

ASHLAND CHURCH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2016

Ashland Presbyterian Church
116 Ashland Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030
Phone: 410-527-1844
The Rev. Shannon Meacham, Pastor
On the web at: www.ashlandpc.org



Clerk of Session
Bob Williams

Church Treasurer
Jeanette Baldwin

| Session Members <u>2016-2018</u> | Deacon Members <u>2016-17</u> |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Jerry DeBoer | Sarah Beckwith |
| Rene Florendo | Penny DeBoer |
| Debbie Modisette | Cathy Griffiths |
| Will Nassau | Barbara Porter |
| Gene Ruhl | JoAnn Ruther |
| Jacquie Sasser | Cheri Wheeler |
| Carla Ulgen | |
| John Walter | |
| Bob Williams | |

Pre-school Director
Anne Auvil

Organist and Music Director
Matthew Hart

Office Manager
Cecil Weber

Pulpitshenanigans

Stewardship Sunday is Here!
November 13, One Service at 11AM

Fearless Giving- Luke 21:1-4

He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

How does this passage speak to you?

After reading, go back to Luke 20:45-47 for the wider context of this story. How does this statement by Jesus bring emphasis and meaning to the Luke 21 verses?

Luke 20:45-47- *In the hearing of all the people he said to the disciples, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."*

Key Questions

What does Jesus say about the scribes (religious leaders) of his day in Luke 20:45-47?

In Luke 21:1-4, do you think that Jesus is praising this woman for giving her offering? Or, is Jesus possibly highlighting this woman's act to, in effect, question the corrupt religious system of the day and how the scribes took advantage of the most vulnerable among us? Or, perhaps the answer is both.

Pulpitshenanigans (continued)

Deeper Reflection

R. Alan Culpepper writes, “By singling out the widow as exemplary, Jesus also rejected the insidious presumption that those who gave the great gifts were more important or better than the one whose gift was small because her means were limited. In a society in which wealth is the measure of success and happiness, the wealthy are esteemed and given special treatment, while the poor are judged as failures who could have done better if they had tried. A person’s value or worth as a human being is, therefore, measured by the evidence of his or her prosperity. Just as in the parables, Jesus’s pronouncement reverses the norms standards by which we are accustomed to living. He turns our world’s standards on their head. A widow or a homeless person’s gift to God or to others may be more important than the gifts of the wealthy.” (New Interpreter’s Bible, page 397)

Key Takeaways

There appears to be a dual message coming to us through this scripture passage, one being the systemic oppression and possible classicism that can form within religious communities (and our awareness to guard against such practices). The second is the focus upon the act of the widow. Jesus wants us to hear something by witnessing this act of giving all that she had. How might you and I translate this lesson meaningfully into our own walks of life?

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, please open our hearts this day. Make us available to you in such a way that we are energized through the life that you so selflessly give. Unlock the gates to this generosity and abundance through your Son, Jesus. We know that your gospel often comforts the afflicted and, conversely, afflicts the comfortable. May we who encounter your gospel yet again this day find the openness to allow your Holy Spirit to stir within. Amen.

- Pastor Shannon

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY— NOVEMBER 13, 2016

FEARLESS GENEROSITY

A letter from Pastor Shannon along with a personal commitment card will be mailed the week of November 6th. After prayerful consideration, please fill out the card and bring it to worship with you on November 13. If you are unable to make that day, please mail it back to the church office.

If you do not receive the mailing, please let Cecil in the church office know through either e-mail, office@ashlandpc.org or by calling the office at 410-527-1844



Dear Ashland Family,

I could feel the love and prayers during my recent hospital adventure.

Truely, your visits and cards were wonderful and got me through the first two weeks of recovery.

Our pastor and many of you were at my side and Marlene's when we most needed you. We really understand the concept of a church family and we are eternally grateful. I look forward now to returning to my mission work and to the choir.

Thank you, again, for being a wonderful church family.

In Christ,
Dick & Marlene Uhler

Special Music



On November 13th, the **Satyr Hill Blue Grass Band** will provide the Special Music for the 11:00am service. The band includes Jude Restive, DDS, Fiddle; Steve Sadler, Guitar; Dean Phillips, Banjo; Charles Roe, Mandolin and Jim Turner, Bass. The band is always a special treat and we look forward to having them perform for us again.

Looking Ahead:

December 18th, Jim Wharton and Brass Reflections
- Peg Paterson

Join Kim Bednarik at the Adult Sunday Morning Gatherings, 10:00am on Sunday in the church basement office (next to the boardroom). Gatherings for October are:



- Nov 6 What's happening at Ashland?**
- Nov 13 Sleeping well with God on your mind**



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 6. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour.





Best Book Club EVER!

If you are an Ashland Presbyterian Woman you are invited to enjoy the fun and fellowship of our women's Bible Study. We meet on the 2nd Monday September through May at the home of Susan Williams at 12:30 p.m. APC women who cannot fit the Bible Study into their schedules at 12:30 p.m., can join us for "Tea at Two." This fellowship encourages our participation in the Mission work of Ashland Presbyterian Church in Cabaiguan, Cuba; Sarah's Hope; and the Presbyterian Church World Wide through the Baltimore Presbytery and Presbyterian Women. The Bible Study *Who is Jesus?* by Judy Yates Siker, can be secured by contacting Susan Williams at 410-785-6955.

On the Calendar:

Saturday, November 12, Baltimore Presbytery Fall Gathering, First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis. Presbyterian Women will have one of the workshop slots and gather for lunch. The Fall Gatherings for Presbyterian Women that had been held separately from the Baltimore Presbytery Fall Gathering were combined last year successfully and will be continued.

Monday, November 14, 12:30 p.m. Lesson 3 of *Who is Jesus?* at the home of Susan Williams



Sarah's Hope Mount Street Wish List

Diapers & Diaper Wipes

Hygiene Items:

Soap (bars, body wash), Shampoo, Deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothbrush & toothpaste

New Washcloths

New Twin Sized Sheets

Food Items:

canned vegetables, soups, pasta sauce, gravy, pasta, rice, peanut butter, canned tuna/chicken salad, frozen food items, etc.



Thank you for your support!

From the Mission Committee: L'Arche John Walter, Committee Chair

This November I am making a special trip to Cuba; it's not to build more inter-church partnerships, rather to begin a dialogue with Presbyterian pastors Jesús Rodríguez and Marielys Cabrera concerning a L'Arche modeled program in Cuba.

So, some might ask, "What is L'Arche?" L'Arche is the international foundation that focuses solely on persons with intellectual disabilities. In many places in Europe and the Americas, people with this disability are fortunate to live in what's called a "L'Arche house." A typical house-community is no more than 20 people; and once accepted into the program they live in a secure and progressive environment where they can develop their identity and express themselves free from all worry of censure, prejudice, or fear of homelessness. "Larchies," the endearing term they are often referred as, live in the house forever, and become a micro-community that ever seeks to provide its members with opportunities to participate in the larger world.

As you might imagine, in Cuba there is no such thing as a L'Arche community. For the most part people with intellectual disabilities are either wards of the state (think "warehouse") or reside with family members who provide all the care they can. Problem is, these family members have near zero social support from the government. There is no state program which benefits intellectually challenged people; and if a parent dies it's quite likely that the afflicted person will become homeless.

It would be untrue to say there is no one interested in the plight of the intellectually challenged in Cuba. Caritas, an arm of Catholic Charities, is beginning programs in Cuba – but where? The answer to that question would likely be the large urban centers, those with higher concentrations of afflicted persons. One might well ask, "What about people in rural sectors, historically the most underserved of the country?" Good question.

I suggest the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba has a great deal to say about social programs benefiting the underserved. And it would be fair to say they do have some programs that do benefit the afflicted sector. It would also be fair to say as of now they have not been exposed to a L'Arche modeled program. How is the L'Arche model different? That's easy: it's daily, it's ongoing, it brings together both the afflicted and their family members as well as community volunteers, and it gives them training and a new perspective on how to appreciate the gifts that have been hidden and overlooked.

So, we have a plan. We? Virginia Schofield, Wendy Kunz, and I will make an investigatory trip in November. Virginia, a Cuban-American living in Washington D.C.; has thirty years of direct involvement with L'Arche International as well as two brothers who are intellectually challenged and living in a L'Arche house in Washington. Wendy, holds a M.A. in leadership development from Johns Hopkins. And I – well – I just know everyone there and speak the lingo. So here's our plan:

Phase One: Investigatory, six to eight month duration. **Goal:** Determine how the target community might rally behind a L'Arche modeled program. Identify people (volunteers) in the target community who have interest in such a program and experience with intellectual disability, and visit the families of those identified as needing such care and service. Identify other pastors and communities nearby, and invite them to the discussion. At the end of this visit, we should have a clear picture of the number of people involved in the target area as well as a game-plan for a subsequent trip. ***This initial investigatory trip is generously funded by Ashland Presbyterian Church at a cost of \$3,600— the Mission committee approved this as part of their budget.***

***From the Mission Committee: L'Arche (continued)
John Walter, Committee Chair***

Phase two: Virginia has proposed sending a L'Arche staff member to the first targeted community in order to do training sessions with the established volunteers and families of the afflicted people at the end of the six to eight month period of initiation. To effectuate that L'Arche International will want so see community buy-in and signs of self sufficiency, that is, L'Arche is not about pouring money into start-ups. It is about enabling start ups to see they are capable of self-funding and self-direction – with help. Once the community has begun to coalesce funding issues will be clearer, but it's quite appropriate the administrative duties of the program not remain the local pastor's responsibility, rather a community approved administrator should be chosen and overseen by a board chaired by the pastors.

So, for right now here's what we see as costs for the first 1.5 to 2 year period.

- Basic supplies: paper, pens, art supplies.
- An administrator's salary. (An administrator, selected by the community and with the approval of the pastors, might earn 20-30 CUC/ month, this amounts to 25-35 USD/month. Who is going to pay the salary? I suggest that it must at least partially come from the community itself, with the help of PC(USA congregations and presbyteries.
- The location would at least initially be at the local church, therefore rent free.

Phase three: My guess is that other Cuban faith communities will quickly hear about this new phenomena, so it's important the L'Arche model be tailored to the realities of the socialist state. What's not clear at this moment is how much more institutional support the new Cuban communities might need from either us or L'Arche International. I do think we will have a better picture after the first two phases.

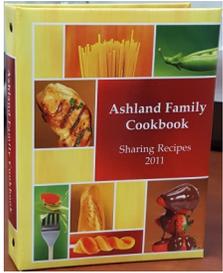
***All the world is God's own field,
Fruit in thankful praise to yield,
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full grown corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest,
Grant that we wholesome grain
And pure may be.***

-Henry Alford



Ashland Family Cookbook

Do you know someone who loves to cook? Someone who collects cookbooks? Grandchildren with an interest in cooking? A new college grad on their own? Newlyweds? An Ashland Family Cookbook would make the perfect gift! Next Sunday, November 13, we will have copies of the Ashland Family Cookbooks available. Suggested donation: \$7.00



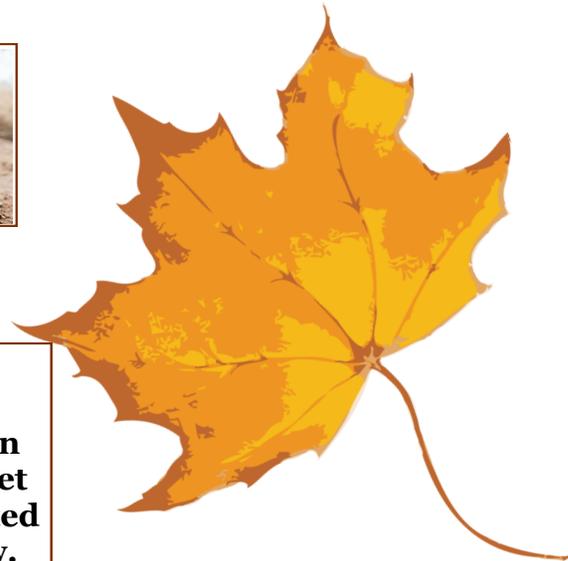
POINSETTIA SIGN UP

Poinsettias will once again decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Sign up sheets are on the table in the hallway. Choices are 8" poinsettias in either white, red or pink. The cost per poinsettia is \$17.00. We need to place our orders by November 18. You can sign up now and pay later if you need to! Both checks and cash are acceptable.

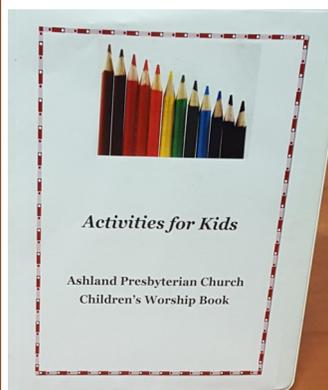


WALKING GROUP

The walking group is suspended through the colder months. We will resume in the Spring!!



The Children's Worship Books have been updated with new coloring and worksheet activities for the fall. The books are located in the back of the church on the last pew.





**Early Worship 9:00 a.m.
 Christian Education Classes
 Adult & Children at 10:00 a.m.
 Worship 11:00 am**

WEEKLY EVENTS ...

Sundays Special Needs Troop #927 2:00 p.m.; Church of the Nazarene 5:00—7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays Daisy Troop #625 7:00 p.m.
Wednesdays Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings 8:30 p.m.
Thursdays Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir: 8:00 p.m.
Fridays Church of the Nazarene (3rd Friday) 9:30 p.m.—Midnight
Saturday Church of the Nazarene 7:30-9:30 p.m.

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | 1 All Saint's Day | 2 Walking Group 10:00 am | 3 | 4 | 5  |
| 6 Worship Services 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Gathering 10:00 am Congregational Meeting after 11:00 am Worship | 7 Project Linus 9:30 am | 8 | 9 Walking Group 10:00 am | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 ONE Service at 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Gathering 10:00 am Special Music at 11:00 am Stewardship Sunday NO Youth Group Leadership Retreat 1-5 pm | 14 Women's Group 12:30 pm | 15 Session 6:30 pm | 16 Walking Group 10:00 am | 17 | 18 Last day for Poinsettias | 19 |
| 20 Worship Services 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Gathering 10:00 am | 21 | 22 | 23 Walking Group 10:00 am Newsletter Deadline | 24  | 25 <div style="background-color: #8B4513; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Church Office Closed</div> | 26 Sarah's Hope 2-5 pm |
| 27 Worship Services 9:00 & 11:00 am No Sunday School 1st Sunday of Advent  | 28` | 29 | 30 | | | |

ASHLAND CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

| Birthdays | Anniversaries | Deacon/Elder Ordination Anniversaries |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 11/01 Susan Williams 11/05 Sandy Losemann 11/08 Priscilla Barrett 11/10 Yvonne Fausnaugh 11/11 Mary Thompson 11/12 Harriet Cole 11/15 Julie Wagner 11/16 Julee Ward 11/22 Kim Aspden 11/24 Joe Thompson 11/25 Sarah Beckwith 11/26 Penny DeBoer | 11/28 Jacquie & Bill Sasser | None this month |

Do we have YOUR family's important dates to share and celebrate? Have we made any mistakes? Please contact the Church Office at 410-527-1844, or office@ashlandpc.org with additions and/or corrections for the database.

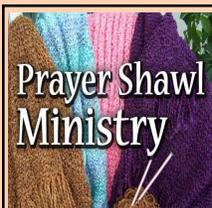
ASSIGNMENTS

Why not become more involved in Worship? Sign up to be an usher/greeter, liturgist or server. Sign up sheets are on the table in the hallway.



**Congregational Care
Deacon for November
Penny DeBoer
410-472-6844**

| 2016 | November |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| USHERS/ GREETERS | 11/6 11/13 Deb Miller 11/20 Deb Miller 11/27 Deb Miller |
| SERVERS | 11/6 |
| LITURGIST | 11/6 11/13 Sandy Losemann 11/20 11/27 |
| VAN DRIVERS | 11/6 Butch Zink 11/13 Bill Kobokovich 11/20 Kim Bednarik 11/27 Bob Hensley |



Please contact Annette Merrill at 410-472-0010 if you know someone in need of a prayer shawl or would like more information.

If you would like to be a knitting volunteer, please call Annette.



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