

# ASHLAND CHURCH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 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](http://www.ashlandpc.org)



## Pulpitshenanigans

Over the last year or so we've been in quite a transition when it comes to the Christian Education Director and committee. I want to fill you in on the process and what it needs to move forward.

As you know, in February of last year our DCE Cheryl left to take a position closer to her home. We have had several candidates since then, some of whom we have extended offers to. In some instances the candidates took other positions, in some instances the candidates were not a good fit for us.

This has been a long process of prayer and spirit led discernment. The personnel committee paused the search in July because we needed to regroup. We want the next person who leads our program to be a right and a good fit. There were qualified people we could hire, but the spirit was simply leading elsewhere.

The hold on the search is in no way a reflection that this program or position is unimportant in the church. In fact, it is the opposite. All of us want a vital and active Christian Education program for spiritual growth and formation for all ages.

### In order to do this, we need your help.

Over the last several years, in addition to the transitions in Director, many of our families have transitioned as well. We have lost several Sunday school kids and teachers due to divorce, illnesses, and moving away. There is no doubt we are at a crucial point in our program.

**Clerk of Session**  
Bob Williams

**Church Treasurer**  
Jeannette Baldwin

**Session Members**  
2016-2018

Jerry DeBoer  
Rene Florendo  
Debbie Modisette  
Will Nassau  
Gene Ruhl  
Jacquie Sasser  
Carla Ulgen  
John Walter  
Bob Williams

**Deacon Members**  
2016-17

Sarah Beckwith  
Penny DeBoer  
Cathy Griffiths  
Barbara Porter  
JoAnn Ruther  
Cheri Wheeler

**Pre-school Director**  
Anne Auwil

**Organist and Music Director**  
Matthew Hart

**Office Manager**  
Cecil Weber

## Personnel Committee Notes

Starting in mid-August, we welcomed Matthew Aaron Hart as our new Organist and Music Director. Matt earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree from Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA. He studied voice with Jackson Sheats, and Gene Galvin and organ with Judy Connelly, Steven Cooksey and Paul Skevington. Recently in 2013, he earned a Graduate Certificate in Church Music also from Shenandoah.

A singer since the age of 18 months, music has played a major role in Matt's life. He has taught elementary music and middle school chorus in the public schools, has been a music director and organist at several churches since 1996, appeared on XM Satellite Radio and The Joy of Music TV Series with Diane Bish.

We also bid a fond farewell to our interim music director Charlie Corson and thanked him for his service at Ashland. We appreciated Charlie's talents with the choir and organ during his stay at Ashland and wish him the best!

In other news, the Personnel Committee has paused on hiring for the position of Director of Christian Education. We have received many resumes, conducted telephone or in-person interviews, and hosted several candidates at Ashland to meet the congregation. While we have liked several candidates and they have liked us, we just have not found the right match in terms of skills, vision for the program, and career goals. The Committee and Pastor Shannon agree that this is a critical position and we do not want to hire just for the sake of hiring. Pastor Shannon will be working with the Christian Education committee to set forth a vision and plan for our education program. We would welcome input from anyone who is interested in joining the CE committee or just wants to offer any thoughts.

- Carla Ulgen

## *Pulpitshenanigans*

*(continued)*

Personnel would like to hear from parents and teachers: *What do you want? What is your dream for this program?*

In addition to answering these questions in a meeting (time to be determined), we also need your help. We need you to show up. Bring your kids to Sunday School. Volunteer as a teacher or helper in a class or for youth group. Volunteer to bring snacks or make a craft with the kids. Even come to the Adult Sunday School class.

**At this crucial juncture we need everyone "all in". We need you! You are Ashland! You are the Christian Education program. You and your family! With or without a director.**

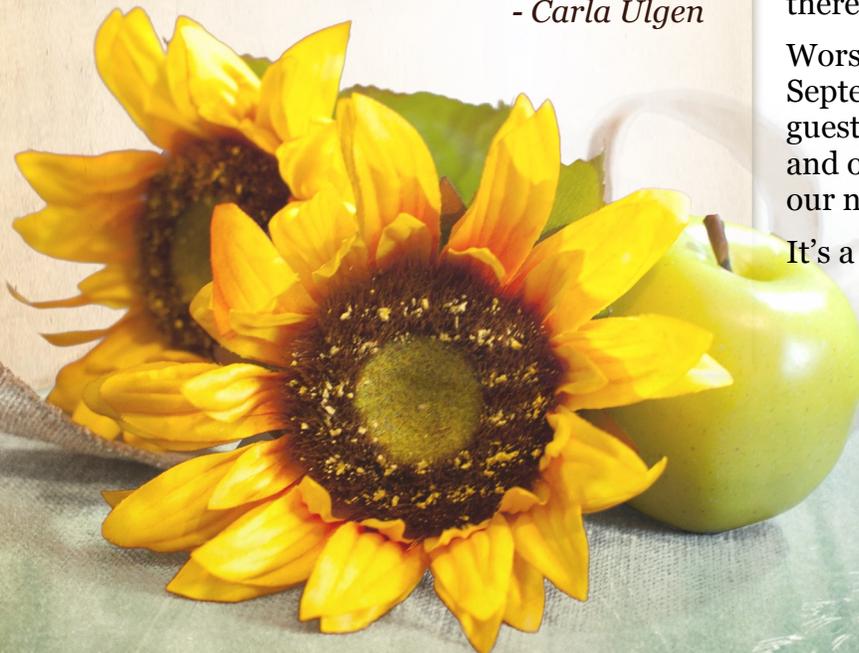
When the personnel committee has a better grasp on what is wanted, we will put together a hiring committee with a teacher and parent, in addition to personnel members, and resume our hiring as soon as possible.

So please, I hope to see you on September 11 at 10AM for Sunday School. The Elementary School ages will meet upstairs in the classroom at the end of the hall, the Teen group will meet in the board room and adult class in the counseling center. I hope to see you all there.

Worship will also resume with 2 services September 11. 9AM early worship with guest guitarist Barnabas Ravindranath and our traditional service at 11AM with our new Music Director Matthew Hart.

It's a new season, won't you join us?

With hope and joy,  
*Pastor Shannon*





Another successful year has passed at Ashland. This summer has been filled with fun activities for the children. They had water days, Olympic games, and picnics on

the playground. The summer projects have been posted on the walls in the hallway with beautiful "Under the Sea" murals and special artwork. The students made tiki masks, Olympic torches, bubble wrap fish, tie dye seahorses, etc. The hallways were so colorful with creativity.

Everyone is beginning to prepare for the upcoming school year with the new students. Most of the classes are full except for the Child Care 4's and Nursery T, Th 3's. I am still giving tours to prospective families, so I am hopeful the numbers for these classes will increase. Anyone who knows of families looking for child care, please have them contact us.

The quiet of the summer program is diminishing and we are getting ready for an active school year. I know that we will have another great year at the preschool!

- Anne Auvil



### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:***

Monday, September 12, 12:30 p.m. Lesson 1 of *Who is Jesus?* at the home of Susan Williams

- Susan Williams

*"Come to me,  
all you who are weary  
and burdened,  
and I will give  
you rest."*

*Matthew 11:28*



## YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is open to kids from 5th to 12th grade and meets the 2nd Sunday of each month.

For this month, Youth Group meets on Sunday, September 11 from 12:30—2:30 p.m. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Parents are encouraged to volunteer either by coming to help or by providing lunch for the kids.

Future Dates:

October 16, November 13, December 11



**Lord,**

*I thank You for the Labor Day holiday. I thank You for this time when I can choose to get added rest, or added fun, or added time to catch up on necessary chores.*

*Lord, this is also a great day for reflection. This is a day to thank You for the many gifts and talents that you have given me to serve You and serve others.*

*Lord, You have equipped me, You have prepared me, and You will enable me to make great contributions to this world. Enlarge my vision of Your awesome plan for my life.*

*I thank You for Your heavenly guidance. I celebrate the revelation, motivation, and determination that will take me to the next step in my destiny.*

*Bless my work and my career for Your glory. Enlarge my opportunities. Enable me to be prosperous as I dedicate myself to giving my best to the work assignments You have given me.*

*In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.*



## SPECIAL MUSIC

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  
11:00 AM WORSHIP**

**Jared Denhard, Harper/Piper**

In September, Special Music will be on the third Sunday, the 18th, with multi-talented Harper/Piper Jared Denhard. Jared plays several other instruments and is also a composer and storyteller. He teaches at Howard Community College. Jared is a member of several ensembles including O'Malley's March, the medieval jazz group Keltia, and the early music ensemble Boar's Head Consort. He is a visiting artist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's Arts Excel educational outreach program. Over the years he has produced several recordings.

Looking ahead:

October 9: The Kuzmik Violin/Cello Duo

November 13: The Satyr Hill Bluegrass Band



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have two more work days on McCabe in Govens this Fall for Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake, as follows: October 22, 2016 and December 17th, 2016. We need at least three volunteers for each of those days. Please contact Dick Uhler for more information and to sign up to help. Thanks!!

The Presbytery of Baltimore and its Cuba Team has been in partnership with El Centro Presbytery in Cuba since 2004. During that time, church-to-church partnerships have been formed, visits to and from partner churches have taken place and bi-annual gatherings have occurred. Above all other involvements, the Baltimore Cuba Team has provided specific, necessary items to the Cuba churches, using funds from the Baltimore Presbytery and other grants. These funds have been extremely helpful in providing much needed assistance to our Cuba partner churches.



One area of acute need in Cuba is that of over the counter medicine. On each major visit to Cuba, a supply of over the counter medication has been taken and distributed among the thirteen churches in El Centro Presbytery. There is no doubt that these medicines are appreciated by our Cuban friends and have fulfilled a great need in the church communities there. The 'Gracias' we receive confirms their appreciation for our generosity.

However, the funds we received for many years from an anonymous benefactor has ended. We are therefore in the process of finding other ways to generate money to provide these much needed medications. This effort includes an appeal for monetary assistance from the churches of the Presbytery of Baltimore.

**Contributions for the purchase of medicines would be greatly appreciated** by the Cuba Team and, eventually, by our partner churches in Cuba. The Cuba Team will visit El Centro Presbytery in February 2017 to participate in the semi-annual Encuentro (Gathering) and we would like to take the medicines with us.

**Funds to support our medicine drive may be sent to The Presbytery of Baltimore** (5400 Loch Raven Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230), earmarked "Medicine for Cuba", where they will be received by [Deborah Milcarek](#). For additional information, she may be contacted at The Presbytery Office at 410.433.2012.



## **SARAH'S HOPE**



*Please remember Sarah's Hope during one of  
your next shopping trips!*

***Bread  
Fresh fruit  
Breakfast bars  
Pop tarts  
Cereal  
Instant oatmeal  
Canned fruit (big cans)  
Shelf-stable milk  
Peanut butter and jelly  
Soup and stews (big cans)  
Frozen hot dogs  
Frozen hamburgers  
Hot dog & hamburger rolls***

***Paper cups  
Paper Plates  
Toothbrushes & paste  
Shampoo  
Deodorant  
Dove Soap  
Liquid Soap  
Lotion  
Feminine products  
Razors  
Baby wipes  
Diapers  
Formula***

***Granola Bars  
Graham Crackers  
Fruit Cups  
Cookies  
Plastic ware  
Napkins  
Laundry detergent  
Aspirin  
Band aids  
First Aid kits  
Towels & wash clothes  
Twin Sheets***

***Cathy Griffiths, Debbie Nassau,  
Clary Simmonds, Erin Hanmer  
serving at Sarah's Hope in August.***





**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	2	3
4 Worship Service 10:00 am	5 Office Closed 	6	7 Walking Group 10:00 am	8	9	10
11 Worship Services 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Sunday School 10:00 am  <b>Youth Group 12:30–2:30</b>	12 Women's Group 12:30 pm	13 Session 6:30 pm	14 Walking Group 10:00 am	15	16	17
18 Worship Services 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Sunday School 10:00 am  <b>Special Music at 11:00 am</b>	19	20	21 Walking Group 10:00 am  Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24  Sarah's Hope 2-5 pm
25 Worship Services 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Sunday School 10:00 am	26	27	28 Walking Group 10:00 am	29	30	

# ASHLAND CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	Anniversaries	Deacon/Elder Ordination Anniversaries
<b>9/10 Whitney Benzak</b> <b>9/14 John Walter</b> <b>9/15 Noble Pribble</b> <b>9/17 Jennefer Thomas</b> <b>9/18 Betty Wirtz</b> <b>9/21 Carter Habicht</b> <b>9/22 Phill Bednarik</b> <b>9/25 Adam Gribble</b> <b>9/26 Ken Hutcherson</b> <b>Ron Baldwin</b>	<b>9/6 Joy &amp; Paul Standiford</b> <b>9/13 Barb &amp; Bill Crow</b> <b>9/24 Glinda &amp; Rene Florendo</b> <b>9/29 Kathy &amp; Kim Aspden</b>	<b>None this month</b>

## ASSIGNMENTS

2016	September
<b>USHERS/ GREETERS</b>	<b>9/4</b> <b>9/11</b> <b>9/18 Jerry DeBoer</b> <b>9/25</b>
<b>SERVERS</b>	<b>9/4 Jerry DeBoer</b>
<b>LITURGIST</b>	<b>9/4 Priscilla Barrett</b> <b>9/11</b> <b>9/18</b> <b>9/25</b>
<b>VAN DRIVERS</b>	<b>9/4 Butch Zink</b> <b>9/11 Mike Benzak</b> <b>9/18 Jerry DeBoer</b> <b>9/25 Butch Zink</b>

**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 September  
JoAnn Ruther  
443-212-5161**

***During the week of July 25-29, Ashland held Vacation Bible School in conjunction with our mission partners on McCabe Ave. Here are some pictures of that week.***



***WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11, 2016***

***9:00 AM CONTEMPORARY***

***11:00 AM TRADITIONAL***

***SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM***



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