

APC Connections

Volume 10, Issue 9

June/July 2018

Upcoming Events

- June 10 — 12:15 PM Session meeting
- June 12—11 AM PW Circle meeting

Pastor's Page

Friends,
 It's not that often that sermons become "must see TV" or end up being viral videos on Facebook. But recently there was an exception. Bishop Michael Curry's sermon, preached at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle captured the attention of two billion viewers! That's not a typical sermon audience, not even for the megachurch pastors. So even as a popular bishop, what do you decide to preach for such an occasion? And how can that message make a grand impact not only for the royal couple, but for all, ALL those people for whom that might be the first sermon they've ever heard?

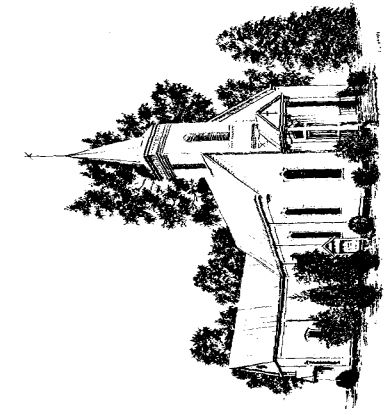
Well, I must say that his choice of sermon text was one of my absolute favorites, so that had me hooked once I sat down to watch it at my computer. I confess that I wasn't planning to be a wedding watcher, but so many friends, proud Episcopalian clergy friends in particular, talked about the sermon until I had to take a look. He began with words from the Song of Solomon, "Set me as a seal upon your heart, a seal upon your arm, for love is as strong as death. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame..." His sermon went on to talk about the power of love, and not only the kind of love that draws people to the place of getting married. He talked at length about the transformative power of love. "Imagine the world," he said, "when love is the way... Imagine our homes and families when love is the way. Imagine neighborhoods and communities where love is the way. Imagine governments and nations where love is the way. Imagine business and commerce when love is the way. Imagine this tired old world when love is the way... Cause when love is the

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(Continued from page 1)

way, we actually treat each other, well, like we are actually family. When love is the way we know that God is the source of us all. And we are brothers and sisters, children of God. Brothers and sisters, that's a new heaven, a new earth, a new world, a new human family. And let me tell you something, old Solomon was right in the Old Testament. That's fire.”



He took the love poetry of the Song of Solomon and made it the love poetry of our world today. I loved it! If that's the ONLY Christian sermon some people ever hear, it might just be enough, enough to motivate this tired old world to catch flame with the amazing gift of God's love.

A viral sermon. And it's about love. And justice. And mercy. And it was given in the context of royalty and claimed a stake for the poor. It sounded a lot like he was preaching Jesus to me.

Which made me think about all the sermons that are heard by the few rather than the many. Are they any less important, any less valuable to the hearers? I think not. We all need to hear the message of God's love, preached over and over and over again until it becomes the spark, the one that gets fanned into a flame, and catches the world by surprise. I think Bishop Curry was doing exactly what a lot of preachers do, in and out, week by week. He was sharing the life-saving message of the love of God, a message you can tell he feels right into his very bones. And, though the world was watching, it's the community-based preachers, the ones that love their town, their village, their people, who are constantly fanning that flame that he was talking about. I hope brother Solomon's words, spoken through Bishop Curry's lips continue to ring out the kind of love that is stronger, always stronger than death.

The Word proclaimed has power. Sometimes we forget how true that is. I am grateful for the reminder that came through this unlikely venue, watched more for its hats and regalia than for its Christian content, that the love we preach as Christians matters, really really matters, and I am grateful to you for listening to me week after week. And even if my messages grow old or boring, what I hope I never leave out is that sense of love.

Peace, Kerra

PW Circle

Please join Presbyterian Women for our Circle on June 12th at 11:00 in Lancaster Hall. Ginger Young will lead our Bible study: Lesson 9 - In Community with All the Saints. Bring a sandwich-dessert and beverage will be provided.



Usher and Greeter Schedule

| | GREETERS | USHERS | COMMUNION ELDERS | COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP | LITURGIST | FLOWERS |
|---------|--------------|---|--|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 6/3/18 | K. Basilio | S. & M. Carneal | M. Summerson | K. Basilio | | B. Millar |
| 6/10/18 | R. Bryan | T. Blair, J. Tate | | | | G. Young |
| 6/17/18 | L. Campbell | M. Summerson, C. Schutte | <i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i> | | | |
| 6/24/18 | T. Alexander | K. Cole, R. English, C. Phillips, G. Young | | | | |
| 7/1/18 | K. Cole | D. & P. Dunn | R. Cole | K. Pugh | | |
| 7/8/18 | R. DuPriest | K. & L. Hasbrouck | | | | |
| 7/15/18 | D. Dunn | R. DuPriest, S. Vitale | | | | B. Millar |
| 7/22/18 | L. Hasbrouck | K. Basilio, R. English, S. Henderson, C. Phillips | | | | |
| 7/29/18 | V. Neeley | V. Neeley, G. Young | | | | |
| 8/5/18 | K. Pugh | L. Allison, C. Schutte | G. Young | S. Henderson | | S. Vitale |

June

- 1 Rebecca Raymond
- 4 June Lybrand
- 22 Ryleigh English
- 25 Jacob Phillips
- 29 Charlie Blair
Karla Bloom

Happy Birthday



July

- 7 Sherri Carneal
- 20 Peter Ritchie
- 22 Nita Bryan
- 25 Emily Pepper



Congratulations to Two R-MC Students!

Austin Wachsmuth has been awarded the Barbara S. Doggett Scholarship in Music. This scholarship is a merit based award made annually to a student majoring in music.

Austin also received a Schapiro Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) to study with Dr. Jim Doering this summer. The title of his research is "Have the Right Stops Been Pulled? Historical Accuracy in Organ Registration." Austin is already talented at choosing different organ sounds for different music and hymn verses during the service; stay tuned for more!

Cade English was also awarded a SURF grant! The title of Cade's project is "Determining the pH of a Frozen and Annealed Solutions using Infrared Spectroscopy." He will be working with Dr. Rebecca Michelsen in the Chemistry Department. Be sure and ask him what that involves!

Austin and Cade receive a small stipend and free housing on campus during their nine weeks of summer research and present their results in August. Then they can write their essays on "How I Spent My Summer Vacation"! – Ginger Young

Congratulations, also, to Andrew Bowman on his graduation from Union Presbyterian Seminary!

Our 2017 Seminary Intern Andrew is no longer a student, and we congratulate him on his graduation from UPSem. Remember to hold Andrew and his wife Megan in your prayers as Andrew seeks a pastorate, and as both await the birth of their daughter!



SAVE THE DATE!

Friday-Saturday, October 26-27, 2018



The Ash Grove at Richmond Hill
Sponsored by Ashland Presbyterian Church



- ◆ Melannie Coddington, daughter of Doreen and Dave Coddington, in the death of her husband James Hansen the first part of May.
- ◆ Barclay and Rob DuPriest in the death of Barclay's mother Emma Rand Farrar of Burkeville on Sunday, May 13.



Christian Education

June will mark the conclusion of our 2018-19 Adult Sunday School Lecternary Study. We thank all of those who participated so actively and faithfully over the past nine months.

We are currently exploring the possibility of several short (2-3 weeks) Christian Education offerings for this summer, not necessarily on Sunday mornings and not necessarily at the church. (Think Ashland Coffee and Tea or similar venues.). Subjects being considered include a deep dive into specific Old Testament stories, discussions about women in the Bible or other topics that might be suggested. Please let us know your thoughts.

We are also in the process of making curriculum choices for Adult and Children Sunday School for this coming Fall, so please share your ideas. —Roger Cole



Restock the
SHELVES

Our Pantry Shelves Need Restocking!

Our pantry is in desperate need of restocking! Please bring in your donations of canned fruits and vegetables of all kinds, soups, pasta sauce, and meats, as well as boxed rice, potatoes, pasta, cereal, etc. Even though we are receiving fewer requests, we are getting more new referrals from Social Services!

Treasurer Note: Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving this Summer



Ashland Presbyterian Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way of automating your regular weekly or monthly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Thank you all who have given online as we have received over **\$10,000** in contributions since we began this service in June 2017. – Drew Moncol

