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The Office will be open
 regular hours on Tuesday
 and Wednesday,
 November 24, 25. We will
 be closed Thanksgiving Day.

Pastor
 Rev. Kerri English

Secretary
 Susan Vitale

Director of Music
 Karla Bloom

Organist
 Elizabeth Hargrove

ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

401 Virginia Street
 Ashland, VA 23005

APC Connections

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 8—Stewardship packets go out
- Nov. 10—PW Circle 11 AM
- Nov. 12—December newsletter articles due
- Nov. 13, 14—Ash Grove Retreat
- Nov. 22—Stewardship Dedication Sunday/Soup & Salad Luncheon; OCC shoebox deadline
- Nov. 23—7 PM Interfaith Service at R-MC
- Nov. 26—12:00 to 3 PM Free Community Dinner at First Baptist Ashland; Office closed

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Pastor's Page — *Trust in the Lord.*

Friends,

Trust in the Lord. I'm sure someone has said that to you before! Going into surgery? *Trust in the Lord.* Feeling a pinch in your budget? *Trust in the Lord.* Had a disagreement with a friend? *Trust in the Lord.* Some folks use that phrase like a band-aid to make any situation seem a little bit better. What can be meant by it is, "Trust in the Lord -- so I don't have to deal with your anxiety." Some go even farther than that and refuse medical treatment – because they trust God to provide healing. Or they give to the church rather than paying the electric bill – because some pastor told them to trust planting the seed of prosperity by giving to the church.

Even though I want to put my ultimate trust in God, my suspicion goes up when I see this line embellished onto an inspirational greeting card or written into the "seven steps for putting your trust in God completely." It starts to sound like a sales pitch then, and I ain't buying!

However, this idea of trusting God comes up a lot in scripture, and when that happens, I do try to pay attention. When I see trust come up in the Bible though, it looks a lot more like courage than it looks like hiding out from one's own health or economic reality. Moses had to trust God to lead the people out of slavery. Ruth trusted in God, and her mother-in-law, to help her build a better life. Mary Magdalene trusted Jesus as her friend. And the rich young ruler that Jesus sent away couldn't trust in God – but only in his wealth. Trust can be life-giving, but only if you put your trust in trustworthy things.

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Is God to be trusted? And if so, with what? Those are questions I would like to raise during our season of Stewardship this November. How do we give with trust? How do we go with trust? How do we learn how to trust God more – no steps involved?

Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart,” and with that I agree. But then it goes on to say, “And do not rely on your own insight,” which makes me wonder a bit where this wisdom is going. Trust – what does it mean to you? And is your heart ready for it?

God’s Peace, Pastor Kerra



Stewardship — Giving and Going With Trust

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Prov. 3:5)

On **November 8**, Melissa Miller is preaching, “Giving with Trust” and Stewardship packets will be handed out. On **November 15**, Kerra is preaching, “Going with Trust”. Then on **November 22**, Stewardship Dedication Sunday, return your packet and join us at a Soup, Salad and Bread Luncheon as we give thanks to God for the gifts he has given to each of us so that we may freely share those gifts to benefit God’s kingdom.



Pastor Kerra will be leading adult Sunday School on **November 8 and 15**, facilitating a conversation on the Spirituality of Darkness (her topic of study for the January Spiritual Guidance class at Richmond Hill). If you have ideas, questions, or spiritual conundrums that you would like her to address, please let her know what you would like her to cover in those two sessions. Topics are *What is Hiding in the Dark?* and *Praying in the Dark*”.

Presbyterian Women

PW Circle meets Tuesday, Nov. **10 at 11:00 a.m.** in Lancaster Hall for study (Lesson 3) and lunch.



It’s Shoebox Time, Again!

Every gift-filled shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship—transforming the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ! Bring your box to church no later than **November 22**. Brochures are in the narthex!

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
11/01/15	B. Shea	S. & D. Moncol	K. Basilio, T. Blair, S. Carneal, L.	K. Pugh, J. Tate	L. Herring	
11/08/15	E. Simpson	R. Cole			K. English	K. Dorgan
11/15/15	C. Sthresley	L. Allison, J. Glazebrook	REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.			
11/22/15	F. Sthresley	S. & M. Carneal			M. Miller	Coles
11/29/15	M. Summerson	M. Summerson, J. Tate				
12/06/15	J. Tate	J. Glazebrook, S. Henderson	L. Herring, E. Mathes, C. Schutte, B. Shea	J. Glazebrook, K. Basilio	M. Miller	



Happy Birthday to: November

- 1 Susan Vitale
- 17 Kathleen Pugh
- 21 Linda Allison
- 24 Delores Dunn
- 29 Vicki Neeley

Dear friends,
I want to thank all those who aided in the planting of a Crepe Myrtle in the Prayer Garden area. This tree was given and planted in memory of my late husband David Hughes.—Frances Hughes



R-MC is hosting a campus Interfaith service on **November 23 at 7 PM** in the Sun Trust Theater in Brock Commons. The service will include prayers and readings from a number of traditions. The Ashland community is welcome!

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events

The season changes so quickly and it is time for dates, and bits and pieces of information for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. Please note the following dates of important events.

Thanksgiving is on the way and we all must pause to remember all we are thankful for this year. On **November 22nd**, we will have our Thanksgiving service and it is also Stewardship Sunday. So plan to join us for service and lunch.

Advent begins on **November 29th**. Poinsettias will grace the pulpit area again this season. Please watch for the devotional booklets to appear in the Narthex for you to take home for reflection during the Advent season.



Deck the Halls

The Sanctuary will be decorated on Saturday, **December 6th**, the Worship Committee, with the help of all those willing to transform the sanctuary with the hanging of the greens, will begin work at 10am.

We have children worshipping with us and it is a blessing. We are charged with bringing God's Word to them. One of the ways we can bring them into the midst is to keep them active and interested. So you will notice that Cade will be acolyte on 4th Sundays from time to time and that Carly and Ryleigh will receive the 5 cents a meal offering on 4th Sundays. Please help us let them know how valuable they are to our congregation.

Our choir has been at work and our director dutifully bringing us new pieces of music to practice so we will be ready for the program on **December 20th**. It is a meaningful time of wonderful music for those in the loft and for those in the pews.



The Christmas Eve service will be enjoyed and enlightened with candle light and the time will be posted during Advent Season.

As you come and go and use the steps to the Chancel pulpit area, please do so by using the steps and hand rail on each side. We have had several falls over time on these steps and we must opt for safety always.

My special thank you goes out to Kathleen Pugh, Sheila Henderson, Kathy Basilio, Jane Glazebrook, Suzanne Huff, Caroline Schutte, Karla Bloom, and Kerra English. This is a busy committee and I am quite blessed to serve with these folks.

Please put **January 3rd** on your calendar as a day you could be most helpful when we take the decorations down and prepare for the winter time. We would greatly appreciate the help.

May God Bless and keep each and every one this season. — Judy Aderhold



Ash Grove Women's Retreat at Richmond Hill

November 13-14, 2015

Keynote Speaker: Mimi Weaver

Topic: Changing Seasons: Making Transitions with Grace

If you want to register **AFTER** the deadline, please see Pastor Kerra for information.

Volunteers Needed!

If you would like to volunteer to provide food for the workers at the St. James the Less Free Clinic, please contact Ginger Young. Our night will be **Wednesday, November 18; drop off** at St. James **before 5:30 P.M.** They need finger food for 20: sandwiches, pizza, fried chicken, fruit or vegetable trays, cookies.

Thanks for your help!



Holiday Food Baskets

The holidays are drawing near! Soon we at Ashland Presbyterian will be providing Thanksgiving and Christmas food bags for many needy local recipients. Let's try to provide some of the fixin's for holiday meals: canned fruit and vegetables; potato, stuffing and biscuit mixes; gravy; cranberry sauce; and desserts. Of course, **any** food donations are welcomed! Basics such as tuna, soup, canned meat, peanut butter, oatmeal, etc. are always needed! Our little church will definitely brighten the holidays for some of our neighbors. Again, THANK YOU! For your continuing generosity!

8th Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner Thursday, November 26, Noon — 3:00 PM First Baptist Ashland



First Baptist Church Ashland invites folks to join them to eat a fresh, hot cooked meal with great fellowship. Please call Helen or Price at 798-8988 to reserve your seat. Limited transportation is available within Ashland Town limits. Also, if you would like to help, there are several opportunities for volunteers.