

## Holiday Office Hours

The Office will be closed Christmas and New Year's Day. We will have regular office hours on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 26 & 27 and Jan. 2 & 3. The staff wishes all a very blessed holiday season!

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**Tem. Supply Pastor**  
Rev. Kerri English

**Secretary**  
Susan Vitale

**Director of Music**  
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**Organist**  
Elizabeth Hargrove

**ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

401 Virginia Street  
Ashland, VA 23005

Ashland Presbyterian Church

# APC Connections

Volume 5, Issue 3

December 2012

### Upcoming Events

- Dec. 2 — Session Retreat
- Dec. 4 — PW Christmas Gathering, 7 PM in sanctuary
- Dec. 9 — Decorating sanctuary, noon
- Dec. 16 — 11 AM Choral Christmas Celebration; Joy Offering
- Dec. 24 — 5 PM Christmas Eve Service



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## From the Pastor's Desk

Friends,

Waiting. Long lines. Being on hold. Sitting in a doctor's office. Waiting often feels unproductive. We wish we didn't have to wait.

We're a "hurry up" kind of people. We want things done – yesterday.

December is our month of waiting.

Do we welcome such waiting? Usually not.

What if we chose December as our month of quiet and patient waiting?

What if our waiting was more about a baby in a manger than a jolly old man in a bright red suit?

What if waiting led us to wonder – like looking at the stars?

What if waiting itself could teach us the gift of patience?

Prayer sometimes feels like waiting. We wait for God to answer.

God simply wants the time to love us, and we rush to give God our list:

*God do this. God solve that. God make me a better person. Now please.*

This December, try waiting in God's presence, quietly, sincerely, openly.

Prayer can be the joy of simply being with God.

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We wait on a friend's visit. We wait to see the eyes of grandchildren Christmas morning.

We wait on holy and unexpected things, and this waiting can be a joy.

Wait. Watch. Count stars. Count blessings. Put everything else on hold, if only for a while.

Breathe. And breathe again. You are God's beloved, and God will always have time for you.

May you have a restful Advent and a Joyous Christmas Season!  
Pastor Kerra



## Presbyterian Women

The PW Christmas Celebration will take place on **Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7 PM.** Our mission focus this year is Daughters of Zelophehad, a Presbytery approved cause that exists to provide an ecumenical Christian program for women in crises and their children so that they can become an integral part of the community.

A love offering will be received and an opportunity to provide some needed items such as paper products, school supplies, gift cards particularly Wal-Mart and Target, socks, scarves, hats, towels, washrags, etc. A full list of suggestions will be provided through church bulletins as the date nears.

Also, that evening we will have our Fantastic Cookie exchange and fun fellowship packing cookies for shut-ins and those in assisted living and nursing homes.

Doreen Coddington

## Adult Sunday School

Join the **Adult Sunday School** as we continue to delve into John Polkinghorne's devotional book **Living with Hope: A Scientist Looks at Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany** for our Advent study. Topics and dates are as follows:

Dec. 2 – Hell; Dec. 9 – Christmas; Dec. 16 – NO Class;  
Dec. 23 – NO Class; Dec. 30 – Epiphany.



## Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
12/2/12	E. Mathes	R. Bryan, R. Cole	L. Allison, T. Blair, R. Cole, E. Shea	V. Neeley		Neeley
12/9/12	S. & D. Moncol	S. & D. Moncol	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			
12/16/12	V. Neeley	L. Allison, S. Henderson				Poinsettias
12/23/12	P. Ritchie	K. Basilio, T. Blair, L. Herring, V. Neeley				Poinsettias
12/24/12	R. Cole, P. Dunn		L. Allison, R. Cole	K. Basilio		Poinsettias
12/30/12	M. Summerson	C. Sthreshley, M. Summerson				Poinsettias
1/6/13	C. Schutte			S. Huff		

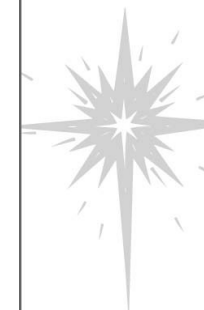
## Happy Birthday to: December

- 1 Stephanie Neeley  
Max Shea
- 2 Kathy Basilio
- 13 Beverly Shea
- 27 Elijah Hubbard

## January

- 6 Karen Dorgan
- 14 Mike Carneal
- 30 Marsha Summerson

## Good News of Great Joy



The Christmas Joy Offering is split evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and scholarship funds for Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

**Sunday,  
Dec. 16**

Help us support these faithful servants and students in their hour of great need and hour of great promise. Look for the Christmas Joy Offering envelope, and then please give generously. **Thank You!**



## Angel Tree

Choose an ornament from the APC Angel Tree in the church library and make someone's Christmas brighter! Return your wrapped gifts on or before **Sunday, December 16.**



## New Address

Ellen Albertson  
3590 Mountain Road  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
Phone #: 755-8079

## News from Session

Highlights from the November 13th Session meeting:

- \* Working towards updating the current roll
- \* As we continue to discuss our priorities as a congregation, we are realizing that some committee restructuring may help us to better do the things we find important.
- \* Session Retreat — Dec. 2 following morning worship. Session members will be discussing priorities and direction of the church as well as pastoral leadership concerns of the church.
- \* Communications is currently working on website design.
- \* Home Communion Day (TBA) — Kerra English and Terry Blair will be visiting Ashland Presbyterian's members who are unable to be with us for communion.  
— Terry Blair, Clerk of Session

In its November meeting, the APC Session approved the payment of a \$5,000 gift to Ashland Christian Emergency Services. ACES addresses the unmet needs of the less fortunate in our community. It is our hope that we will have a representative from ACES with us during an upcoming worship service to share more about their valuable mission.

Additionally, Session approved a one-time gift of \$2,000 to the Presbytery of The James. This gift was in recognition of the fantastic assistance they have provided us through the process of transitioning to new pastoral relationships. Their wise counsel have been invaluable.

These gifts are our attempt to give some of our windfall abundance back to those in need and to those who have assisted us in such meaningful ways.

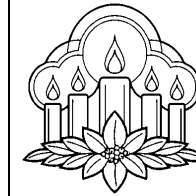
Thank you for your recommendations. They were extremely helpful.

— Roger Cole, Stewardship



## Choral Christmas Celebration

11 AM Sun., Dec. 16



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Monday, Dec. 24 at 5 PM

## Worship

We begin our celebration of Christmas on Sunday, December 2, the first Sunday in Advent. If you would like to participate in one of the Advent lightings, please let Kerra or Kathleen know as soon as possible. Poinsettias will be put in the church on December 9. We will decorate the sanctuary after church on December 9. Please plan to stay and help us with this. On December 16 the choir will present its special Christmas music. The Christmas Eve service will be held at 5 pm. We hope you will join us as we prepare and await the coming of the Christ child. — Kathleen Pugh



**Sunday,  
Dec. 9**



**The Food Chain**— Zucchini Bread recipe submitted by Karen Dorgan.

### Zucchini Bread

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • 3 eggs               | • 3 c. flour            |
| • 2 c. sugar           | • t tsp baking soda     |
| • 1 c. oil             | • 1/4 tsp baking powder |
| • 1 Tbs. vanilla       | • 1 tsp salt            |
| • 2 c. grated zucchini | • 1 Tbs cinnamon        |

Sift together dry ingredients. Mix together wet ingredients. Combine and mix well. Makes two medium loaves or 1 large + 1 small loaves. Bake at 350 for 60 minutes.