

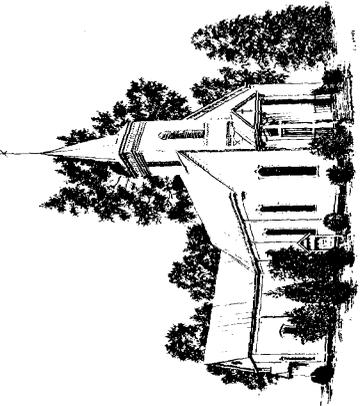
APC Connections

Pastor
Rev. Kerra English

Secretary
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

- May 3— 12:15PM
Coffee Hour Celebrating Brett
- May 12—11 AM
PW Birthday Gathering at Judy Aderhold's home.
- May 24—Day of Pentecost. Wear Red/Pentecost Offering
- May 31—12:15 PM
Employee Appreciation Potluck Luncheon



Time to Bloom!

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Pastor's Page

“I think if you tell life what it has to be, you limit it; but if you let life show you what it wants to be, it will open up doors you never knew existed.” -- from the 2001 movie, *Tortilla Soup*

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19)

Oh the lessons of the Spirit!

How often do we have that desire for control? We want to tell life what it has to be. We'd rather not see the new things that God is doing. It's taken me such a long time to let go – just a little bit. But I'm always amazed every time I do. When I try to force, or coerce, or make things happen my way, it doesn't work. And when I get too far ahead in my own plans, God has been known to give a hearty chuckle.

To let life show me what it wants to be... that's the spiritual gift.

There is joy in perceiving the Spirit's movement in the world, in who we are and especially in what we are becoming.

We are approaching the season of Pentecost – where the Spirit gets to be the star. Let the Spirit open doors for you. Let the Spirit open the windows to let in some fresh air. Let the Spirit invite you to the dance of life and lead the steps. There's no harm in following. In fact, to follow the Spirit's guidance is what it means to trust in the goodness of God.

Enjoy life as it unfolds! Trust in the Spirit to guide your way. I can almost guarantee you will be glad you did.

God's peace, Pastor Kerra

A Note from Our Intern, Brett

Ashland Friends,

As I write this I am doing so with mixed emotions. My time with you all as Seminary Intern has come to an end. The time truly has gone by quickly. I guess the old saying “time flies when you are having fun” seems very fitting. I want to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to Ashland for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Intern. Thank you for nurturing and supporting me as I have continued to discern God’s call in ministry. Your encouraging words and prayers have definitely helped me push through the challenging times.

One of the greatest gifts that this congregation can provide is your genuine care and hospitality towards “new-comers.” As Ashland seeks to host yet another Seminary Intern in the fall, I can confidently say that the new intern will be blessed to have you all nurture and support them as well. This gift that Ashland carries is an important gift to share, with each other, interns, and those within the community. For the intern, this can be a challenging and rewarding time in their ministry. Knowing that you allow a safe place to explore and try different things, truly provides interns with opportunities for discernment.

My prayer for Ashland is to continue to love and support one another, and use your exceptional gift of “welcome” to visitors and future interns. May God’s Spirit continue to guide and direct you as you seek to follow God in His plan for this church.

In Christ’s Love, Brett

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:16-17, ESV)

Coffee Hour Celebrating Seminary Intern Brett Underdown!



Please join us Sunday, **May 3** following morning worship for a Coffee Hour as we bid fond farewell and best wishes for the future to our Intern, Brett Underdown. We will be continually praying for Brett as he continues his journey of discerning God’s call in ministry.

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS	
5/03/15	S. & M. Carneal	S. & M. Carneal	R. Bryan, R. DuPriest, D. Moncol, C. Sthreshley	J. Aderhold, J. Glazebrook		Neeley	
5/10/15	R. Cole	R. Bryan	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>				Glazebrook
5/17/15	B. DuPriest	J. Glazebrook, E. Mathes					Cole
5/24/15	J. Glazebrook	S. & D. Moncol					Basilio
5/31/15	S. Henderson	C. Schutte, B. Shea				Lybrand	
6/7/15	L. Herring	E. Shea, E. Simpson	Same as 5/3/15	S. Henderson C. Schutte			



Harold E. Starke

March 31, 1918
April 6, 2015



In Loving Memory

Happy Birthday to: May



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

Thank You!



Dear Church Family,
My family and I are deeply grateful for the love and care shown to Us during our time of sorrow in the loss of David. Your messages of sympathy, hope, prayer, encouragement and offers of help of all kinds came from so many. Food for the bodies and souls fed us all in different ways.

Our hearts are full of love and thanksgiving for all of you who participated in Dave’s farewell and shared your stories. The uplifting and surrounding love stays with us still. God bless you all, Doreen



• The Cantrell Family in the death of Lawson Cantrell on April 7, 2015.

Worship Committee News

As we move into late spring and early summer, the Worship Committee members have done their duties preparing, planning and implementing the small and large jobs that brought us such a beautiful Lenten and Easter service. I want to take this opportunity to thank Kerra, Susan, Karla, Elizabeth, Kathleen, Suzanne, Sheila, Jane, Caroline, Sherry and Kathy Basilio. Without their presence, attention and constant care, a lot of details would be missing from our Worship services. Thank you each and every one.

There are so many jobs that need to be attended to on a given Sunday, that we who sit in the pews sometimes do not realize that greeting, bulletins, candles, sound systems, water for baptism if we could be so blessed, bread for trays and juice for communion, parament changes, numbers boards and special effects are just part of the work details that go into a service. Polished silver and brass, and wicks trimmed and torches prepared, children's activity bags, communion table flowers and recently palm branches and special arrangements for Easter are under our responsibility package also.

The choir blesses our presence each Sunday for forty-four Sundays a year. Does anyone know how many hours of practice and planning goes into providing just music for a Sunday? Our choir members must love what they do don't you think?

We are blessed to have modern technology at our fingertips, because we no longer have to arrive really early to turn on the heat or set the AC to run. We do need to man the sound system and open doors.

We who serve on the Worship Committee change hats constantly and are cross trained so to speak to pick up all kinds of needed moments during the service.

If you would like to help in areas of communion cleanup, acolyte duties, schedule preparation, manning the sound system, and any numerous other duties, but do not wish to be a committee member, please contact us. We need your helping hands. We recently said goodbye to our most dedicated sound system foreman, David Coddington. We miss you David for more reasons than the sound system. We need helping hands here in a big way, won't you give it some thought? The system is not difficult to manage, men and women please step up and take on this opportunity. We can always train.

This has been a productive year and a busy year for the members of the Worship Committee. We have in place now, policies for acolytes, ushering, greeting, communion servers, communion prep and cleanup, funerals and weddings. These took hours of review and implementation and I am grateful for these folks with whom I serve. We did it and we did it well.

I am going to let them rest a little while without a scheduled Committee meeting. I bet all goes well. May God Bless and Keep Each of Us. — Judy Aderhold, Worship Chairman



Presbyterian Women Birthday Gathering

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, **May 12 at 11:00 a.m.** for their Birthday Gathering at the home of Judy Aderhold for study (Lesson 8) and a covered dish lunch. The 2015 Birthday Offering will be received at the meeting. This year's recipients are the Bethesda Christian Community Center in Barranquilla, Colombia who's mission is to promote social change in the lives of the women and children fleeing brutality related to the drug trade, and The Community of St. Therese of Lisieux in Memphis, Tennessee which is working to empower victims of sexual human trafficking, prostitution and addiction. Also, remember to bring an item for Mary's pantry!



Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 24

We will receive the Pentecost Offering during worship on Sunday, **May 24**. Your gift helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people through Young Adult Volunteer opportunities in communities around the world, Ministries with Youth reinforcing faith and values at a critical age, Advocacy and Education for Children, and by addressing the needs of at-risk children. Forty percent of the offering can be retained by our congregation to make an impact in the lives of young people within our community.

Save the Date!

Employee Appreciation Luncheon Sunday, May 31

Join us for a potluck luncheon in appreciation of all our hardworking employees! Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex sometime in early May.



Adult Sunday School Class Schedule

May 3 & 10: *The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You* by John Ortberg.

May 17 & 24: *Division and Reunion: a Reflection on American Presbyterianism*, a documentary produced by Union Presbyterian Seminary, and narrated by lifelong Presbyterian Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

May 31, June 7 & 14: TBD; **June 21 — Sept. 6:** Summer Break.