

APC Connections

Volume 6, Issue 8

May 2014

Upcoming Events

- May 3—Spring Cleanup Day 9 AM
- May 4—Session & Outreach meetings; 12:30 PM lunch & CHAT Program at Kings Chapel
- May 11—Potluck lunch to celebrate Rachel 12:15 PM
- May 13—PW's Birthday celebration 6 PM at Judy Aderhold's
- May 24—3 PM Max & Grace's wedding



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Pastor's Page

Friends,

In May and June, the adult Sunday School class will be discussing my friend Steve Willis' book, *Imagining the Small Church: Celebrating a Simpler Path*. It's a book that I have asked a lot of different people to read - in part or in full - including our student interns, the Presbytery and Seminary folks who shepherd student interns, some Session members, and my parents (who belong to a small church). Though it's rare that any book on being the church gets "everything" right, with the exception maybe of the Bible, I do like that Steve writes through the lens of appreciating what small churches have to offer.

Here's where he begins:

*"I have strained to see the small church through the eyes of the people who love her so deeply, because I think they see the small church more similarly to the way God does. What they see are the faces of people and the specifics of place. The words they use to describe what they see include **love, belonging, and faithfulness**. Why in the world would we prefer steps and success over these?"*

In our culture, we tend to celebrate big over small, complex over simple. We like a plentitude of choices, and being small carries limits on those choices. For some reason, as the PCUSA declines in numbers, too much of the blame has seemed to shift toward small churches. If only "they" would grow, we would be doing so much better, we hear. I'm not so

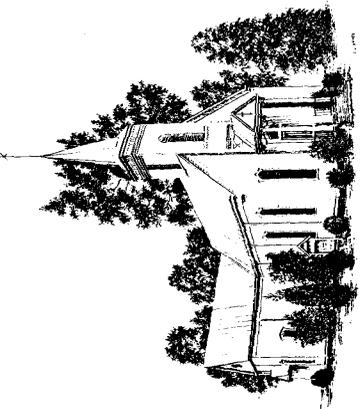
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Christian Education



Book Study for May/June in the Adult Sunday School Class—
Imagining the Small Church: Celebrating a Simpler Path by Steve Willis.

Reading schedule:

- May 4 — Preface, Chapter 1: Periphery
- May 11 — Chapters 2-3: Simplicity and Limits
- May 18 — Chapters 4-5: Creation and Belonging
- May 25: Chapter 6: Bills
- June 1 — Chapter 7: Imagination
- Remainder of June — Discussion of being a “Small Church”/Biblical models of “Church”.



Join us Saturday, **May 3** beginning at **9:00 a.m.** for our annual Spring Clean-up Day! We will be performing our usual spring tasks such as installing air conditioners, sprucing up the grounds, and cleaning as needed. So, bring your garden tools and strong backs and join the fun. — Mike Carneal

Presbyterian Women



PW will meet **Tues., May 13 at 6 p.m.** at the home of Judy Aderhold. The main course will be provided and guests are encouraged to provide a side dish.

We will be celebrating the Birthday of PW and a free will offering will be taken to benefit the ONE project for 2014. The Blue Corn Mothers Alliance in Albuquerque, NM will be the recipient. They provide a range of services to Native American women who have experienced domestic violence.

The original birthday challenge in approximately 1922 was for each woman to give 1¢ for each year of her life. The goal for 2014 is \$500,000. So, as your moderator I am suggesting 25¢ for each year.

All APC women are invited not just those involved in Circle. A service of worship and dedication will be our program for the evening. APC PW were able to give \$100 for Links of Love and \$100 to Wells for South Sudan.— Doreen Coddington

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
5/4/14	K. Hasbrouck	S. & M. Carneal	K. Basilio, B. Shea, S. & D. Moncol	S. Henderson		Neeley
5/11/14	S. Henderson	L. Allison, K. Basilio	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			Glazebrook
5/18/14	L. Herring	R. Bryan, R. Cole				Neeley
5/25/14	S. Huff	J. Glazebrook, S. Henderson, C. Schutte				Allison/Basilio
6/1/14	E. Mathes	E. Simpson, J. Tate	K. Basilio, S. & D. Moncol, B. Shea	S. Carneal		



Happy Birthday to: May

- 3 Sheila Henderson
- 11 Lynn Neeley
- 12 Carole Rodman
- 15 Alice Moore
- 16 Annette Shuff
- 17 Ellie Shea



- Dearest Friends, I am so blessed to have so many special friends in my life. Your calls inspire me and your cards uplift me as I read them over and over again. I am feeling better and hope to get down to see you all this year. Love, Ann Dexter
- Many thanks to Sherri (and Mike) Carneal for the wonderful paint job in the back hall. AND, all before Easter!
- A special shout out to “**The Best**” little choir in town. Oh, what a glorious Easter Day!

Thanks to your generous donations, we received **\$898.16** for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering!





On May 24th all of our Ashland Presbyterian family is invited to the nuptials of Maxfield Stiles Shea and Grace Marie Fetty.

Ceremony at Ashland Presbyterian Church
May 24th, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

Garden Party Reception Immediately Following Ceremony
(Please wear comfortable shoes for walking on grass)
15007 Three Oaks Court, Montpelier, VA, 23192

*Due to limited parking space at the reception, we kindly request that you carpool with your neighbors and friends from the church to the reception site. Parking can be found on the street. Please help us to reserve the driveway for our less able guests.

Maxfield and Grace are registered at Macy's and also welcome gift cards from there, Ikea, or Amazon. Please do not hesitate to contact Ellie Shea at (804) 814-2904 with questions. Information may also be found at maxfieldandgracewedding.wordpress.com.

We are blessed to be able to share this wonderful day with family and friends!

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sure that's good logic. Small and healthy churches have been the backbone of our denomination, of a lot of Christianity really, for a really long time. Mega-churches may someday go extinct like the flying buttresses of cathedrals past. But small, committed groups of Christians will go on meeting, and serving, and worshipping, and celebrating together, I think, until seventy times seven generations pass away (or in non-Biblical speak – for a REALLY LONG TIME). Small churches may even have more adaptability than larger ones even if they cling a bit more closely to the tradition. They tend to see what's important in substance, rather than getting hung up on questions of style.

Now, that doesn't mean that one can count on a brick and mortar edifice to last forever. Buildings do decay, and groups form and re-form all the time. Large churches become smaller – and if they fail to embrace their own smallness out of fear – they will be the ones dying the fastest. The growth that happens when a new person is really loved for who he or she is, rather than being another tick mark on the yearly tally, is something spectacular in my mind.

So, together, let's celebrate being the small church, the nimble church, the church where everybody knows your name, and everybody's glad you came. And together, let's look at some of the challenges of remaining a vibrant small church. It's not so easy in today's climate either. We go against the usual grain in what we value and appreciate, but it's more than OK to embrace that difference.

I'm looking forward to the conversation! Peace, Pastor Kerra



- The **Kings's Chapel** Session and members would like to invite Ashland Presbyterian Church to be their guests for **lunch at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 4**. After a time for lunch and fellowship, there will be a presentation by Paul Grainger on CHAT (Church Hill Activities and Tutoring) in Richmond. Everyone is welcome!
- **Duncan Memorial UMC** is sponsoring a showing of the documentary, **A Place at the Table**, about hunger and food insecurity in America, at **6:00 p.m.** on Sunday evening, **May 4** at the **Ashland Firehouse Theater**, 201 Duncan Street. The LA Times reported, "A Place at the Table forcefully makes the case that hunger has serious economic, social and cultural implications for the nation. . . The Sundance Film Festival is chock full of documentaries this year about the troubles besetting America . . . But *A Place at the Table* may rank among the most moving in that it tackles a seemingly straightforward, solvable problem: hunger in the United States." After the video there will be a brief discussion. Everyone is invited to join them!
- **UPSEM SPRINT LECTURES — *The Name Above All Others: Denominating Divine Providence and Presence in Biblical Traditions*, May 5—7** with speaker **S. Dean McBride**, Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Old Testament Interpretation. Dr. McBride will be addressing the emergence of the issue that has occupied western theological discourse since Hellenistic antiquity: Is the God who is self-disclosed by name in Jewish and Christian scriptures identical with the anonymous, all-encompassing "One God" of Greco-Roman philosophical theology? Worship will be led by **Agnes Winston Norfleet** (M.Div.'86), pastor of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA. The 2014 Distinguished Alumnus is **Heath Rada** (M.A.'70), former president of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. **All lectures are free and open to the public**; however, you are asked to register online at www.regonline.com/spruntlectures2014.

Come Celebrate Rachel!

It's hard to believe but Rachel's time with us, as our intern, is coming to a close. Come thank her for all her work and her contributions to Ashland Presbyterian over the past year.



May 11

Pot-Luck Luncheon following worship

There will be sign-up sheet in the narthex after Easter for food items to contribute to the celebration and fellowship.