

APC Connections

Volume 11, Issue 6

March 2019

Upcoming Events

- March 6—Service for the Imposition of Ashes, 6:30 PM
- March 10—Lenten Speaker Series begins, 9:15 AM; Session, 12:15 PM
- March 12—PW Circle, 11 AM
- March 17—St. Patrick’s Day Baked Potato Luncheon, 12:15 PM



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Pastor’s Page

*Mentors are not always skilled and inspiring teachers who train students to become theologians and pastors. Just as often good mentors can be found in congregations and schools that help apprentices discover the questions that this new context raises, many of which contradict or baffle assumptions picked up in earlier training. Some things, or better some ways, have to be **unlearned**. And some mentoring congregations are gifted in helping to train pastors and theologians for work that will only blossom fully elsewhere. --Thomas W. Currie in the collection, “Mentoring: Biblical, Theological, and Practical Perspectives”*

Friends,

The Step-By-Step retreat that we are hosting on March 15 is based on mentoring – something this congregation does almost without thinking about it. Each fall, we receive a new intern coming from the rigors of theological education. Their brains are filled with ancient languages, biblical interpretation, theological and historical perspectives and the like, things that the seminary expects them to know, and knowledge that will be valuable as they develop their ministerial callings. And yet, the work they will do in the church – or in a variety of settings really – is all about people. Seminary is not the proving ground of “people skills” – the church is.

So, a very big piece of what we do in welcoming seminary students into our midst is to help them with their “unlearning.” Sometimes it is about the seminary unlearning – of seeing how

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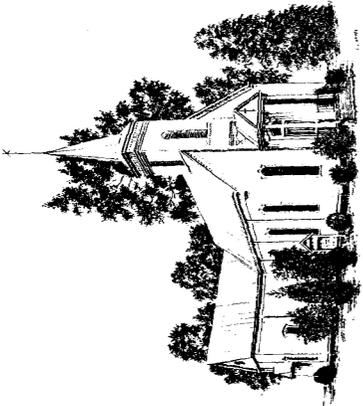
Pastor
Rev. Kerra English

Admin. Assistant
Susan Vitale

Director of Music
Karla Bloom

Organist
Austin Wachsmuth

Daylight Saving Time
begins Sunday, March 10.
Remember to turn your clocks up 1
hour before going to bed Saturday!



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an advanced academic degree is only so helpful in developing the skills for ministry. Another part of it is being willing to talk about MISTAKES. All. The. Time. This doesn't mean that I'm constantly pointing out the mistakes of our interns. Rather, I talk about all the blunders I've done to myself in ministry. I also share congregational stories of how problems are overcome and new learnings come into play. This may be some of the most important mentoring we do – is allowing mistakes to be seen as the opportunities that they are.

We will be talking about this and more in our day at Richmond Hill – because it's not just about being a teaching church for our interns, but being the kind of community where people come to learn and grow. We do this by honoring the wisdom of experience and the willingness of the young to try new things. It takes us all.

Plan to come and share in conversation. Teach and learn. Let the clergy who come know that it's not only up to them to be mentors of the faith. It takes all the members of the congregation to create that kind of community. I'm still learning what it means to be a pastor, and it's not because I sometimes go to outside continuing education events, it's because I keep learning in place, letting others show me the way.

Blessings to all those who have mentored me & hope for all those who allow me to mentor them!
Pastor Kerra



Mark Your Calendars

PW Circle

Please join Presbyterian Women for Circle on Tuesday, **March 12** at 11:00 a.m. in the Church Parlor. Debbie Moncol will lead Lesson 7: God with Us as Emmanuel. Bring a sandwich. Drinks and dessert will be provided. —Linda Allison



**Service for the Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, March 6
at 6:30 p.m.**



**Baked Potato Lunch
Sunday, March 17**

Join us following worship for a baked potato luncheon hosted by Congregational Care. A sign-up sheet for drinks, side dishes, and desserts will be in the narthex. Wear your green!

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS	
3/03/19	S. & M. Carneal	B. Mathes, P. Shinnamon	T. Blair, C. Schutte, B. Shea, J. Tate	S. Carneal, K. Pugh	C. Hahn		
3/10/19	R. Cole	T. Blair, Debbie Moncol	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>				
3/17/19	C. Dedischew	L. Allison, S. Vitale				C. Hahn	J. Glazebrook
3/24/19	J. Glazebrook	S. & M. Carneal, R. English, C. Phillips					
3/31/19	S. Henderson	S. & D. Moncol			C. Hahn		
4/07/19	L. Herring	R. Cole, L. Herring	L. Allison, K. Basilio, R. DuPriest, B. Mathes	K. Pugh, J. Tate	C. Hahn		



**Happy Birthday:
March**

- 13 Barclay DuPriest
- 19 Cade English
- 30 Elizabeth Hargrove
Suzanne Huff
- 31 Robert Tate

**Mark Your Calendars Now with These
April Dates and Events**

- April 14: Palm Sunday; NO Sunday School
- April 18: Maundy Thursday Communion Service
- April 19: Good Friday Stations of the Cross at R-MC, 12 noon
- April 21: Easter Sunday; NO Sunday School
- April 28: Caitlin's last Sunday with us
Ira Andrews Lecture at R-MC, 7:00 p.m.: The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson "Members or Martyrs? How Should a Church Measure Success?"

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CARITAS	\$281.00
ACES	\$500.00
St. James the Less Free Clinic	\$500.00
Hanover Crew Foundation	\$375.00
(25% of Peacemaking Offering)	

As well as ALL of the above support, your monetary gifts and donations of non-perishable food items to our pantry helped at least 42 different families throughout the year, and provided holiday (Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas) food bags and gift cards to 11 different families. Thank you for your generous giving spirit!

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 January 27, 2019 meeting;

- ◆ 2019 communion dates were approved for the first Sunday of each month, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve services.
- ◆ Discussed the importance of Ashland Presbyterian congregation members attending the upcoming Step by Step Retreat on March 15.
- ◆ Reviewed and discussed changes to our current website design.
- ◆ Discussed the importance of members filling their designated roles as ushers, greeters, communion ushers, etc.
- ◆ Our 2019 Lenten Series will focus on justice and mercy.
- ◆ A baked potato luncheon is being scheduled for March.
- ◆ Michael Raymond shared a new POJ approach to stewardship.
- ◆ Reviewed and approved the 2019 budget, which forecasts a deficit of \$20,600 for the year. Year-end cash balance is forecast to be approximately \$122,000
- ◆ Thermostats will be set in both the Lancaster building and the Sanctuary building to levels that will reduce the past large variances in temperatures.
- ◆ Sherri Carneal was elected to be commissioner for the February 16 POJ Meeting.
- ◆ Our next Session meeting is scheduled for March 10 following worship.

Feel free to contact any Session member for clarification on any of the above items.

– Roger Cole, Clerk of Session



Lenten Speaker Series: Justice and Mercy

Sundays, March 10 — April 17

Refreshments, 9:15 a.m.; Class, 9:30 — 10:45 a.m.

- ◆ **March 10** – Do Neo-Nazis and Terrorists Deserve Our Justice, Our Mercy, or Both?: Speaker Patrick Patrick Beaulier is an independent-progressive rabbi, originally from Atlanta, GA. Rabbi Patrick is the co-founder and spiritual leader of Kehillah, a pop-up, experimental Jewish community as well as the founder of Darshan Yeshiva, an online Jewish school and the world's only online conversion to Judaism program. He lives with his wife Rebbetzin Stefanie Papps, a health policy expert, and their two cats Maggie and Toes.
- ◆ **March 17** – Mercy, Justice, and Mitigation: A 21st Century Glimpse of Environmental Justice in Virginia: Speaker Kristen Saacke Blunk, Headwaters LLC, serves as a field liaison to environmental partners across the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River watersheds, focusing on conservation initiatives that improve water quality and ecosystem resiliency. She is a resident of the Richmond Hill community and has enjoyed fellowship with the Ash Grove women's retreat since arriving there in 2016. Her husband, Joel, is co-pastoral director at Richmond Hill, and their three adult sons are doing meaningful work with youth and resettled refugees, from Charlottesville to Front Royal to Chicago.
- ◆ **March 24** – The Borders of Opportunity: Immigration and Public Education: Speaker Wendy Lively is the Program Manager for Communities in Schools in Chesterfield County. She says of her work, "I love helping create change for our families and students through resources, programs and support as well as creating a school environment that feels like a community. I could not adore my job more."
- ◆ **March 31** – Justice and Mercy for the LGBTQIA+ Community: Speaker Jess Cook is the Program & Communications Manager for More Light Presbyterians, a coalition of congregations and individuals in the Presbyterian Church (USA) committed to increasing the involvement of all people in the church, regardless of sexuality. Jess is a 2012 graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary. Prior to working with More Light, Jess was the Youth Programs Director for Side by Side, an organization in Richmond working with LGBTQIA+ youth. Jess lives in Richmond with their son, Elliot, and dog, Sophie.
- ◆ **April 7** - The Legacy of Learning in an Era of Education Inequity: Speaker Chuck English, now Virginia's own STEM Coordinator, was not a great student, challenging the most veteran educators and getting to know each principal personally. His efforts as an educator may seem like a soul cleansing journey, but it comes more from a need to poke at a model that is often ineffective. Blessed with

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children that also challenge the system, it has become clear that their success received support from outside of the classroom. How do we change the educational environment, inspiring not only youth but parents and community members to see learning as a vital part of their own lives and that of the society? Chuck's Richmond ventures have supported not only his exploration into the habitual ruts education has found itself, but gave him just enough means to start some changes. You may know him as Pastor Kerra's husband.

Since our Intern Caitlin will be joining the Lenten Speaker Series, the Youth Faith Formation class will be on hold. Instead, the youth will either be singing with Annette Shuff, or continuing their studies of *Joining God at Work in the World* with Susan Vitale for the month of March.

Presbyterian Women Announce Their Spring Community Project!

Hanover Safe Place is our local agency that helps those fleeing from domestic violence, whether single women, women with children or men, find shelter. These victims need a new, safe place to live and we would like to help them by supplying items from this organization's wish list. There will be a laundry basket in the Covenant Classroom to collect them. On Sunday, **April 7**, we will take what we have over to Hanover Safe Place. They need:

- First Aid items: band aids, Neosporin, anti-bacterial soap
- Toiletry items: shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, disposable razors, Q-tips
- Plastic knives, forks and spoons
- Hand-held can openers
- Paper plates, cups and napkins
- Paper towels, tissues, toilet paper and trash bags
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Brushes and combs

Gift cards to Sheets, Food Lion, CVS, Rite-Aid and Target for food, gas and prescriptions. (We can also use donated money to buy these if you would like to just donate money.) Any questions? Please contact Ginger Young, and thank you for your help!

Faith Formation With Our Youth

One of my favorite parts of my time here at APC so far has been teaching the youth Sunday School class the third and fourth Sundays of each month. The consistent attendees, Carly and Ryleigh, are in 4th and 6th grades so we are covering some pre-confirmation type topics to prepare them to be confirmed in the next several years. So far, we have learned about communion, baptism, prayer, the Lord's Prayer, doubting Thomas, the great cloud of witnesses, Advent, storytelling, and Miriam and Pharaoh's daughter. We made our own clay communion sets, drew our "sins" on foil people and watched them wash off as we baptized them, made prayer journals in which to try out different forms of prayer, and even led each other through an obstacle course blindfolded to learn about trust and doubt like Thomas experienced. During Advent, we made our own nativity sets, made our own Advent wreaths, and lit the Advent wreath together in worship. These girls, and our occasional class member Jacob (age 4), have great questions and ideas about their faith and I'm loving exploring my faith alongside them. They have huge hearts and love brightening the mornings of the adult church members by making and distributing drawings and cards. APC's future is bright because these kids rock! — Caitlin Hahn, Seminary Intern

Outreach Update on 2018

The Outreach committee is in charge of remitting PCUSA Special Offerings to Presbytery of the James as well as disseminating budget funds to locally supported non-profits, and support for Presbyterian missionaries and their related work. In 2018 we sent to Presbytery of the James for Special Offerings:

Five Cents-A-Meal Offering	\$1,385.41
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,675.00
Peacemaking Offering (75%)	\$1,130.25
Christmas Joy Offering	\$1,575.00
Pentecost Offering (60%)	\$1,200.00

And, for Mission Support and related work, we sent \$500.00 each to The Sthreshley's, Cindy Correll, Ruth Brown, and the Congo (Sthreshley's). \$500 was also sent to IMCK (Kasai Christian Medical Institute in the Congo).

In addition to the above, we supported the following local non-profits:

YMCA Summer Camp Program	\$800.00
(40% of Pentecost Offering)	

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