

Ashland Church News

November 2015



Pulpit Shenanigans



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

Clerk of Session
Bob Williams

Church Treasurer
Jeanette Baldwin

Session members 2015-2017

Bob Williams Gene Ruhl
Kim Aspden Rene Florendo
Jacquie Sasser
Carla Ulgen

Deacon Members 2015-2017

Barbara Porter Nancy Starr
JoAnn Ruther Cathy Griffiths
Penny DeBoer

Director of Christian Education
Cheryl Goode

Director of Music
Yeri Jang

Pre-school Director
Anne Auvil

“Remember this saying, ‘A few seeds make a small harvest,
but a lot of seeds make a big harvest.’”
—2 Corinthians 9:6, CEV

Each worship service closes with a benediction or blessing—a sending forth. With those words we move from being a gathered to a scattered community of faith. The two are joined in our ministry and mission. This year, our stewardship emphasis creatively invites us to join the life of our congregation with our wider participation in our community and beyond. While you will be hearing more about this approach in coming weeks, there are things we can do together now to prepare for a meaningful celebration of our stewardship.

First, a few questions for your personal consideration, reflection with family, or conversations with friends:

- When have you literally planted seeds? Where did those seeds come from?
- When have you participated in a harvest? What was the purpose of the harvest?
- When have you planted seeds of faith? Where did the seeds of faith come from?
- When have you experienced a harvest of faith? What was the purpose of the harvest of faith?
- How are literal seeds and “seeds of faith” similar? In what ways is a literal “harvest” like a “harvest of faith”?

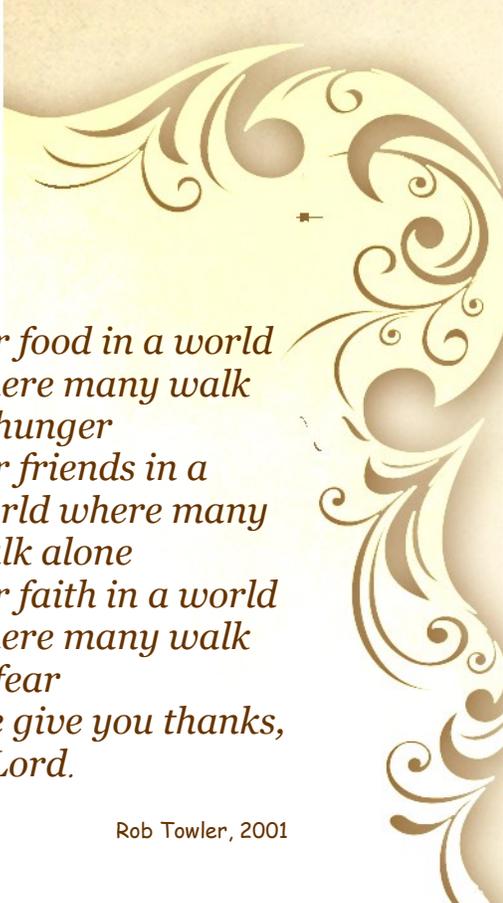
Our approach to faithful stewardship this year embraces the “more than enough” of God’s seedtime and harvest in our lives. On Sunday, November 8, we will share stories and present the “harvest,” which will include our annual personal giving commitments. Watch for more information on this way of participating fully in God’s “more than enough.”

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Shannon



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Cheryl Goode



*For food in a world
where many walk
in hunger
For friends in a
world where many
walk alone
For faith in a world
where many walk
in fear
We give you thanks,
O Lord.*

Rob Towler, 2001

Children

Remember, October brings Halloween and "Tricks or Treats". This year I would like to ask parents to have their students share a tenth of their candy. This means for every ten pieces of candy they receive, one should be set aside for Sarah's Hope, a shelter for women and children. This is also a good way to teach math skills! You may bring your candy to church and place it in the Halloween tub in the back of the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 1. Our deacons will take the candy and deliver it to Sarah's Hope.

The children sang during the October 4 Worship service. The song Yeri chose was "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands", which was very fitting as we celebrated World Communion. The children have begun rehearsal with Sue Ruhl for the Christmas Cantata. They are meeting on the following Sundays at 9:30AM in Fellowship Hall choir room: Nov. 1, Nov. 15, Nov. 22 and Dec. 6. The dress rehearsal will be Sunday, December 13.

Youth

Youth Group met on Sunday October 11. Our lesson focused on a discussion about Halloween and All Saints Day, complete with a true or false quiz! After our lesson we traveled through the church and around the grounds for our Bible scripture scavenger hunt. The clues led us ultimately to the board room where we collected prizes. It was a fun night!

The next youth fellowship meeting will take place Sunday, November 8, 2015.

Adult

Presbyterian Women met on the second Monday of October. Our second lesson focused on the meaning of the sacrament of Baptism. Come and join us in November when the lesson focuses on: We have dry spells in our lives---our bodies and our souls thirst. How do we survive times of little or no water?

I learned about the "least coin" program that is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women. Each time the bible study group meets they offer to share whatever small coins they have that day. These coins are then used for a larger purpose. They are collected at each meeting and the women pray for peace, justice, and reconciliation among families and communities, and worldwide. Each year the coins are donated to the central Fellowship of the Least Coin fund as a symbol of prayer, and the coins support projects for women and children around the world.

Adult Sunday School

Do you sometimes wish you could respond better to people who drive you crazy? Do you wish you could love others better and be more merciful? Are you at peace? Are you comfortable with God? How do you deal with loss or the aches and pains of life, or death? Our class is exploring these practical, every day issues. Join Kim Bednarik and Rick Loseman at the Adult Sunday Morning Gatherings, 10:00am on Sunday in the church basement office (next to the boardroom). Here are some of the upcoming topics:

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- Nov. 1 - What Defines "Being Happy?"
 - Nov. 8 - Who or What is God?
 - Nov. 15 - Connecting with God in Nature.
 - Nov. 22 - Prayer
 - Nov. 29 - Dealing with Life's Discomforts



October was filled with exciting fall activities. Throughout the month, the children learned about the changes in fall, families and community and Halloween traditions. They participated in activities like baking an apple pie, carving a pumpkin, estimating and counting pumpkin seeds, visiting the pumpkin farm, making a family tree, and comparing family sizes. We were fortunate to have a visit from the Cockeysville Fire Department. The students enjoyed learning about all the equipment on the truck and fire safety.

Our Innisbrook fundraiser has ended. Ms. Tammy was the coordinator and has done another amazing job. We have grossed over \$5,000.00. We will spend roughly \$2,500.00 on much needed playground improvements. Much of the sand and mulch has been washed away by previous storms.

As we move further into the fall, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, taking school pictures and learning about the five senses.

Anne Auwil
Pre-School Director

On November 8th, the *Satyr Hill Blue Grass Band* will provide Special Music at the 11:00am service. The band includes Nicolette Wagman, Bass and Vocals; Jeff Kidd, Mandolin and Vocals; Steve Sadler, Guitar and Vocals; Dean Phillips, Banjo and Jude Restivo, Fiddle and Vocals. The band was well received last year and we look forward to having them again.



Looking Ahead: Jim Wharton and Brass Reflections, December 20, 2015.

Peg Paterson
Coordinator

Worship Committee - November Notes

Combined Services – Please note Sunday, November 8 will be **ONE** combined service – Stewardship Sunday. Come and enjoy the bluegrass band and gathering with friends from “the other service”.

Advent begins! Hangin’ o’ the Greens!

Sunday, November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent. We are excited to have Rick Losemann preaching for us that Sunday. After the service on November 22nd, we will start greening the sanctuary for the season. If you can stay and help for an hour, your presence will be welcomed! There will be light snacks and cider for willing souls.

Jacque Sasser
Worship Team



May God Bless you with unspeakable joy,
not only in the world to come, but in this world also.
May your path be bright and full of light everywhere you go.
May God tell darkness that it must flee at your command.
And, I pray your feet will never stumble out of God's plan.
May the desires of your heart come true,
And may you experience Peace in everything you do.
May Goodness, Kindness, and Mercy come your way.
And, may you gain Wisdom and grow in the Lord every day.
Amen.



Women's FELLOWSHIP

BEST BOOK CLUB EVER

****All Ashland Presbyterian Church members have the opportunity to help our circle members with the Washing Machine/Fellowship Project with our Sister Church in Cabiguan, Cuba. Our sister church in Cuba furnishes a place where individuals can meet, socialize and use clothes washing facilities they do not have. Our contributions have been helping with supplies needed for this outreach to their community. We will be taking up a collection at our next meeting November 9, to send with those APC members going to Cuba later in November. See circle members Susan Williams, Peg Paterson, Sandy St. Germaine, or Cheryl Goode, if you would like to donate to this mission project with us. * * ***

Presbyterian Women

If you are an Ashland Presbyterian Church woman, you are invited to our Bible Study/Fellowship the 2nd Monday, September through May, at 12:30 p.m. The APC Presbyterian Women support various activities of our church. Share this fellowship with APC women and enjoy the 2015-16 Bible Study, *Come to the Waters*, by Judy Record Fletcher. Contact Susan Williams, Moderator, at 410-785-6955, for additional information.

On the Calendar for Presbyterian Women:

Monday, November 9, 2015

Ashland Presbyterian Women's Bible Study Fellowship

Lesson 3, at the home of Susan Williams. 12:30 p.m.

COLLECTION FOR SISTER CHURCH IN CUBA

SAVE THE DATE—Fall Presbytery Gathering, November 14, 2015, with workshops specifically for PW by the PW Coordinating Team.

PW Gathering on Saturday, November 14, 2015 starting at 9:00 AM. The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County will host the Gathering. This will be the first time that the PW Fall Gathering will "piggyback" with the November General Presbyterian Gathering. Women will register and pay a fee for the Gathering, and choose a workshop to attend. Details will follow. The Bible Study Workshop will be led by Terry Martin-Minnick. We will join the General assembly for lunch. Another workshop has been discussed for attendees. This would comment on issues such as the money collected and dispersed by PW, roles for the CT, and who are the Presbyterian Women.



Dear
NOVEMBER

Be awesome!

*Early Worship 9:00 am
Christian Education Classes 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 am*

WEEKLY EVENTS ...

Sundays Special Needs Troop #927 2:00 p.m.; Church of the Nazarene 5:00 pm
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.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship Services 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am	2 Project Linus 9:30 am	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship Services 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am—Stewardship Sunday Special Music: Saytr Hill Bluegrass Youth Group 5:00—7:00 pm	9 Women's Group 12:30 pm	10 Session 6:30 pm	11	12	13	14
15 Worship Services 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am	16	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21
22 Worship Services 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am	23	24	25	26  Church Office Closed	27	28 Sarah's Hope
29 Worship Services 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am	30	27	28	29	30	31

ASHLAND CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

11/01 Susan Williams
 11/05 Sandy Losemann
 Gary Shockey
 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 Nate Droski

ANNIVERSARIES

11/01 Mary Jo & Scott Kern
 11/22 Ginny & Ken Hutcherson
 11/28 Jacquie & Bill Sasser

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.

Everlasting God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

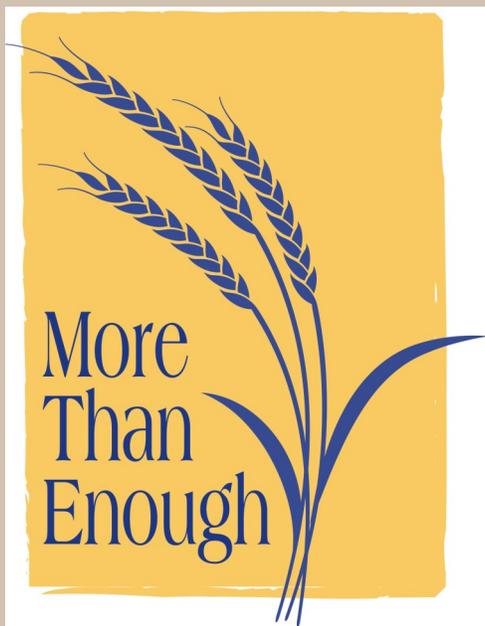
(adapted from the Collect at a New Ministry, 1979 Book of Common Prayer)

There are still opportunities in November for ushers, greeters, or liturgists. If you come to worship, why not sign up to be involved?

ASSIGNMENTS

2015	November
USHERS/ GREETERS	11/1 11/8 Phill/Kim/ Andrew Bednarik 11/15 11/22 11/29 Carla Ulgen
SERVERS	11/1 JoAnn Ruther
LITURGIST	11/1 Priscilla Barrett 11/8 Susan Ruhl 11/15 JoAnn Ruther 11/22 11/29
VAN DRIVERS	11/1 Bob Hensley 11/8 Butch Zink 11/15 Bill Kobokovich 11/22 Kim Bednarik 11/29 Bob Hensley





“Remember this saying, ‘A few seeds make a small harvest, but a lot of seeds make a big harvest.’ Each of you must make up your own mind about how much to give. But don’t feel sorry that you must give and don’t feel that you are forced to give. God loves people who love to give. God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others. The Scriptures say, ‘God freely gives his gifts to the poor, and always does right.’”

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-9, CEV

Sunday, November 8 is our Celebration Sunday when, during worship, we will hear stories of the harvest— of God’s “more than enough to do all kinds of good for others.” We will hear and celebrate God’s gifts of abundance- of grace, of joy, of love, and of blessing.

This year’s stewardship campaign takes the image of harvesting grain to use for nourishment for those who sowed the seeds by hand, those who bought the seed, and those who simply partake of the grain. The harvest offerings complement the presentation of our personal financial commitments for a new year of ministry and mission in and through Ashland Presbyterian Church.

Here at Ashland we are blessed with God’s “More than Enough”. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians: “Each of you must make up your own mind about how much to give. But don’t feel sorry that you must give and don’t feel that you are forced to give. God loves people who love to give.”

A personal financial commitment card and a 4 week devotional were mailed out. After prayerful consideration, please fill out the card and bring it into worship with you, **Sunday, November 8**. If you are unable to make it that day, please mail it back to the church office.

Together we will be witnesses to God’s “more than enough” for the ministry and mission entrusted to us through Jesus Christ. May our giving be an act of joy and worship!

Faithfully Yours,
Pastor Shannon





-Henry Alford

*All the world is God's own field,
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.*

