

# APC Connections

Volume 8, Issue 6

March 2016

### Upcoming Events

- March 8—11 AM  
PW Circle
- March 13—Day-  
light Savings Time  
begins
- March 20—Palm  
Sunday Breakfast,  
9:30 AM
- March 24—7 PM  
Maundy Thursday  
Communion Ser-  
vice
- March 27— Easter  
Sunday/One Great  
Hour of Sharing  
Offering



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### Pastor's Page

Friends,

When I come into work, I usually park on the Virginia Street side and enter through the sanctuary. It's the same way that most of you come in for Sunday morning. When I do, I always feel greeted by our "Come to Jesus" window. It's the stained glass window that hangs over my head while I'm preaching. The haloed Jesus has his hand reaching out – to me, to you, to whoever comes into this sacred space.

Now the church growth experts will tell you that worship is not the best way to "do evangelism," and I get what they are trying to say by that. Worship is an "insiders" kind of thing to do. If you don't know what worship is or how to participate in it, I'm sure that it can be intimidating to just show up. Where else do people have sing-alongs, or pray the same words printed from a bulletin, or listen to someone try to explain a story from thousands of years ago as being relevant to anything going on today? One might imagine, given that window's theme and placement, that Jesus is there to invite us to worship, but to see it as that alone might be to misread its message.

I think that Jesus invites us to something beyond our worship. Jesus invites us to a way of life, a way that is difficult, and a way that will take courage for us to follow (which Melissa clearly pointed out in a recent sermon). Helping folks to see THAT "Come to Jesus" moment is evangelism, perhaps it's even more than that; it's helping people hear the call to discipleship that is but a faint whisper in our very noisy world.

Now, in order to do that, to be people that call other people to

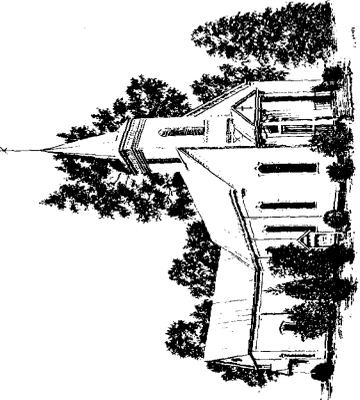
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**Pastor**  
Rev. Kerra English

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Susan Vitale

**Director of Music**  
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**Organist**  
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follow the way of life that Jesus led, we need to be reminded of that invitation often. So I like the fact that we display it boldly in front of us WHILE we worship. We don't worship so we can get into heaven or somehow please God by what we do for an hour on Sunday morning. Worship is to be our inspiration, or perhaps rather our blueprint for the rest of the week. It is our "Come to Jesus" reckoning where we confess our sins, hear the standards we try to uphold through scripture, pray in both good times and bad, are renewed by the grace found in communion, and are sent, SENT back into the world to live as Jesus commands us to live, which means, like he did, only in our own peculiarly human ways.

That window may not be an evangelistic tool – *Come to Jesus, he's here from 11 a.m. to noon, book signing after!* But it is a reminder to us who do come here to meet Jesus, to get to know who he is and discover how he spent his short life in this world. Because he's not just inviting us in, he's sending us out to be his disciples in the world today.

So come to Jesus! And when you do, remember that your hand to someone else is the very same invitation.

God's peace, Pastor Kerra



### Presbyterian Women

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, **March 8 at 11:00 a.m.** for study (Lesson 6) and lunch. Bring a sandwich. Beverages and dessert are provided. Remember to bring something for Mary's pantry.



March 20 at 9:30 a.m.  
in Lancaster Hall



**Communion Service**  
March 24 at 7 PM

### Easter Sunday March 27, 2016

11 AM Worship  
No Sunday School

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

One Great Hour of Sharing



## Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
3/06/16	F. Hughes	B. Mathes, V. Neeley	T. Blair, B. Shea, C. & F. Sthreshley	S. Carneal, J. Glazebrook	M. Miller	E. Simpson, D. Coddington
3/13/16	M. Lumpkin	T. Blair, M. Lumpkin	<b>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</b>		M. Miller	
3/20/16	B. Mathes	J. Carswell, S. Vitale				
3/27/16	S. Moncol	S. & M. Carneal, R. English, C. Phillips				
4/03/16	V. Neeley	J. Glazebrook, S. Henderson	L. Allison, R. DuPriest, B. Mathes, G. Young	S. Carneal, J. Tate	K. English	

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one of Michael's passions----riding trains. (They take a train trip/vacation every year and have traveled all over the US on the rails.) That trip also began an interest in exploring different types of tea. Michael is an adventurous cook, making his own bread, yogurt, and tea, and he enjoys testing out dishes from a variety of countries.

As newly-weds, they did extensive research on where to live after they left DC, which resulted in their move to Ashland. It, of course, has the trains, which Michael

### Happy Birthday to:

#### March

- 13 Barclay DuPriest
- 19 Cade English
- 30 Elizabeth Hargrove  
Suzanne Huff
- 31 Robert Tate



loves, but also has proximity to their family's farm near Scottsville and to the water where Michael hopes to continue pursuing his interest in sailing. For now, that interest is fed through his service as part of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Raymonds have been living on Thompson Street but will soon be moving to Doswell where they will get settled into a new home with their new BABY who is due May 20<sup>th</sup>.

With their knowledge, skills, and desire to serve, it's a sure bet that Jennifer and Michael will contribute much to our church family at Ashland Presbyterian.

## Meet New Members, Jennifer and Michael Raymond

Where does one begin to describe two people who have numerous interests, skills, and yes, quirks! They are both highly-organized, creating detailed lists for any upcoming event, big or small. They are problem-solvers, tackling sticky situations or things that need mending with relish. They are both creative, ready to try new things at the drop of the hat, including many that might make some of us a bit uneasy. Both value the liberal arts college education that solidified a commitment to life-long learning and service to others.

Meet Jennifer and Michael Raymond!

Jennifer and Michael met in college, at Davidson. A northerner, Jennifer had migrated south to get out of the cold and snow, while Michael was attending the school from which a number of his relatives graduated, one close to his Carolina roots. At their first meeting, Jennifer was trying to deal with a computer issue, came upon Michael in a friend's room, and burst into tears of frustration; Michael, while sympathetic, had a first impression of Jennifer as a "flaky blonde". Michael stuck with Jennifer in the following days, trying to assist her despite her having an impression of him as "bossy and obnoxious". What a start for a lifetime ahead!



Jennifer was born in Vermont and moved around quite a bit, growing up in Boston and upstate New York. One of four children, at age six she developed an interest in crocheting and knitting, which she admits helped to keep her busy and harness her considerable energy. That early interest led her to the creation of her current small business, Tinking Turtle. In her work, she designs patterns for crocheting and knitting, provides instruction to knitters, and does repair work on damaged knit and crocheted items.

Michael's family lived in North Carolina, a bit south of Chapel Hill. He connected early with Boy Scouts, an interest that continues today. In college he was active in the marching band and Scouts, while pursuing a degree in History and a minor in computer science. A pivotal event in those years was a twelve-week experience in which he traveled to Woods Hole, Massachusetts to study maritime history through classes and a cruise on a tall ship down the Eastern coast to the Caribbean.

Upon graduation from Davidson, Michael lived in Washington, D.C. where he did IT work for a health care advisory company and also completed requirements for a Masters degree in information systems. Jennifer moved to DC to be near him, and he encouraged her to start up her own business based on her talents and knowledge of knitting.

They married in April 2013 and took a honeymoon trip to India where they pursued

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## Lenten Lecture Series Lead by Sandi Goehring Continues through Sunday, March 13

*Why do Christian beliefs and practices vary so among churches and denominations, as well as among individual Christians?* During this year's Lenten Lecture Series we have been exploring several religious activities that we as Christians practice to express our relationship with

God and our experience with divine power, such as worship times and spaces, religious symbols and myths, sacred rituals and sacraments, scripture and sacred writings, and Christian community and diversity.

Join us at **9:30 a.m. in Lancaster Hall** as we continue to consider these activities as we have observed or experienced them, and ponder how they have been applied at various times and places, and if, we can apply them as we go forward in our faith journey, together.

Please note that there will be **NO Sunday School** on Palm Sunday, **March 20** and Easter Sunday, **March 27**. Beginning Sunday, April 3 and continuing till summer break, the topic of study will be The Trinity.

## Reminders from Outreach Committee

**First Sunday** — Don't forget food for the rails. Easter bags will go out to the needy on our list and need to be filled. In addition folks regularly stop by the church needing assistance.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** — This special Presbyterian offering is received on Easter Sunday, **March 27**. Contributions help serve people in both our community and around the world to assist in alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression.



**Circles Ashland** — About 25 folks attended the after church presentation by the local coordinator in February. Stay tuned if you wish to become involved or contact them directly if you would like to become one of the allies, a mentor who works directly with an individual who is committed to moving out of poverty. Training will be provided. Call 804-496-1212 or [CirclesAshland@gmail.com](mailto:CirclesAshland@gmail.com).

If you missed all of the informational meetings, further details can be found on the website [www.circlesashland-va.org](http://www.circlesashland-va.org). — Delores Dunn, Outreach Committee Chair