



HOLIDAY

Office Hours

Monday/Tuesday, December 22 & 23

Monday/Tuesday, December 29 & 30

9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Pastor
Rev. Kerra English

Secretary
Susan Vitale

Director of Music
Karla Bloom

Organist
Elizabeth Hargrove

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ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

401 Virginia Street
Ashland, VA 23005

APC Connections

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 6—10 AM
Decorate church
- Dec. 7—12:15 PM
Outreach meets.
- Dec. 9—6:30 PM
PW Christmas
Gathering
- Dec. 14—12:15
PM Session meets
- Dec 21—Choral
Christmas Cele-
bration/Joy Offer-
ing
- Dec. 24—5 PM
Candlelight Com-
munion Service
- Dec. 25 & Jan. 1—
Office closed
- Dec. 28—4th Sun-
day Fellowship

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Pastor's Page

Have you ever really taken the time to look at who shows up in Jesus' family tree? Since we are about to celebrate his birth, it's a good time to go back and reflect on where Jesus came from. Typically we don't spend much time on those verses of scripture (Matthew 1:1-17), but they do tell a story, a story that is the narrative of the one who will become the Redeemer King. And yet, I am also struck by the unlikely details that end up there for someone who is destined to be the "perfect" example of humanity.

In the first fourteen generations from Abraham up until David, we read these names and we are reminded of multiple stories of deception and terrible animosity between brothers. Then we come to the story of the birth of twins Perez and Zerah, who are born to Tamar who tricks her dead husband's father (Judah) into thinking she's a prostitute, so she will procreate an heir to her husband's inheritance. (Really, look it up!) Then Rahab shows up, a foreigner who is ACTUALLY a prostitute. She's the mother of Boaz, who ends up marrying Ruth, which leads eventually to the Davidic line. We learned during this last Sunday morning Bible study on Ruth that Jesus' great-great- great- great whatever Boaz was known as a good hearted redeemer because he followed the Israelite custom by marrying his kinsman's widow Ruth and preserving that family line, and so... Jesus becomes known to us later as the Redeemer of the whole world.

Then from David forward, we have multiple generations of kings, both good and bad. David may be considered a good king, but we are even reminded in this passage that Solomon's mother was, ahem, Bathsheba, Uriah's former wife. Early on, we read about the faithfulness of these kings, but as these lead-

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ers get worse, we only read about their awful lust for power and kingdom expansion. Fourteen whole generations passed until Babylon had had enough and sent Israel packing into Exile. Jesus is a King, from the royal line, descended as a “shoot from the stump of Jesse” but we learn that he won’t be a King like these Kings. His Kingdom will not be of this world.

Then after the Exile, I’m not as familiar with those Biblical names, but another 14 generations point toward Joseph, Mary’s soon to be husband AFTER she finds out that she is pregnant and will bear the one who will save the world.

It’s an odd genealogy to say the least. If it were our own family, we might hesitate to mention some of these more tawdry tales, but the Bible itself leaves nothing out. All these stories still point toward Jesus – which is what makes them an important reminder that God can use the long arm of history to always get where God wants to go.

So as we look toward Jesus’ birth, give some thought to where he came from. Maybe even give some thought to where you’ve come from in your own faith journey. It might not always be the pristine moments that build one’s faith. It may be the ones that seem to show our family’s worst traits that eventually guide us toward the Spirit’s path.

Blessings to you all, my “God-chosen” family of faith – Pastor Kerra



Deck the Halls

**Sat., Dec. 6
at 10:00 a.m.**

Come one and come all, men and women alike, we need your help in decorating the sanctuary for the holidays!

PW Christmas and Cookie Gathering

PW will hold their annual Christmas and Cookie Gathering on **Tues., Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. This year, PW will be committing to at least a six month one-on-one relationship through Social Services to provide help for an individual with ordinary and essential needs. Rebecca Glazebrook is going to be our contact person as we move forward with this project. **All** are invited to join us to learn more about this project. Oh, and remember to bring cookies to share with all and to pack for our shut-ins.— Doreen Coddington



Choral Christmas Celebration and Joy Offering
Sun., December 21



Candlelight Communion Service
December 24
At 5:00 p.m.

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
12/7/14	J. Glazebrook	R. Bryan, R. Cole	M. Carneal, P. Dunn, E. Shea, J. Tate	Carneal		
12/14/14	S. Henderson	V. Neeley, J. Tate				Poinsettias
12/21/14	L. Herring	K. Basilio, T. Blair, D. Coddington, J. Glazebrook				Poinsettias
12/24/14			J. Aderhold, K. Pugh	J. Aderhold		Poinsettias
12/28/14	S. Huff	J. Glazebrook, S. Henderson, C. Schutte, E. Simpson	REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.			Poinsettias
01/4/15	M. Lumpkin					Poinsettias



Happy Birthday to: December

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

2015 Flower Stewards

January/February 2015: Kathleen Pugh
March/April 2015: Jane Glazebrook
May/June 2015: Sheila Henderson
July/August 2015: Kathy Basilio
September/October 2015: Caroline Schutte
November/December 2015: Suzanne Huff



Check the flower calendar during your assigned time and try to fill all vacancies. Announcements can be made during morning worship, in the bulletin, and/or the newsletter.— Judy Aderhold, Worship Chair



Ann Dexter
April 15, 1925
November 8, 2014



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To Presbyterian Women who generously step up, provide hands to set up, hands to clean up, resources to make an event come together, doing it without complaint and sometimes without warning and a good time frame. It is a joy to serve with them. Thank you.

There are countless folks working constantly behind the scenes not wanting to draw attention to what they do, but without those minutes, hours and days of work our smooth running little church would have a few coughs and bumps along the way.

May God provide us all each and every one the strength, the ability and the mind to see the needs we can provide and may He keep us always on the right path to spread His word and Mission.



Left to Right: Sherri and Mike Carneal, Karen Cole, Ross and Linda Herring, Larry and Karen Hasbrouck. Not shown: Kathy Basilio, Karen Dorgan, Julie Tate, and Charles Sthreshley.

Thanks, Cleanup Crew!

Thanks to everyone that helped out on our fall cleanup day! We had a great time with fellowship and working together to upkeep our church buildings and grounds. There were many generous hearts that participated and their time and talents were very much appreciated. Emily Pepper provided us with brownies and Karen Dorgan provided cranberry bread which were a delight and much needed for a hard working crowd! For those that were not able to make it you were missed. A very special note of appreciation to all that do the many things

year round to keep our church's buildings and grounds maintenance going strong.—Mike Carneal, Buildings and Ground Chair



Important Notice!

Kerra's new email is
kerra.english@gmail.com

Mission News—The Sthreshley's

You can read Inge and Larry's latest letter about the Ebola outbreak on the bulletin board or by going to pcusa.org/larry-and-inge-sthreshley.

Stewardship Committee — THANK YOU!

It is with grateful appreciation, the members of the Stewardship Committee send a big thank you for joining us in the kickoff luncheon on November 2, 2014. During the luncheon, we asked folks to write their thoughts and messages of thanksgiving on hearts that were provided.

Following, are the thoughts expressed. What are they communicating to us about our church, our mission, and our church family? What are you thankful for?

I am thankful for my church family and all of God's creation.

Total love and acceptance from Christian friends.

Thanks to all the quiet people who loyally care for our lovely little church and its members.

I am grateful for all the many generous people at Ashland Presbyterian who have helped me grow and the pastors who have brought so much wisdom. -Sherri

I am grateful for the support I have felt here at Ashland Presbyterian. -Marsha

Karla gives generously of her time and talents.

Session that's a big commitment. Thanks to you all.

Our amazing choir! Our services are brought to life with your music. Thank you.

I am thankful for the nurture of the church for 92 years.

Thanks you for our wonderful pastor

The life and witness, thank you for so many. Linda for her testimony and courage. Sheila for her love.



To Suzanne for seeing that we always have beautiful flowers.

Thank you for an immensely wonderful luncheon.

Thankful for all the times when you feel "lost" and God will take care of you.

Good food and good company

Enjoy singing with the choir.

Thankful for the Ashland Presbyterian Family.

Elizabeth for her "soulful" fingers and feet.

Karla for not giving up.

Kathleen for keeping me out of trouble in choir.

Judy for serving so many committees and projects.

Marsha for guiding me in becoming elder for education.

To Flo for her lifelong dedication to this church.

Fellowship

To Marsha for providing an excellent Christian Education program.



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