

APC Connections

Volume 6, Issue 4

December 2013

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 1 — Outreach meets 12:15
- Dec. 10 — Session meets 6:30 PM
- Dec. 12 — 7 PM PW Christmas Gathering
- Dec. 22 — 11 AM Choral Christmas Celebration; Joy Offering
- Dec. 24 — 7 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service

Pastor's Page

The Child Is Born Again

By Anne Weems

Each year the Child is born again.
 Each year some new heart
 finally hears
 finally sees
 finally knows love.



And in heaven
 there is great rejoicing!
 There is a festival of stars!
 There is celebration among the angels!
 For in the finding of one lost sheep,
 the heart of the Shepherd is glad, and
 Christmas has happened once more.
 The Child is born anew
 And one more knee is bowed!

Friends,

During the season of Advent, the Christ child is born again. We tell the story to remember that God so loved the world that the only gift big enough was to send God's whole heart in human skin. God wanted to send us this gift for some time. Some heard the news from the prophets. Some heard the promise as it came to Mary. Some could only be convinced when Jesus the person arrived on the scene. But now we know, we finally know, and God's gift is born in us, a blessing in baby disguise.

May you have a joy-filled Christmas — and find that God's gift really is the best present of all.

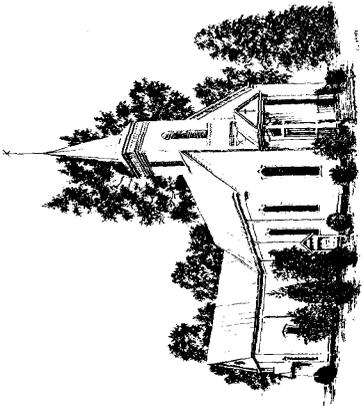
Peace, Pastor Kerra

Pastor
 Rev. Kerra English

Secretary
 Susan Vitale

Director of Music
 Karla Bloom

Organist
 Elizabeth Hargrove



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ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Christian Education

During Advent, our adult Sunday School class will be taught by Pastor Kerra and focus on the Incarnation – what it means for Christ to be one of us. The themes are as follows:



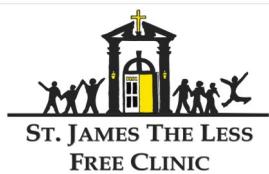
- December 1** — The Prophecy of the Incarnation
- December 8** — The Promise of the Incarnation
- December 15** — The Person of the Incarnation
- December 22** — Your questions about the Incarnation — Come

And talk about what Christmas means to us!

Kerra’s borrowed definition of “Incarnation” — *God with skin on* — or more generally in the Christian faith, the Incarnation is God’s real presence in the person of Jesus Christ

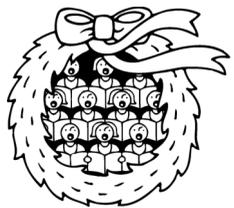
Food for St. James Volunteers

We are needed again! If you can help provide food for the workers at the St. James the Less Free Clinic, please contact Ginger Young. Our night will be **Wednesday, December 11**; drop off at Sta. James before 5:30 PM. They need finger food for 20: sandwiches, pizza, fried chicken, fruit or vegetable trays, cookies. Thanks for your help! — Ginger Young



PW ALERT: Change of Day

The PW Christmas Gathering and Cookie Exchange will be held **Thursday, December 12 at 7 PM**. Please be aware that this is a change in day from Tuesday to Thursday! Join us as Melannie Coddington presents “Lessons from Rwanda” in scripture, story and song. Following the presentation, we will pack cookies for our shut-ins as we enjoy a time of fellowship! **ALL** are welcome! — Doreen Coddington



Choral Christmas Celebration
11 AM
Sun., December 22



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
Tues., Dec. 24 at 7 PM

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
12/01/13	S. Huff	R. Bryan, R. Cole	L. Allison, T. Blair, R. Cole, E. Simpson	V. Neeley		
12/08/13	E. Mathes	S. & D. Moncol	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			poinsettias
12/15/13	S. & D. Moncol	L. Allison, S. Henderson				poinsettias
12/22/13	V. Neeley	K. Basilio, T. Blair, L. Herring, V. Neeley				poinsettias
12/24/13	R. Cole		L. Allison, R. Cole	K. Basilio		poinsettias
12/29/13	E. Pepper	C. Sthreshley, M. Summerson				poinsettias



Happy Birthday to:

December

- 1 Stephanie Neeley
Max Shea
- 2 Kathy Basilio
- 13 Beverly Shea
- 27 Elijah Hubbard
Kerra English

January

- 6 Karen Dorgan
- 14 Mike Carneal
- 24 Chuck English
- 30 Marsha Summerson

Our Deepest Christian Sympathy to:

The family of Ellen Albertson, member of Ashland Presbyterian Church, who passed away peacefully Friday, November 16. Arrangements will be made in the summer of 2014.

You Always Get What You Pay For

How many times in our lives has this statement proven to be true? We are always looking for the “unbelievable deal,” a great price or super bargain... always trying to get the most for our money. I guess sometimes we do get a bargain, but most of the time we simply get what we paid for.

As we think about this statement again, let’s relate this thought to our Christian life. What would our lives be like if God applied this principle to us? If we thought that God’s blessings to our lives depended on our generosity to others, wouldn’t we suddenly be wondering what more we should have done for others; why we didn’t help the victims of the many recent worldwide disasters; why we didn’t more faithfully support the APC food pantry, etc.

There is one fact I know for certain: God doesn’t “bargain shop” with our lives. Through the gift of His son’s life, God, with unconditional love, paid the greatest price imaginable for our salvation. If only we would remember to honor His request to help our fellow men and to support His mission on earth. Is this so little to ask of ourselves for the gift of eternity? Whatever we give or do, God gives us back a thousand fold. Proverbs 11:25 sums it up: ***“A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”***

As we prepare for dedication Sunday and the coming year, let us thank God for all he has done and continues to do for the Ashland Presbyterian Church and its generous members. With God, you get what you pay for and ***MUCH MORE.***—Rob DuPriest, Stewardship Chair.

Good News of Great Joy

The Christmas Joy Offering is split evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and scholarship funds for Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Help us support these faithful servants and students in their hour of great need and hour of great promise. Look for the Christmas Joy Offering envelope, and then please give generously. **Thank You!**

**Sunday,
Dec. 22**

Remember to check out our
website at:

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!

Congregational Care Committee

Members of the Congregational Care Committee are serving as “point persons” for news of our shut-ins. If you’d like an update on someone or if you have news of that person, please be in touch with them:

Alice Moore----Karen Dorgan
Clyde Johnson----Karen Cole
Nancy Trainham----Ginger Young
Carole Rodman----Julie Tate
Harold Starke-----Doreen Coddington

The committee is encouraging all members to be in touch with our shut-ins over the coming holidays, as well as remembering our members who have been going through difficult times: the Moncols, the Lumpkins, and the Carswells.

In the area of communications, the committee will be obtaining new street signs for the corner of Route 54 and Virginia Street, to replace the faded signs now directing visitors to our church. We are exploring the possibility of adding signs at other locations in Ashland.

Look forward to a winter fellowship opportunity---probably a soup and games night! If you have requests, please see any member of the committee with your ideas. — Karen Dorgan, Chair



Christmas Food Baskets

Christmas is quickly upon us and we need your help to stock the pantry for those in need of a nice holiday meal! We need canned vegetables, boxed or canned potatoes, macaroni and cheese — just about anything you might would have for your holiday meal. We also need soups, canned meats and fruits, breakfast items, pasta, spaghetti sauces, etc. for our everyday pantry needs.

