

Daylight Saving  
Time begins  
**Sunday, March 9**



Time to  
Spring Ahead

**Pastor**  
Rev. Kerra English

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ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

401 Virginia Street  
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Ashland Presbyterian Church

## APC Connections

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### Upcoming Events

- March 2 — Out-reach meets 12:15
- March 5 — 7 PM Service for the Imposition of Ashes
- March 9 — Daylight Saving Time begins; Session meets 12:15
- March 11 — 11 AM PW Circle meets at Emily Pepper's. Lunch provided
- March 16 — Baked Potato Bar 12:15



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### Pastor's Page

*You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all.  
We are mortal, formed of the earth,  
and to earth shall we return.  
This you ordained when you created us saying,  
"You are dust and to dust you shall return."  
All of us go down to the dust;  
yet even at the grave we make our song:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
--From the Funeral Prayer of Commendation*

Friends,

It's just about time for us to "omit the Alleluias" in our singing. Lent begins with ashes – a reminder that we come from the dust, and we return to the dust. No one is exempt from this plan. And during Lent – in the more liturgical traditions – which sometimes includes Presbyterians – we quit singing Alleluias. We turn to more somber music. We get reflective. We ponder our mortality. We may even get really serious and give up chocolate (or not).

But my favorite funeral prayer (if there is such a thing) reminds me that the Alleluias do break through at even the most grief-filled times. When I meet with a family after a death has occurred, I am struck by how often those meetings include both tears and laughter. I always try to be cautious and not downplay the sadness. Some pastors, some friends even go in trying to "cheer people up," and that's not particularly helpful about 99% of the time. But there is laughter through the tears,

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**Service  
for the  
Imposition  
of Ashes**  
Ash Wednesday,  
March 5, 2014  
7:00 PM

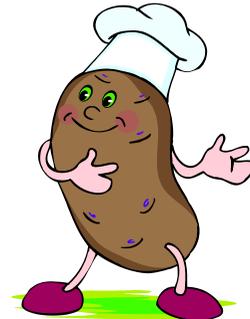
**Presbyterian Women**



The PW Circle meeting will be held **Tues., March 11 at 11 a.m.** at the home of **Emily Pepper**, 157 Arlington Square. Lunch will be provided following Bible study. Please call Emily, 752-2143, if you need directions.— Doreen Coddington

**You're invited...**

Come and enjoy fellowship with your church family on **Sunday, March 16**. We'll be featuring a Baked Potato Bar luncheon after worship that day!  
**All are welcome!**



**Christian Education**

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

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alleluias through the "How could you, O Lords!"

We can sing at the grave. We sing during Lent. But those songs are different. They touch us in ways that other choruses can't. They remind us that the music continues – even when the Alleluias get stuck in our throats.

This season of Lent, this time of reflection on our faith, remember the quiet Alleluias, the choked up Alleluias, the reluctant Alleluias, or even the angry Alleluias. We will save the "glory and awe" Alleluias for Easter morning when we can give thanks completely for new life.  
God's blessings, Pastor Kerra

**Usher and Greeter Schedule**

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
3/2/14	J. Tate	L. Allison, K. Basilio	R. Bryan, D. Coddington, R. DuPriest, L. Herring	S. Carneal		Simpson
3/09/14	L. Allison	C. Sthreshley, M. Summerson	<b>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</b>			
3/16/14	K. Basilio	R. Cole, D. Coddington				Allison
3/23/14	T. Blair	Henderson, Glazebrook, Neeley, Schutte				Cole
3/30/14	S. & M. Carneal	C. Schutte, B. Shea				
4/6/14	N. & R. Bryan	L. Herring, B. Mathes	R. Bryan, D. Coddington, R. DuPriest, L. Herring	K. Pugh		Schutte



**Happy Birthday to: March**

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

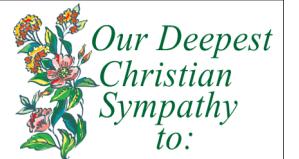
**Thank You!**

Dearest Congregation, It was so thoughtful of you to think of me during my time of sadness. Thank you so much for the prayers and sympathy cards as it brings me great comfort as I deal with the loss of my father. Warmest regards, Terry Blair



**New Address**

**Missie Wasseen**  
234 Wickham Road  
Bumpass, VA 23024



- The Blair Family in the death of Terry's father, Frank Williams on February 5.
- Clara Lumpkin in the death of her husband, Robert on February 14.

## Upcoming Event

We are partnering with the Theology Department at Randolph Macon College and St. James the Less Episcopal Church to host a weekend with Dr. Douglas Ottati. Dr. Ottati was Kerra's mentor in seminary, and he has just come out with a new book, the first in his systematic theology series on God the Creator. The date will likely be in March or April, so watch your bulletin for details!



***"His Treasure"* Women's Conference**  
 With Sheri Rose Shepherd, Award-winning Author,  
 Women of Joy Speaker, Bible Teacher and Humorist  
 Saturday, March 15, 8:30 AM—12:30 PM (Doors open at 8:00 AM)  
 Mechanicsville Christian Center, 8061 Shady Grove Rd., Mechanicsville

Sheri Rose has been speaking for over 22 years. In spite of her dyslexia and an English teacher telling her she was born to lose, she in God's strength has sold over one million books. Today she teaches weekly video Devotions on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) with over 30 million viewers a week. Her teaching was named #1 Show of the Year on Focus on the Family and her His Princess Book was awarded 2010 Non-fiction Book of the Year.

Sheri Rose will bring Biblical treasures of Truth to this one-day conference at MCC that bring beautiful breakthroughs and give a legacy perspective on life's battles. You will laugh, let go of lies, learn to walk in freedom and fall in love with your Lord all over again. **Cost: \$15.00.** Register online at [www.mccag.org/\\_forms/view/16676](http://www.mccag.org/_forms/view/16676) or call Terra Lawrence (804)306-3790.



## Have You Brought in Your Pet Pictures?

Cade and Ryleigh English are enjoying the newest member of their family, Barley, and sent in these "puppy love" photos to share with us. On our pet bulletin board, you will also find a picture of Barley with his kitty friend, Mousakka along with pictures of some of our other members best friends. We would

like to include a picture of your furry, feathered, or scaly pet on our bulletin board, too. You can send them to the church office email at [ashlandpres@aol.com](mailto:ashlandpres@aol.com) where we can print them or you can give your pictures to Karen Dorgan. Please be sure to include your name and the name of your pet on the back. Photos will be returned!



## Worship Committee News

It is with much appreciation that I take this time to thank the Worship Committee members, Kathleen Pugh, Caroline Schutte, Kathy Basilio, Suzanne Huff, Jane Glazebrook, Sheila Henderson, Karla Bloom and Pastor Kerra for their help in the multiple facets of serving our congregation during our worship services.

We have just undertaken the tasks of creating new policies and procedures for non-member weddings and funeral services held in our sanctuary. We have revised, updated, and refined the procedures on ushering, greeters, acolytes, and communion preparation. We now have procedures in place for individual and intinction services and for the communion service for the extended family. This took some hours of preparation, and I am grateful and relieved that they are all complete. Thank you ladies for the hours you have given for the work, and for your attention to detail.

In the coming months you will find in your monthly newsletters, copies of the procedures. Please read them carefully and when it is your time to offer your service to our congregation, you will find them helpful.

The committee has planned for the Easter season and the special needs that arise. Our next scheduled meeting will be September 21, 2014. If you would gladly like to serve on the Worship Committee, we would welcome you to our midst.

Thank you for Worshiping with us at Ashland Presbyterian Church.—Judy Aderhold, Chair

## Thank You for Being a Greeter



When the people of God enter our Narthex, what and who do they encounter. Yes, there are things that we can do to refine and polish the Narthex area, but today our major emphasis will be on the person or persons meeting the people. The church greeter has the responsibility to welcome God's people without judgment, or without a body language that denotes immediately to the visitor what the greeter is thinking and feeling. Use every ounce of kindness bestowed upon that greeter by the Lord God of Hosts.

For those folks who show God's presence in their lives on their faces, it is especially true that the greeter needs to know God. The greeter must be a role model for God.

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Warm hearts must abound in the greeter of God's people. People enter church every Sunday with different agendas. People come to church stressed, full of unresolved conflicts at home and possibly depressed. Joy and enthusiasm is not always present in our visitors. The effective church greeter does not react to harshness and negativism and get caught up in the problems of the visitor. They do however, meet all of the visitors with kindness, with welcoming words and handshakes and remember to ignore the problems but receive the people. This is the one true time folks are greeted as they are and not as how we wish they were. Kindness is to be shown to all of God's people, the mothers with babies and toddlers, the children, the older folks, the infirmed, the mentally ill, the sick, the pastor, the officials making decisions you may not agree with and the people who are faithful.

### The Welcome of God's People

Galatians 5:22, 23

Your presence and performance of the job you have been asked to do is, in essence, the welcome of God's people to worship. This will show forth your love of the Lord and your willingness to serve Him through your careful execution of the responsibility before you.

For the purpose of understanding why it is so important, remember that the duty you are assigned has a religious heritage. The greeters and ushers are literally "door keepers" as is noted in I Chronicles 16:38, and Nehemiah 7:1; Esther 2:21; Jeremiah 35:4; and Psalms 84:10b. Note also in Ezra 2:70; 7:7; they hold official positions.

It is noted here at Ashland Presbyterian that all church members are called to serve the respective service of ushering and greeting. Yes, it is a rotational calendar and I am sure one that does not always meet the convenience of the servant assigned. However, there are many things in life that happen to us that do not happen in a convenient time frame. A substitute can be secured by making a phone call. What we need to focus on is that it is an assignment, which is important to God. It is the Lord you are serving, as Paul would remind us, and so we must be prepared to do our very best.

It is the intention of this day, to be a day of preparation. We need to refine and polish our service. There are points that we should all do quietly and without distraction regarding our worship service.

To be a great church greeter:

- Show up for your assignment fifteen minutes before you are needed.
- Look people in the eyes, have a strong handshake, keep smiling.

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- Deodorant and mouthwash are friends of greeters.
- Remember to close the inner Narthex doors at the beginning of the service.
- Make it your job to know your church. There will always be questions that you cannot answer, but know to whom to refer the questions for an answer.
- New people will come to visit us in church. If you are the greeter make sure to use the names three times as quickly as possible (e.g. introduce them to others) if you tend to not remember names. People like to be remembered. Use an association of the name in your mind so you can remember (e.g. last name "Brown" remember it as the same as your favorite brown sweater.). Write it down for the pastor.
- Disruptions do occur. We are in a vulnerable place to have people come in to our sanctuary for multiple reasons, drugs abound, alcohol is portable, mental illness may be attracted to our doors for help, and illness is always prevalent. Do not panic, visualize your elders on your arrival and develop a plan of how you will handle a disruptive event. If a rescue squad is needed, remember that there are those who are medically trained in the congregation usually and use their help and direction.
- We never want to think about a fire, but that could be a problem. Remember not to panic, speak clearly and loudly and don't be afraid to interrupt the service. Safety must prevail.
- Remember to open the Narthex doors during the benediction.
- You are not finished with your job until you make sure the Narthex is left in an appropriate manner for the next service of greeting God's people.

Because of the size of the Narthex at APC, we need to keep it tidy, replenished with proper materials and most of all with our presence when the service of God is under way. The people entering the church who have been ignored in the world during the week provide us with an unseen opportunity. If we are consistent with our responsibility someone will be helped.

Remember that Greeters are the first expression of God to the visitor and they set the environment for the arriving congregation to hear all of God's message that day from the pastor and service. Your effectiveness starts in your heart and spills over in your approach to people. It may be your touch, your voice or your help that God needed shared with that visitor that day. You are important to God and important to APC.

The secretary when needed will call you to service. If you have any questions, please contact the Worship Committee. Thank you for serving our church!