



PASTOR'S WORD

Being Archippus

In the most recent meeting of my small group, Aaron Graham led us in a discussion of the end of Paul's letter to the Colossians. We spent time in 4:7-18, a section containing names that most people ignore. It is a section that one of my pastoral assistants, Larry, calls "the shout outs," where Paul greets people by name who don't seem so important to us today. Notice that in verse 17 Paul writes, "And say to Archippus, 'Be sure to carry out the ministry the Lord gave you.'"

Our group thought that it was interesting that Paul would call out Archippus, whoever he was, in front of everyone and tell him to do whatever it is that God told him to do. Just think about it. How would you feel if you were Archippus? How would you feel if someone in church called you out in front of everyone and encouraged you to do whatever it is that God wants you to do?

That wouldn't be so bad, would it? I mean, wouldn't it be quite encouraging if churches spent time encouraging each other—out loud—to do all that God would have us to do? That is one part of what it means to be Archippus, being willing to have people encourage us to do whatever ministry God has given to us.

Now, we don't know what Archippus's ministry was. But that's not so important. The question for us is, "What is my ministry?" "What is it that God has given me to do?" Are you doing your ministry? Do you need to be called out like Archippus was?

Most people at Peace Fellowship Church know their spiritual gifts. If you don't, please talk to one of the elders. But even if you know what your gift is, you still may not be doing what God called you to do. Give it some thought. Don't just do work out of guilt, but consider this idea that God is *calling* you to something!

No one knows how Archippus responded to Paul's admonition. How will you respond?



Rev. Dr. Dennis R. Edwards,
Pastor, Peace Fellowship Church

Peace Fellowship Church
1601 Kenilworth Avenue, NE—VFW Building



The Peace Fellowship Transportation Ministry provides rides to church for those in need. If you would like a ride to a Sunday service, or Vacation Bible School, phone Deacon Sean Mills at (202) 494-9977, or visit the Peace Fellowship website at <http://peace-dc.com/> and email your request. Members interested in serving, email or phone Sean.

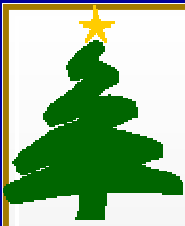


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OUR CORE VALUES

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NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS STORE

BY BETH DEWHURST AND MARY RUTH THEODOS

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the Kenilworth Apartments, flyers were hand-delivered inviting all to the Christmas Store. We were grateful to have access to the Apartments' afterschool program's space this year—and it was filled with clothing, toys and other gifts for children age 0-18 years, which guests could purchase at a heavily discounted price. Peace Fellowship welcomed lots of new faces and many returning ones—even children from our Vacation Bible School two years ago! Each guest was greeted by a personal shopper who assisted in the shopping, but who also asked about guests' families, got to know them a bit, and shared about our fellowship. And of course, there was lots of food, too! Several people are now visiting Peace after this event; pray these relationships will be nurtured with our on-going efforts. We are also grateful for our connection in our neighborhood with Linda Bates, who is partnering with us to continue fostering relationships, especially with the youth in the Kenilworth Apartments.



A WONDERFUL RETREAT WITH LASTING IMPACT

BY RYAN RODRICK BEILER

FOR THE MEN!

The men's retreat was a great blessing to me, and from what I could see, the same was true for all who came. There were great times of worship, teaching, fun—not to mention some great food—at our retreat house on the Chesapeake Bay.

Saturday morning I was asked to lead a session on gifting. I focused on passages in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12, and we talked about how each of us brings something uniquely valuable to our community. Later, another brother led us in a discussion of the importance of regular Bible reading. Several of us shared our habits for reading scripture.

In the evening, the men participated in a session on the importance of taking care of our health—that as temples of the Holy Spirit, we need to take care of our bodies, including diet, exercise, and regular medical check-ups. Later that evening, we broke into groups of twos or threes to talk about how we can be better accountable in the topics discussed during the day: using our gifts, spiritual disciplines, and stewardship of our bodies.

We also had plenty of time just for fun and fellowship. A group of us played basketball in a nearby park in the afternoon, while others went for a run or just relaxed. In the evening, we all got a poker lesson and learned the finer points of Texas Hold 'Em. (Just for chips—not money. It was a church retreat, after all).

Sunday morning we had a time of worship and teaching from our Pastor, which culminated in a foot-washing service. It was a moving expression of the servant leadership that we need to show to each other as we seek to be Christ-like members of our church community.

Personally, this retreat helped inspire me to reinvigorate my own personal spiritual practice, which had gotten disrupted through the many life changes and transitions this last year as I got married, renovated our temporary apartment, and finally moved into our condo. After the retreat, I began to go for morning hikes in Rock Creek Park while listening to sermon podcasts on my iPod, and being more consistent in daily Bible reading. I know that for many others, this retreat helped encourage them to make similar important changes—which goes to show that a good retreat like this one isn't just a weekend getaway: it has lasting impact.

And in case you need one more reason to come next year, did I mention that one of our Elders made three different kinds of pork?

It's clear that the momentum of our Men's Ministry has picked up speed since their retreat on the Eastern Shore. Every 2-3 months about a dozen men can be found together. Recently, they went bowling, and they plan to go biking in April. "It's been good for men to get together and talk about our experiences and using our gifts," says one male participant. "I've found that what I'm going through and the challenges I face are the same for the other men in our group—they've been through it or are going through the same things. We hold each other accountable and it's been a good experience for me."





Peace Fellowship Mile-



In March 2008, Peace Fellowship Church installed the following new elders, and we thank them for their service:

Phil Wenger

Susan S. Edwards

Lynne Eggert continues her elder term, while Ray McGhee has completed his elder service. We are grateful to Ray for his multiple years of service in the launching and eldership of our church body. Recently, Ray has spearheaded our connection with Jubilee Jobs, which provides employment support in association with Church of the Savior in Columbia Heights. Ray and two other Peace Fellowship members are volunteering as mentors, working with individuals placed in entry level jobs and supporting them as they try to develop their skills and advance up the ladder to obtain benefits and higher paying jobs. Visit <http://www.jubilee.jobs.org/> for more information.

The high school Bible study group continues to meet regularly (Tuesdays, 6:30-8 pm. at 17 N St., NW.) with Assistant to the Pastor and Youth Minister Andrea Cofield. Not only has the group of six regulars selected their study book, *Bondage Breakers*, but the high schoolers are starting to lead study sessions and bringing their friends. They have also been out and about, attending different Christian events and worship services, like the Remnant Gospel Go-Go sermon, by Minister Jonah Turner and 300 other teens in January, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. One of their group members has also requested baptism—17 year old Monica Mason.



Deacon Sean Mills is giving a strong word of encouragement for all to join together in our monthly prayer meeting. The prayer meeting is the first Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. at the VFW (for about an hour).

Joanna Edwards, eldest daughter of the first family, is enjoying her sophomore year at California State University at

Northridge. She is a Deaf Studies major with a concentration in interpreting. "I've come to a greater realization that after college, I will live by myself. I will probably return to DC after graduation," she comments. Jessica Edwards, the youngest Edwards' offspring, is finishing her senior year at Sidwell Friends: "There's been a lot of ups and downs, but it's helped me in the end."

Susan Edwards, the Edwards family matriarch, is now serving as one of our elders (previously mentioned). When asked her thoughts on this new venture, she commented, "I feel honored and humbled to serve as an elder in this congregation. I take it seriously to shepherd God's people." She is excited about what God's doing here at Peace—particularly the deeper growth she's observed in individuals as we "ask each other serious questions, and hold each other accountable in a humble, mutual way."



"Angels, Watch Over Me"

Meet Peace Fellowship's newest members!



Lymia Graham

born November 13, 2007



Jayel West

born July 21, 2007



Jre Shepherd

born November 28, 2007



Peace Fellowship Enjoys Easter Egg Hunt with Kenilworth Neighbors

by Mary Ruth Theodos

On a crisp Saturday March morning, the members of PFC hosted an Easter Morning Celebration with children from the Kenilworth-Parkside community. The children decorated Easter eggs with dye and glitter and got a chance to get to know the children of Peace Fellowship as they giggled while dunking their eggs. A couple of stories were read to them about the true meaning of Easter as we prepared to celebrate the risen Christ. It was a great opportunity to share the traditions of the community as well as the Word of God. After the story, the hunt was on! Children scattered all over the park, some even went through swamps, to find plastic eggs filled with candy. Everyone headed up with glitter on their faces, sugar in their tummes, and hopefully, more hope in their hearts. Gift bags were given to the children with flyers about PFC's Sunday Easter Service and an invitation to join us each week. We are prayerful that during this post Easter season we will be able to connect more with the families in this community.



The Easter Egg Hunt was just one of several fellowship activities coordinated by the Women of Peace (WoP) this past Spring. Stay tuned for more WoP-sponsored events in the coming months.



PEACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.
Veterans of Foreign Wars
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We're on the Web!
<http://peace-dc.com/>

**"Developing disciples
of Jesus Christ
East of the River
who love God and
love their
neighbors."**

Believer's Beat – MPD Officer Shares Our Neighbors' Prayer Requests by Duncan Bedlion

About three years ago I started praying that God would provide me with a job close to Peace Fellowship and he answered my prayer in a very unexpected and specific way. My hope was that God would line up a job in which I would be able to meet many folks and constantly get the opportunity to share the Gospel and invite them to church. As usual, God surpassed my expectations.

A job as a police officer with the Metropolitan Police Department was offered after a relatively quick application process; this past November I started a footbeat on the very street that Peace Fellowship meets for worship. Every day I get the opportunity to visit with our neighbors and get to know them a little better each time. Please join me in prayer that our neighbors would feel welcomed to visit Peace Fellowship. Here are a few other requests for which you could join me in prayer:

- ✦ Pray that God would provide a flexible job to Dennis in our neighborhood (not our pastor Dennis) that would not hamper his health condition.
- ✦ Pray for Miss Eunice as she grieves the loss of her husband.
- ✦ Pray for healing in the lives of those who have been affected by alcohol and substance abuse.



Spotlight on.....Stacy Jewell

Interview by Michelle McKeithan

On February 8th, 2008, one of Peace Fellowship's own, Stacy Jewell, debuted her very first one-woman play named "God Loves a Prostitute". In addition to starring in the play, Ms. Jewell conceptualized and wrote it...which leads one to wonder: is the play fictional or was there more behind its storyline? With such a title, one could only wonder. Read the interview below for an in-depth understanding of how God worked behind the scenes to compel Ms. Jewell to produce "God Loves a Prostitute".

MM:What was the inspiration behind this play?

SJ: "There were many inspirations for this play, but the main one was my life, in general. Each one of the characters (The Prostitute, The Business Woman, The Ex-Minister, and The Teenager) were me in different stages of my life. Each character's experiences played were [born from paths I've taken in my life]. Through failures, dangers, selfishness, pride, and even love...I felt I had to give and show women the impact life can have on all of us. But there's one person who will never give up on you—Christ Jesus!"

MM:How did you decide on the title for the play?

SJ: "The title came almost instantaneously. I've always had a very strong connection to Mary Magdalene in the Bible, and that's mainly because I was in the streets when I got saved. I was literally at the bottom of the barrel: 20 years old and living in a hotel with a group of other prostitutes. But that's where Christ met me and [at that moment] I immediately couldn't stop weeping and laughing and loving Jesus. I was instantly overjoyed! While I was writing the play—and even sometimes crying over the words in it, feeling down and ashamed about where and what I've been through—I thought to myself, 'It's ok to write this....because God loves [even] prostitutes.' And thus the title was born."

MM:What motivated you to perform before a woman-only audience?

SJ: "Primarily because the play really focuses on women. And, I wanted the women viewers to feel free and comfortable to have emotions, and to express and participate. It is an interactive play. I often feel women are fearful and embarrassed to be open and truthful with others about themselves, particularly, when their husbands or boyfriends are present. But I wanted to break that mold and create a sense of bonding, communion, and understanding. Hopefully, that was accomplished."

Ms. Jewell is currently researching venues to perform "God Loves A Prostitute". If you have any information that may be of help, please email her at stacyjewell25@yahoo.com, or call Peace Fellowship Church at (202) 494-9977.