

**Presbytery Meeting**  
 February 16, 2013  
 at Union Presbyterian Seminary

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

**Secretary**  
 Susan Vitale

**Director of Music**  
 Karla Bloom

**Organist**  
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**ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

401 Virginia Street  
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Ashland Presbyterian Church

# APC Connections

Volume 5, Issue 4

January/February 2013

*Upcoming Events*

- Jan. 27 — Annual Congregational Meeting, 12 Noon
- Feb. 3 — Souper Bowl of Caring Offering
- Feb. 12 — 11 AM PW Circle meeting; Links of Love Offering
- Feb. 12 — 5 PM Session meeting
- Feb. 13 — Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper, 5:30 & Service, 6:30 PM

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## From the Pastor's Desk

My sister is known in the family for making requests of various family members' talents for her own benefit. My Dad built in shelves under her stairs. My mother has sewn costumes for times when she was in local productions of the theatrical arts. And now it's my turn. I didn't realize that I had any talents she could exploit – until this fall when she asked me to do a knitting project for her. Her daughter had found this fuzzy blue yarn she really liked. The request went something like this, "My daughter has started sleeping with this yarn she found at Walmart. Would you please knit her a blanket so she doesn't choke on it at night?"

How could I refuse? My Mother is laughing at me – because it isn't her project this time – it's mine! I really don't mind. I'm actually enjoying doing the knitting, but it made me laugh when she sent me the yarn in November and wondered if I'd be done with it by Christmas. (For the non-knitters among you, making a full size blanket takes a LONG, LONG time!) I'll be lucky to have it done by my niece's birthday in May.

As my family watches me take this growing project to the couch evening after evening, I get questions like, "Why are you making something for her when you haven't made anything for us?" (With long eyelashes batting in my direction) I don't really know an answer except to say – you never asked. Whereas I have made fun of my sister for putting her requests out there, I actually wonder if it would be a benefit to the larger community to be able to make such requests more often. What if we tapped into the gifts people have for knitting and decorating, for fixing things and flipping pancakes, for teaching and for listening, for developing budgets or upgrading technology. There are those among us with gifts that maybe

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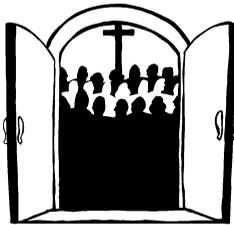
we haven't used in years. It's been quite a long time since I picked up my knitting needles. It just wasn't on my radar – until I was asked.

Recently, a post has been going around the Facebook community wherein a person offers to make some sort of thank you gift for the next 5 friends that answer the post. It could be anything from baking bread, to knitting a scarf, to sending a gift card for coffee, etc. In some ways, it sounds like the old chain letter concept, but in other ways, I find it to be a cry for authentic community. We all need to know ways in which our gifts are appreciated by others, and to show others our appreciation with our time and yes, our talents.

What is your gift that you've been hiding away for years? Is it time to bring it out, to share it again? Who do you know who would be grateful to get a request for their help, and their talents? Even though we may hate to be asked repeatedly for this or that when it involves doing something that is of no interest to us; when we get asked to share something special, it means a lot.

God is always asking us to use our gifts. When I graduated from high school, the scripture verse that my parents put in my senior advertisement in the yearbook was from Matthew 5:14-16 – the “don't hide your light under a basket, let it shine” passage. I didn't realize it would include knitting a blanket for my niece, and yet, our gifts of all varieties are meant to be used, often, and for the benefit of others.

Let your light shine! Pastor Kerra



**Congregational MEETING**

**Sunday, January 27**

Our annual meeting is scheduled for January 27 after worship. The format will be a little bit different this year. Worship will end a little bit early (about 11:45 a.m.) so that we can hear from Session about the work that they've been doing in listening to the congregation's wants and needs, setting priorities for the upcoming year, and determining their best recommendation for securing ongoing pastoral leadership. This is your chance to offer back feedback – from “Yep – that's just what we were thinking,” to the “Wouldn't it be better if we added this?” or “What if we decided not to do that?” As those who have been entrusted with leading the church through this season of ministry, we hope that everyone will find something positive, hopeful, and encouraging about the product because the process has been so exciting for us. However, if there's something about where we're headed that just doesn't “feel quite right” – we also need to know that too. We may not be able to please everyone on all counts, and yet, we want to make sure we haven't missed something important. (The Session & Pastor Kerra)

In addition – we will be electing a nominating committee at this meeting to fill a vacancy on the Session. We expect to be finished with the meeting by 12:30 p.m.

## Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
1/27/13	F. & C. Sthreshley	K. Basilio, R. Bryan, J. Glazebrook, S. Henderson				
2/3/13	M. Summerson	L. Allison, M. Summerson	K. Basilio, L. Herring, V. Neeley, J. Tate	V. Neeley		Huff
2/10/13	J. Tate	J. Glazebrook, L. Herring	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			Carneal
2/17/13	L. Allison	T. Blair, S. Henderson				Huff
2/24/13	K. Basilio	R. Cole, M. Carneal, S. & D. Moncol				Glazebrook
3/3/13	T. Blair	V. Neeley, J. Tate		S. Carneal		

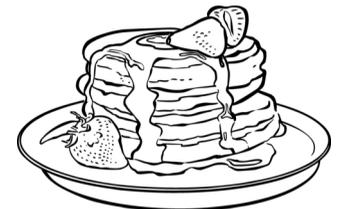


**Happy Birthday to: February**

- 3 Drew Moncol
- 6 Karen Cole
- 8 Jamie Doyle  
Clara Shea
- 9 Terry Blair
- 15 Judy Aderhold
- 29 Doreen Coddington



**Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper**  
February 13 at 5:30 PM  
In Lancaster Hall



**AND**

**Service for the Imposition of Ashes**  
February 13 at 6:30 PM  
In Sanctuary

*Thank You!*

The family of David C. Hughes extends heartfelt thanks to Rev. Kerra English and the entire congregation of Ashland Presbyterian Church for the kindness and support you showed us during David's funeral service. Having David's service in the sanctuary where he was baptized, married and worshiped gave us much comfort. The use of the church parlor and fellowship hall made our passage through this difficult time much easier. We greatly appreciate all the volunteers who helped at the reception, brought food, and took such excellent care of our family and friends, feeding us both literally and figuratively with love and fellowship. Thank you again for your support. We look forward with hope and in friendship.

Dear Friends:

I cannot tell you how touched and gratified we are to receive your gift! It is our pleasure to assist our congregations in times of transition. Your gift reminds us how important this can be to congregations, and encourages us to make congregational service our focus.

Again, thank you all for your kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness in giving this gift, which will address pastoral care issues in the Presbytery.

Grace and Peace to you in Jesus' name! Robert Johnson, Acting General Presbyter

## Counters for Church Offerings

Please plan to stay 10-15 minutes after the worship service to count the offering, as scheduled below. If you know that you will be unable to help on a given Sunday, please email or call someone on the list to obtain a substitute.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month:** Roger Cole, Linda Herring  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month:** Rob DuPriest, Judy Aderhold  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month:** Karen Dorgan, Drew Moncol  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month:** Roger Cole, Bev Shea  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Mar/June/Sept/Dec):** Rob DuPriest, Karen Dorgan

*Special Offerings (5 cents a meal on last Sunday; Joy Offering, etc.)*

<b>Jan:</b> Karen Cole	<b>May:</b> Judy Aderhold	<b>Sept:</b> Karen Cole
<b>Feb:</b> Ellie Shea	<b>June:</b> Drew Moncol	<b>Oct:</b> Ellie Shea
<b>Mar:</b> Mike Carneal	<b>July:</b> Karen Dorgan	<b>Nov:</b> Mike Carneal
<b>Apr:</b> Bev Shea	<b>Aug:</b> Roger Cole	<b>Dec:</b> Bev Shea

## News from the Session:

Please **join us** for refreshments on **January 27th from 10:15-11:00 in the church parlor**. Session members will be on hand to answer questions or discuss concerns regarding Pastoral Leadership and Ashland Presbyterian's Priorities. Service and Congregational meeting will follow. We hope to see you there!—Terry Blair, Clerk

## Adult Sunday School

The **Adult Sunday School class** is beginning a new study entitled *Discovering the Bible: A New Generation*. This study attempts to introduce The Bible as a whole – emphasizing the inter-connections among the many parts of the entire Bible. Come join us for what promises to be an exciting new course. **The class meets at 9:30 in Lancaster Hall.**

Marcia Summerson, CE Chair



## Presbyterian Women

The **PW Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 11 AM** in the parlor. At this meeting, we will receive the Links of Love Offering for Sunnyside communities residents. Lunch will be provided following the meeting. — Doreen Coddington

## Help Tackle Hunger

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: *"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."*

Since that day, more than \$90 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need!



**Sun., Feb. 3**

## Worship

The Worship Committee will be meeting soon to plan for the Lenten season. We have an early season this year and will be preparing for the Ash Wednesday service on February 13<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday on March 28<sup>th</sup> and Easter Sunday on March 31<sup>st</sup>. We welcome your input on any of these services. Please contact any member of the committee with your suggestions. Also let us know about the Christmas Eve service this past December. A change to the usual service was made and we welcome your ideas on this change. We had previously had both communion and candlelight and this time had only candlelight. Members of the Worship Committee are Kathy Basilio, Karla Bloom, Jane Glazebrook, Linda Herring, Suzanne Huff, Vicki Neeley, Caroline Schutte and Kathleen Pugh. If you would like to join us on the committee, please let us know. — Kathleen Pugh

## Abundance Theology

While Abundance Theology is catching on in some quarters of the church world, it also attracts just as many opposing opinions throughout that same universe. Abundance theology, in its current form, suggests that God wants us to have all things in abundance. As He is a God of abundance, so are his blessings to His people. Many would argue that God provides abundance in all things of a spiritual nature, not necessarily of a material nature.

Whatever we might believe, it is hard to ignore the fact that God is providing abundance to Ashland Presbyterian Church. Early this past fall, your Session realized that we were likely to experience a surplus at year end of approximately \$18,000. This is quite a dramatic departure from our past years of \$15,000 to \$20,000 deficits. In fact, our 2012 budget anticipated a \$20,000 deficit.

Because we anticipated a significant surplus, Session decided to contribute \$7,000 to local Outreach efforts, thus lowering our expected surplus to \$11,000.

Well, we have reached year end and we now have a \$20,000 surplus. The more we give, the more we get! The good news of this experience is that we have had the opportunity to help those around us in the Ashland community and it certainly appears that we will now have even more opportunities to do so in 2013.

Thanks to all for the part that you play in bringing abundance to Ashland Presbyterian.

Abundant Blessings!--Roger Cole, Stewardship Committee

## News from Building and Grounds Committee:

Thanks to a generous contribution from Ann Dexter, two additional windows have been replaced. Specifically, these two are in the church office. This is a continuation of our plans to gradually replace all the old windows in the offices, parlor, and other rooms behind the sanctuary.

If anyone would like to contribute to this effort, each window costs a little over \$400. Please speak to any member of Building and Grounds if you would like to arrange to give a window.

And if you would like to thank Ann, her address is:

*Ann Dexter  
Woodlands Retirement Community  
331 Bradley Foster Drive  
Huntington, WV25701*



She always enjoys receiving mail from those of us in her church family!

Karen Dorgan, Chair

**The Food Chain**—submitted by Marsha Summerson. St. Nicholas, a bishop of Myra in the 4th century, is one of the best loved saints in both the Eastern and Western churches. He was the original “Santa Claus” and in many countries of Europe, presents were exchanged on Dec. 6, his feast day. From Europe the lovely custom of giving gifts during the Christmas season came to America. Because his feast usually falls within the 1st week of Advent, he is considered an Advent saint who joyfully points toward the coming of the Lord.

### Saint Nicholas Soup

- 2 leeks or onions
- 5 medium carrots
- 2 turnips
- 5 potatoes
- 1/2 medium cabbage
- 4 Tbs. butter
- 1 tsp salt
- 4 quarts water
- 1/3 c. minced chervil
- croutons

Peel and dice vegetables. Shred cabbage. Melt butter in large soup pot. Add vegetables, salt, and stir. Turn off heat, cover, and let rest for 15-20 minutes. Add water and bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover and cook slowly 30-40 minutes, stirring occasionally. When done, puree in blender until creamy and smooth. Garnish with croutons and chervil. Serves 6-8.