

APC Connections

Volume 6, Issue 6

March 2014

Upcoming Events

- April 6—Outreach meets 12:15
- April 8—PW Circle meets 11 AM
- April 12—Meet Dr. Ottati, 7-9 PM at the home of the Cole's
- April 13—Palm Sunday Breakfast 9:30 AM; Dr. Ottati preaches
- April 14—7:30 PM Ottati lecture at RMC
- April 17—7 PM Maundy Thursday Service
- April 20—Easter/ One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

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Pastor's Page

Friends,

I'm looking forward to introducing you to the person who taught me theology in seminary, Doug Ottati. I had the pleasure in 2007 of speaking at the gathering that bid him a fond farewell from Union Presbyterian Seminary to head to teach at Davidson College. Clearly, in his writing he claims to be a Liberal Protestant Theologian – and teases that perhaps folks of that ilk have become an endangered species. I think you will find him to be deeply faithful and at the same time someone who cares about scientific discovery, the social gospel, and engaging the pluralistic reality of our contemporary world. His theology has always been about GRACE first and foremost, which speaks to me and hopefully will to you as well.



Here are some of the opportunities you will have to meet him and hear him speak:

- Saturday, April 12** (7 – 9 p.m.) – Casual gathering at Roger and Karen Cole's house – 10077 Poplar Hall Court, Mechanicsville – Curb parking along Poplar Hall Court or King's Charter Drive
- Sunday, April 13** – Palm Sunday Breakfast; Doug preaches in morning worship
- Monday, April 14** (7:30 p.m., Washington Room at Washington and Franklin Hall) - Lecture at Randolph Macon College, "Life is a Mystery: Confessions of a Liberal Theologian"

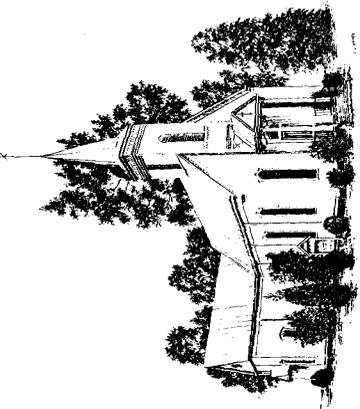
Peace, Pastor Kerra

Pastor
Rev. Kerra English

Secretary
Susan Vitale

Director of Music
Karla Bloom

Organist
Elizabeth Hargrove



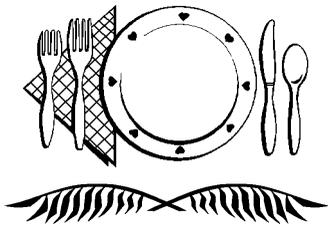
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Presbyterian Women

The PW Circle meeting will be held **Tues., April 8 at 11 a.m.** in Lancaster Hall for study and lunch. Bring a sandwich. Beverages and dessert will be provided. — Doreen Coddington



Palm Sunday Breakfast
April 13 at 9:30 AM
No Sunday School



Communion Service
April 17, 2014 at 7 PM



Easter Sunday
April 20, 2014
11 AM Worship
No Sunday School
Remember to come early and bring fresh flowers for the Living Cross!
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Easter Sunday, April 20 — Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with those in need. Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and help build strong Communities.



Christian Education

On Sunday, **April 27**, one of the directors of the Supervised Ministry Office from Union Presbyterian Seminary will be leading our discussion during the Sunday School hour. (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.) They will be here to talk about our connection to the Ministry Internship program. If you have questions about this program or just

want to hear more about this ministry from a different perspective, please join the discussion!

NEW BOOK DISCUSSION SUNDAY SCHOOL begins in May – “Imagining the Small Church: Celebrating a Simpler Path” by Steve Willis. Steve will be coming to the Presbytery of the James to do a small church conference later this year.

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
4/6/14	N. & R. Bryan	L. Herring, B. Mathes	R. Bryan, D. Coddington, R. DuPriest, L. Herring	K. Pugh		Schutte
4/13/14	Dave Coddington	S. & D. Moncol	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			Young
4/20/14	R. Cole	R. Cole, E. Simpson, C. Sthresley, M. Summer-son				Easter flowers
4/27/14	J. Glazebrook	V. Neeley, J. Tate, E. Shea, E. Simpson				
5/4/14	K. Hasbrouck	S. & M. Carneal	K. Basilio, B. Shea, S. & D. Moncol	S. Henderson		Neeley



Happy Birthday to: April

- 4 Riley Doyle
- 6 Ardie Browne
- 13 Flo Sthresley
- 15 Ann Dexter
- 17 Caitlin Blair
Erin Blair
Rob DuPriest
- 20 Kevin Doyle
Linda Herring
- 22 Nate Hubbard
- 23 Ginger Young
- 24 Julie Tate



- Annette Shuff and the Vitale Family in the death of their aunt, Fran Schmetzer on March 2.
- The Vitale Family in the death of Susan’s mother, Norma Hopper on March 3.

Ashland Presbyterian has collected money and food for the **Souper Bowl** since 2002. In all, we have collected \$2,640.00, 463 items of food and 114 pounds of food! This year we raised \$245 and lots of canned goods, all of which went to ACES!

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The job of ushering is a priestly office such as was the servant role of those who served in the temple. The church usher is performing a sacred duty for God, as he or she receives the offering and carries it to the minister who will lift it to the Most High. This is a position that should be carried out in a most ordered and efficient manner.

For the purpose of understanding why it is so important, remember that the duty you are assigned has a religious heritage. The greeters and ushers are literally “door keepers” as is noted in: 1 Chronicles 16:38; Nehemiah 7:1; Esther 2:21; Jeremiah 35:4; Psalms 84:10b. Note also in Ezra 2:70; 7:7 they hold official positions.

You are responsible for finding your replacement if you cannot serve! If you have any questions, please contact the Worship Committee. Thank you for serving as an usher for our church.

Remember when you are an usher; you are carrying out the business of the King.

Information taken from The Greeter’s Manual by Leslie Parrott, The Acolyte’s Book by Hoyt L. Hickman, The Guide to Church Ushering by Homer J.R. Elford

Mark Your Calendars and Save the Date

- The **Kings’s Chapel** Session and members would like to invite Ashland Presbyterian Church to be their guests for **lunch at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 4**. After a time for lunch and fellowship, there will be a presentation by Paul Grainger on CHAT (Church Hill Activities and Tutoring) in Richmond. Everyone is welcome!
- The **2014 Ash Grove Women’s Retreat** will be held **November 14-15**. Watch for details in future newsletters and bulletins!

Thank You! —Dearest friends, Thank you all so much for your kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy during the loss of my mother. There will forever be a void in my life as all who have lost a mother know. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a caring congregation. In Christ, Susan Vitale

—Dear People, Thank you so much for keeping Bob in your prayers. He was appreciative of this. The prayers and cards he received gave him comfort. It was heartwarming to see so many members at his “farewell”. The family felt very strengthened by your presence. Cordially, Mickey Lumpkin

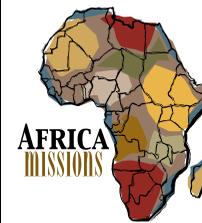
—Sending a note of sincere gratitude for the lovely box of Christmas cookies sent from home. Each cookie was a delicious taste, even the crumbs. Thank you all for this blessed gift. Love and Blessings, Ann Dexter.

From Our Intern

This internship has offered me so many good opportunities to reflect on ministry, both the ministry we do here and the ministry I might be called to in the future. Most of all, I continually thank God for the surprises and the way I get to see in action things I have only known in theory. Here are some of the things I already knew in my head that I now know in my heart because of you:

- * Ministry is not just the work of the pastor. One of the most encouraging gifts of my time here is seeing how all of you care for each other. I had an image of the pastor or perhaps the congregational care committee tending to most people’s needs, or working hard to get people to help out. Instead, I have seen a very natural, collective way of making sure everyone is cared for, with good leadership coming from many different individuals. What an uplifting picture of the kingdom of God!
- * Small church does not equal weak church, or dying church, or unimportant church, or boring church. Lots of churches do well small, and you are a great example! I don’t mean that growth is undesirable, but if growth is the only thing driving the church, it can easily become a popularity contest instead of ministry. Ashland Presbyterian does a wonderful job of being healthy as it is, open to growth but not desperate for it.
- * Worshiping and ministering together doesn’t require being the same as each other. I love how this congregation exhibits a diversity of backgrounds, priorities, and points of view. The respect and love you have for each other is a treasure and an example to other churches. God calls all sorts of people, and the variety of personalities present here is a never-ending source of delight!

These are just a few of my thoughts at this point. I thank you for letting me join you in all this strange and glorious work, and I look forward to more. — Rachel Shepherd



NEWS OF OUR MISSIONARIES

Ruth Brown arrived safely back in the Democratic Republic of Congo on March 10 to begin her second term as a Presbyterian Missionary. Remember her and her work in prayer. Ashland Presbyterian Church gives \$500.00 for her support.

Inge Sthresley has written a most interesting letter about her work with the Access to Primary Health Care (ASP). She is head of the Nutrition/Agriculture part of the pro-

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ject. She writes “It is an important component given that approximately 48% to 60% of childhood mortality is related to malnutrition. I am working with two colleagues, Kaboloshi, a nutritionist and Mbuyi, an agriculturist, with whom I have been working for the last 25 years. We are working with 878 health centers and communities in four different provinces in Congo over the next two years. Over 8,787 community volunteers will be trained in nutrition, home gardening and case management of families with malnourished children. We hope to reach 165,000 acutely malnourished children and 450,000 chronically malnourished children and their families.”

Read more of this letter on the bulletin board and look it up online at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/sthreshley-larry-and-inge/>. Pray for Larry and Inge. Our church gives \$500.00 for support of the Sthreshleys.— Flo Sthreshley

Upcoming UPSEM Events

Do We Have a Prayer?: The Healing Power of Prayer, a program of the Carl Howie Center for Science, Art, and Theology, **April 10**, 2014, 1-30—4:30 p.m. and/or 7:30-9:00 p.m. with speaker **Candy Gunther Brown**, Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Indiana University. This event will offer insight into the integration of spiritual healing practices and modern medicine. Why do people combine prayer, and other forms of complementary and alternative medicine, with conventional therapies? What happens when they do so? What can the lenses of science and religion teach us about the opportunities and challenges created when people combine diverse therapies? The event will be held in the Belk Center and the Lake Chapel (Early Center) and is free and open to all. Lunch will be provided for those attending the afternoon session. Registration **by April 2** is required for those who want lunch.

The Name Above All Others: Denominating Divine Providence and Presence in Biblical Traditions, **May 5—7** with speaker **S. Dean McBride**, Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Old Testament Interpretation. Dr. McBride will be addressing the emergence of the issue that has occupied western theological discourse since Hellenistic antiquity: Is the God who is self-disclosed by name in Jewish and Christian scriptures identical with the anonymous, all-encompassing "One God" of Greco-Roman philosophical theology? Worship will be led by **Agnes Winston Norfleet** (M.Div.'86), pastor of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA. The 2014 Distinguished Alumnus is **Heath Rada** (M.A.'70), former president of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education.

Thank You for Being an Usher A CHURCH USHER HOLDS A SACRED RESPONSIBILITY

The position of Usher is a public relations position for the church. In some congregations the ushers seat people in the pews. Here at Ashland, this is not expected of our ushers. However, the attitude of the ushers as well as the facial expression and the general body language and appearance will influence the people of God. The refined way the ushers assemble and carry out the receiving of the offering to God is very important. A personal relationship with God is of utmost importance. This relationship will in essence provide the worshipping community, the sense of divine hospitality and confidence in those ushers.

The quiet and effective way the ushers arise from their seats at the appointed time of duty is very important. The people worshipping in the pews should not know they have gotten up. There should be no disturbance. If the potential for disturbance is possible and you are assigned to usher, please take a seat at the back of the church on that assignment day.

Procedure

- A regular worship service will require two ushers at the back of the center aisle, and four ushers for the fourth Sunday 5 cents a meal offering. Line up quietly and quickly, and at the nod of the pastor, start together arriving at the Communion Table in front of the minister.
- Ushers need to take the Sunday bulletin with them, as usually a unison prayer is spoken in front of the communion table!
- NOTE: If the choir is singing an anthem for the offertory, please start receiving the offering while Karla is walking to the front of the choir. She prefers to have you pass behind her before she starts directing!
- At the front of the church, the ushers will pick up the plates from the Communion Table, flower stands, or steps.
- Pass the plates and or oatmeal boxes for the offering, efficiently and without disruption. The ushers will assemble in the center back aisle again. Bring the offering forward when the first notes of The Doxology come forth. The minister will offer a prayer.
- The ushers will turn and walk together until they reach the back of the church. Then they will proceed to their seats.

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