

APC Connections

Volume 9, Issue 2

October 2016

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 9—Session 12:15 PM
- Oct. 11—11 AM PW Circle
- Oct. 23—12:15 PM 4th Sunday Fellowship and Silent Auction
- Oct. 29—9 AM Fall Cleanup Day; Rain date: Nov. 5
- Nov. 6—Daylight Savings Time Ends; All Saint's Day Observance



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Pastor's Page: A Year with Evangelism: Article #8—Building for God

Friends,

Those Old Testament stories remind us that building a house for God can be problematic. David yearns to build God a house after years of moving the Ark of the Covenant from tent to tent. His son Solomon eventually builds the Temple in Jerusalem. It gets destroyed by the Babylonians. Centuries later, they are authorized to rebuild by Cyrus the Great according to the book of Ezra. But then the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 C.E. Jesus even compares his crucifixion to the destruction of the temple, a temple that God will rebuild in three days. And now, on that piece of prime Jerusalem real estate, sits the Dome of the Rock – a structure built to honor Allah.

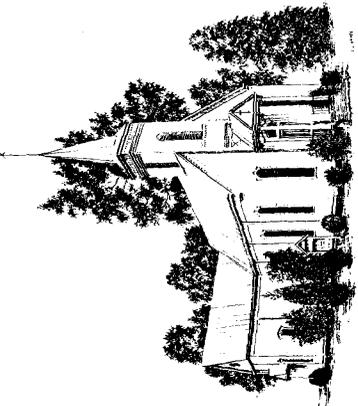
There's not a lot of temple-building going on these days, and boastful medieval Cathedrals built by feudal labor have given way to auditoriums funded by large donations that come equipped with stage lighting and a coffee shop. Even by today's standards, our humble church buildings are modest in comparison. The Presbyterians I've known are not usually your big spenders when it comes to creating sacred space. When I was at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center this summer, in the heat of July, I was reminded of that as I sat sweating on wooden folding chairs in their open air auditorium. Our own quaint historical white clapboard church is the epitome of church simplicity; Lancaster Hall, an example of practical functionality. We were part of the simplicity movement before it was cool!

Generations of Ashland's Presbyterians before us built a

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Pastor Rev. Kerri English	Admin. Assistant Susan Vitale	Director of Music Karla Bloom	Organist Elizabeth Hargrove
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Ash Grove Women's Retreat
November 11-12, 2016
at Richmond Hill
Spiritual Practices Informed By God's
Creation
 Guest Speaker Kristen Saacke Blunk
 Registration is now open. We have 11
 overnight spots left!
 Reserve yours soon!



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church, and then added classrooms and a large meeting space. Why did they do that? Was it because they thought God would live here? Well, not in the same way David urged his son Solomon to build a temple to house God. Back then, they really did have “God in a box” because it was believed that God was traveling with them encased in the Ark of the Covenant. Wow – that story, and the temple stories seem rather strange to us now. But the question remains, why build a church? Is worship really limited to only what happens in a particular place that looks a particular way?

I think they built these buildings, that they constructed a church, in order to invest in community, to say that it was important to gather to worship, and eat, and study, and pray, and sing together. These buildings have lived up to that potential. The Body of Christ comes alive here when we offer ourselves to God, and as such the presence of God can be felt within these walls. What is problematic is when we begin to imagine, like David, that we too have God in a box. God only lives here at Ashland Presbyterian Church inasmuch as God lives in the whole world.

The Body of Christ comes alive here when we offer ourselves to God, and as such the presence of God can be felt within these walls.

Any space can truly be sacred space. And yet, we want to create a space that helps us live into that reality, that helps us understand that God is present with us.

To do that, every once in awhile, we have to look around and see what the needs of the community really are. How are we supporting parents with young children? Are the young brides and grooms who are attracted by the sanctuary’s simplicity, strengthened by the hospitality we show them here? Are the outside groups who use our facilities comfortable here? Is our space safe? Is it beautiful? Is it the face we want to show to the world on the corner of Virginia and Myrtle Streets?

Some might say that church buildings are more an encumbrance than a help. They cost a lot to maintain and keep up, sometimes a good chunk of a church’s annual budget. They don’t “do” much in terms of proclaiming the gospel. What was a good location in 1871 may or may not be the best location now. And so it goes. Isn’t a church really just people? Yes... But...

I do think our church stands as a witness to the faithful commitments of those who have gone before us, and I believe it continues to profess a dedication to proclaiming the gospel in the world silently and stealthily whether we “say” anything about it or not. The cross, the steeple, the fact as Harold Starke always told me that he liked that

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Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
10/02/16	R. Bryan	S. Henderson	S. & D. Moncol, C. Schutte	K. Basilio, C. Schutte		
10/09/16	S. Carneal	K. Basilio, E. Mathes			A. Hill	DuPriest
10/16/16	L. Campbell	V. Neeley, C. Sthreshley	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			Jones/Sthreshley
10/23/16	J. Carswell	R. English, C. Phillips, C. Schutte, M. Summerson			A. Hill	
10/30/16	R. Cole	S. & M. Carneal				Schutte
11/06/16	J. Glazebrook	J. Carswell, J. Tate	K. & R. Cole, E. Simpson, J. Tate	J. Aderhold, K. Pugh		Dorgan



Happy Birthday to: October

- 3 Jane Glazebrook
- 13 Larry Hasbrouck
- 14 Charles Sthreshley
- 17 Karen Hasbrouck
- 27 Mark Paiser
- 29 Caroline Schutte

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our church “looks like a church,” reminds me that it stands as a presence in this community to remind people of God’s love.

God is present here. These walls, as they say at Richmond Hill, are soaked with prayer and the conversations that have happened over the many years. Let us dedicate new paint, and air conditioning, and changing tables, and bathroom vanities all to the glory of God.

Peace, Pastor Kerra



Mark Your Calendars
Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sunday, November 6!

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net, globe stand, pictures, etc. Items that are of historical value to the church are not included. Unsold items will be taken to consignment or donated to a charity.

“Fourth Sunday Fellowship” refreshments will be served in Lancaster Hall during the auction.

Rules of the Silent Auction are simple:

- ◆ Minimum starting bids will be required for some items;
- ◆ Bids must be in dollar increments only (no cents);
- ◆ Cash or check payment to APC is required before removing item from church property.

Please join us as we clean out our nooks and crannies, and make this a Super Silent Auction!!



Our fall cleanup day will be Saturday, **October 29 at 9 a.m.** We will be removing air conditioners, and cleaning the grounds and memorial garden area. Any other general fall cleaning that is needed will also be done at this time. So, please bring your yard tools and give us a much needed hand! **Rain date:** Saturday, November 5 at 9 a.m.



All Saint's Day Observance

In observance of All Saint's Day which is Tuesday, November 1, we will conclude our **November 6** morning worship in the Memorial Garden weather permitting.



It's Shoebox Time, Again!

A small shoebox can teach a child about the love of God, lead him or her to faith in Christ, inspire pastors, and plant new churches. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out is eternal. Be a part of changing lives through the power of a simple gift. Information on how to pack a shoebox is in the narthex.

National Collection Week: November 14 — 21.



Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class began a new ten week study called *Loving Jesus* which is being taught by Pastor Kerra and Seminary Intern Amanda Hill. The topic schedule is as follows:

- ◆ Oct. 2: Chapter 3, Spiritual Understanding
- ◆ Oct. 9: Chapters 4-5, Spiritual Relationships
- ◆ Oct. 16: Chapter 6, Spiritual Life
- ◆ Oct. 23: Chapters 7-9, Spiritual Hope
- ◆ Oct. 30: Chapters 10-12, Spiritual Growth
- ◆ Nov. 6: Chapter 13, Spiritual Truth
- ◆ Nov. 13: Chapters 14-17, Spiritual Devotion
- ◆ Nov. 20: Chapters 18-19, Spiritual Joy

The class meets Sunday mornings at **9:30 a.m.** in Lancaster Hall. You don't have to read the chapters to come. Please join us!

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet **Tuesday, October 11 at 11 a.m.** in Lancaster Hall. In preparation for this month's study, you are asked to please read the entire Gospel of Matthew.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages are provided!



Silent Auction

We're downsizing! Included in the building improvements underway here at Ashland Presbyterian Church is the removal of unused or outdated furnishing and other odds and ends. Just like at home, “things” end up in every nook and cranny and sometimes it just needs to go!

To make the downsizing fun and to raise funds for upcoming facility improvements, Session will be holding a **Silent Auction on Sunday, October 23, after worship in Lancaster Hall.** Featured items include miscellaneous tables and cupboards, a barrister bookcase, miscellaneous chairs (including the old pulpit chairs), lamps, file cabi-

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