as our Lay-leader and led several other committees over the years. He *also* proved to be a fabulous auctioneer at our church fund raisers. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to his family. We will miss him. A Celebration of Bill's life will be held at Ardmore United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

Back Pack Outreach Project...



(Thanks to Georgette Champagnie for organizing the project and to C.J. McGinnis and Clare Sautter for helping fill the packs and getting them delivered!)

Many thanks to those who contributed to this project. With your help and donations, we were able to fill 25 complete back packs which were then delivered to area schools!



Music Notes

We will soon have a new, 21 note set of brass Deagan Chimes, which are played from the organ console. Our century-old chimes were cracked and the pneumatics were leaking. William DeGothseir, who takes care of our organ tuning and maintenance is replacing them, and the Westminster Chiming of the Hour will sound joyfully! Thanks Bill.

-Elizabeth Boggs
Director of Music

Mission ConneXion...

Your support for our Summer children's mission project was overwhelming! On behalf of Lay-Leader, Joanne Miles (pictured below) from Hope UMC, thank you for your donations of fruit cups, juice boxes, and other children's items.



Sunday School Updates

Our Christian Education Committee sought input from our church community regarding the education programming offered at AUMC. Many families expressed an interest in holding Sunday School classes during the church hour. We appreciate all who shared their opinions, experiences and ideas as this subject was explored. Thanks to your suggestions, the Christian Education Committee has a new program which will begin September 7th. We are excited to offer this new Sunday school format. What will not change is our need for faithful volunteers to be a part of this ministry. **Sunday School classes for children nursery age to grade 5 will now take place during the church hour, (11:00 to 12:00). Children's church is no longer offered. Here are the details:**

Nursery and Preschool - Nursery care is available beginning at 10:00 on Sunday mornings. Sunday school will be offered to nursery and preschool students during the church hour. Nursery and preschool children may go directly to the nursery to check in, or they may begin the morning in church and sign in to the nursery after the children's sermon.

Kindergarten through First Grade - Children will begin the morning in church with their families, gather for the children's sermon, then go to their classroom with a teacher. This year we are combining grade levels in a "one room school" format using the same GROW, PROCLAIM, SERVE curriculum as the previous two years. The class will be taught by both a volunteer lead teacher and a volunteer assistant. Lead teachers will serve in rotation for two months at a time. The assistants will rotate weekly. Ten helpers will assist in the class as well. The classroom is located on the second floor, and children will return to the Wesley Room (first floor) for dismissal. Please meet your children promptly after the service. Watch for information regarding the new grades K-5 Youth Group, which will meet monthly.

Middle School and High School - These classes will be meeting on the first and third Sundays during the 10:00 hour in the small classroom on the second floor. Students will be participating in a Comparative Religions course, and therefore will also be meeting once a month for an off-site visit. Diana Esposito, Lacey McIntire and Georgette Champagnie will be teaching this class. For those students interested in Youth Group, a grades 6-12 youth group will meet on the second Sunday of each month. Details to follow.



Adult Sunday School Class - will be led by Pastor Tim and a rotating group of guest teachers. This class will be held at 10:00 to 10:50 Sunday mornings.

Volunteers Needed - There are many opportunities to volunteer in our Christian Education Program. Please contact Diana Esposito at Diana.a.esposito@gmail.com, if you would like to participate in this ministry

Nursery Volunteers - Our nursery staff is in transition, therefore, we are in need of volunteers during the month of September until a regular staff is in place.

K - 5 Class - One additional lead teacher is needed for the spring (March & April). Assistant teachers are needed throughout the year. If you have been a Children's Church volunteer, we hope you will continue to volunteer as an assistant teacher throughout the year. (The time commitment will be the same). If you have not, we hope you will consider volunteering!