

# APC Connections

Volume 8, Issue 7

April 2016

### Upcoming Events

- April 3—Outreach meets 12:15 PM
- April 10—Farewell Fellowship for Melissa 12:15 PM; Session meets
- April 12—11 AM PW Circle meets
- April 17—1 PM Raymond Baby Shower
- April 18—Howie Lecture at UPSEM
- April 24—Congregational Care meets 12:15 PM; Camp Hanover's Family Fun Day



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## Pastor's Page: A Year with Evangelism – Article #3

*“Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.”*  
John 12:24-26

Friends,  
*If you died tonight, do you know where you'd go?* Now that's a loaded question, isn't it? Some might say that question is a tool for evangelism – a hammer perhaps. I've certainly heard it used to pound people over the head. The intent is to get someone so worried about the afterlife that they're ready to buy the Christian Life Insurance Policy – no matter the premiums. Believe in Jesus, they say, and you can know, for sure, where you are going. And the flip side gets said as well – if you're doubtful or not sure what “belief in Jesus” means, then there's a good chance that hell is what awaits you after death. I'm not a fan of this particular technique myself, but there are plenty of believers who will tell you this is the ONLY way to go.

The problem is...I'd like to borrow the question for just a bit. If you died tonight, what would you expect to happen? Have you really taken the time to mediate on that question? Jesus provided much counsel and spiritual leadership around both living AND DYING well. He wanted his followers to be assured that life continues after death. The resurrection teaches us that life

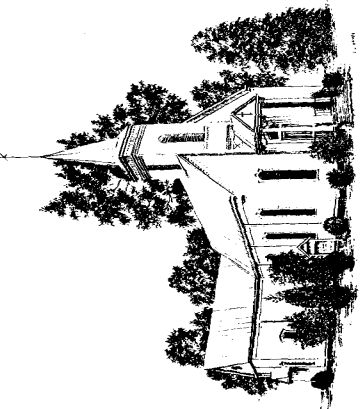
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ultimately wins over death. And yet Jesus is constantly reminding his followers that it takes a seriously uncomfortable commitment to the gospel’s message about love to keep your life eternally.

I’m not going to argue any points about what merits heaven and what earns someone a ticket to hell here. That’s where I differ. I don’t think that’s the point when it comes to evangelism. However, what I do want to remind us all is that people gravitate toward Christian community when they are seeking answers to deep spiritual questions, you know, the “life and death” kind. If instead, we give them pat answers and offer them certainty about uncertain things, they will not feel heard, or if they like what they hear, they may find down the road that those answers are no longer adequate when measured up against the difficulties of real life.

Rather, I hope that we will join in the longer discussion of the spiritual masters who grappled with this question throughout all of Christian history – stretching back to the laments of the Psalms, listening to Jesus himself, and reckoning the saints of this time period with the saints who have gone before us. We owe it to those who come with questions not to jump too quickly to cookie cutter answers. Remember that we have been shaped by those who have wrestled with angels until their hip was put out of joint.

Living well, dying well. Well, those things take courage, and support, and a good deal of listening. Have you ever paid attention to how much Jesus talks with his disciples about life and death matters? That’s the bulk of everything that gets recorded that he said. You know why? Because that’s the important stuff! The gospel writers weren’t taking pictures of what Martha served them for dinner. Like Mary, they were absorbing all that he said with great interest – because what he said made their hearts explode.

That’s evangelism – hearing the real life and death stories until our hearts are exploding – until we can no longer keep them inside of us. The Christian community grows, spiritually, and probably numerically, when we take the question even more seriously. *If you knew that you were going to die tomorrow – have you lived how you really wanted to live?* If the answer is no, then you have options, you can make changes, and live as Jesus calls you to live, beautifully, abundantly, and eternally.

God’s peace, Pastor Kerra



### Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
4/03/16	V. Neeley	J. Glazebrook, S. Henderson	L. Allison, R. DuPriest, B. Mathes, G. Young	S. Carneal, J. Tate	K. English	Schutte
4/10/16	E. Pepper	L. & R. Herring	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>		M. Miller	Young
4/17/16	M. Raymond	E. Mathes, C. Schutte		E. Shea	Cole	
4/24/16	P. Ritchie	R. English, C. Phillips, B. Shea, J. Tate			Tate	
5/01/16	C. Schutte	S. & D. Moncol	R. Bryan	J. Aderhold, C. Schutte		Glazebrook

### Happy Birthday to: April

- 1 Liz Campbell
- 4 Riley Doyle
- 6 Ardie Browne
- 13 Flo Sthresley
- 17 Caitlin Blair  
Erin Blair  
Rob DuPriest
- 20 Kevin Doyle  
Linda Herring
- 22 Nate Hubbard
- 23 Ginger Young
- 24 Jennifer Raymond  
Julie Tate



### Camp Hanover’s Family Fun Day

Sunday, April 24, 2:00—6:00 p.m.

Enjoy a free and fun-filled afternoon at Camp Hanover’s Family Fun Day. The event includes face painting, arts & crafts, nature walks, games, boating, campfire cooking, fishing, hayrides, door prizes and more! This event is for **all** ages and will be held rain or shine! And, make sure you bring along your friends!



On Easter Sunday, we received the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering which totaled \$838.00. Thanks for your generosity!

## Outreach Committee Report

**Food Pantry**--Outreach Committee Members packed and distributed 11 additional Holiday Food Baskets for Easter. That makes 33 for three major holidays. In addition Susan Vitale keeps track of most of the bags which go out through our church office. That total for 2015 was over 100! And thus far, from August-March, all the food has come from donations from our members either from the food items you brought or the gift cards you donated. We are a generous congregation.

**Taste of Hanover**--This annual event to raise money for Hanover ARC and Hanover Community Services will be held from 5-8 pm on April 29 at the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World. The funds raised will be used for such things as camp scholarships, respite care, and adaptive equipment for local children and adults with disabilities. Tickets are available at Bass Pro or EVB Branches.

**Circles Ashland**--This newly launched community program to help individuals and families working to get out of poverty is moving right along. The training for these Circle Leaders will begin May 5 and continue every Thursday for twelve weeks. This first series of training will be at Duncan Memorial Methodist Church.

The entire family participates with a separate curriculum designed for elementary and middle school children. If teen-agers come, there is a possibility that we will offer tutoring. Day care will be provided for infants and toddlers and a meal is provided for all attending. While the day care cost is budgeted, donations are needed for all the meals. APC will be providing dinner in late June so be on the look-out for details. I am also recruiting folks for June to help with clean up after meals.

— Delores Dunn, Outreach Committee Chair

## Congregational Care Committee

**Thanks to everyone** who helped make our first “Triple S (Soup, Salad, and Speaker) Luncheon such a success. Thanks to all committee members for all you did to make this an interesting event. Thanks to our members for the interest and for bring friends and family to hear Woody Tucker. Stay tuned for our next program coming sometime this summer!

**Don't forget our shut-ins . . .** Cards are greatly appreciated!

**Need a ride to church?** If you have been thinking about wanting to catch a ride to church, let someone on the Congregational Care Committee know. Maybe we can help you connect with a ride . . .



For **April 3 and 10** the theme will be "Love and Loss." We will explore biblical readings from Song of Solomon and Lamentations, and consider how these emotions can become so entwined. Kerra will be leading the discussion. Beginning **April 17**, the topic of study will be The Trinity.

## Presbyterian Women

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, **April 12 at 11:00 a.m.** in Lancaster Hall for study (Lesson 7) and lunch. Bring a sandwich. Beverages and dessert are provided. Remember to bring something for Mary's pantry.



## Celebrating Seminary Intern Melissa Miller

Sunday, April 10 at 12:15 p.m.

Join us Sunday, April 10 following morning worship for a Coffee Hour as we bid fond farewell and best wishes for the future to our Intern, Melissa Miller. We will be continually praying for Melissa as she continues her journey of discerning God's call in ministry.

## The Carl Howie Center for Science, Art, and Theology presents The Common Ground of Wonder: How a Biblical Scholar Works with Scientists

April 18, 2016 at Union Presbyterian Seminary

with William P. Brown, Professor of Old Testament, Columbia Theological Seminary

How does a biblical theologian work constructively and collaboratively with scientists? The question assumes that conflict and caricature are not an option. Instead, it suggests that both the theologian and the scientist proceed from a common point of departure — wonder.

Wonder is what drives science as much as it lies at the heart of theological inquiry. In his presentation, Dr. Brown asks how the latest findings of science help us to re-read the biblical stories of creation — from Genesis to Job — with even greater wonder.

\* 1:30—4:30 p.m. “From Ardi to Adam: How Anthropology Rewrites Genesis”

\* 7:30—9:00 p.m. “From Ash Heap to Asteroids: How Astrobiology Rewrites the Book of Job.”

*\*Events are free and open to all.*