

The Vineyard

Volume I - No.3

August/September 2006

The Best Choir Ever



"This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

John 15: 12-13

One of my favorite things about the people in the Prince Georges Community Mass Choir is, they know how to love one another. They can support someone who has been shy about coming out of their shell to do a solo. They can do something nice for another member of the choir who has gone through tragedy. They can pray together, as well as sing with a passion and fervor for God.

In order to perform the acts mentioned above, as well as many other wonderful acts of ministry, it takes sacrifice. It takes time. When Jesus said there was no greater love than for someone to lay down his life for a friend, He meant that some things have to be set aside so that greater things can occur. I might not be able to put in sixty hours on my job and still make sure Johnny or Suzy grows up feeling well cared for. I might not be able to see all the games if I commit to being in a ministry at church. But the reward is well worth it.

That's what these disciples of Jesus exhibit. And I want to publicly thank them for their sacrifice of time. You make God smile and you make me proud.

**Celebrate Jesus, Celebrate
Sunday, December 10, 2006**

4pm



If you are interested in participating in the music ministry, please call Minister David Griffiths at 301-306-0064.

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ANGEL TREE

Help youth in group homes have a Merry Christmas! Participate in this year's Angel Tree activity sponsored by the Lighthouse Community Development Corporation. It's simple: pick a gift request, bring in a



gift. Be a blessing! The Angel Tree activity began November 19, with gifts returned by December 10. For more information, contact Deacon Shirley Wilson Ulmer or Sister Carol Jones Pinckney.

“Relationship and Responsibilities”



Dear PGCC:

What cements the relationship between the local church and the folks the Lord is sending to unite with the Prince George's Community Church? Two things . . . the first is relationship. Once a person unites with the church, friendship must be formed. The first formal relationship or friendship is with the tribe leaders. The tribe serves as the smaller family within the larger family. After the tribe leader has formed a friendship a relationship with a ministry needs to be forged. Unless a person unites with a ministry, their chances of fulfilling their destiny in the body of Christ dramatically decrease. The next important step is responsibility. What happens to potential new members after the second or third visit? Do we ever ask them about joining the choir, a Youth Church school class or attending mid week Bible Study? We forge new relationships that personally connect existing and new members and these friendships knit us together. Next we need responsibility. As a visitor almost everyone's a stranger. One Sunday, Sam or Samantha invites you to have a drink at the repast after worship. They invite you to the men's ministry breakfast on Saturday. When you go to the breakfast, who will you look for? Of course, your friend, Sam or Samantha. It's those types of connections that will get you to come back and eventually commit to the church. May God grant us joy of building relationships and receiving responsibilities.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Edward P. Harding, Jr

New Members— we joined because...

Melvin and Kimberly Smith learned of the Prince George's Community Church while attending the wedding of a friend. Pastor Harding performed the wedding ceremony and the Smiths decided to visit PGCC and hear Pastor Harding preach. The Smiths perused the PGGC website and learned that they had something in common with Pastor Harding. Melvin and Kimberly are graduates of North Carolina A&T State University, so is Pastor Harding. The Smiths visited PGCC and liked what they heard and saw, and liked the interaction with other members. The Smith family joined PGCC on October 8, 2006.



Kimberly, Myles, Malcom and Melvin Smith

New Members Joining in October/November

Mr. Todd C. Barron
Ms. Naomi T. Hendrick
Ms. Niya Gaines
Mrs. Karen Pernell
Ms. Raina K. Davis
Mr. Troy D. Gray

My Call to Serve– Elders and Deacons



Elder Arnica Downing

The responsibilities of Elders are to love the Lord with all your heart, to teach the Word of God, to watch over the congregation and supply the needs of the people. I became an Elder to lift up the Word of God, to work to better myself and my fellow man. "BY THIS ALL MEN WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER". JOHN 13:35

Elder Downing is a member of the Joseph Tribe. She was ordained a Deacon at Northeastern Presbyterian Church in 1990 and ordained an Elder at the chartering of Prince George's Community Church. Elder Downing will retire from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on December 3, 2006, with 40 years of service as Chief of Department of Scientific Laboratories.

The Health Ministry

The Health Ministry was envisioned by Dr. Vernon C. Smith as a service dedicated to providing information, education, health services and used as a resource for other ministries. The Health Ministry is dedicated to serving the Prince George's Community Church, as well as neighboring communities. The Health Ministry in conjunction with the Women's Ministry and the Dan Tribe sponsored a "Healthy Living" seminar on October 15, 2006.



Dr. Vernon C. Smith



Worship Location
Charles Herbert Flowers High School
10001 Ardwick Ardmore Road
Springdale, MD 20774

Church Office
10111 Martin Luther King Jr. Highway
Suite 200A
Bowie, MD 20720
301-306-0064 (Phone)
301-306-0944 (Fax)

Sister Deneen Worrell, Administrator
Dworrell1@aol.com

Rev. Dr. Edward P. Harding, Jr.
Senior Pastor
pgchurch@aol.com

www.pgchurch.org

ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

This newsletter is devoted to the events and activities of the Prince George's Community Presbyterian Church. Our newsletter focuses on what's happening with our members, upcoming church events and our church ministries.

Church members are invited to participate by submitting interesting articles. Articles may be sent via email either :

Edna Greene
efg3995@aol.com

or

Florence Wood
champagnewood@comcast.net

Photos are courtesy of Oscar Merrida and Tyler Berry.

School Supplies Drive

Dear Lighthouse Ministry:

On behalf of the Prince George's County Department of Social Services, I would like to thank you for your immeasurable contribution towards those less fortunate. By giving school supplies to our students (in shelters) you have helped them to be able to plant dreams that will be nourished by learning and grow into success.



Many of our workers know how it feels to start school with little or no school supplies. They have had to tape up tattered book bags, salvage notebooks from the year before and sharpen worn pencils. One of the things that make our job fulfilling is working with kind people who have a commitment to sharing. It warms our hearts to know that there are people who care about the goals our children desire to achieve.

You've given so much that we'd like to give you something in return---a warm thank you on behalf of our children for being such great supporter of our School Supplies Program.

We are grateful for you and hope that you will continue to bless others.

Sincerely,

Leslie Carr, Volunteer Coordinator

(Excerpts from letter)

(Dianne Peele coordinated this great effort on behalf of PGCC's Lighthouse Community Development Corporation.)



Youth Ministry Corner

Meet Chelsey Houwen



Chelsey is a 15¹ year old sophomore and attends Clinton Christian Academy. She enjoys basketball games and meeting new people. Chelsey volunteers as a classroom attendant with the aftercare program in her school. Chelsey has two favorite teachers, her homeroom teacher and her chemistry teacher. Earning good grades is important to Chelsey, and a delight for her family. Chelsey's favorite subjects are chemistry and math. Her top college choices are North Carolina A&T State

University, located in Greensboro, North Carolina; and Virginia State University, located in Petersburg, Virginia. Currently, A&T is number one on her list. Chelsey plans to study Engineering or Architecture. Perhaps she will study Parisian architecture, as Paris is one of the places she would like to visit.

One of Chelsey's favorite pastimes is enjoying her two dogs, Princess a German shepherd, and Sheba a white highland west terrier. Chelsey also enjoys driving, movies and swimming. She loves the outdoors, tennis and dancing.

Another major joy for Chelsey is her Christian friends at Prince George's Community Church.