

APC Connections

Volume 6, Issue 5

February 2014

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 2 — Souper Bowl of Caring Offering/Outreach meets 12:15
- Feb. 8 — Worship meets 10 AM at Judy Aderhold's
- Feb. 9 — Session meets 12:15 PM
- Feb. 11 — 11 AM PW Circle meets
- Feb. 13 — Newsletter articles due
- Feb. 17 — 2014 Dawe Lectures at UPSEM, 7:30 PM—9:00 PM



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Pastor's Page

1 John 4: 17-18 (The Message)

God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

The Bible talks about love a lot, and it's February – so I thought I would give you a “love” passage to ponder this month. Many of you have probably heard the saying, “Perfect love casts out fear.” This translation says, “There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear.” And the implications of this passage are that in maturity, we will have more love and be less afraid. I hope so.

The kind of love that requires flowers and candy and overly sentimentalized greeting cards tends to be more afraid, afraid of the loved one going somewhere else or not being attracted or attractive enough. It is the fragility of young love, and the kind of love that reminds us of our childhood aching for times our love needs weren't met. Love hurts. Love stinks. There's a reason that love songs frequently have a fearful edge to them, and romantic comedies play up everything that can go wrong in a relationship. We know those stories all too well. They trigger our emotions, and probably sell a lot of popcorn

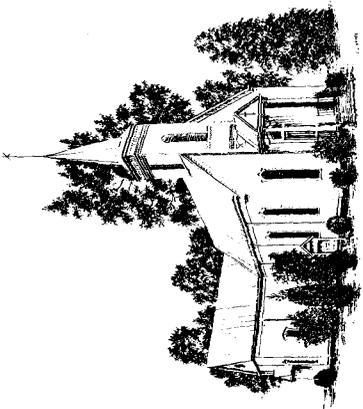
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Pastor
Rev. Kerra English

Secretary
Susan Vitale

Director of Music
Karla Bloom

Organist
Elizabeth Hargrove



804-798-5543
email: ashlandpres@aol.com
www.ashlandpresbyterian.org

ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
401 Virginia Street
Ashland, VA 23005

Help Tackle Hunger



More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: *“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”*

Since that day, more than \$90 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need!



Presbyterian Women

The PW Circle meeting will be held **Tues., February 11 at 11 a.m.** in Lancaster Hall for study and lunch. Bring a sandwich. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Also, we will receive the **Links of Love Offering** during our meeting.— Doreen Coddington

Christian Education



Several special events are coming up in February and March. Dr. Ginger Young will present a special series on Religion and Art on February 2 and 9. Dr. Harold Breitenberg will be returning to lecture on Religion and Science the following three Sundays — February 16, 23, and March 2. Lectures will begin at 9:30. Come at 9:15 to enjoy some coffee and refreshments before the lectures begin!

For the five weeks of Lent beginning on March 9, the Adult Sunday School class will be studying a Kerygma program entitled Hosanna: A Spiritual Journey through Holy Week. Plan to join us. All are welcome! — Marsha Summerson, Chair



Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
2/02/14	E. Simpson	J. Glazebrook, S. Henderson	T. Blair, R. Cole, B. Shea,	K. Basilio		Bryan
2/09/14	C. Sthresley	L. Herring, S. Huff	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			Young
2/16/14	F. Sthresley	E. Mathes, V. Neeley				
2/23/14	M. Summerson	S. & D. Moncol, M. Summerson, J. Tate				Coddington
3/2/14	J. Tate	L. Allison, K. Basilio	R. Bryan, D. Coddington, R.	S. Carneal		Simpson



Happy Birthday to: February

- 3 Drew Moncol
- 6 Karen Cole
- 8 Jamie Doyle
Clara Shea Totten
- 9 Terry Blair
- 15 Judy Aderhold
- 29 Doreen Coddington



Many thanks to our stalwart finger food crew who carried dinner over to the Free Clinic at St. James the Less on December 11. In this busy time of the year, Linda Allison,

Karen Dorgan, Jane Glazebrook, Sheila Henderson, Suzanne Huff, Emily Pepper, Kathleen Pugh, and Julie Tate found time to fix and carry. I know it was appreciated! Thank you, Ginger Young

The staff of Ashland Presbyterian Church wishes to thank the congregation for their kind and generous gifts during the holiday season this year. We pray God’s blessings and peace for all of you in 2014 as we move forward in Christ’s service. — Pastor Kerra English, Administrative Assistant and Treasurer Susan Vitale, and Custodian Shelby Coleman

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and chocolate.

But what if we were to write about and incorporate into our mental repertoires the kind of love stories that we find in scripture? God's love is steadfast even as Israel lies, cheats, and steals all over the place. Perfect love is fearless. Deep enduring love is gracious. It is kind and patient, not jealous or boastful, or rude. You get my drift here? We have better stories to tell about life-long love stories of couples married for 50, 60 years who have seen it all and came through it stronger. We have love stories to tell about wayward children and stubborn children who are aching by a parent's side in dire hospital situations. We know love stories about those in our congregation who we have told the truth about our lives, and they loved us anyway. Those love stories kick fear to the curb. God's love strengthens us, helps us to mature, and gives us endurance for those long-term relationships, spouses, kids, friends who are with us for the long haul.

So no matter how you choose to celebrate that Hallmark holiday on February 14 – remember the love that God gives to us, and imagine ways you can give that kind of love to the people important in your life.
In God's love, Pastor Kerra

Mark Your Calendars



Service for the Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014
7:00 PM

New Addresses



Maggie Miller
7105 Brooks Farm Rd., Apt. F
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Nancy Trainham
Ashland Rehab Center
906 Thompson St., Rm 224B
Ashland, VA 23005

Share the love!

Remember our shut-ins this month with a card, note, phone call or visit!



The 2014 Dawe Lecture — Incarnation and Idolatry: The Question of Jesus in Christian-Muslim Dialogue

February 17, 7:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

At Union Presbyterian Seminary's Lake Chapel in the Early Center
1106 Westwood Ave.

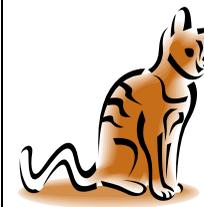
Speaker: Joshua B. Ralston, Instructor of Theology at UPSEM



Like Judaism, their Abrahamic cousin, Christianity and Islam insist that there is "No God but God." There is one God and God alone is worthy of worship and praise. Human beings, however, are prone to idolatry. John Calvin calls the human heart an idol-making factory; the Qur'an is replete with condemnations against associating anything with God. While Christianity and Islam share a commitment to monotheism, they disagree significantly about the identity and place of Jesus of Nazareth. This lecture will consider the question of Jesus — particularly Christian claims that he is the Word of God made flesh — within Christian-Muslim dialogue.

Joshua Ralston joined UPSEM as instructor of theology in January, 2013. His teaching and research is animated by the challenge of faithfully communicating and creatively rethinking Christian claims about God and the world in light of the history of Christian thought, other religious traditions (especially Islam), and the shifting socio-political landscape of the 21st century. His commitment to Christian-Muslim dialogue has been shaped not only through study, but more profoundly through teaching theology and interfaith relations in Nigeria and Egypt and through living in Israel/Palestine. *Free and open to the public.*

Got a pet?



It's been a few years since our church members shared photos of their "four-legged family members". Want to feature a photo of your pet on our bulletin board? If so, please provide a picture, with your name and your pet's name on the back, to Karen Dorgan by Feb. 16. Photos will be returned.

