

Ashland Church News

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2014/2015



Ashland Presbyterian Church
116 Ashland Road
Cockeysville, MD
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 2014-2016

Bob Williams
Dawn Habicht
Amy Rudai
Julee Ward
Kim Aspden
Jacquie Sasser
Carla Ulgen
Gary Shockey
Debbie Modisette

Deacon Members 2014-2016

Barbara Porter
JoAnn Ruther
Penny DeBoer
Debbie Nassau
Nancy Starr
Deb Miller

Director of Contemporary Music & Creative Arts
Rob Kelly

Director of Children & Family Ministries
Katie Cashin

Organist/Choir Director
Yeri Jang

Pre-school Director
Anne Auvil

Where in the World is Pastor Shannon?

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. ~Ruth 1:16

Yesterday I sat in a meeting with other members of our presbytery and we were sharing with one another the work the ministry groups of the presbytery were doing. There are 72 churches in Baltimore presbytery and we were split into smaller groups to work together, meet, and have fellowship. As we listened around the table I was reminded of the connectional nature of the church, one of the main reasons why we are Presbyterian.

When one of us does mission and ministry we do it for all.

I remember being told as a child going on a field trip that when we left the school we were representing the school to the outside world. I always felt this was an important responsibility, like an ambassador.

This year I have had ample opportunity to be your ambassador. I have represented you to our sister church in Cuba, represented Ashland and Baltimore Presbytery for Cuba's El Centro Presbytery. I spent 2 weeks this year in Atlanta at Columbia Seminary starting my doctoral studies, a class where you, this church, were the focus. I have led retreats and conferences where you and our work is discussed and lifted up as examples. I have preached, led open space time, and taught workshops at Presbytery focusing on our worship style and the ministry we do together. I preached and represented Ashland at Katie Jasa's (our former intern) ordination.

Being a pastor is difficult work, there is no doubt about that, and the majority of our work is unseen by the people we serve. Meetings, mission, counseling, worship and sermon preparation, visitations, and serving the larger church is all as your pastor, all on your behalf.

Every time I come back from a trip I walk into worship and have that "it's good to be home" feeling. It is a privilege to represent you in the larger church and world. My work is your work, as yours is also mine. That's how community and relationship works to further the kingdom of God.

As we end this year and begin a new, I look forward to the work we will continue to do together, with and for each other.

Pastor Shannon

Ashland's Kids Corner

Ashland Families,

Don't forget to pick up your Advent Devotional Calendars on the back pew in the sanctuary. Carrying on the devotional's theme of "Decluttering Christmas" our children and youth ministries will be holding off on our usual seasonal service project until later this winter. We have decided to do this so that we can provide much needed support during a time when the holiday bustle has died down and many local organizations are looking for help. We still hope to see you during our Advent activities listed below...

Sunday December 14

One Service, Sunday School at 10 a.m.
Christmas Cantata at 11 a.m.
Youth Group 5-7 p.m.

Sunday December 21

Jesus' Birthday Party at 10 a.m.
All classes. Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday December 24

Christmas Eve services at 5 and 7 p.m.

Sundays December 28 and January 4

One worship Service. No Sunday School.

Sunday January 11

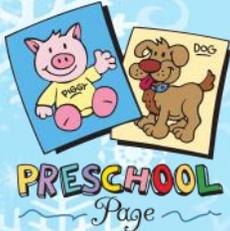
Sunday School at 10 a.m.
Youth Group 5-7 p.m.

Peace,
Katie

An Advent Prayer

God of hope

*be with us in our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond,
be with us in our meeting
and in our travelling together,
be with us in our worship
and our praying together,
be with us in our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond,
our God of hope.*



The holiday season is upon us. The children are busy baking holiday treats, preparing gifts for their parents and learning about the different holidays around the world. They will also have an opportunity to build their own fireplace and hang stockings, make gingerbread friends, sort candy canes by size, and decorate the classroom doors. We are fortunate to have Katie come to the classrooms and read or sing a special Christmas story again this year.

To help the families get acquainted with each other, we sponsored a Family Movie Night. Ms. Amanda organized the event and the teachers helped orchestrate it. They were able to earn Professional Activity Units for credentialing. Families came to eat pizza and popcorn and watch Toy Story III. We raised a small amount of money but the families enjoyed the evening and getting to know each other.

Our final fund raiser for 2014 was Chick-fil-A Night which Ms. Gina organized. The families were invited to have dinner with friends and visit the teachers while earning money for our school. Twenty percent of the proceeds will be donated to Ashland Preschool. It was a huge success and many of our families filled the restaurant throughout the evening. We will definitely have another Chick-fil-A fundraiser in the winter.

We are going to begin our "Hat and Mitten" drive for the needy. Lorene LaBerge (our music teacher) will take the hats, mittens and gently used outerwear to the Assistance Center of Towson Churches once again.

We hope you have a great holiday season and enjoy spending quality time with your family and friends.

CELEBRATING PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Best Book Club EVER!!



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 scholarships in Guatemala through the Mary Helen Grimm Scholarship Fund, the washing/social mission contributions sent to Cabaiguan, Cuba, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Sarah's Hope, etc. etc. Share this fellowship with APC women and enjoy the 2014-15 Bible Study, *Reconciling Paul—A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*. Contact Susan Williams, Moderator, at 410-785-6955, for additional information.

On the Calendar for Presbyterian Women:

Monday, December 8, 2014, Lesson 4 of the Bible Study, *Reconciling Paul—A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*, Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. sharing lunch with Project Linus women prior to Bible Study.

Monday, January 12, 2015, 12:30 p.m., Lesson 5 of the Bible Study, *Reconciling Paul—A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*, at the home of Susan Williams.



We always look forward during the Christmas season to the festive music of Brass Reflections. They will perform on **December 21st** at the **11:00am** service. The Brass Quintet is composed of CHRIS BENNETT, trumpet; TOM EDGE, trumpet, LESLIE WHARTON, French horn; MIKE WIRTANEN, trombone and Director JIM WHARTON. They are all accomplished musicians and we are very pleased to have them share their talents with us.

January 11th Second Sunday Special music features Cellist, Gretchen Gettes and American Harpist Jacqueline Pallauf. Gretchen received her undergraduate degree from Duke University and Master's of Music in Cello performance from USC where she studied with renowned cellist, Lynn Harrell. While there she was a member of the Northwest Ballet Orchestra. Gretchen freelances in the Baltimore/Washington area and is a member of the Gliss Ensemble and the band Maycat. She serves on the faculty of Goucher College and the Baltimore School for the Arts.

Jacqueline Pallauf, made her debut with the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra at age sixteen and released her debut album, *Bouquet*, in 2009. Jacqueline is the principal Harpist with the Mid Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and has performed with several other orchestras and ensembles. Collaborating with saxophonist, Noah Getz, Jacqueline is a member of Pictures on Silence, a harp and saxophone new music ensemble. Jacqueline is on the faculty of American University, the Baltimore School for the Arts, Goucher College and the Univ. of Maryland, Balt. Co. She holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University.

Mission—*"I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."* John 13: 15

**Family and friends, and YOU and me,
We're ALL invited to a Holiday TEA!**



**Sunday, December 7th ~ 1:30-3:30pm
at
"Timely Manor Tea House"
(a.k.a. The Ruthers')
1915 Monkton Rd.
Monkton, MD 21111**

*To go with our tea we'll have music and treats,
and small "works of art" to make at our seats.
The price of admission is one special thing:
Some holiday treasure each family should bring.
So when we are finished God's love won't be hid,
But will fly to Kasupe to bless Fletcher's kids!*

**100% of a free-will offering will be sent home with our mission partners Fletcher, Sarah
and Tazirwa Padoko when they return to Malawi in December.**

**Please sign-up on the sheet on the hall table or RSVP to JoAnn Ruther at 443-212-5161 by
12/1.**

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12th from 7:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
at the Hensleys' Home. (16650 Remare Road, Monkton, MD, 21111).
Directions will be available on the church hall table.
Please sign up if you plan on attending.**

Celebration—*"Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; celebrate His lovely name with music."* Psalm 135: 3

The Ashland Church Family

CARES ... Update from the Ashland Angels



Guess what folks??? Winter is here!! Brrrrrr.....stay warm dear friends.

My special thanks to all of the Ashland Angels who provided meals and visits to Betty Wirtz: Bonnie Clarke, Sue Ruhl, JoAnn Ruther, and Susan Williams. Your help and kindness is greatly appreciated.

After much thought and prayer; I have decided to step down as Care Team Leader by the end of January, 2015. This was not an easy decision, but after 10 years as leader, it is time. Jerry is retiring the end of April, and we hope to travel to our families and friends in the mid-west, and perhaps to some new places as well. In addition, I want to be more available to spend time with my grandchildren while they are young and excited about time with "Mimi."

Please know I will always be a care giver...whether I am a Leader or a "worker bee." It is part of my DNA to take care of others, so I will always be ready to help others when I can. And, rest assured, the Care Team will carry on....either under the guidance of a caring individual (calling all wanna' be Angels??) or through the Deacons. A working plan will be in place before I step down.

Thank you all for understanding and supporting my decision.....love and blessings.....Penny

The session has decided to postpone the congregational meeting at this time. Please see the following note from the session.

After two meetings to consider and approve a budget for 2015, the Session has decided to defer adoption of a budget for 2015. Please be assured that our Church is financially sound. We are taking this step only so that we may consider additional data of year-to-date November and year-to-date December reports. Last year, we initially had a concern of meeting the 2013 budget when we compared projections in October. But happily, 2013 actually ended with better than projected numbers. We appreciate that this change may have been due to our members answering the call for additional support. Before we finalize a 2015 budget, we feel it would be prudent to have the additional reports showing actual receipts and expenses.

*With Peace and Blessings,
Shannon*

EDUCATION BUILDING LIGHTING UPGRADE

We applied for and received a grant for over \$7500.00 from BGE Smart Energy. The grant covers the cost of replacing the fluorescent lights in the entire building with energy efficient LED tubes. The retrofit process required removal of the ballasts and tombstones from each fixture, replacing them with new tombstones (which hold the LED tubes) and making new AC connections. We anticipate energy consumption to be reduced by more than one-half. Ron Baldwin and Tom Griffiths provided the labor with assistance from Henry Diemel who disassembled some of the old fixtures. As a bonus, the grant also provided new Exit lights for the building. Over three hundred fluorescent tubes and 75 ballasts have been removed from service and will be offered on Craig's List. The preschool staff is extremely pleased with the quality of light (and brightness) from the upgraded fixtures. We expect that the new tubes will last a minimum of ten years. Sorry Henry, lighting maintenance may no longer be part of your job responsibilities. :)

ROB RECOMMENDS



ROB RECOMMENDS

MARK KOZELEK SINGS CHRISTMAS

Do yourself a solid and pick up this crooner record in time for Christmas.

***In case of inclement weather please call
the church office (410-527-1844)
or check our webpage
(www.ashlandpc.org)
for closing information.***

ASHLAND CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

12/3 Jerry DeBoer
Kathy Nicht
12/4 Will Nassau
12/10 Cathy Griffiths
12/12 Joy Standiford
Don Williams
12/17 Kim Bednarik
12/19 Greg Merrill
12/22 Bob Hensley
Dick Uhler
12/23 Gene Ruhl
12/24 Bill McDonald
Natalie Wagner
12/28 Barbara Porter
12/29 Vinny Mendel
Luke Wagner

JANUARY

1/8 Dan Aspden
1/10 Cerys Beckwith
1/12 Sue Ruhl
1/15 Andrew Bednarik
1/18 Will Sasser
1/21 Butch Zink
1/22 Brenda Holland
1/23 Trish Deimel
1/25 Zachary Ciemian
1/26 Morgan Hensley
1/27 Elyssa Ruth
1/28 Betty Grubb
1/31 Kathy Aspden
Michael Coradi

ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

12/10 Butch & Marcie Zink
12/20 Jim & Sandy St. Germain
12/31 Thomas & Sarah Beckwith

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

HELP MAKE CHURCH HAPPEN!
Volunteer *today* for one of these essential jobs!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

LITURGISTS – lead the printed Call to Worship, read the First Scripture Lesson, receive the Offering and pray the Prayer of Dedication

USHERS – prepare and restore sanctuary before and after worship. Insure that other assignments are covered. Assist with seating, distribution of prayer cards and any other needs of the congregation. CONTACT: **Carla Ulgen or Jacquie Sasser**

GREETERS – cheerfully greet worshippers and hand-out bulletins, introduce themselves to visitors and give them a Welcome Packet.

VAN DRIVERS – pick-up and return worshippers from Broadmead Retirement Community. Training required. CONTACT: **Bill Kobokovich**

CHILD CARE - help in the nursery on a rotating schedule ~ 10:45-12:15 p.m.
CONTACT: **Katie Cashin**

LITURGISTS 11:00 am	USHERS	VAN DRIVERS
12/7	12/7 Jerry & Penny DeBoer	12/7 Mike Benzak
12/14	12/14 Amy Cavolo & Julee Ward	12/14 Jerry DeBoer
12/21	12/21 Mike & Kim Ciemian	12/21 Bill Kobokovich
12/28	12/28 Phill & Kim Bednarik	12/28 Butch Zink
1/4	1/4 Kim & Kathy Aspden	1/4 Bob Hensley
1/11	1/11 Gene & Sue Ruhl	1/11 Mike Benzak
1/18	1/18 Gary Shockey & Suzanne Boyd	1/18 Jerry DeBoer
1/25	1/25 Barb Crow & Marlene Uhler	1/25 Butch Zink



*Early Worship
9:00 am*

*Christian Education Classes
10:00 am*



Worship 11:00 am

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
	1 <i>Project Linus 9:30 a.m.</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Family Christmas Tea 1:30—3:30 p.m. at the Ruthers' Home</i>	8 <i>Women's Grp. 12:30 p.m.</i>	9 <i>Session—6:30 p.m.</i>	10	11	12 <i>Adult Christmas Party at the Hensleys' home</i>	13
14 <i>ONE SERVICE Christmas Cantata 11 am Kids Club/Youth Grp. 5 p.m.</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Jesus' Birthday Party 10 a.m. SPECIAL MUSIC BRASS REFLECTIONS</i>	22	23	24 <i>Family Friendly Service 5 p.m. Traditional Service 7 p.m.</i>	25  <i>Merry Christmas</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 <i>Sarah's Hope 2-5 p.m.</i>
28 <i>ONE SERVICE—11:00 a.m. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</i>	29	30	31	1/1  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 <i>ONE SERVICE—11:00 a.m. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</i>	5 <i>Project Linus 9:30 a.m.</i>	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>2nd Sunday Special Music Coffee Hour at 10:00 a.m. Kids Club/Youth Grp. 5 p.m.</i>	12 <i>Women's Grp. 12:30 p.m.</i>	13 <i>Session—6:30 p.m.</i>	14	15	16	17
18	19 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Sarah's Hope 2-5 p.m.</i>
25	26	27 <i>Comm. Night 6:30 p.m.</i>	28	29	30	31

WEEKLY EVENTS ...

Sundays

Wednesdays

Thursdays

Special Needs - Troop #927 2:00 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings 8:30 p.m.

Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. ~ Chancel Choir—8:00 p.m.

Asland Presbyterian Church
116 Ashland Road
Cockeysville, Maryland 21030-1950



COME AND WORSHIP.....

November 30th —1st Sunday of Advent
Early Service 9:00 a.m. ~ Worship 11:00 a.m.

December 7th—2nd Sunday of Advent-Communion
Early Service at 9:00 a.m. ~ Worship 11:00 a.m.

December 14th—3rd Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata ~ **One Service at 11:00 a.m.**
Kid's Club~ Youth Group 5:00—7:00 p.m.

December 21st—4th Sunday of Advent
Jesus' Birthday Party—10:00 a.m.
"Special Music" at 11:00 a.m. with the "Brass Reflections"

Wednesday, December 24th—Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m.—Family Worship
7:00 p.m.—Traditional Worship

Sunday, December 28th—1st Sunday after Christmas
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
ONE SERVICE AT 11:00 A.M.

Sunday, January 4th—Celebration of Epiphany ~ Communion
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
ONE SERVICE AT 11:00 A.M.