



MARCH 2010 ISSUE

“Avowed Hedonist”

I read an article about the tragic death of a man who lived in Potomac in a recent Washington Post. The headline of the article first caught my attention as the article screamed “Dirk Smiler was the Toastmaster. The Gourmand. The Poet. The Goth King”. (Washington Post, Thursday, February 18, 2010). As I read the article I read about a 37 year old man who was a sommelier in Potomac, a voracious party goer who loved dancing, drinking, chasing women and hosting countless after-parties after last call. One of his friends described him as an “eccentric hedonist”.

In the 24 hours after his death, a tribute Web site said it had visitors from 39 states and 12 countries. There were many “comments” posted in the on line version of the Post that caught my attention. They were about evenly divided between those who wondered what made this man’s life noteworthy of such a lengthy article and those who were deeply hurt and in pain over his loss. The thing that most impressed me was the level of love and friendship from those who knew him. The other thing I notice was the level of insensitivity and unkindness from those who took exception to his Goth lifestyle or the lengthy article in the Post.

I don’t want to use the tragic death of someone who had a different view of life from my own as a platform but I was deeply impressed by the number of passionate friends Dirk Smiler had who mourned his loss. Yet, I have a fundamentally different point of view about what the good life is and I too wondered why such extensive coverage. I posted my comments and felt good that my comments received more positive “thumbs up” reviews than those from anyone else.

I hope that all of us have friends who love us as much and who are as passionate about us as Mr. Smiler did. While his was a life that seems very different from mine I can only hope all my friends and church members (both past and present) will remember me so fondly and will say such nice things about who I was and what I stood for after I am gone.

We do touch each other’s lives. We do matter. We do have a chance to impact the world; if not the whole world then the little piece of the world in which we live. I don’t think we stop to reflect enough on how we matter to one another. When someone isn’t in church their absence impacts those who are here. When we say mean or inappropriate things we hurt each other. When we are here we have the chance to share life together. When absent we lose that chance. I guess the only difference between Dirk Smiler and myself is that for him “the party” was the big thing and for me “the church” is the big thing.

So what is the big thing in your life? What is the priority in your life? What should come ahead of church on Sunday morning in our lives? (You already know my answer to that one don’t you?) How are you touching the lives of the people who matter? Does your life matter?

NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES



WORSHIP - Debbie Sullivan

It's hard to believe that Lent is already upon us. As we look forward to the melting snow with the arrival of spring and new birth; I hope you will join us for worship this Lenten season and take time to renew your walk with God during this time.

Our children will be participating in the candle lighting and banner ceremony each Sunday of Lent. A special thank you to Arlyn Sanchez for continuing to help me learn all the worship chair responsibilities.

Thank you Arlyn! God Bless everyone this Lenten season!



FELLOWSHIP, Amy Buckingham

Impossible to believe, but EASTER is just around the corner (I think - I can't see too well around the snow banks.....!!!) - I NEED a coordinator for the Easter Egg Hunt! Please see me!

In the meantime, please begin to fill those plastic eggs - we need about 12 eggs per child who would like to participate filled with small candy or stickers or treats. Please label the bag you place the eggs in for EASTER EGG HUNT, and place them in the kitchen. I will box them and save them for Easter Sunday!

Even sooner than that is the Spaghetti Dinner!!! Debbie Owens is coordinating this fantastic event - it will be held >>>>>>>> - put it on your calendars now, and see Debbie to volunteer to help! We need everyone! Please plan to attend!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!! We only have a few spaces in Stone House and Disciple House for our annual Bethany Beach retreat. Our weekend is the PERFECT time to be in Bethany - September 17-19, 2010. Look for more info next month, and see Amy with questions!

EVANGELISM/MEMBERSHIP - Karen Shpiece



Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a great success. What fun we had flipping pancakes through the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Ed Wachtman, Andy and Gwen Mott and Eric Long for set up and cooking duties. Thanks especially to Dr. Chance for a great program. It was FUN!!

And with the coming of Shrove Tuesday we usher in Lent. What a fabulous time to invite a friend or neighbor to share the blessings of our church. I want you to take a minute...close your eyes and think about who used to sit in the pew next to you...that person you haven't seen for a long time. There are many. Pick up the phone and invite that friend back to church. It's a special time in our church. Lets remember those we haven't seen lately.



PROPERTY - Joel Owen

Enough said; everybody's tired of talking about it. Again, special thanks to Dr Bob, Jeff Price and all the snow member crews for keeping the church open. The Carpenter's Club met February 3rd and much was accomplished, with a special thanks to Jeff, Andy, Orland, Rob, Jim, Ralph, John and Jacob.

As a reminder future Carpenter's Club meetings will be held on the 1st Wednesday of each month to coincide with the Program Council meeting night. The Carpenter's club provides much needed maintenance work and light repairs to keep our church in functional and beautiful shape. Those wishing to participate in fellowship and work, please contact me.

PRAYER BREAKFAST



Never alone

HEBREWS 13:5, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU"

MARCH 6th
9:00-11:00 A.M.

Join us for this time of fellowship & inspiration.
Rev. Lari Grubbs will be the guest speaker for the breakfast.



Mulch Sale – April 10th

I am pleased to announce our annual mulch sale will be held on Saturday, April 10th. Yes, even with two feet of snow on the ground, Spring will be here before you know it.

Please look for the mulch flyer in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall. You can also contact me directly for a flyer. My contact information is below.

In addition to the funds we raise on behalf of the church, this event is a great time of fellowship

The success of anything rises and falls on the people involved and the mulch sale is no exception. To have a successful mulch sale, we need people to pre-sell the mulch, we need people to help organize and prepare for the day of the sale and of course we need people to help load and deliver the mulch. Please see me or Joel Owen if you are interested in helping.

The success of our mulch sale will help our Church continue to provide the wonderful services and outreach to the community. It also helps with funding other projects around the church.

I want to thank everyone in advance for making this a successful day.

Details:

\$5.00 per bag - 3 cubic feet of hardwood shredded mulch – free delivery
Orders need to be placed by Wednesday, April 7th.

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00 a.m.

March 28th

“They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting Hosanna!”



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

March 1st

7:30 p.m.

“Do this in remembrance of me”



EASTER SUNDAY

April 4th

9:00 A.M. Sunrise Breakfast
11:00 A.M. Worship Service

SOUP-ER BOWL SUCCESS

We talked about soup....we ate soup....we dreamed about soup....AND WE WON!!! Total count for the churches were as follows

Rockville Christian Church: 868 Heritage Christian Church: 202 Aspen Hill Christian Church: 1,228

Within the congregation our totals were impressive.

Gad A'bouts 217 Elders/Deacons 255 Congregation 372 and (drum roll please....) Youth 384

Many thanks to the Team Captains and everyone that got excited about SOUP! Special thanks to Jeff Price who tirelessly boxed up all of our soup and hauled it to Manna. I must add a special thanks to the adorable Emily Shpiece. She shocked us! She charmed us! She inspired us to bring soup.

Karen Shpiece

SOUPER-BOWL DELIVERY



1228 CANS OF SOUP COLLECTED!!

YEAH AHCC!! We won the contest between Rockville Christian, Heritage Christian and Aspen Hill.

And Manna got loads of soup for needy families in the county! We all should be very proud of our accomplishment.

**A BIG thank you to Jeff Price for delivering the soup to Manna for us!
AGAIN A JOB WELL DONE!!!**

A Note About Our Food Closet

Thanks to members of the Carpenters Club, our food closet is now painted, cleaned and secured. For months it had been in a "do not use" condition.

We are now stocking it with all up-to-date nonperishable canned foods. We want to be able to assist the needy when they stop in with a request for food.

We ask you to make your donations from the following list of food items:
Canned meats, tuna fish, canned spaghetti, rice and instant mashed potatoes in boxes, peanut butter, jams and jellies, bottled juices and canned fruit.

Thanks to all who help make this ministry a success.