

# APC Connections

Volume 5, Issue 8

June/July 2013

### Upcoming Events

- June 2 — Outreach meets after worship
- June 4-5 — CARITAS
- June 9 — Congregational Care meets after worship
- June 11 — PW meets at 11 AM at Doreen's for lunch & study
- June 11 — Session meets 5 PM
- June 23 — 10 AM Summer Worship Hour begins



### Inside this issue:

PW Circle	2
Congregational Care	4
Ushers/Greeters Birthdays	5

### Pastor's Page

Dear Friends,

As you may have already heard, we will be hosting seminary interns both in the summer (Charles Freeman) and during the 2013-2014 academic year (Rachel Jenkins). So I ask you to remember the part of our mission statement that says we will "help everyone, including those already committed, to grow spiritually through Bible study, worship, outreach, and service in the community and in the world." Whether you have explicitly said so or not, through the discernment of your mission to be a spiritually challenging church AND your willingness to say "yes" to welcoming seminary students to learn here, you are now what I would call a "teaching congregation."

Therefore... Here are my top ten nuggets of wisdom for becoming an excellent Teaching Congregation:

- 1) Pray for the student's supervisor (that's me) to be open and courageous in sharing both my successes and my failures with our students so they can learn from the life of a "real" pastor, not a pretend perfect one.
- 2) Pray for Charles and Rachel to be open and courageous in sharing their hopes and dreams with us so we can all be helpful spiritual guides along their journey.
- 3) Pray for God's Spirit to be visible, active, and a little bit wild in bringing us all together for ministry. Hopefully we'll get to try some things we haven't tried before!!! We might even like those new things!
- 4) Encourage our students' self confidence with constructive complements. When you tell them that you liked something they did, explain to them exactly what it was you liked

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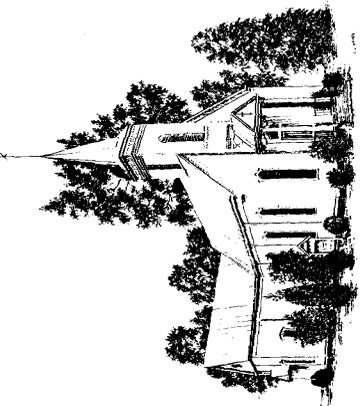
**Tem. Supply Pastor**  
Rev. Kerri English

**Secretary**  
Susan Vitale

**Director of Music**  
Karla Bloom

**Organist**  
Elizabeth Hargrove

**Reminder!**  
**CARITAS**  
June 4—5, 2013



804-798-5543  
email: ashlandpres@aol.com

**ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
401 Virginia Street  
Ashland, VA 23005

## Meet Our New Intern, Charles Freeman

Greetings. Though I hope we'll meet in person over the course of the summer, it seemed like a good idea to provide a small introduction with some back story, a little explanation of how I came to be here with you this summer.

I'm a native of Georgia. After a couple of years of college I decided to be a music major, and took degrees in music education and church music before finally getting a Ph.D. in music history at Florida State University. I spent a number of very happy years teaching on the university level, including at Florida State, Texas Tech, and Kansas, where I lived from 2007 until 2011 and quite happily hoped to live out my years teaching and researching. God laughed.

I made a decision, not without a great deal of struggle, to leave behind that career and pursue studies at Union Presbyterian Seminary in view of a call to pastoral ministry. I've been here since July 2011, getting acquainted with the greater Richmond area and working through such classes like church history, both testaments, and the ever-challenging Biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew. While in some ways the future is no clearer than it was when I started this unexpected journey, that sense of call is growing stronger and more compelling as the journey continues.

I look forward to spending these weeks with you this summer. As someone with no experience with Ashland, there will be things you love about your town and your church I will need to learn. Maybe if we're lucky, though, my unaccustomed eyes might see things that may be helpful or compelling about Ashland Presbyterian Church as this part of the body of Christ looks forward to its future in a changing town.

May God's grace, Christ's love, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us as we go, as I sojourn with you for a season.—Charles



### Presbyterian Women

The PW Circle will meet **Tuesday, June 11 at 11 AM** at the home of Doreen Coddington for study and lunch. We will be studying Lesson 9 in Dispatches to God's Household. Meet at the church by 10:45 to car-pool or call Doreen for directions.—Doreen Coddington

### Coming soon – the Ashland Presbyterian Church Website!

Watch your bulletin for more information or just look for it soon at:  
[www.ashlandpresbyterian.org](http://www.ashlandpresbyterian.org).

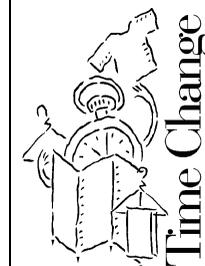
## Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
6/2/13	S. & D. Moncol	R. Cole, C. Schutte	R. DuPriest, S. Moncol, E. Simpson, J. Tate	Pugh	B. Mathes	Carneal
6/9/13	M. Miller	S. & M. Carneal	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>		R. Cole	Schutte
6/16/13	V. Neeley	R. Bryan, Dave Coddington			C. Freeman	Young
6/23/13	E. Pepper	K. Dorgan, V. Neeley, J. Tate, G. Young			K. English	Glazebrook
6/30/13	K. Pugh	L. Allison, K. Pugh			C. Freeman	
7/07/13	D. & P. Dunn	D. & P. Dunn	<b>NO COMMUNION</b>			
7/14/13	K. Cole	K. & R. Cole			C. Freeman	
7/21/13	K. Dorgan	S. & D. Moncol				



### Happy Birthday to:

June	July
4 June Lybrand	7 Sherri Carneal
29 Charlie Blair	16 Betty Carswell
Karla Bloom	20 Peter Ritchie
	22 Nita Bryan
	27 Emily Pepper



### 10 AM Summer Worship Hour

Begins

**Sunday, June 23**

We will resume our regular schedule on Rally Day Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013 with Sunday School at 9:30 AM and Worship at 11 AM. There will be no Sunday School or choir practice during the summer.



## YOU GO, FLO!

Saturday, April 13 was Flo Sthreshley's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday and she celebrated it enthusiastically. Her family took her out to lunch and they then all attended a lecture on African Art at Ashland's Gallery Flux. To top things off, they finished with a historic tour of Ashland's Woodland Cemetery. Flo was transported in fine style on her son Charles' motorcycle.

## We will care deeply for those whom we identify as belonging to our family of faith.



We have stated this as one of our church's priorities.  
Now how do we put it into action?



At the April meeting of the Ashland Presbyterian Church session, we began to consider how our current committee structure works to support our three stated priorities. In response to the first priority--- caring for those in our family of faith--- a new committee, the Congregational Care committee, was approved. This committee replaces the former Communications committee.

What will this committee do? Among its responsibilities will be care of shut-ins and those dealing with health issues, maintaining contact with our "drift-aways" (those who are members but inactive), and communicating information about congregational needs through the newsletter, phone tree, Facebook page, and website.

How will these things happen? That's where you come in! **We need members** for this new committee! Can you help with one small piece of the work ahead? Can you commit to lending your ideas and your voice to decisions concerning care of our own?

Please consider joining with others on **Sunday June 9**, after the worship service for an initial meeting to begin planning for the work ahead. A light lunch will be provided. If you're not sure you want to join the committee, please attend anyway to share your ideas. If you're interested in helping but cannot attend on June 9, please let me know.—Karen Dorgan

*We can do no great things, only small things with great love.*  
~Mother Teresa

*(Continued from page 1)*

and why. This will help them more than just simple praise.

5) Encourage students' learning with constructive criticism. If you have a concern to share, share it in love and with understanding that he or she probably made a very honest mistake because of being "new." If you have something you are unsure about sharing directly, talk to the student's supervisor (me), or one of the student's mentors first to check it out. Mentors will be selected for both Charles and Rachel so they have a support team while they are learning with us.

6) Be welcoming to the "stranger" among us. Remind them of your name, more than once. Give them good introductions to your other friends at church or in the community. Invite them to join you for coffee or lunch. Include spouses or significant others when it seems like a good time to do so. Find out what interests them.

7) Share your faith in God's great love for this community with them. Tell them the history. Tell them about your love for one another. Tell them how you understand God to be at work in this particular church at this particular time. They'll need to be able to see and articulate how this story intersects with God's story, so that one day they can do that in and with the churches they will serve as Pastor.

8) Honor their gifts and strengths for who they are, and for who God is calling them to be.

9) Respect their time limitations. It will take them longer than it takes me to write a sermon, prepare a lesson, or to organize an event. They have seminary requirements related to their work with us as well, so a 40 hour week or a 10 hour week may not translate to an equivalent number of face-time hours with us.

10) Remember that the student and I will be processing the multitude of experiences they will have here. They cannot "promise" to keep your secrets. As much as you may want to confide in them how awful the current pastor can be about X, I may end up hearing about it! I don't expect that to be the case here, and yet, let it be a reminder that we will share sensitive information from time to time and will talk about how to do so in appropriate ways.

Thank you for reaching out to pastoral students in this way. I'm excited about being a supervisor. I think they are excited about doing ministry with us. And I hope that you are excited about sharing your years of congregational wisdom.

Peace, Pastor Kerra

**Congratulations!** — Geneva Thetford, daughter of Mary and Phillip Thetford graduated from Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina on May 18, 2013.

