



Ardmore Presbyterian Church

THE APC CORNER-STONE

"We are members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles & prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone." (Ephesians 2:19b-20)

December 2011

From Our Pastor James Hodsden

'Tis the season, and the music of the season is already in the air. You certainly hear it in worship, but you might also hear it on the radio and in the mall. The Christian carols compete these days with Frosty and Rudolf, but if you listen carefully, you still can hear what happened in Bethlehem so long ago.

Interestingly, those carols shape how we hear the story even more than the Scriptures do. According to the gospel of Luke, the angels responded to Jesus' birth by proclaiming their praise of God. However, most of us, remembering the carol, believe that the herald angels did not only speak but sang their announcement. According to the gospel of Matthew, an unspecified number of magi came from the East to offer presents to the newborn. From the carol, we know that there were three, and moreover, they were kings. I am not personally bothered by such discrepancies. For the most part, they are trivia that you can share at your next Christmas party. However, there is one carol that I sing under protest or at least with a caveat.

In the third verse of "Away in a Manger," we sing

"The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes"

The gospels do not mention whether or not Jesus as a baby cried. I assume that the author of the carol wanted to emphasize that Jesus was somehow different from other babies, and the assumption is that "good" little babies don't cry.

Unfortunately, I disagree. I believe that Jesus was fully divine. However, Jesus was not like Clark Kent waiting for the right moment to become Superman. He was fully human. He got hungry like other babies. He wet himself like other babies. He cried like other babies. The Scriptures say that Jesus "did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself..." (Philippians 2:6-7).

Frankly, I am grateful that Jesus knows my humanity in its fullness, especially my weakness. At the death of his friend Lazarus, we read, "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). In order to face the challenges that come, I want to know that even my hunger, pain, and sorrow has been redeemed by what Jesus Christ has done.

"Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign."

Merry Christmas,





Dear Friends at APC,
 Thank you all for the support that my Father and I received before and after his death this past summer. Your prayers, cards, visits and phone calls made quite a difference!
 With appreciation, Anne Warner



Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the staff and congregation for the prayers and support through many years of Tom's illness. We feel the continuing prayers which have helped us cope with these difficult days.

Thank you, The Birdsall Family



December

Birthdays

2—Dottie Gray
 2—Janet Reeder
 3—Christy Brennan
 3—Luke Josef
 4—Megan Milby
 5—Kantha Kandula
 5—Becki Lynch
 5—Sarah Kozak
 6—Mary Spencer
 6—Alan Abel
 9—Bruce Kozak
 9—John Nofer
 9—Roxy Stiles
 10—Anne Foote
 10—Andrew Brumbach
 11—Jon Harris
 11—Nate Frank

12—Josephine Sedzro
 12— Michael Potter
 12—Kristi Taverno
 12—Aliena Joy Gerhard
 12—Joshua Moore
 13—Bill Toal
 15—Gary Garletts
 15—Laurel Yurchak
 16—Peter Corle
 16—Jacob Yerkes
 17—Nan Clarke
 17—Twila Garletts
 17—Matt Clarke
 18—Katarina Sheronas
 18—Weldon Eaddy
 18—Sam Eaddy
 19—Bonnie Cook
 20—Newt Spencer
 22—Rob Bolognese

23—Jimmy Moock
 24—Mary Raiken
 24—Karin Sturla
 24—Holly Brown
 24—Julie Monaghan
 25—Dorothy Osborne
 25—Caroline Burchette
 26—William Gerhard
 27—Jackson McKeon
 28—Erin Corle
 28—Sean Clark
 29—Paul Whitaker
 29—Peter Sheronas
 29—William Houder
 31—Kossi Sedzro



We'd like to list all of our members' and friends' birthdays & can only do so if we know when it is. Please email admin@ardmorepres.org or call 610-642-6650 and leave a message with the date if we've missed yours.



Calvin Presbyterian Church let us know that currently the most urgent need is coats for children.

Lord, Please listen to your children praying for. . .

Adelaide Campbell, Elise Dormond, Skip & Mary Ellison, Gren Foote, Sandy Foote, Jeanne & Art Fries, Twila Garletts, Joan Jones, eros le roi, Alice Mack, Joe Miller, Bob Montgomery, Sam & Joyce Montgomery, Sally Moore, Kellylynn Nicholson, Ray Osborne, Julia Park, Elle Pulsifer, June Reid, Jean Shrader, Bob Till, & others who struggle daily from ongoing health issues.

We are thankful that Gren Foote is back home from the hospital and Sally Moore has returned home where she will receive out-patient physical therapy. **We celebrate** the birth of *Anna Morgan Hipszer* on November 20, 2011 to Laurie and Brian Hipszer and her big sisters, Sarah and Claire.

Our prayers are with the family of *Julia Anne Schmidt Crockett*, (December 15, 2034—November 16, 2011), member of APC since 1948.

Gracious Lord, hear our prayers.

APC has its own listserve

What is a listserve? The APC listserv is for the use of Ardmore Presbyterian Church and Weekday Preschool members and friends. This is **NOT** the official communication of the church. Instead, it is an online community bulletin board to share information, resources and news.

How do I become a subscriber? Send an email request to the listserve Administrator at admin@ardmorepres.org.

How do I send a message to APC listserve members? You must already be a subscriber then simply type ardmorepres@listserve.com in the "To" line of your message.

Who can I ask if I have questions about the listserve? Church Administrator, Raelyn Harman will oversee the administration of the listserve and will do her best to answer your questions. Either email her at admin@ardmorepres.org or call her at 610-642-6650x10.

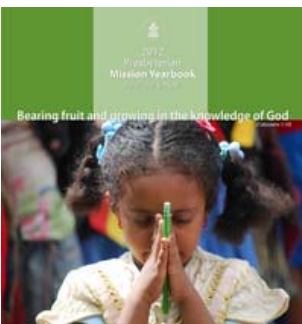
What kinds of things are appropriate for posting to the APC listserve community? Announcements, news, information, resource sharing, or a need you'd like to make known that is of general interest to the APC community (which includes the Weekday Preschool parents). Remember, that putting something on the listserve is equivalent to standing before the entire community and saying it aloud. Be sensitive to the impact of your words. Remember "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Luke 6:31)

How can I tell when an email message came from the listserve? Each list message will have [ArdmorePres] at the beginning of the subject line. It is crucial that your subject line be succinct and accurate in describing your message. If your subject line is clear, individuals only have to read through messages that pertain to them or they are interested in.

I don't check my e-mail very often, but I'd like to be able to read listserve messages. If you check your e-mail infrequently, it makes the most sense for you to receive your listserve messages in "digest" form (messages will be sent in one bundle when a batch accumulates or at the end of each day, whichever comes first.) You can select this option by clicking on the link that appears at the bottom of each list message, logging into your account, and selecting "On" in the box that says "Set Digest Mode."

How do I unsubscribe from the listserve? Please unsubscribe yourself by going to the address at the bottom of each message. If you use Outlook, the Unsubscribe option is converted to an attachment. You can either open the attachment or request that the Administrator unsubscribe your email address.

Looking ahead to 2012 – Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study



Have you considered using the Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study as part of your daily devotions? Do you know that this resource is available to you?

This year I got back to using the Mission Yearbook as part of my daily devotions and I feel I have been blessed. So often we only know what is happening in our own church and the Mission Yearbook allows us to expand our vision of how God is at work in our country and around the world. It can also give us ideas and encourages us to initiate projects and even provides us with resources so we don't have to start from scratch. And...it allows us to feel the joy there is in a connectional church.

Mission Yearbooks will be available on the narthex tables in December. If they all get taken, be sure to ask Raelyn, Church Administrator or Joanne Poorman of the Mission Committee and we will be sure to get one for you. Using the Mission Yearbook is a wonderful way to start or end your day. It gives us Good News of how God is at work through Presbyterian Christians the world over. Consider giving it a try!

Joanne Poorman for the Mission Committee

Rocio del A. Cardona

The Pennmont, Apt. 108
 34 West Montgomery Ave.
 Ardmore, PA 19003

Rocio grew up in Dorado, Puerto Rico in a Disciples of Christ Church. She received a B.S. in Chemistry and PhD in Electrochemistry from the University of Puerto Rico. She is presently at University of Pennsylvania, a fellow in a post doctoral program in Electrical Engineering where she is involved in research and teaching. She enjoys walking, reading, music and practiced Tae Kwon Do for ten years in Puerto Rico. She enjoys the familiarity of the worship service and felt so welcomed at APC by Debbie Young's friendly manner. She participated in the CROP walk and is a regular attendee at Sunday morning and evening Bible Studies. She would like to serve in many different ways at APC especially with children and teens and going on mission trips.

**Mary Quigley**

225 Cobblestone Drive, Apt. #314
 Ardmore, PA 19003
 610-649-0479

Mary grew up in Germantown and was raised in the Presbyterian Church. She graduated from the Lankenau School and completed secretarial studies at Harcum College. Mary spent many years working as a front desk receptionist in a variety of settings ranging from a law office, manufacturing company and the Philadelphia Country Club. Mary has two daughters and four grandchildren. She most recently attended and ushered at Baptist Church in Plymouth Meeting where her son-in-law was the pastor. Mary enjoys photography, walking and spending time with her grandchildren. She feels like Ardmore Presbyterian is like being home and is very comfortable in this atmosphere of worship and friendliness. Mary looks forward to Keenagers trips and helping out occasionally in the front office at APC.

**Jessie and John DiNome**

418 Roslyn Lane
 Wynnewood, PA 19096
 610-658-0679

Jessie is from Siler City, N.C. and was an active Baptist involved in teaching Sunday School and church dramatic productions. She holds a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Medical School. She is presently a Radiation Oncologist in the Jefferson System in the position of Medical Director of the Jefferson Cancer Center at Riddle Memorial Hospital. **Jessie** and **John** are the parents of **Kelly** (not in photos), a student at the University of Virginia; **Daniel**, a senior and **Caroline** in 7th grade at The Shipley School. (Caroline is singing in the Youth Choir at APC). **Jessie** enjoys running (Relay for Life), do-it-yourself projects and volunteer activities. She is the physician liaison for the Cancer Advisory Council which is an advocacy group for patients.

Jessie appreciates the Bible based preaching and teaching at APC. She likes the down to earth atmosphere, diversity of congregation and appreciates the children's activities. She has taught Sunday School at APC and is volunteering in the nursery this year.

John is from Yonkers, New York and grew up in the Catholic Church. As a child & teenager he participated in mass as a lector for thirteen years almost every Sunday. He is a graduate of West Point and served in the U.S. Army for six years stationed in Germany for three years. He also served in Oklahoma & Georgia. **John** is a graduate of Rutgers Law School and is an attorney for Reed Smith law firm in Philadelphia where he practices labor law. He is a big runner and hikes on trails notably in the Grand Canyon and in Vermont. **John** is also a lover of reading especially American History. He feels that APC is a warm friendly place and feels very comfortable in this congregation. **John** has been a lector at APC and hopes to continue being a lay reader in the future.



~ December 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30p APC Women's Small Group (Shaver HH) 7:30p Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	2 Harvey Cedars	3 Harvey Cedars
4 Harvey Cedars 9a APC Small Group-First Corinthians (MCR)/9a APC Small Group-Touchstones for Mission (Library) 10:30a Lord's Day Worship 11:45a Youth Choir/11:45a Prayer Fellowship 5p Advent Family Night	5	6 7p Session Mtg. (MCR) 7:30p Mission Awareness Committee (Library)	7 12p Men's Small Group (FH)/12p Women's Small Group- I Samuel (Library) 5p Wednesday PLUS (ChrRm/FH/MCR) 5p Youth Fellowship (Parish House) 7p Handbell Choir (Choir Rm)	8 7:30p Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	9	10
11 9a APC Small Group-First Corinthians (MCR)/9a APC Small Group-Touchstones for Mission (Library) 10:30a Lord's Day Worship 11:45a Soup and Salad Lunch (FH) 11:45a Youth Choir/11:45a Prayer Fellowship	12 7:30p Deacons (Lib)	13 7p Christian Education (Board Room) 7p Fellowship & Outreach (Library)	14 12p Men's Small Group (FH)/12p Women's Small Group- I Samuel (Library) 5p Wednesday PLUS (ChrRm/FH/MCR)/5p Youth Fellowship (Parish House) 7p Handbell Choir (Choir Rm)	15 6:30a Session Reports due 7:30p Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Joy collection 9a APC Small Group-First Corinthians (MCR)/9a APC Small Group-Touchstones for Mission (Library) 10:30a Lord's Day Worship/Choir Cantata 11:40a Blood Pressure Check-Ups (Blue Room) 11:45a Prayer Fellowship	19	20 7:15p Building & Grounds (Library)	21 12p Men's Small Group (FH)/12p Women's Small Group- I Samuel (Library) 5p Youth Fellowship (Parish House) 6p Young Adult Choir (Choir Room)	22 7:30p Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	23	24 7p Family Service 11p Lessons and Carols
25 Christmas 10:30a Lord's Day Worship 11:45a Prayer Fellowship	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30 Office Closed	31 December as of 11/21/11

**From the Desk of the Director of Music and Organist,
Gary Garletts:** 🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵

On Sunday, November 27, the First Sunday of Advent, we began a new liturgical year. What is the liturgical year? Just ask **anyone** who has been in our Children's Choir over the past decade—they will sing you the answer! "Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Ordinary Time."

During Advent (the weeks that include the four Sundays before Christmas), we prepare to celebrate the historical incarnation of Jesus Christ in our world, and to receive him anew in our lives. While organized around the key events in Jesus' earthly life, and inspired by foundational tenets of our faith, the liturgical year ultimately is a human construct. As such, it is open to some interpretation, and might cause some consternation!

For many, one of the "sore spots" related to the liturgical year is the choice of hymns or carols for worship during Advent. No one debates singing Christmas carols on Christmas Eve or the Sunday after Christmas. But what does one sing during Advent?

Traditionally Advent is a penitential season, involving self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting and the like. Hence, music for Advent reflects these qualities. When Christmas Eve arrives, the real celebration begins, and (at least in theory) continues through Epiphany (the "twelve days of Christmas").

In our modern American culture, it is next to impossible for a Christian to observe this tradition. We encounter holiday music, decorations, and merchandise long before Thanksgiving, and countless Christmas parties all through December! Then the day after Christmas many people return to "life as usual."

Please know that I personally have no answer to this cultural-liturgical dilemma. If you attend all our services during Advent and Christmas, you will discover that our worship represents a liturgical compromise. The first two Sundays of Advent are purely Advent, in every element. But in the following Sundays the Advent-Christmas line is blurred, with the Nativity Tableau (Dec. 11), Christmas Cantata (Dec. 18) and selected congregational carols. Ultimately, the richest celebration is still on Christmas Eve. The energy of our youngsters and choirs at the 7:00 p.m. service, and the beauty of the lessons, carols and anthems at the 11:00 p.m. service is unmatched by other celebrations.

Advent & Christmas Music Events

Advent Family Night

Sunday, December 4 – 5:00 p.m.

Carol Arrangements

Cantata – "Around the World It's Christmas"

Piano Solo by Christopher Lee

Handbell, Youth, Children's and Cherub Choirs

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 18 – 10:30 a.m.

Cantata – "The Incarnation" by K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir and guests

Gary Garletts, director and organist

Feliz Navidad – Christmas in the Southwest

Saturday, December 10 – 7:30 p.m.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Unionville

Sunday, December 11 – 3:00 p.m.

Calvary Lutheran Church, West Chester

Chester County Choral Society

www.chestercountychoralsociety.org



The Stewardship & Finance Committee would like to say thank you. We began the 2012 Stewardship Campaign asking you to prayerfully consider how you can make a difference. So far we have received over 90 pledges from families in the congregation, and among them, we have 12 new pledges. If you haven't had a chance to send in your pledge card, you will receive a letter from us in the coming weeks. God has been good to us, and we look forward to the exciting possibilities in 2012.

GROWING IN FAITH

**BUILDING
COMMUNITY**

**WITNESSING IN
WORD AND DEED**

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW			
As of: October 31, 2011			
General Fund	2011 Actual	2011 Budget	%
Current Year - Pledges	\$ 348,008	\$ 345,000	100.9
Current Year - Non Pledges	\$ 32,517	\$ 29,000	112.1
Facilities Use - Church	\$ 6,465	\$ 10,000	64.7
Parish House Rent Receipts	\$ 10,442	\$ 17,000	61.4
ARDPRES Income	\$ 31,290	\$ 33,000	94.8
McCarty Trust Income	\$ 23,106	\$ 23,100	100.0
Other Receipts	\$ 22,608	\$ 25,150	89.9
Total Receipts	\$ 474,436	\$ 482,250	98.4
Disbursements			
Personnel	\$ 334,759	\$ 343,821	97.4
Music & Worship	\$ 30,561	\$ 29,116	105.0
Mission and Outreach	\$ 40,248	\$ 42,220	95.3
Administration	\$ 62,684	\$ 58,375	107.4
Building & Grounds	\$ 102,332	\$ 103,302	99.1
Christian Education	\$ 11,425	\$ 9,925	115.1
Total Expenses	\$ 582,009	\$ 586,759	99.2
General Fund - 2011 YTD Net	\$ (107,573)	\$ (104,509)	
General Fund - Bal as of 10/31/11	\$ 6,997		
Pre-School Fund			
Registration & Tuition	\$ 107,846	\$ 131,000	82.3
Less: Expenses	\$ 98,888	\$ 94,111	105.1
Pre-School Net	\$ 8,958	\$ 36,889	24.3

Highlights from October 2011 Annual Joint Session and Deacon Meeting:

Rev. Poorman led a Bible study on stewardship, using II Cor. 9:6-8. Rev. Hodsden challenged all elders and deacons to pledge 5% of their income.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the Session approved using the 2009-2011 Book of Order as this church's manual of operations except where it is contradicted by the new Form of Government.

Statistical Reports - A statistical report for the period ending September 30, 2011 was presented, reflecting the deaths of two members during the month and a communicant membership of 438.

Communications - The Clerk reported that the Church has received a bequest in the amount of \$25,000 from the estate of Robert Garrison, with income only to be spent until January 1, 2020, following which there are no restrictions on the expenditure of principal. **Upon motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the Session approved** the receipt of this bequest on the conditions noted.

On behalf of the Worship Committee, Jane Gulick reported that repairs were needed for the carillon. **Upon motion duly made and passed, the Session approved** the expenditure of up to \$2,000 from the Memorial Fund for these repairs.



**ARDMORE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

5 West Montgomery Avenue

Ardmore, PA 19003-1599

Phone: 610-642-6650

admin@ardmorepres.org

www.ardmorepres.org

Please notify the office if you prefer to get
your newsletter via email.



Celebrating Our 104th Year of
Service to the Lord Jesus Christ

ARDMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

James Hodsdon, M.Div., Pastor (pastor@ardmorepres.org)

Nan Clarke, M.Div., Associate Pastor (assocpastor@ardmorepres.org)

Sturgis Poorman, M.Div., Parish Associate (sspjrp@yahoo.com)

Gary Garletts, M.M., AAGO, Director of Music/Organist (music@ardmorepres.org)

Anne Foote, Director of Weekday Preschool (preschooldirector@ardmorepres.org)

Pearlie Diesinger, Preschool Administrator/Church Secretary (preschool@ardmorepres.org)

Anne Foote, Interim Director of Christian Education (preschooldirector@ardmorepres.org)

Raelyn Harman Church Administrator (admin@ardmorepres.org)

Don Tokash, Finance (finance@ardmorepres.org)

Jim Moore, Custodian