

APC Connections

Volume 11, Issue 5

February 2019

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 3—Congregational mtg., 12 PM; SuperBowl of Caring Offering
- Feb. 12—11 AM PW Circle
- Feb. 14—Valentine’s Day, remember our Shut-ins!



Pastor’s Page

Friends,

As part of our congregational identity, we have adopted the short mission statement, “Called to Love, Sent to Serve.” From my understanding as a congregational leader, a mission statement is only as good as it resonates within the body and sings in the lives of its participants. Getting to the words themselves is a process of listening and discernment to get as close to our congregational refrain as possible given the diversity of lives and experiences we represent. And yet, when the prayer of the community becomes to sing that refrain over and over sharing within its wide tapestry of verses, others will, no doubt, come to join the tune.

And my friends, I can tell you, these words are *already* singing in us:

We are *already* humming with the energy of those who are called to love.

We are *already* responding to this song as those who are sent to serve.

Now my hope is to amplify our refrain by sharing our individual verses with each other so that the stories will ring with the call of love and the desire to serve God, our neighbors, and each other.

What does it mean for us to be called to love?

February is coming – Valentine hearts and all. Let’s sing a few of those “Called to Love” verses, metaphorically speaking. (No previous singing experience required!)

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Pastor
Rev. Kerra English

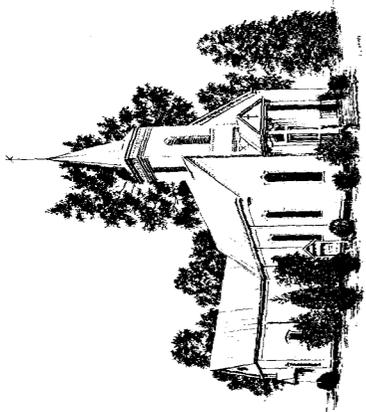
Admin. Assistant
Susan Vitale

Director of Music
Karla Bloom

Organist
Austin Wachsmuth

Mark Your Calendars

March 6: Ash Wednesday
 March 10: Daylight Saving Time begins



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I'm going to be looking for "Called to Love" moments that can be shared during our worship services all four Sundays in February. You can tell me your story to share, or ask to be the "Called to Love" speaker for a given Sunday. What does it mean to you? How has this church called you to love, or loved you when you needed it most? How are you called to love in your own life? How do you think we are being called to love as a congregation?

Recently, I saw this quote from writer A. R. Lucas on Facebook about love, and found it to be a good reminder that love isn't ONLY reserved for Valentine hearts and romantic gestures:

We've been infected with this idea that love is an emotion only felt between two people. But love is universal. An energy. A contagious force. A gift. To offer money to a homeless man is love. To save a worm from the sun is to love. To smile at a stranger is love. To be grateful, to be hopeful, to be brave, to be forgiving, to be proud is to love.

They will know we are Christians by our love. Speaking of singing, that's a hymn I remember from my childhood in the 1970's. This church is called to love. We aren't the only one to be certain, but there are a whole lot of people out there who need to hear that song being sung by Christians loudly and strongly again.

In the Christian love we share, Pastor Kerra

FEBRUARY

Mark Your Calendars



Congregational MEETING

Sunday, Feb. 3

For the purpose of presenting the 2019 Budget



February 3, 2019

Your canned goods and monetary donations go towards alleviating hunger! Please give generously!

PW Circle

Presbyterian Women will meet for Circle on Tuesday, **February 12th at 11:00 a.m.** in the Church Parlor. Please join us as Ginger Young leads Lesson 6: God with Us Through Our Trials. Bring a sandwich - dessert and beverage provided. Please remember to bring cookies. —Linda Allison



Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
2/03/19	J. Winegardner	R. Cole, M. Summerson		K. Basilio, S. Henderson	C. Hahn	
2/10/19	L. Allison	K. Basilio, P. Shinnamon	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			
2/17/19	K. Basilio	R. Cole, J. Tate				C. Hahn
2/24/19	R. Bryan	R. English, S. & D. Moncol, C. Phillips				
3/03/19	S. & M. Carneal			S. Carneal, K. Pugh	C. Hahn	



What fun! You all made such wonderful

chrismons. Very impressive use of glitter. :)

New Emails and Addresses

Joann Winegardner: jpwine40@gmail.com
Larry Hasbrouck: LHasbrouck4@ICloud.com
Vicki Neeley, 16481 Beaver Dam Road, Montpelier, VA 23192
Austin Wachsmuth, 12146 Poplar Crest Court, Ashland



Happy Birthday: February

- 3 Drew Moncol
- 6 Karen Cole
- 8 Clara Shea Totten
- 9 Terry Blair



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 know. May God bless your mission work. Karla bless you for your commitment, time and acceptance of where God has placed you. You are a gift to this church. I scheduled the bus to pick you all up for the Vienna trip this year. No excuses get on the bus."
 . . . AND, her final words to all of us "Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands!"

Session Sound Bites

In an effort to provide our congregation as much information as possible, we will begin sharing an overview of items that your Session has been dealing with. While this is not a report on all items on the Session's agenda, we hope it will provide some important insights. The following is a review of our December 16, 2018 meeting;

- ◆ The Session examined and welcomed Joann Winegardner and Sherri Carneal as new Session members to fill the unexpired terms of Liz Campbell and Caroline Schutte.
- ◆ We are in the middle of our normal year-end administrative duties (Annual Statistical Report, Session minute submissions, etc.)
- ◆ Discussions were held regarding ways to tell the stories of how we are "Called to Serve".
- ◆ The venue and date for our Small Church Retreat were determined. It will be held at Richmond Hill on March 14 and 15 and focus on Christian mentoring.
- ◆ Plans were discussed regarding our 2019 Lenten Series.
- ◆ Our Congregational Care committee approved a donation to Hanover Crew, which provides for the families of the county's first responders that have died.
- ◆ The 2019 budget was reviewed and discussed. The budget will be finalized at our January Session meeting.
- ◆ And finally, the Session approved the use of Lancaster Hall by Narcotics Anonymous.

Feel free to contact any Session member for clarification on any of the above items. The next meeting will be held January 27 following morning worship. There will be no meeting in February. – Roger Cole, Clerk of Session



On November 18, 2018, our dear friend and beloved member of Ashland Presbyterian Church Judy Aderhold was called home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In true Judy fashion, she left final words for us, the members of the congregation, and for her much loved choir friends. In case you were unable to be at her Memorial Service, the following is her gift to us; read these words and keep them close to your heart!

"I want each and every one of the Ashland Presbyterian members to know how much I value your work and your presence here today. I love you and thank you for your friendship, your walk along the mission path and your caring compassion. You were called by God to be in this church, so walk on and make a difference.

To the Choir, the best little choir in the POJ, you have meant more to me than you

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Sunday School Classes

The Adult Sunday School class started a new series on Galatians and James: *Faith and Works*. The Youth class is continuing its schedule with Music with Annette Shuff, First Sunday of Month; *Joining God at Work in the World*, Illustrated Children's Ministry with Susan Vitale, Second Sunday of Month; and Spiritual Formation with Caitlin Hahn, Third and Fourth Sundays.

The Lenten Study Series will run from **March 10 - April 7**, and this year's theme will be "Justice and Mercy." Kerra is in the process of recruiting speakers that can talk about Justice and Mercy as those concepts speak to particular concerns or communities. The series will take place during the usual Sunday School hour with refreshments provided. Plan now to enjoy this opportunity!

Ashland Presbyterian Church, AA, and NOW NA!

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) was founded in June 1935 by Bill Wilson and Dr. Robert Smith. The story of its conception was told in the 1989 movie "My Name is Bill W." which was filmed in Ashland. Ashland Presbyterian Church has had a long history of hosting AA meetings on Monday and Thursday nights. So long, in fact, that we were presented with a few of the props that were used in the movie. Along with the Monday and Thursday meetings, we now host meetings on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Recently, we were contacted by someone wanting to hold Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings at our church. With the opioid crises on the rise, we have agreed to host this new group which will meet on Saturdays.

Following is a list of days and times for AA meetings all of which meet in Lancaster Hall:

Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

Mondays and Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.

The new NA meetings will be held on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. in Lancaster Hall.

Please make a note of these days and times and keep them in mind when scheduling events. In case of conflicts, notify the office so we can notify our contact persons.



On January 20, Amanda Hill, a former seminary student intern, was ordained as a Chaplain for the University of West Virginia Hospital in Morgantown, WVA.