

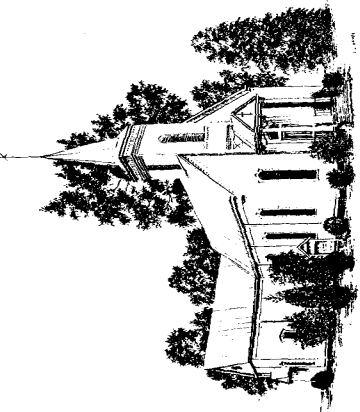
# APC Connections

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**ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

401 Virginia Street  
Ashland, VA 23005

*Upcoming Events*

- July 21 — African Children’s Choir at Duncan Memorial, 7PM
- July 28 & Aug. 4 — “Psalms for Singing” after worship
- Aug. 4 — Outreach meets after worship
- Aug. 11 — Corn Roast after worship
- Aug. 13 — Session meets 5 PM
- Aug. 25 — Session planning meeting after worship



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## Pastor’s Page

*“Why would a family want to join our church? It doesn’t have anything for youth.”*

Friends,

Have you heard any comments like this one before? It’s a stressor for many small churches to see full “youth and children’s programs” offered by larger congregations. The Presbytery of the James is reaching out to smaller churches to build such programming by bringing youth of smaller membership churches together at the new Glen Allen “Jumpology” trampoline park. Perhaps it’s a good idea, and for the kids who want it, I hope it takes off. However, I dare say that our small church envy of active “youth programs” may be misguided. Young people spend plenty of time with their peers, and are increasingly the objects of marketing campaigns to keep them entertained and to fill up their time. The church can easily become one more program in fierce competition with the rest. As one online book review put it, “The sound and fury that has characterized youth ministry for so long has left too many youth workers tired and too many young people disillusioned.”

So what can we, as Ashland Presbyterian Church, do to reach out to young people in a different kind of way, perhaps even in a deeper kind of way? If we put our presumptions aside and began to imagine loving young people as God our loving parent might have us do, what might that look like? First, it may mean letting go of the notion that “families joining the church” is the ultimate goal. What if our goal was the church joining those families instead? I am sure that there are

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## FUN MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES IN JULY

The African Children’s Choir will perform at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church on **Sunday July 21 at 7 p.m.** APC is a sponsor of this event. A free-will offering taken at this event will support education for the performers.



The Skipperdees will be singing at Ashland Coffee and Tea on **Thursday July 25 at 8 p.m.** Twin sisters Emily and Catherine got their musical start at Pastor Kerra’s former church in Oak Ridge Tennessee, where one of their first shows was held in her carport. Now the University of Georgia duo sing “folk music for pop culture.” More information about the show can be found on the Ashland Coffee and Tea events page. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the show.

## “Psalms for Singing”



On **July 28** and **August 4** I’m very happy to have the chance to teach a Christian education course on the subject of the Psalms as an instrument of modern worship. Though I suspect most of us realize that psalm singing was a part of the tradition of worship of biblical Israel and even the early Christian church, many of us may not be aware of the continuing tradition of using psalms as a vehicle for worship beyond the biblical era. The class, over two sessions, will address the biblical evidence for singing psalms, the church’s use of psalms over the centuries (with special attention to John Calvin’s ideas about singing psalmody), and the resurgence of interest in singing psalms in the modern church, both in worship and private devotion. And you will also have plenty of opportunity to sing psalms for yourself.

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## Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
7/28/13	G. Arey	G. Arey, T. Blair, K. Pugh, L. Herring			C. Freeman	
8/4/13	G. Young	K. Dorgan, G. Young	J. Aderhold, Ms. D. Coddington, K. Pugh, G. Young	L. Herring	K. English	Coddington
8/11/13	R. DuPriest	L. Allison, S. Henderson	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			Young
8/18/13	Ms. D. Coddington	T. Blair, C. Schutte				
8/25/13	J. Aderhold	K. Cole, D. & P. Dunn, L. Herring				
9/01/13	K. Dorgan	K. Dorgan, G. Young	K. Basilio, M. Carneal, B. Lumpkin, V. Neeley	S. Carneal		



## Happy Birthday to: August

- 9 Clyde Johnson
- 10 Roger Cole
- 13 Dave Coddington
- 18 Ron Bryan
- 24 Ella Mae Simpson

Remember to check out our website at:

**[www.ashlandpresbyterian.org](http://www.ashlandpresbyterian.org)**

Where you can find Kerra’s sermons posted as well as current (and old) newsletters, and upcoming events.

You can also find us on Facebook!

Two great ways to stay connected with what is happening in our church family!

## Mark Your Calendars Now!



### Presbyterian Women



The PW Circle will meet **Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 11 AM** in Lancaster Hall for study and lunch.

### Date Change



Due to scheduling at St. James' Free Clinic, we will **not** bring dinner on **July 31!** We have been rescheduled for September 18. If you can help, contact Ginger Young.

Hello Ashland Presbyterians:

I wanted to touch base with you and share with you that we have had the improperly programmed thermostat reset for the air conditioning in the Sanctuary. The master unit is well and able to function now that its brain has been programmed properly.

I want to also make you aware that you should bring a sweater or shawl if you tend to be a little cool in air conditioned buildings. Until we have the setting exactly set where we want it to be for our congregation, please come prepared. Many thanks for your patience as we move through the next several weeks.

As we are looking at ways we can keep our selves both cool at this time of the year and warm in the winter, and control the cost of heating and air conditioning, I have a request as chairman of the Worship Committee.

If each of us make a real effort to keep the Sanctuary doors closed each time we go through them, (both rear and narthex area) if at all possible, we will be doing our share to help the situation.

I know this is not in our general routine to do, but this would help the Building and Grounds committee with cutting bill costs, because as you know the back of the church building is not centrally air conditioned during the summer, and in the winter it helps to control the heat for the Sanctuary.

Thank you all ever so much for making it a habit to close the doors. People keep mentioning this problem, so I feel we need to take it to the people and I know you will help. Many Thanks!—Judy Aderhold, Worship Chair

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The class will meet after the service each of those dates, or after the fourth-Sunday reception on July 28. Plan to bring your own sandwich or other lunch item to eat, and drinks and other bites will be provided. We'll meet in the parlor to have lunch and begin the study and move to the sanctuary for the singing (with my wife's most gracious help at the piano).

I hope as many of you as possible will join in the opportunity to explore a tradition of worship both highly modern and as ancient as the church itself. —Charles



### Corn Roast!

August 11, 11 AM (after church)  
inside Lancaster Hall!



You are all invited to say goodbye and thank you to Charles and Julia Freeman at an old-fashioned (but inside in the air conditioning) Corn Roast! This will be a potluck, so please sign up in the foyer for a cold meat salad, a side dish or a dessert. The church will have the corn and drinks. Bring a friend!

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young people – children, teenagers, college students that you know. What if you chose to join that family that just popped into your mind? It's not quite as ridiculous as it sounds. When you join an organization, you spend time there, you care about its values, you serve its purposes. Imagine if our church were dedicated to joining families, spending time with them, caring about their values, serving to help them meet their best interests.

It may seem like too great an investment of our energy. Jesus tells us that everyone knows how to give something so they will receive something in return. We want to think that what we choose to do as a congregation will yield plentiful results and expand all our numbers upward. But for those who choose the life of following him, Jesus expects us to give without the desire for any reward. Loving children and families with children can be thankless and terribly unproductive. We do it anyway.

Long after they've forgotten what may have been a fabulous day at the trampoline park, young people remember who knew them and saw them as gifts in and of themselves. That's what creates grateful adults who are aware of God's love for them. Someone cared about them for no apparent reason. Someone joined their family and showed them the love of Christ.

I hope and pray that together we will make it so.

Peace, Pastor Kerra