

SAFE HARBOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2009



Safe Harbor Women's Retreat

Over 80 women attended the 2009 women's retreat in February this past year! Danielle Brady led our weekend with three sessions about living abundantly through Christ. Her sessions were based on John 15:1-17. As well as sharing our fellowship and faith as one large group, we broke into smaller discussion groups which helped to add more intimacy to our conversations. Worship music, games and crafts helped to round out our weekend together. Lastly, we ended our time together with a wonderful dinner at The Narrows Restaurant.

Safe Harbor Women's Retreat 2010 is planned for February 19th and 20th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Grasonville. Sue Gladd will be coordinating this event along with a creative and hard-working committee. Judy Basil-Burns has continued to show her wonderful generosity and hospitality as the manager on the Hilton and one of our own Safe Harbor women. Anita Gutschick will lead our weekend with dramatizations of many women of the Bible. While this type of presentation is "not the norm" based on our past retreat format, it is sure to leave a wonderful and lasting impression! Registration for the retreat will begin in January and women can begin to reserve their room at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Vacation Bible School

Safe Harbor Presbyterian Church invited children in August to blaze the trail with Upward Bound, the action packed VBS expedition tracking Jesus Christ's perilous incarnate journey from the heights of Heaven to win our salvation. Trained, caring "Guides" led the way as young "Backpackers" were joyfully challenged to make the rugged and radical ascent to the Kingdom of God. Colorful costumed Storytellers, theme-related decorations, take home "Trail Journals", organized outdoor recreation, crafts and more created a fun-filled, significant summer-time experience!

Over 125 children took this journey each day for 6 days during the first week of August. Even more impressive were the 50 volunteers who helped coordinate this effort as teachers, performers, kitchen-helpers, painters, etc! I can't begin to thank all of the amazing people who take one week to dedicate their time! Praise God!

While the organizing of VBS 2010 is still in its early stages (and I mean early!), the result will be the same if not better than last year!

Any additional information needed or to help with the planning, please contact Kelly Ridgeway.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP - Year at a glance 2009

January – March

Theme: Calling All Heroes “I can do all things through Christ”/ “Armor of God”

Scripture focus: Philippians 4:13 and Deuteronomy 31:6 “True heroes know God is with them”

2 Corinthians 12:9 “God can make me a hero”

Romans 12:22 “True heroes do the right thing”

Jeremiah 29:13 “True heroes reach out to Jesus”

March – May

Theme: The Incredible Race / “Let us run ...the race”

Scripture focus: John 9:38 “I believe”

Isaiah 35:4 “Be strong, fear not”

Matthew 28:7 “Go...and tell”

Acts 5:29 “Obey God”

John 16:26 “I will pray”

Psalm 119:33 “Teach me, O Lord”

Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind”

Revelation 2:10 “Be faithful”

May – August

Theme: Fiesta! / “It’s all about Jesus’ love”

Scripture focus: John 15:15 “Jesus is our friend”

Deuteronomy 6:5 “Jesus is our life”

Matthew 4:19 “Jesus is our leader”

Hebrews 13:6 “Jesus is our helper”

August – October

Theme: Crocodile Dock / “Where Fearless Kids Shine God’s Light”

Scripture focus: John 20:31 “God is Powerful”

Joshua 1:9, Psalm 118:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:14 “God is with us”

Proverbs 19:20 “God does what He says He’ll do”

Psalm 32:8 “God loves you”

Psalm 105:1 “God is for you”

October - December

Theme: Friendship Trek / “Jesus, Our Forever Friend”

Scripture focus: 1 John 4:19 “We love Him because He first loved us”

1 John 4:18 “Perfect love casts out fear”

Galatians 2:20 “Jesus loved me and gave Himself for me”

Romans 6:23 “The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus”

1 Timothy 1:15 “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”

Planting seeds for the future:

Materials for Bible and Song leaders, Prayer opportunities, Offering collection,

Connected with parents through Beacon and weekly take home materials, Recognize birthdays and new visitors each week, New unit around every 10 weeks with end of unit celebrations, Decorations,

Opportunities to share songs with the congregation, Scripture based songs and Bible action songs,

Bible lessons with visuals, props, skits, child participation, Older kids helping younger kids as greeters and singers, Web page, Welcoming atmosphere, Christ centered

MEN'S MINISTRY REPORT

The Men's Ministry of Safe Harbor exists for the purpose of bringing together men of all generations and backgrounds into dynamic relationships to model the Christian Man.

The Men's Ministry has two primary goals:

- Minister to the Men of Safe Harbor: Proverbs 27:17 – "Iron sharpens iron"
- Minister to the Men of community: Matthew 4:19 – "Fishers of Men" – Use ministry to go out to where men in community are through recreational and other missions to display the glory of Christ.

For the 2009-2010 ministry session, we have established the following three goals:

1. **Organize** leadership, goals, and missions to be able to better manage and define ministry. This includes gathering a
2. **Improve Communications** to church and men of community of events. This includes regular email and phone updates, updates at church and in the bulletin, and other means.
3. **Establish regular activities**, including the following:
 - Weekly Men's Discipleship (Thursday mornings at 6:30am)
 - Monthly Men's Breakfast (Second Sat. of Month)
 - Monthly Pints of View (First or Second Friday of Month)
 - Monthly Men's Meeting – Planning and Discipleship
 - Spring Retreat

We have 10 regular members of the Men's Ministry planning group, all of whom have some level of responsibility for the above activities. For this year, we have \$200 to fund activities.

Recent Activities:

December Activities:

- December 4 – 7pm Pints of View at Christian Graham's house
- December 9 – 8pm, Men's Ministry planning
- December 12 – 8am Men's Breakfast

January Activities:

- January 8 – 7pm at Christian Graham's house, Pints of View
- January 9 – 8am, Men's Breakfast
- January 13 – 8pm, Men's Ministry Planning and Discipleship time

Future Activities:

- Golf ministry
- Fishing ministry

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS) MINISTRY REPORT

The purpose of MOPS is to nurture every mother of preschoolers by meeting her distinct needs to the glory of Jesus Christ. MOPS is an international organization based out of Colorado and serves mothers through local groups that meet in churches. The MOPS group that meets at Safe Harbor is the only one on Kent Island, and our goal is to reach out especially to unchurched mothers in our community to nurture and establish relationships with them, to the glory of Jesus Christ.

MOPS meets from September through May, with a break for the summer, and the formal meetings occur once a month with additional play groups and Mom's Night Out events occurring monthly as well. This is the seventh year for the Kent Island MOPS group, and we continue to evaluate our Steering Team roles and outreach tools to serve our mothers even more effectively.

Currently, we have 40 registered members; of these, the majority is not from Safe Harbor or are unchurched. Our monthly meeting size has grown from 17-20 to approximately 30 women per meeting. One of our goals this year is to minister to this growing number of women more efficiently and effectively through deeply rooted discussion groups. As a result of the tanking economy, we've been able to offer more scholarships to moms who are unable to pay the membership and local meetings fees. We have lowered our annual costs to the moms as a result of the support from Safe Harbor's budget allotment: MOPS International membership costs \$24 per mom and is non-negotiable. The entire \$24 goes to MOPS and supplies the moms with a bimonthly newsletter, a gift from MOPS International, and weekly encouraging e-mails. We charge an additional \$10 for the year to offset some of the costs associated with our monthly meetings, which include snacks, childcare, take-homes, door prizes, speakers, crafts, curriculum, newsletters, and so forth. We hosted our fourth family swim party in June for all of the MOPS families so that the fathers and siblings could mix and meet one another, in another effort to build community within our group.

We have a diverse group of women, many of whom are in tough situations: unsupportive husbands or family, single moms, moms with children who have special needs, moms who have lost their children, and moms who have no other connection in the community to meet their sometimes felt needs. We've been able to meet so many needs both physically and spiritually for these women, thanks to the generosity of Safe Harbor.

Each month, we offer a playgroup for moms to get together with their children, usually at an off-site location (parks, indoor play areas, or special events such as a visit to the firehouse) one morning and to enjoy spending time with one another. We also offer a mom's night out that's just for moms to get out and have some time to themselves. We've held scrapbooking nights, an evening at Wye River Design Studio, dinner at local restaurants, shopping trips, and other events planned throughout the year.

Our Steering Team consists of the following women of Safe Harbor: Kathy Guerra, Co-Coordinator; Corbie Haas, Co-Coordinator; Linda Ridgley, Finance Coordinator; and Linda Whiting, Mentor Mom. Our non-member Steering Team members are Dana Cresanto (Kent Island Methodist), Publicity Coordinator; Patti (Christ Episcopal Church), Hospitality Coordinator; Amy Claypoole (Kent Island Methodist), Creative Activities; and Karen Hockins (Lutheran church), Discussion Group Team Leader. We have three discussion group leaders: Margie Outten, Kathy Bowen, and Julie Hickson. MOPS International suggests that coordinators only retain their position for 2 years, and this is Kathy Guerra's fifth year in this position. Corbie Haas will be taking over as MOPS Coordinator in the fall of 2010.

PIONEER GIRLS MINISTRY

Pioneer Girls ministry is a ministry for both our attending members as well as an outreach to the girls in our community. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The age ranges from 5 year olds through 5th grade. The ministry encourages spiritual growth through Bible lessons and Bible memorization, as well as introducing Jesus for the first time to those who do not know Him. It also encourages relationships among each other through fun songs, games, and group time. The girls also learn or improve on various talents through crafts and activities. The Voyagers class just completed Unit 2, Growing in God's Way, Special to God and enjoyed making a treasure box craft. The Trailblazers just completed Unit 1 All About Me, Exploring The Way and made a picture frame craft. We also encourage reaching out to those in need. The girls brought in cans of food to fill a large basket to offer to the food pantry for Thanksgiving baskets and are continuing this ministry. We also added a new outreach for the girls called "Pennies for the Shelter". The girls bring in any loose pennies they have or find and put them into a jar we have and the challenge is to try to fill this jar. In May, when we finish up our club for the year, we will donate all of the pennies to Our Haven Shelter to help those who are in need. The girls earn Bible and activity awards to iron or sew onto their sashes. This year we had our second Thanksgiving meal with the entire family of the Pioneer Girls and had almost 100% attendance with over 40 family members in attendance. It was a wonderful time together and all seemed to enjoy it. We also had for the first time a Mother/Daughter Sleepover at the church back in the month of May. The girls enjoyed pizza, an Easter craft bracelet with charms that showed the true meaning of Easter, movie time, sleepover and a morning pancake breakfast. The girls immediately asked when we could do this again, so we are planning another sleepover in 2010!

Each Pioneer Girl's family is responsible for a \$15 registration fee as well as an \$18 fee for a book and sash that each girl gets to use and keep. The registration fee goes to Pioneer Girls Headquarters which helps them to keep the cost of books and sashes low and to continue the ministry. We do sometimes request small fees to cover the costs of food and some craft projects, but we strive to keep the costs low. We have a budget to cover the costs of the awards and to help with supplies needed. There are 21 girls now registered in this ministry and more than a third attend other churches or none at all. This is our sixth season of Pioneer Girls Club here at Safe Harbor Church. God continues to bless us as Beryl Eisemeier came forward to lead the Voyagers Group, K thru second grade with Mary Condon as her assistant. Becky Fleet continues to be a faithful co-leader along with me of our Trailblazers group, 3rd thru 5th grade. We enjoy these girls and we do pray, however, that more folks might consider becoming a PG leader next year, as we have had less come forward, however we are very thankful for the many helping hands including our PG parents and are thankful to the church for also being committed to continuing this ministry. Thank you.

Cherie Vermont
Coordinator
Pioneer Girls Club

SAFE HARBOR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

What an exciting year it has been for the Safe Harbor Children's Sunday School Program. The amount of students has nearly doubled from last year. We have excellent teachers and very excited-to-be-there students.

Liz Bazzell – Preschool

Linda Whiting – 1st/2nd grade

Cindy Bach – 3rd/4th grade

Ray Getek – 5th grade

Cindy Williams – Middle School Girls

Todd Masters – Middle School Boys

The curriculum used for our Preschool through 4th grade classes is written by Great Commissions Publications and is an excellent program with lots of hands-on activities for the students, as well as a take-home sheet so that the parents can see what the students have been learning during the Sunday School hour.

The 5th grade students are working through “Understanding the Faith,” a workbook to aid the student who desires to profess their faith publicly and become communicant members of a church. This workbook walks students through the essentials of the Christian faith, modeling the format of The Westminster Shorter Catechism in Modern English.

Cindy Williams has been working through the Fruits of the Spirit with the Middle School Girls in a very practical and interesting way, so that they will understand the qualities of character that God grows inside of us and how to put it to use in their everyday lives. It's about more than mere spiritual or personal growth; it's God at work.

Encourage your children to attend Sunday School at Safe Harbor, where they can be spiritually nurtured.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY REPORT 2009

The Bereavement Ministry charter is to support the church, its members and worshipers during the difficult time after the loss of a loved one.

The primary function is to help the bereaved during this stressful time by managing a reception after the funeral service; arranging for food and beverages with the help of church members, consistent with the wishes of the deceased family, and within any constraints of the existing church budget.

One function was managed during the 2009 year after the death of a church member. This was successfully accomplished with the direction of the chairman and the help of several members of the church who contributed their time and effort to provide a luncheon in the church Narthex after the funeral service.

The Bereavement Ministry stands ready to assist in the future as needed.

Mary Graff, Chairman

COMMUNICATIONS

The Safe Harbor Church Communications Ministry coordinates publicity through advertising church activities in the local papers such as the Bay Times and Star Democrat as well as advertising at local KIHS events and Chamber of Commerce promotions. We advertised for the Easter and Christmas worship services and other events that SHC sponsors. We view publicity as an outreach to introduce Safe Harbor Church to the Kent Island community.

Although the SHC Website is a separate ministry, the Communication ministry helps to provide information for posting on the site. If you would like to participate in the Communications ministry and if you have a gift to serve by writing articles, designing posters/flyers or photography, please contact Pete Cerutti,

pete.cerutti@federalresources.com.

MEALS MINISTRY

Twenty-two meals were provided to three families between April and November. I always have enough help, it's a rare thing for someone to tell me no and people have been very dependable. If you need more info, please just let me know. Thanks. Mary

SAFE HARBOR MISSIONS, 2009

The Lord continues to bless Missions at Safe Harbor. Our guiding theme remains, *Proclaiming the Gospel and promoting the growth and health of Christ's Kingdom on Kent Island and around the world.* We added a focus area this year – Zambia, Africa related to the work of Paul and Rachel Hamerlyck, which brings us to eight total focus areas. The other seven are our local community, Baltimore, West Virginia, El Salvador, Peru, Romania and Turkey. It has been a very active year with significant support to and work with the local community, including the Our Haven Shelter and centers for developmentally disabled adults (thanks to Sandi Wiscott and the Deacons' Mercy Team), and many trips and support to all of our focus areas except for Peru and Turkey. However, Gerry and Ruthie Gutierrez from Huanta, Peru were the lead presenters for our Fall Missions Focus Weekend (one of our best ever), and our church continues to support the Istanbul Gateway Partnership based in Turkey, with pastor Todd Williams continuing in a lead role. Anyone interested in joining the team should see Mark Weist or Dan Zagone (co-leads). We meet once per month on the first Tuesday evenings at 7 at the church.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

In 2009, with the help of many volunteers, the Fellowship Committee was able to host a number of events.

We were able to host a picnic at the end of the Sunday School season in June. Then in August the annual church picnic at Tuckahoe State Park. Lots of people went canoeing and kayaking and there was a huge game of horse shoes. New this year was a desert contest which was a big success, however, very hard to choose a winner.

In September, we had the Golf Tournament at Blue Heron Golf Course where we raised over \$2,000 for the Building Fund through hole sponsors and team fees. There were around 45 teams this year. Prizes were donated by area merchants and golf centers. In October, the 2nd Annual Fall Festival was held with live entertainment like puppet shows and magic shows. There was face painting, pumpkin painting, pony rides and much more. The yard sale brought in over \$1,000 in sales for the Building Fund with money still coming in from items that are being sold at Twice is Nice Consignment Shop in Stevensville.

Then in November we held the Walk Thru The Bible Seminar where we looked into the New Testament.

We ended 2009 with the Christmas dinner. There was live music from our own Maryanne and Michael Collins along with Greg Pascuzi and Dave Ochinero. Christian Graham amazed both the children and us adults once again with his Magic show.

Without the help of volunteers none of these events could be possible and I cannot thank you enough.

In 2010 we are hoping to have as many events this year starting off with the "Pep Rally" Dinner for the New Building Fund Campaign on Saturday, January 30.

Carla Thomas

FAITH WITH FEET 2009

Our ministry goal is to reach out and meet the needs of others in our community. We feel in our hearts that our continued growth is due to GOD'S working through so many to help make this possible.

Our ministry first started in the fall of 2000 with our friends at the Chester-Wye & the Chesapeake centers. Our friends at these centers have various degrees of developmental disabilities. GOD has led us in many different directions since then. We feel really blessed being merely the instruments that he works through.

1.

Again this year we gave each of the centers a summer picnic with music provided by Mike Mennit. Our Volunteers served them food, and our youth provided games for these events.

2. Our Loving Hands Christmas Outreach for the Chester-Wye & Chesapeake Centers which provides gifts through Love Offerings made by our church family and friends for each of our friends at the centers. Their parties this year were held on Dec. 1st. entertainment was provided by Bill Kirwin and his assistant Midge Kirwin. Our volunteers served cookies & punch. A light lunch was served for the volunteers between the two parties at Liz Bazzel's house.

3. We continue to be involved with Food Link. Beryl Eismeier organizes the schedule with help from many of our church family.

4. This year we've been able to completely furniture 16 homes for needy families through donations made to us. We've also provide beds, and refrigerator and washing machines etc. when requested by needy people in our community. This was all made possible again this year by Kangaroo Self Storage's donation of a climate controlled unit for storing the furniture donations made to us.

5. As one of the ten churches involved in the Queen Anne's County Christian Assistance participated in the Foot Prints in the Sand Big Band event to raise funds and awareness in the community for the homeless and the needs of others here on Kent Island.

6. Also we help with the planning & volunteers for the 5K Run for shelter benefit.

7. We organized the schedule and helped maintain Our Haven Homeless Shelter during the weeks that Safe Harbor was responsible for. This also included stocking shelves with extra food and paper goods needed for our shelter weeks.

8. Our food outreaches where we give families in need a turkey and bags of food has been very successful thanks to the donations made by our church family, friends, and also businesses that contributed goods.

- a. Thanksgiving---Total- 76 families
- b. Christmas food outreach- Total- 74 families
- c. Easter food outreach—Total--- 94 families

Our Easter food outreach was made possible with the help from a local bank and the other churches that are part of the QACCA . They all contributed food and helped with the bagging and deliveries.

In support of the Christian Community Center which is one of the ministries that Safe Harbor supports we provide 31 families that are helped at the center with turkeys and bags of food for each of our food outreaches that we have.

10. When we have our Easter food outreach we serve a picnic type lunch to our friends at the Christian Community Center in Baltimore City.

11. In April we helped with Mission's Day at the Christian Community Center. We served the food for 45 people mostly children and helped with the games and crafts.

12. When we receive calls during the year for help we respond whenever possible.

Faith with Feet members .

1. Liz Bazzel
- 2 Charlotte Taylor
- 4.Diane Durbin
5. Bridget Hughes
6. Peggy Davliakos
7. MaryBeth Young
- 8.Terri Leishear
9. Midge Kirwin
10. Beryl Eismeier

We also have other committee members who help us in our various outreaches, but can't attend our meeting due to the meeting being at night, or their busy schedules.

By GOD's Grace all of the above was made possible. We give him all the Praise and Glory for it.

YOUTH MINISTRY AT SHPC

This past year, we experienced a lot of growth in both junior and senior high youth groups. In middle school youth group, we have been having an average of over forty kids coming regularly, and more recently there have been over fifty. Most of these students are not even from our church. In the senior high group there are around twenty to thirty students coming regularly, half of whom are not from Safe Harbor.

We even saw the beginning of a college youth group during the summer. In May, there was a college retreat to western Maryland, which kind of kick-started the college group. We also had college youth group once a week on Sunday nights, which usually included having dinner together, playing volleyball or swimming, and a Bible study.

Even with the emergence of a college group, many of the college students still came to high school youth group on Wednesday nights, called “Waffle Wednesday,” sometimes help out and sometimes just to hang out with their high school friends. We also encouraged the high school students to do likewise and come to middle school youth group. On Monday nights we had around six to seven college and high school students helping out with middle school youth group.

There were also many events to which we invited middle school, high school, and college students, including the Chesapeake and Chester Wye centers for the mentally handicapped, cooking meals at the homeless shelter, and helping out with VBS at church. We also took a group of high school students to West Virginia for the missions trip that we participate in each year. Next year we hope to get a large group of around fifty people, both college and senior high, to come on this trip. In addition, we took a group of twenty people, mostly adults and college students (including three senior and junior high kids), to El Salvador for our biannual missions trip there.

Along with weekly youth group get-togethers, the high school youth group went on several retreats, such as the Ocean City/Bethany Beach retreat and the ski retreat with Young Life and Kent Island Methodist to Timberline in West Virginia. The middle school group also went on their own retreats in addition to their weekly youth group meetings. In the summer, we took a group of over forty middle school kids to Victory Jam in Harvey Cedars, New Jersey, which is by far their favorite of the year. Also, they went on their own ski trip to Roundtop in Pennsylvania.

In addition to all this, in one large collaborative effort, about five churches including Safe Harbor hosted 5th Quarter at Kent Island High School, which was basically a giant party after each home football game. This was not an event that was explicitly evangelistic, but rather it was a great way for our churches to show our love for the adolescents of Kent Island by providing them something fun and safe and legal to do on a Friday night.

We are in great need of more adult volunteers, to help regularly with running youth groups, setting up events, and just being present in these adolescents’ lives. Whether you are good at coordinating things or relating and listening to young students, we ask that you volunteer some of your time to make an impact in the lives Kent Island’s middle and high school students. Sometimes all they need is for someone to love and value them. Any help that you can give would be greatly appreciated.

***Ephesians 3:17-19** And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

Bob Masters (2010)
Christian Graham (2010)
Pete Cerutti (2011)
Winn Frank (2011)
Pete Guerra (2011)
Doug Tribull (2012)
Lin Outten (2012)
Michael Donoghue (2012)

DEACONS

Jay Burns (2010)
Ken Bach (2010)
Fred Koch (2010)
Mark Weist (2010)
Irv Martin (2011)
Bobby Tull (2011)
Sam Whiting (2011)
Craig Albright (2012)
Jim Chestnut (2012)
Brad Dutton (2012)
Jim Kelly (2012)

TRUSTEES

Jean Gilman (2010)
Bill Almy (2012)
Charles Weese (2012)