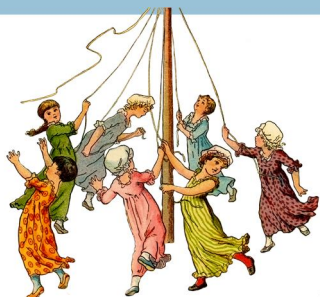


BEACON

to encourage...to inspire...to inform...



Equipping the Saints

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸And he gave to the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to become mature attaining the full measure of all the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and winds of every kind of false doctrine, and by deceitful human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint and ligament, with which it is equipped, and when each part if working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Ephesians 4: 7-16

My job as your pastor is to equip you, the saints, for works of ministry, so that the whole body grows and is able to build itself up in love. I'm here to feed you, encourage you, challenge you and shepherd you. I'm writing this on a Sunday afternoon, the 19th of April, as I mull over worship today. I was moved by the word preached (Tony's sermon), and the words of the songs we sang together. To give you some background, and refresh the blessing in your hearts, (or share them with you if you weren't in church on that Sunday) here are some thoughts and insights:

Today Tony talked about Jesus as our eternal promise of God's love, the evidence of the extent of that saving love, and the tender care he has for us as he serves as our advocate before the father. These truths were highlighted in the song we sang by Charles Wesley, "Arise My Soul Arise" (this along with his other hymn, "And Can it Be" are two of my favorites). In "Arise", Wesley talks about our guilt, shame and fears and how they are blasted away by God's love evidenced in the sacrifice he made for us in Jesus. He ends his hymn by describing the beautiful confidence that is ours to approach God with any and all of our needs and cares. Do me a favor and read through the lyrics of this hymn and see what it does

to you. Chills, tears, joy, they are all just the outer emotional responses to the inner joy and amazement that the realization of enormity of God's love for us brings, and that this hymn so poetically presents.

In the book *My Life and the Story of the Gospel Hymns and of Sacred Songs and Solos*, Ira Sankey writes:

The great hymn, *Arise, My Soul Arise*, was first published in 1742 under the title, "Behold the Man," this has become the most useful of Charles Wesley's numerous hymns. In universal use in English countries, and translated into many languages, of all the hymns sung in our Mission, crusades and revivals, it is the most effectual at breaking and stirring hearts, it has been the direct instrumentality in the conversion of thousands of souls. It has found expression in the exultant cry on the lips of many a dying saint.

"I have a record," said a Wesleyan missionary laboring in the West Indies, "of two hundred persons, young and old, who received the most direct evidence of the forgiveness of their sins while singing 'Arise, my soul.' The conversion of the greater number of these persons took place while I was a missionary abroad."

In her book *Hymns That Every Child Should Know: A Selection of the Best Hymns of All Nations for Young People*, Dolores Bacon, writes:

"This hymn has extensive anecdotal history, but the most picturesque story recorded is that of its connection with a Patagonian missionary expedition which ended disastrously for all concerned. The company was wiped out by violence and disease, and the captain of the ship upon which the company had embarked wrote in his diary, Sept. 6, 1851: 'As I reflect on Wesley's glorious hymn, my soul cannot help but rise above our calamity, in fact I neither hunger nor thirst, though five days without food. I am overwhelmed by the marvelous loving kindness to me, a sinner, it sustains me.' Captain Gardiner and John Babcock were two of just a handful who survived the missionary expedition. Years later it was Babcock who died first, and he asked the survivors to gather at his funeral and sing the hymn they

they had all clung to and had once preserved his life and faith. Gardiner led them."

Arise, My Soul Arise

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears; The bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears:

Before the throne my surety stands, Before the throne my surety stands, my name is written on His hands.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;

His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead:

His blood atoned for Adam's sinful race, His blood atoned for Adam's sinful race,

And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds He bears; received on Calvary;

They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:

"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,

"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

The Father hears Him pray, His dear anointed One;

He cannot turn away, the presence of His Son;

His Spirit answers to the blood, His Spirit answers to the blood,

And tells me I am born of God.

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;

He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear:

With confidence I now draw nigh, With confidence I now draw nigh

And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuJ7-s3gN4k>

Another point Tony made was God's love is so great that he wouldn't even spare his own son, but freely offered Him up in our place. That kind of love is one we can trust in, that we can rest in. In worship we sang together, *Jesus I am Resting, Resting*, an almost unknown hymn today, but one of great encouragement in years past. This hymn paints a beautiful picture of what it means to take the path of *Trusting God*, and learning to live out of the identity described by who God says we are. My identity defined by God's love, adoption, grace, and character.

Jean Pigott, and Irish poet wrote this hymn. In her short life (of 37 years) she created just two hymns: *Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting*, and the all but unknown, [Lord Jesus, Thou Dost Keep Thy Child](#). That hymn, with a similar theme begins:

Lord Jesus, Thou dost keep Thy child
Through sunshine or through tempests wild;

Jesus, I trust in Thee:

Thine is such wondrous pow'r to save;

Thine is the mighty love that gave

Its all on Calvary.

Her hymn, *Jesus I Am Resting, Resting* builds on the call to trust in God based upon his "mighty love" instead of slavishly perform for God to please him, or fearfully avoiding his wrath. The great theme of the hymn is to find our deepest longings satisfied in a life of discovering the greatness of God's loving heart. This hymn was a favorite of missionary Hudson Taylor and became a theme song for missionaries in China during the Boxer Rebellion. Word came to Taylor of one after another of his missionaries and friends being brutally slain. *Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting*, became a great comfort to him and the missionaries around him. They sang it often. Jean Pigott's own brother Thomas, a missionary to China, was killed in the rebellion, and they sang this song at his funeral.

Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting

Jesus, I am resting, resting, In the joy of what Thou art;

I am finding out the greatness Of Thy loving heart.

Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, And Thy beauty fills my soul,

For by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole.

Refrain

Jesus, I am resting, resting, In the joy of what Thou art;

I am finding out the greatness Of Thy loving heart.

O, how great Thy loving kindness,

Vaster, broader than the sea!

O, how marvelous Thy goodness,

Lavished all on me!

Yes, I rest in Thee, Belovèd,

Know what wealth of grace is Thine,

Know Thy certainty of promise,

And have made it mine.

Refrain

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,

I behold Thee as Thou art,

And Thy love, so pure, so changeless,

Satisfies my heart;

Satisfies its deepest longings,

Meets, supplies its every need,

Compasseth me round with blessings:

Thine is love indeed!

Refrain

Ever lift Thy face upon me

As I work and wait for Thee;

Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus,

Earth's dark shadows flee.

Brightness of my Father's glory,

Sunshine of my Father's face,

Keep me ever trusting, resting,

Fill me with Thy grace.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/missionaries/hudson-taylor.html>

SAFE HARBOR WEBSITE: If you would like to have a church related ministry, activity, or announcement placed on the church website (www.safeharborpca.org), please sent the text and documents to: jackperdue@gmail.com. Begin the email subject line with "Safe Harbor" so that it will be directed properly. Questions and constructive suggestions regarding the website are always welcomed.

Please follow the links, listen to the music, read and re-read the words to the hymns and be encouraged! Your God loves you and has called you out of the darkness into his everlasting light. For the Joy that you are to him, Jesus gave himself up to the cross, and conquered sin and death so that you would have life that is really life, so that you would be built up in his love and to build one another up in that love until his Body, his Bride is unified, built up and beautified. Be well equipped in the knowledge of this love and may it transform, your hearts and your lives...

In Christ's Amazing Love,
Pastor Todd



Choices Pregnancy Center's 17th Annual Golf Tournament:

Tuesday, May 3rd

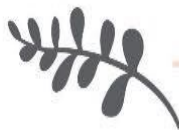
Queenstown Harbor Golf Course in Queenstown
Ladies and Gentlemen join us for a day on the course and enter for a chance to win a \$10,000 hole-in-one on a specified hole!

Not too late to sign-up: please contact the center at 410-822-3311.

"Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser benefiting Choices Pregnancy Center will be Saturday, May 7, 2016 at Applebee's 8999 Ocean Gateway Easton. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 am -10 am and is \$7.00 per person, kids 12 and under \$4.50."



COME ALIVE



Registration is now open for "Come Alive"-the Women's Ministry Leadership session. We hope you can join us!

Register here: <https://www.mops.org/evt/?eventId=1089>



Explore what coming alive looks like for ourselves and embrace the influence we have in the lives of others – because when we share our story, we introduce Jesus into the life of a woman, giving her the chance to come alive. Join us on **Saturday, May 21st** at Safe Harbor for '**Come Alive, a MOPS Community Leadership Training event!** Whether you're a current MOPS leader, are interested in serving the MOPS ministry, or are involved in Women's ministry leadership, this is an event for you! Doors open at 9:00 a.m. and our program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration is FREE with an option to purchase a boxed lunch. For more information or to register, please contact Jenn Bopp, 410-739-6607 or jtrott@gmail.com.



FROM THE ASSISTANT
PASTOR....

On Leading Life Groups

Pastor Tony Lombardo

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:42, 46-47

Life Groups at Safe Harbor are the primary way we get connected to others and learn what it means to follow Jesus in the rhythms of daily life.

Maybe you've worshipping with us, but have felt disconnected from the community; or, perhaps you have sensed a need to join, start, or lead a Life Group, but don't feel up to the task.

I remember the first time I sensed a call to step up, start, and lead a small group Bible study, and I remember feeling inadequate.

Who am I to be a "leader" of others when I know my own failures, limitations, and sins better than anybody? What if the group doesn't "click" together? What if I don't know "the answer" and find the Bible intimidating?

Maybe you've had similar thoughts. You long for authentic Christian community—or even sense a call to start a Life Group—yet the thought of leading is daunting.

I am often reminded that we don't lead because we "have it all together" or consider ourselves the "Bible Answer Man (or Woman)." We lead because God uses weak, frail, jars of clay—like all of us—in the Gospel ministry of life transformation. Spaces where authentic community may be experienced are found in Life Groups, and it is only in the messy context of broken people struggling with real issues that Gospel transformation takes place.

Leading, as the Lord tells us, is about serving.

In summary of the great "love" chapter in I Corinthians 13:4-7 we can say:

A Life Group leader is "patient...is kind, and is not jealous... [A Life Group leader] does not brag... [A Life Group leader] is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly... does not seek his or her...own... [A Life Group Leader] is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice

in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; [a Life Group leader] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Leading is about showing up to serve with a humble dependence upon the Lord. Are you willing to help create a space for God's people to be known, heard, accepted, and challenged to deeper trust and obedience? This is the job description of a Life Group leader – a heart of humble care for God's people!

Now, let's put some flesh on this thing: How does someone actually start or lead a Life Group?

Here are a few ways we've found helpful to cultivate authentic communities of Gospel transformation at Safe Harbor:

1. Is there another individual or family at church that you'd like to get to know better? Ask them if they are already involved in a Life Group. If so, ask when and where it meets and check it out at the next meeting.

If they are not currently involved in a Life Group, invite them over for a meal or dessert and coffee, and simply spend some time getting to know each other. Prayerfully consider starting a new Life Group – even if it only begins with two families. Ask the Lord to guide you to invite others as He prompts you.

2. When you get together, simply ask two questions:

What has God been doing in your life this week?

How are you responding to what He's doing in your life?

3. Open the Scriptures. You can track along with the sermon series or pick a book of the Bible to study together.

4. Pray together.

5. Serve together.

So, might God be calling you to lead? Take a step of faith, prayerfully invite others, and show up with vulnerability and openness to what God will do!

Contact Pastor Tony at tony@safeharborpca.org to learn more about Life Groups

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 7th at 8am at the Hilton Garden Inn in Grasonville.

Grab some breakfast or coffee, and come along to the meeting room for a time of fellowship.

The speaker for May will be John Frahm, sharing his testimony.





Church Accountant

Safe Harbor is in need of a part-time accountant or highly skilled bookkeeper with full understanding and experience with QuickBooks and Microsoft Excel. Linda Ridgley has faithfully served in this capacity but now no longer is able to continue. She has helped to craft the following description and will be able to stay on until mid-June to help train her successor. This is a paid position, wages commensurate to skills and expertise.

This position is responsible for accounting for all financial transactions of Safe Harbor Presbyterian Church, including cash receipts, cash disbursements, payroll and payroll tax reporting, including, but not limited to:

- Record all giving and other cash receipts of the church.
- Process accounts payable/cash disbursements.
- Perform monthly bank reconciliations.
- Reconcile and balance all financial statement accounts.
- Maintain clear and accurate records of all financial transactions.
- Communicate with vendors and parishioners to resolve issues with accounts payable and giving records.
- Process payroll for all employees of the church
- Prepare and file all monthly/quarterly payroll tax filings
- Prepare and file all year-end tax filings, including payroll tax filings and 1099s to vendors.
- Assist in developing policy and procedure for all accounting transactions
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

- 3+ years Staff Accounting/Bookkeeping experience.
- Accounting degree preferred but not required
- Solid understanding of accounting principles.
- Proven ability to calculate, post and manage accounting figures and financial records.
- Hands-on experience with QuickBooks is required. Understanding of Microsoft Excel and Word desired.



American Red Cross

SAFE HARBOR ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE:

I wanted to share with you the results of the blood drive held April 24th. The drive was very successful and we thank everyone who gave their time and their blood for those in need.

Goal: 22/26	Scheduled: 24
Registered: 23	Deferrals: 1
QNS: 0	Collected: 23
	Goal Attainment: 88%

Mark your calendars that we do have another drive planned for Friday, August 12th from 10am-4pm. Everyone who donates will receive an Orioles ticket voucher for a summer baseball game! Bring a friend or spouse and get two tickets to a game!

Watch for more details in the summer.



Spring News

The following are some of the upcoming fun raising events for Haven Ministries. These different events will be great fun while helping a very good cause. We hope to see you there.

~ **Haven Ministries Tea Party at 3pm on May 15th. at Christ Church. Tickets can be purchased for \$35.00 by contacting Sandi at church or call 410-739-7859.**



~ Bingo fundraiser—watch for more details on this.

~ Run 4 Shelter Half Marathon, 10K & 5K, 2 mile walk will be held on **September 10th, 2016**. If you want to be part of this event but don't want to run or walk you can sign up to be a volunteer. We need 125 to 150 volunteers to help with this event. This is a great way to get the family outside, getting some exercise while supporting the shelter. Also, the kids from the Community Christian Center would love to participate but need sponsors. If you would like to sponsor, please contact Sandi or forms are available in the narthex.

We appreciate all of your support for these events so come out, have some fun, share in great fellowship together all while fighting homelessness in Queen Anne's county.

Food Pantry Changes:

The Food pantry will move from Saturday morning to Friday afternoon, **starting June 17th**. The hours will be 5:30-7pm.

Our next Faith with Feet meeting will be on Monday, May 16th at 6pm at the church.

Come join us to find out more about the many outreaches we have going on. Pick the outreach that best suits your gift to serve.

"There is no small service to GOD: it all matters." ~ Rick Warren



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5th at 6am and 7:15pm.....come and pray with us!



Next Visitors Luncheon is on Sunday, May 15th after the 2nd service

Please plan on staying and enjoying good food and fellowship.

For food purposes, please call the church office if you plan on attending.

410-604-1700



Lighthouse Christian Academy is hosting its **15th Annual History Faire on Friday, May 13**, beginning at 1 PM in the sanctuary. Students will perform lyrical, dramatic, and poetic presentations based on the time periods of history studied by each class. Following the presentations, guests are welcome to enjoy food and fun in the courtyard where each class will have historically appropriate food tents with plenty of sampling for everyone! All are welcome, rain or shine. This is a wonderful capstone event for the school year and a great time of fellowship for our families and supporters. We hope you can join us.



Volunteers to be greeters starting in the fall, for either the 8:30 am or 11 am services. Duties include handing out bulletins or welcoming people upon their arrival to church one or two Sundays a month. For more information, contact Judy Groen at 410-643-7691.