

APC Connections

Volume 5, Issue 5

March 2013

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 10 — Daylight Savings time begins
- Mar. 12 — 11 AM PW Circle meeting
- Mar. 12 — 5 PM Session meeting
- Mar. 24 — 9:30 am Palm Sunday breakfast; no Adult Ed.
- Mar. 28 — 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service
- Mar. 31 — Easter; OGHs Offering

From the Pastor's Desk

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice! (From Psalm 95)

Friends,
Do you hear God's voice? In your life? In your prayers? In your hopes and dreams? O that today you would listen to God's voice!

God's voice is not always easy to hear. It takes practice. It takes quiet. It takes patience. It takes the wisdom of the elders of the tradition to help you know when it's authentically the voice of God, or something other than that. Crazy people will tell you they hear the voice of God – and they may be hearing something – but it may or may not be God.

In this season of Lent, I invite you to make a practice of listening for God's voice – today and every day. We sometimes think that God will reach out and grab our attention if there's something important God wants for us to do. There are times that may be so. However, my prayer life is teaching me that God has a voice in my life, not just in those big defining moments, but in the day to day details. God is showing me the gifts of life and God is guiding me away from those things that separate me from the divine. It's subtle. I didn't realize how much I had been missing in the clanging busyness of my life. Much will drown out God's voice.

So how do you know when it is truly God? It's OK to test out what you hear with scripture and tradition, with your image of God (as love), and with those who care about you and would have your best interest at heart. God is ultimately pa-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Worship	2
CE & PW	3
Outreach	4
Stewardship	5
Food Chain	6
New Addresses	
Ushers/Greeters Birthdays	7
One Great Hour of Sharing	

Tem. Supply Pastor
Rev. Kerri English

Secretary
Susan Vitale

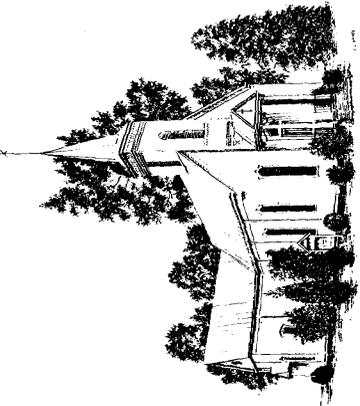
Director of Music
Karla Bloom

Organist
Elizabeth Hargrove

Daylight Savings Time
Begins
Sunday, March 10
Remember to turn
your clocks up Sat.,
March 9



Time to
Spring Ahead



804-798-5543
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ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

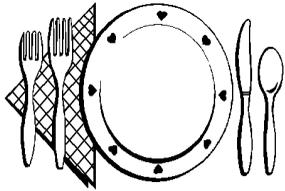
401 Virginia Street
Ashland, VA 23005

(Continued from page 1)

tient with us and knows it sometimes takes us awhile to hear. So listen. Trust that you belong to a loving God.

O that today, tomorrow, and the next day you would listen to God's voice! When we do, our faith will certainly come alive with God's promises.

Peace, Pastor Kerra



**Palm Sunday
Breakfast**

March 24 at 9:30 AM
No Sunday School
Worship at 11 AM



**Communion
Service**
March 28 at 7 PM

Easter Sunday
March 31, 2013

No Sunday School
Worship at 11 AM

Remember to
come early
and bring
fresh flowers
for the Living
Cross!



Communion
One Great Hour of
Sharing Offering

Worship

Easter is very early this year so please be sure to mark your calendars for the following special dates. Palm Sunday is March 24th. The Maundy Thursday communion service will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, March 28th. We will have communion on Easter Sunday this year. Kerra will be away on April 7 and our pulpit will be supplied by Beverly Zink-Sawyer professor of Preaching and Worship at Union Seminary.

At the Worship committee meeting on February 17 committee members graciously agreed to be responsible for overseeing the flower calendar for two months at a time. Our duties will be to remind people of their sign up date and to try to see that vacant dates are filled.

(Continued on page 3)

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
3/3/13	T. Blair	V. Neeley, J. Tate	M. Carneal, K. Dorgan, P. Dunn, M. Summerson	S. Carneal		Simpson
3/10/13	B. & J. Carswell	J. Glazebrook, B. Shea				Mathes
3/17/13	S. & M. Carneal	S. & D. Moncol	REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.			
3/24/13	D. Coddington	L. Allison, K. Basilio, M. Summerson, J. Tate				
3/31/13	R. Cole	L. Herring, C. Schutte				
4/7/13	B. DuPriest	T. Blair, E. Shea	M. Carneal, K. Dorgan, P. Dunn, M. Summerson	J. Glazebrook		Schutte



**Happy Birthday to:
March**

- 13 Barclay DuPriest
- 30 Elizabeth Hargrove
Suzanne Huff
- 31 Harold Starke
Robert Tate



One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2012

The Food Chain — Recipes submitted by Terry Blair.

Easy Cheese Danish

- 2 pkgs. 8oz. Cream cheese
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1-2 tsp. Butter, melted
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 pkgs. 8oz. Crescent rolls
- Brown sugar to sprinkly

Preheat oven to 350. Mix cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla until well blended. Spray 9x13 pan. Roll out 1st pkg of crescent rolls to cover bottom of pan. Spread cream cheese mixture evenly. Roll out 2nd pkg. of rolls and place over top of cream cheese mixture. Pour melted butter, spread evenly. Sprinkle brown sugar generously. Bake for 34-40 minutes. Let stand about 2 hours. Cut in squares.

Mel's Sweet Potato Biscuits

Preheat oven to 400.

Mix together:

- 3/4 cup sweet potatoe
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 1/2 cup melted butter

Add:

- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 1/2 cup milk

Dough will be springy.

Add:

- 1/2 cup pecans, finely chopped and dusted with flour

Knead on floured surface for 1 minute. Roll to 1/2 inch thickness. Bake for 15 minutes. Makes 24 biscuits.



Emily Pepper
157 Arlington Sq.
Ashland, VA
752-2143



Alice Moore
is currently in rehab at
Hanover Health Care
Room 307, Lee Davis Hwy
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

(Continued from page 2)

The year is divided as follows: January – February, Kathleen Pugh; March – April, Jane Glazebrook; May – June, Sheila Henderson; July – August, Vicki Neeley; September – October, Caroline Schutte; November – December, Linda Herring.

A number of you have told me to call you for a Sunday when flowers are needed. Please tell me again if you are willing to be called upon for flowers on open dates so that I can compile a list for the flower stewards. We on the Worship committee are so very grateful for your willingness to serve the church in so many different ways.

— Kathleen Pugh, Chair

Adult Sunday School



On March 10, the **Lenten Lecture Series** continues with a final lecture on *Women and the Church* from Sandra Goehring, a doctoral student at Union Theological Seminary and an adjunct at Randolph-Macon

On **March 17**, we conclude our series with Bill Nix of Fredricksburg who will talk about a recent Presbytery trip to Haiti to visit Mark Hare, a Presbyterian missionary involved in agricultural work in Haiti. We will then break for Palm Sunday and Easter.

On April 7, we will go back to our study entitled *Discovering the Bible: A New Generation*. This study attempts to introduce The Bible as a whole – emphasizing the inter-connections among the many parts of the entire Bible. **The class meets at 9:30 in Lancaster Hall.** — Marcia Summerson, CE Chair



Presbyterian Women

The PW **Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, March 12 at 11 AM** in the Lancaster Hall for study and lunch. We will be studying Lesson 6 in Dispatches to God's Household, "The Elders." Bring a sandwich. Beverages and dessert will be provided. — Doreen Coddington

From Session

In spite of the wet weather on Ash Wednesday, we had a great turnout for the Pancake Supper! Rob Dupriest and Pat Dunn flipped approximately 100 cakes for 25 members and guests. Thanks goes out to Caitlin Blair, Cade English, Jane Glazebrook, Charlie Blair, Ellie Shea and anyone else who assisted in helping with preparations and clean up. Following the dinner, we had a peaceful and reflective Ash Wednesday service. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship! — Terry Blair, Clerk

Donations to Congo Marriage Certificates Mission

In a recent *Minute for Mission*, Beth Mathes described the urgent need for Congolese women to have marriage certificates to protect their property rights and custody of their children if they become widowed. If you, as an individual or couple, would like to contribute to the work of Presbyterian Missionary Ruth Brown, whose mission includes helping these women obtain marriage certificates, please send your contributions to: Presbyterian World Mission, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700 and on the memo line, please write: Ruth Brown and ECO number MI910004.



APC Facebookers!

Ashland Presbyterian Church now has an updated Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, please “like” the page. When we get to 30 likes, we will be able to see more of our traffic flow to the page. Pastor Kerra will post general information about church events and would love to include your pictures!!!

The following article is from “Reflections on Lent and Stewardship, St. Margaret of York Church”, an internet reflection site. – Roger Cole, Stewardship and Finance Chair

Lent and Stewardship

Traditionally Lent has marked a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. These three are known as the pillars of Jewish piety. In stewardship, we speak of three key actions in living out a life of gratitude and discipleship, namely, giving of our time, talent and treasure, for building up the reign of God.

While the three-fold practices of Lent and of stewardship differ, I believe they spring from the same ground, from the same fundamental relationship with God.

Fasting, prayer and almsgiving are treated in Jesus’ wisdom teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:1-6). Jesus tells his followers to fast, pray and give alms “in secret” and “your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” To us moderns, his admonition is almost automatically read: “Do not be ostentatious; don’t show-off while doing good deeds; don’t expect accolades. But Jesus is talking about a much deeper change in orientation, a transformation in our entire sense of being. Perhaps we can get a glimpse of this by examining the social milieu in which Jesus was speaking.

Israel in Jesus’ time was not an upwardly mobile society, where hard work pays off

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

in wealth, prestige and power — as the American Dream would have us believe. Few, if any, went from rags to riches, and, in fact, money was not really the “coin of the realm.” Rather people vied for and sought to protect their “honor.”

Honor was acquired by (1) doing something good and noble — such as fasting, praying or giving alms, (2) having someone with greater honor and social standing observe your good deed, and (3) publicly announce and confer the honor you deserve. Literally, public praise in this setting conferred life, while its opposite — ridicule and shame — brought diminishment and even death. Both honor and shame hinged on social approval.

But Jesus said do your deeds in secret, so that only God could know what you had done. Thus, he calls people to be rooted not in shallow, sandy soil of social approbation, but in the depths of the unseen God. Grace, not society, gives and restores life to the full. Jesus’ seemingly benign statement actually aimed at revolutionizing society, transforming the ground in which we seek nourishment and finding life.

Similarly, stewardship involves a radical reorientation. Stewardship is rooted in a radical gratitude, founded in a total appreciation of God as the source of all we have and all that we are.

Our projects — setting goals, making progress, being successful, achieving results — are nothing more than a vain effort to be “somebody.” That is, we attempt independence from God. Being a somebody — if only in one’s own mind — is to ignore God as the giver of gifts, the giver of our being-here-at-all.

So the development of real stewardship begins with gratitude, the first step of which is recognizing that all is of God and from God. Once we are established in “right gratitude” — which is in actuality right relationship with God — the giving of our time, talent and treasure becomes spontaneous. Our ears are open to the cry of the poor and we respond. Growing toward oneness with God simultaneously awakens a sense of oneness with our sisters and brothers.

Both stewardship and traditional Lenten practices are based on radical reorientation — being transplanted from grounding ourselves in ourselves, to being rooted in the fertile soil of God’s self-giving love. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving cultivate the ground and take out the weeds. Giving our time, talent and treasure is a sharing of the harvest.

As educator, Jerome Bruner has said, “It is easier to act our way into feeling than to feel our way into action.” We need not wait for radical gratitude or divine union to come to full bloom in order to take action. Generosity may be the fruit of gratitude, but it is also the seed from which gratitude grows.

To be moved, move. Take even the simplest action. Sow in generosity and reap in gratitude.