

APC Connections

Volume 9, Issue 10

August 2017

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 3 — Providing food for Circles Ashland. Deliver to Duncan UMC at 5 PM.
- Aug. 7-11 — Serving meals at YMCA Summer Camp, 11:30 AM—1 PM
- Aug. 13 — Session meets 12:15 PM



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Pastor's Page

Friends,
 There's something I've observed (not alone, but with helpful insights from several folks) about being in this church community for the past 5 years. I have learned that you are exquisitely well balanced – that you have heart, mind, and body invested in the things that you do. You love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and it shows.

You have commitment in heart – by how you care so deeply for one another.

You have commitment in mind – by being an active learning and teaching congregation.

You have commitment in body – by serving your neighbors.

You could call this a mission statement, our own brand of “Caring, Teaching, Serving.” But mission statements, as they go, can tend to gather dust on shelves. My preference is to see you living it, to watch you in loving action, and I am lucky enough to be the pair of eyes that have just enough distance to be able to describe the bigger picture. So let me tell you what I see...

This is a church with heart. Genuinely. You show up. You send cards. You make phone calls and text, and email. You remember birthdays. You greet new people. You greet the same people. You hug each other. You thank each other. You exchange recipes, and you go out to lunch together. You know each other's stories and are sensitive to how those stories affect one another's lives. You share the struggles of cancer, and grief,

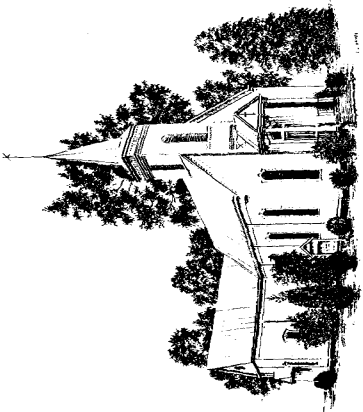
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and heartbreak. You gossip in the good way – by making sure that those who need prayers will get them. You keep your pastor informed of what she needs to know – and you don’t expect her to know it all or do it all. You pray for each other. You smile at children and learn their names. When there are disagreements, as there are in any church, you don’t quit caring about each other, and you don’t intentionally try to hurt each other. My hope is that there is room here to mess up, make mistakes, and be forgiven. I know I’ve been granted such forgiveness a time or ten, and for that I am truly grateful.

I also appreciate that not everyone has to show their heart in the same ways. Some are huggers, others maybe not so much. Some know how to say something as simple as “thank you” with tremendous perception and depth. Some pray at home without anyone ever knowing how much those prayers mean. All these gifts combine to make you who you are – a church that cares.

I will save my other observations for upcoming newsletters. I always like to talk about teaching and learning in September – it just seems to be the month for it. And as we move into the fall, I want to remind you of your generosity with your neighbors. But for now, be reminded of both who you are, and to whom you belong.

Peace, Pastor Kerra

96th POJ Meeting Recap

Ashland Presbyterian Church was represented at the ninety sixth meeting of the Presbytery of the James on June 20, 2017 held at Fairfield Presbyterian Church in Mechanicsville.

Camp Hanover personnel presented short and long range plans for renovating the camp facilities, as well as, promoting greater utilization of the facility by area congregations. The camp is celebrating its 60th birthday.

The Disaster Relief Purpose Group reported on several mission trips to Richwood, WV. This ongoing mission renovates buildings devastated in recent local flooding.

Small group discussions focused on the topic of gun violence utilizing the guidelines drafted by the POJ. This position paper requests congregations to engage in conversation regarding gun violence with the goal of raising awareness and to work locally to reduce its impact.

The docket and POJ committee reports are available for review.

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
8/6/17	K. Pugh	L. Allison, D. Coddington	G. Young	J. Aderhold		Coddington
8/13/17	K. Cole	K. & R. Cole				
8/20/17	P. Dunn	D. & P. Dunn	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			
8/27/17	K. Bloom	R. English, S. Henderson, C. Phillips, C. Schutte				
9/3/17	S. Moncol	S. & D. Moncol	D. Dunn	S. Huff		Basilio



Happy Birthday August

- 5 Carly Phillips
- 10 Roger Cole
- 18 Ron Bryan
- 20 Michael Raymond
- 24 Ella Mae Simpson



Edythe Millar
February 26, 1925
July 17, 2017
In Loving Memory

Remember to check out our website at: ashlandpresbyterian.org where you can find Kerra’s sermons, current (and old) newsletters, and upcoming events.
You can also find us on Facebook!



Thanks to your generous donations to the Pentecost Offering for Children and Youth at Risk (of which we get to keep 40%), we were able to give \$750 to the YMCA Summer Camp program to help send at-risk youth to camp!



Treasure Update: On-line Giving

We are in the testing phase of the VANCO On-line Giving process. So far no problems have risen, and we plan to roll-out the link to our web site soon. Electronic Giving is a convenient and secure way to provide consistent financial support to our church. Electronic donations will be available by checking, savings, credit card or debit card. Please contact me with any questions. — Drew Moncol

The Ash Grove at Richmond Hill: A Woman's Retreat Friday 4 p.m. — Saturday 4 p.m., November 10-11, 2017

Sponsored by Ashland Presbyterian Church

*Finding Strength at the Broken Places:
Connecting with Resilience Within.*

Guest Speaker: Brenda Burgner

Rather than give you the details you can either read in the brochure or ask someone who has been to a previous Ash Grove retreat to tell you, you as members of the church ought to know the concepts behind this retreat – then it's simply a matter of registering yourself and/or inviting your friends to come!

The Guiding Principle: Each person who comes to this retreat has her own wisdom she brings. [She will know, and be able to choose, how to spend her time in personal reflection, collaboration with others, and active engagement with the theme.](#)

The Format: Rather than depend on outside “experts,” we rely on the inner wisdom of the participants to share and create their own experiences. We invite leadership who will spark conversation or introduce us to people or practices that helps us engage the theme. We pray and eat with the Richmond Hill community and we close with worship.

The Name – Ash Grove: Of course it is a connection to our place and our people in Ash-land. And yet it is also symbolic, reminding us that the ash tree is strong, tough, and elastic, and in Celtic lore, it is the tree of life connecting earth and sky, and honoring the growth of the spirit. The higher you reach to the heavens, the more deeply you must be grounded in the earth. Therefore, a whole grove of ash trees reminds us that our strength also comes from being connected to each other.

**Brochures are in the narthex!
Be sure to register early!**

Mark Your Calendars Now for These Upcoming September Events



**Join Us For
An End of
Summer
Breakfast**

September 3, 2017

For an end of Summer, beginning of Fall event, we will be having a potluck breakfast for fellowship and to **introduce semi-nary intern, Andrew Bowman**, on Sunday, September 3 at **9:30 a.m.** Bring something to share and wear your name tag!

Choir rehearsals will start on Wednesday, September 6 at 7 p.m. and the choir will be back in the loft on Sunday September 10. New members are welcome to come and sing!



RALLY DAY

Sunday, September 10

Join us Sunday, September 10 as we kick off a new year with our Rally Day celebration. This year, there will be no breakfast. Instead, Sunday School for both adults and children will begin. Classes will be held in Lancaster Hall and start at 9:30 a.m.

Back to School

Like so many of God's children, we, too, will be heading back to school in September. Adult Sunday School classes will resume with a new curriculum entitled Feasting on the Word. Each week we will study the lectionary readings associated with that Sunday. The curriculum explores the historic background and meanings of the Scripture readings that Pastor Kerra will preach on that same Sunday.

We will also be offering a Sunday School program for elementary age children called Growing in Grace and Gratitude.

If you have an interest in leading one or more of the adult Sunday School lessons through the year, please contact Roger Cole.

Let's get ready to study God's Word.

