

APC Connections

Volume 9, Issue 5

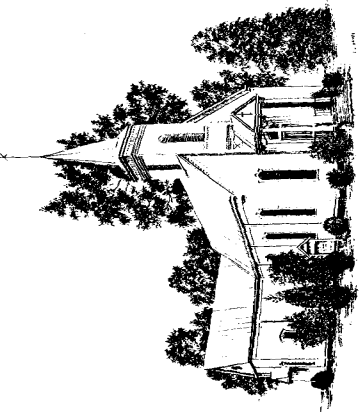
February 2017

Pastor
Rev. Kerra English

Admin. Assistant
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

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 5— Souper-Bowl of Caring Offering
- Feb. 12—Session meets 12:15 PM
- Feb. 14—PW Circle meets 11 AM at Emily Pepper’s
- Feb. 19—”Pennies for the Pantry” Potluck Luncheon 12:15 PM
- March 1—6 PM Service for the Imposition of Ashes



Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2, 3
Committee Reports	4, 5
Meet New Member	5, 6
Ushers/Greeters Birthdays	7

Pastor’s Page

Friends,
 There were 78 people at our Christmas Eve service! That’s a lot. We ran out of bulletins. We didn’t have enough candles. I think we were both joyful and surprised to see so many new faces who came to worship with us during the holidays. Now, we might be wondering if we are “back to normal.” Our usual crowd. Lots of familiar faces. Our “regular” attendance numbers. That may be true – but what’s also true is that new people show up to worship both during the holidays AND throughout the year.
 Some of those new to us may be long-time Presbyterians who know that we say “debts and debtors” during the Lord’s Prayer, but some of them may not know a whole lot about what we do or who we are. Therefore, it is our job as the “regulars” to help folks feel comfortable.

Here are a few reminders of what we can do to help someone have a good first visit at Ashland Presbyterian Church:

- 1) Remember that it’s not just OUR church. The church is for everyone who walks through these doors. Welcome friends and strangers alike!
- 2) Let people know about key places in the building – where the bathrooms are, where there is a changing table (if there are little ones), where the parlor is if there will be a fellowship time after church.
- 3) Introduce yourself, and/or wear your name tag.
- 4) Make sure they have anything they might need to participate in the service – a bulletin, a hymnal, a Bible in the rack where they are sitting.

(Continued on page 2)

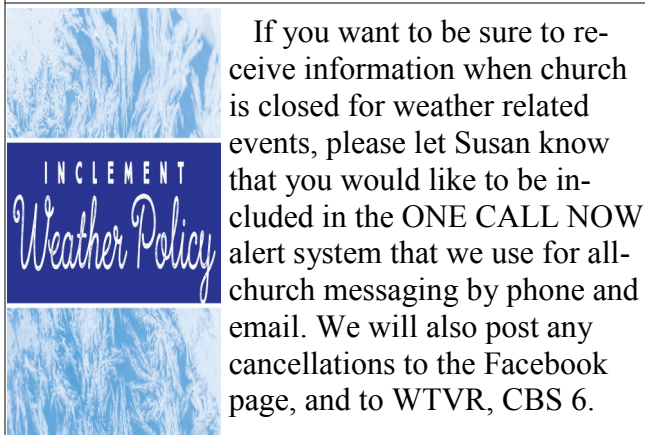
(Continued from page 1)

- 5) Let them have some quiet time in the sanctuary to experience God’s presence.
- 6) Ask them afterwards if you can answer any questions for them about the church. If they ask about something you personally don’t know – find someone who might!
- 7) Mention our website, Facebook page, or hand them the APC brochure so they can learn more about us on their own time.
- 8) Invite them to take or fill out a pew card. We would be happy to send them information, but not everyone wants to give out an address or phone number on that first visit.
- 9) There are extroverts and introverts in this world. Some folks learn by conversation, some by observation. See if you can feel out and be attentive to what those needs are!
- 10) Thank them for worshipping with us.

Our church is growing, and there are folks who are hungry for the kind of connection this church community can provide. Making a good first impression is important – but even more important than that is creating the kind of space where every person who takes the time to come here feels invited into the presence of God. Encouraging someone to feel “at home” is part of that experience.


Thank you for already being such good hosts in this place. As I look around in worship, I see connections that are deep and intimate among family members, friends, and the ever lively choir cohort. You radiate welcome, and belonging – such wonderful gifts in an often lonely world. Share those gifts. Allow those gifts to overflow to those who come seeking God – and it will be God whom they find.

Peace, Pastor Kerra



INCLEMENT Weather Policy

If you want to be sure to receive information when church is closed for weather related events, please let Susan know that you would like to be included in the ONE CALL NOW alert system that we use for all-church messaging by phone and email. We will also post any cancellations to the Facebook page, and to WTVR, CBS 6.



February 5, 2017

Your canned goods and monetary donations go towards alleviating hunger! Please give generously!

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
2/05/17	Ellie Shea	T. Blair, B. Mathes	S. & M. Carneal, D. Coddington, L. Herring	K. Basilio, C. Schutte	A. Hill	Cole
2/12/17	Ella Mae Simpson	C. Sthreshley, M. Summerson	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>		A. Hill	
2/19/17	Charles Sthreshley	J. Tate, R. Cole			A. Hill	
2/26/17	Marsha Summer-son	R. English, S. & D. Moncol, C. Phillips				
03/05/17	Pete Shin-namon	B. Mathes, V. Neeley	T. Blair, C. Schutte, B. Shea, J. Tate	S. Carneal, J. Glazebrook		



Happy Birthday to: February

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



Mark Your Calendars Now!

Service for the Imposition of Ashes
Ash Wednesday, March 1
at 6:00 p.m.



Time to Spring Ahead

Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, March 12

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour!

(Continued from page 5)

has repeated four more times).

Pete left home at age nineteen, partly as a result of conflict with his father which was later resolved as he matured. Realizing that he needed to find a niche for himself in the world of work, he drew upon his talents for talking and getting along with people and went into sales. He began by selling Oldsmobiles, something at which he was quite successful. He also continued his education and graduated from the University of Maryland.

During this time period, Pete met his future wife, Veronica (who goes by Ronnie). With her help and encouragement, he patched things up with his parents. His father worked in candy and snack sales, and he invited Pete to “come home” and work in his business, which Pete agreed to do. As he gained experience, he broke away from the local market and rose to managing the business in the eastern half of Virginia. Thus, he and Ronnie found themselves in central Virginia, where they first lived in Glen Allen. In 1992, they moved to the Ashland area, settling in Country Club Hills.

Over the next few years he split the business, sold the business.....and in 2004 he and 4 partners set up a new business named Premier Sales and Marketing. This company sells candy and snacks to wholesale accounts in the states of Virginia and West Virginia. The largest two accounts are Dollar Tree, and Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores.

Pete’s family consists of his wife Ronnie and two daughters. One daughter Jackie lives with her parents and is the mother of a baby girl Rosalie Lima. With Jackie’s demanding job as a chef, Ronnie provides full-time child care to “Lee-lee”. Their other daughter Natalie is a horseback-riding instructor at Haverhill Farm in Goochland County; she also coaches the equestrian team at the University of Richmond. Natalie is expecting a baby boy in early March, so Pete and Ronnie will soon be able to enjoy spending time with a grandson.

While his roles as business owner and grandpa keep Pete busy, he does find time to enjoy what is clearly a passion for him: fly-fishing. Two years ago, he and his daughter traveled to Alaska for a week of fly-fishing, and he hopes to establish a pattern of fishing in the cold North every other year. In the coming year, he has plans to travel to Belize to try out the warmer waters there.

Pete landed at Ashland Presbyterian after visiting a number of other local churches because he enjoys the small size and the friendly people. He has already shown himself to be an asset with his volunteering with Amanda at the APC candy table for Halloween and with helping to decorate the church for Christmas. We look forward to his further involvement in the new year! — Karen Dorgan



Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class continues its study called *Windwork: the Active Work of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives* which will run through the end of February. You don’t have to read the chapter to join us!

In March, we will have a Lenten Speaker series focused on the beliefs associated with the Spirit in the Apostles’ Creed: the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of Sins, the Resurrection of the Body, and the Life Everlasting. Speakers will include: Ben Campbell, retired pastoral director of Richmond Hill, Joel Blunk, current pastoral director at Richmond Hill, and Jill Duffield, the editor of the Presbyterian Outlook, Lynn McClintock, Chaplain Westminster Canterbury, others TBD. The class meets Sunday mornings at **9:30 a.m.** in Lancaster Hall.

NOTE: There will be **NO** Sunday School April 9 and 16.



Presbyterian Women

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, **February 14 at 11:00 a.m.** at the home of Emily Pepper, 157 Arlington Square, Ashland. Please read Hebrews in preparation for the lesson. Lunch will be provided. We will not be receiving an offering for Links of Love this year. Instead, we will be making Circles Ashland our new project to support.

Let Them Know You Care!

Please consider sending a Valentine to these APC family members: Betty Carswell, 811 Thompson St., Rm. 116, Ashland; Frances Hughes, 7 Trotter Mill Close, Ashland; Mickey Lumpkin, 15386 Campbell lake Rd., Doswell, 23047; Edie and Betty Millar, 7102 Cedon Rd., Woodford, 22580; Carole Rodman, 111 Sunny Dr., Ashland; and Flo Sthresley, 1550 Westminster Canterbury Way #7612, Richmond, 23227. Receiving your cards will surely brighten their day!



“Pennies for the Pantry” Potluck Lunch Sunday, February 19 at 12:15 p.m. in Lancaster Hall

Join in the fellowship and donate your spare change to help replenish our APC food pantry. You will find a food sign-up sheet in the narthex but don’t have to bring a dish to dine!

Outreach Report

As most of you are aware the Outreach Committee prepares and distributes bags of food 4 times a year to those in great need within our community. Most of this food comes directly from you putting food on the altar or giving gift cards. You may not know we also distribute funds (over \$5000 in 2016) to local and global mission groups, the later through the Presbytery. These funds are part of our church budget each year and, therefore, come from your tithes and donations. While the recipient groups may vary somewhat from year to year they include Sthreshley Medical, Sthreshley Congo Work, Ruth Brown Missions, and the Haiti Missions (All global) as well as the following groups that engage in various local mission activities — ACES, St. James the Less Free Clinic, Caritas, and Hanover ARC. If at any time you wish to give additional amounts to any of these groups you may do so directly and in the case of global mission projects, through the presbytery. And, of course we collect for the four denomination-wide offerings above and beyond our budgeted giving.

Thank you for your continued financial generosity and know that it is making a difference. — Delores Dunn, Chair



From Presbyterian Women — Presbyterian Women thank all those who contributed to the Christmas Fund to help our “Mary” with a hand up. In February she was able to get her own apartment with our donation of \$675.00 which helped with a deposit and first month’s rent. The remainder of the fund, \$405.50 was given to the Hanover Christmas Mother. Presbyterian Women also gave \$300.00 to the YMCA Summer Camp Fund, \$212.00 to The Birthday Offering, \$187.00 to the Thank Offering, \$75.00 to Sunnyside Links of Love, and \$100.00 for our Mission pledge. We continue to support the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Please join us the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 a.m. Our bible study this year is entitled *Who Is Jesus?* — Linda Allison



From Pastor Kerra — Thank you for all your kindness at Christmastime — for the love offering, for the gifts and cards, and for your kindness to my husband Chuck and to my children, Cade and Ryleigh. Thank you for your kindness to the whole church staff — for sending cookies, for thinking of all of us, and giving us encouragement to do our jobs during the busy Christmas season. The love of Christ shines in you all.

2017 APC Budget

Income:

General Funds	\$ 116,321
Account Interest	\$ 600
Total Income	\$ 116,921

Expenses:

Minister salaries & Allowances, Intern	\$ 35,400
Utilities & Maintenance	\$ 19,670
Worship	\$ 3,200
Christian Education	\$ 4,700
Congregational Care	\$ 2,250
PW Women	\$ 107
Outreach	\$ 6,200
Benevolences	\$ 4,100
Administration/Salaries	
Secretary, Dir. Of Music, Accompanists,	
Janitorial, Bookkeeper, etc.	\$ 38,713
Office Expenses	\$ 3,400
Stewardship/Finance	\$ 150
Total Expenses	\$ 117,890

Budget Difference:

(\$969)

Session Update

The notebook of Session minutes will no longer be created and shelved in the former library off of the Narthex. However, electronic copies of *approved* minutes are available upon request. (Minutes are approved at the subsequent meeting, so there will be a month delay.) Please contact either Susan Vitale, Administrative Assistant, or Julie Tate, Clerk of Session if you would like to receive them. Headline-worthy Session news will continue to be shared in bulletin announcements or newsletter articles! — Julie Tate, Clerk

Meet New Member Pete Shinnamon

I had guessed before sitting down with Pete that he was not a native Virginian, and indeed, that was correct. Pete was born in Hagerstown, Maryland. He was adopted as an infant and spent most of his growing-up years in Howard County, Maryland. His family consisted of his parents and two sisters, with Pete being the oldest of the kids. His upbringing was in what was then a rural area, and he enjoyed exploring the outdoors and playing sports with other children in the area. He graduated from Atholton High School in Howard County. During his teenage years he was active in sports: being big for his age, he excelled in football but also enjoyed basketball which he described as his “real love”.

Pete’s athletic skills were also put to the test in the sport of bowling. For some years, he competed at state and national levels, including in the US Open, and he was one of the youngest in Maryland to bowl a 300 game (an accomplishment which he

(Continued on page 6)