

APC Connections

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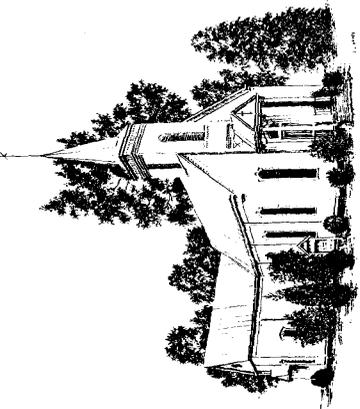
May 2017

Pastor
Rev. Kerra English

Admin. Assistant
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

Pastor's Page

Upcoming Events

- May 7— Session, 12:15 PM
- May 8-10—Sprunt Lectures at UP-Seminary
- May 9—11 AM PW Circle meets at Judy Aderhold's
- May 20—9 AM Clean-up Day
- June 4—Day of Pentecost/ Pentecost Offering



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“You cannot *volunteer* at your own church, in the same way you cannot babysit your own kid. Because the church belongs to you in the same way your family does. It’s your own place, your own people. So of course you help take care of it. Of course you do yard work and make coffee and teach the kids and sing in the choir and whatever all else it is you do for the home and the people that you love.” (Erin Wathen, *Irreverin*)

Friends,
Erin Wathen, who blogs under the title “Irreverin” makes a good point about how we tend to use the word volunteer. Volunteering is part of the secular culture, the corporate culture even, that says that you can spend whatever time you are willing to give for an organization you care about and then move on. Typically, there’s no real skin in the game. If you don’t volunteer, someone else probably will, and the work will get done without you. At least that’s how I feel about the multitude of things I get asked to do as a parent at Ryleigh’s Elementary School. I occasionally bring water bottles or sign up to show up at a school event – but I can just as easily say “no” – and do so often! That’s volunteering. It makes me feel good when I participate, most of the time, but it’s really based on my own time and my own whims to do so.

Some significantly larger churches may be able to get away with the language of volunteerism. Certainly, they have no other choice but to have more complex systems for getting people in-

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volved by sheer volume alone. But I dare say that it invites a more casual attitude about how and when a person participates. Does the participant simply feel an internal reward for a job well done, or does he or she feel part of the greater whole? Needed? Essential to the ministry of the church? I'm not so sure.

In our congregation here at Ashland, what you do goes way beyond volunteering. Sure you do jobs – yard work, making coffee, spending time with the kids, singing in the choir, coordinating our mission efforts – but I dare say that it's probably more like the work you do for family than checking some volunteer box on a sign-up sheet. You probably don't "volunteer" to make dinner at home. You probably don't "volunteer" to clean out the garage. But you do those things in service to the other people who share your home. It is the loving grunt work of living with other people under a social contract of care. In the church, perhaps we would do better to call it more honestly what it is – a service, a ministry, a joyful obedience (hopefully) to sharing in the work of ushering in God's kingdom.

We, together, are responsible for this place and its people. And you have shown me how deeply you carry out such a responsibility. We have been living through a remodeling – and if you've ever done that at home – I can tell you how amazed I am at how well that's happening here! We bring food and make phone calls and listen. We deepen our faith as we hold responsibility side by side in everything from ringing the bell to serving on Session, from changing out paraments to filling food bags for folks in our community. All, and I mean ALL these tasks are part of the work it takes to be in ministry together. The church is the church because of the loving care we show for one another and for this place. And when I talk about caring for this place, I don't just mean "keeping up the building" I mean every way that we demonstrate hospitality both inside the building and out.

Rev. Wathen ended her article with these words that I will gladly share with you: "... Whatever we do, we should remember that we don't just belong to the church—it belongs to us."

Well done, good and faithful servants and ministers of Ashland Presbyterian Church. You do so many, many tasks unnoticed, and without much thanks or praise, because these are your people, and you also know that these are God's people, and the love you have for each other shows.

Peace, Pastor Kerra



Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
5/07/17	R. Cole	R. Bryan, S. Vitale	R. Bryan	C. Schutte	J. Raymond	Neeley
5/14/17	J. Glazebrook	K. Basilio, E. Simpson				Glazebrook
5/21/17	K. Hasbrouck	T. Blair, L. Campbell	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			Basilio
5/28/17	S. Henderson	R. English, V. Neeley, C. Phillips, M. Summer-son				Cole
6/4/17	L. Herring	S. & M. Carneal	D. Coddington	S. Huff		Dorgan



Happy Birthday to: May

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



In Loving Memory

John W. Carswell

September 10, 1934

March 24, 2017

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Dear Friends, It was wonderful to be with my church family on Palm Sunday. I missed you all so much but your cards and visits kept me going through those long months. I pray that I will be with you frequently in the future. You're always welcome to come to my home. I love having visitors. Just call first and the ice tea will be on the porch. Peace and Love, Carole Rodman

Pentecost Sunday and Offering, June 4, 2017



On Pentecost Sunday, we will receive the Pentecost Offering for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults. Forty percent of the offering received is kept by APC. Last year, our portion was used to help send at risk youth to camp through the Patrick Henry YMCA. **Please give generously!**

Saturday, May 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Rain date: Saturday, May 27

Put on your work clothes and come on out to help us spruce up inside and out!



SPRUNT LECTURES



Upcoming Event at UPSem

Cross-Cultural Friendship and Christian Mission: History and Practices

Dana L. Robert, *Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission, Director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission, Boston University*

A leading historian of world Christianity and mission and the 2016-2017 Henry Luce III Fellow in Theology, Robert is currently researching the subject of transnational friendships and fellowship in the making of worldwide Christianity — a timely topic for her upcoming lectures as well as for our current international climate.

Robert received her B.A. in history from Louisiana State University, and her M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Yale University. Her books include "American Women in Mission: A Social History of their Thought and Practice" (Mercer, 1997), "A. T. Pierson and the Evangelism of the World" (Eerdmans, 2003), and "Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion" (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009, now in 9th printing).

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PREACHER: Otis Moss III, *Senior Pastor, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL*

The Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III dynamically and unapologetically calls attention to the problems of mass incarceration, environmental justice, and economic inequality. Part of a new generation of ministers committed to preaching a prophetic message of love and justice, he believes they are inseparable companions that form the foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A graduate of Morehouse College, Yale Divinity School, and Chicago Theological Seminary, Moss' recent book, "Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of Despair," is based on the Lyman Beecher Lectures he presented at Yale in 2014.

It promises to be a great three days in Richmond! Please [register](#) today!

All lectures are free and open to the public!

Adult Sunday School

On **May 7**, we will begin a new study *The Essential Presbyterian* which will run **through June 11**. Topics are:

- * **May 7** — Jesus Christ . . . Head of the Church and What We Hold in Common with All Christians.
- * **May 14** — What We Hold in Common with Other Protestants and Drama of God Unfolding
- * **May 21** — Election
- * **May 28** — Covenant Life
- * **June 4** — Stewardship
- * **June 11** — Recognition of the Human Tendency

Starting June 18, we will be out for summer break!

NEWS FLASH: The Christian Education Committee is planning now for increasing **educational opportunities for children in the fall of 2017**. If you are interested in teaching Bible stories, helping kids learn music or create art, or have other ideas that might benefit our groupings of kids (elementary and pre-school), please speak to Roger Cole, Karen Hasbrouck or Pastor Kerra.

Presbyterian Women

PW Circle's Birthday Gathering will be held Tuesday, **May 9 at 11:00 a.m.** at the home of Judy Aderhold. Please read Lesson 9, *Interpretations*. Lunch is covered dish. Dessert and beverages will be provided! The Birthday Offering which originally began in 1922 will be received. Monies collected will go to The Navajo Water Project in New Mexico, The Family Justice Center in North Carolina, and First Hand Aid, a rural clinic in Cuba. —Doreen Coddington



Synod PW Summer Gathering

June 15—18 at Massanetta

Join women from around the Synod as you are inspired through keynote, worship and Bible instruction. Enjoy times for fellowship, recreation and Sabbath on Massanetta's beautiful campus. The Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Denise Anderson, Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Bible Study Leader will be Rev. Lynn Miller, a Presbyterian minister and a practicing artist. Visit their website, www.pwsynodmidatlantic.org for more information!