

# ASHLAND CHURCH NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2018



### *Pulpitshenanigans*

#### Cuban Pastor's Retreat

*"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." –Matthew 11:28-30*

I've heard it at every retreat I've ever attended with other pastors, at least yearly at a presbytery meeting, and privately one on one: "I wish I had a pastor."

Pastors are in unique positions. As leaders of faith we are one of but never fully part of our community of faiths. When we get a chance to visit another church or worship in a community it is not "our own" and admittedly, very hard to turn off our brains to what is happening around us. Even the most complimentary pastors I know have a hard time being fully present when someone else is leading worship.

The thoughts creep in, "I would have done that differently." or "That's a great point or story, how can I use that?" My best friend, who is a pastor, will no longer see movies that "have meaning" in her spare time because they feel like work to her. The thought goes through my head on a consistent basis, "how can I use that in a sermon."

Pastors are in need of spiritual nourishment, like worship, but even more than worship, pastors are in need of a pastor themselves. Someone who knows them, who knows their family and situation, someone who will give them an inspiring word when things are difficult? We have therapists and mentors and colleagues, but we don't have pastors.

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The Rev. Shannon Meacham, Pastor  
On the web at: [www.ashlandpc.org](http://www.ashlandpc.org)

**Clerk of Session**  
Bob Williams

**Church Treasurer**  
Jeanette Baldwin

**Financial Secretary**  
Cathy Griffiths

**Session Members**  
**2017-2019**  
Jerry DeBoer  
Rene Florendo  
Tom Griffiths  
Will Nassau  
Gene Ruhl  
Jacquie Sasser  
Carla Ulgen  
John Walter

**Pre-school Director**  
Anne Auwil

**Organist & Music Director**  
Sheila Slade-Lee

**Office Manager**  
Cecil Weber



Ashland Presbyterian Church  
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## ***Pulpitshenanigans (continued)***

What do you mean, you ask? You have more pastors than we do! You have all your friends!! Yes and no. When I talk to my friends they are friends, and no one wants to feel like they're working when they are talking with their friends. I know this sounds harsh, but it's different. We commiserate, we are compassionate and forgiving of one another, but it's not the same. As a pastor the closest thing I have to "a pastor" is the pastor of a church I grew up with (which gets harder the older I get) or a mentor.

This is true for all pastors around the globe, but in the majority of the world it's a little easier, because of technology. We can reach out to each other; we have ministry groups and pastor's gatherings. So imagine how hard it would be when traveling to see your friends, family, or other ministers in your area costs almost a week's wage and takes 6-8 hours. Imagine how hard it is when there is no internet. Imagine how hard it is when you serve not one or two, but four churches?

Well that's the life of Cuban pastors. Mentoring, collegiality, and friendships with others who share this unique profession are almost impossible. And although we cannot solve this problem entirely, on January 15-19, 2018 a group of pastors traveled to Cuba from both Baltimore Presbytery and Central Florida Presbytery to try to change some of that and the Pastor-A-Pastor program was born.

The vision is a peer network of pastors in the US and Cuba who are committed to helping one another do more than just survive their calls to vocational ministry. The first three-year cycle will start with face-to-face time at the January 2018 retreat in Cuba, where friendships and shared ministry passions will be discovered and encouraged. Cross-cultural relationships will deepen as participants maintain connection via regular virtual check-ins and additional in-country visits.

Participants commit to:

- January 2018 Retreat (including some pre-event preparation)
- At least one future retreat (location/time to be determined) before end of 2020.
- Building pastor-to-pastor friendships that provide mutual support and care, accountability, collaboration and prayer.

Working through and troubleshooting barriers that come up (language, technology, cultural differences, etc).

The week was a success! It had its bumps as any "first of its kind" programs would. We had many hurdles to overcome; coordinating first time expectations and schedules of 15 pastors, travel, visas, and two languages, as well as what individuals *need* from a pastor and a retreat. Yet, at the end of the week, we walked away, partnered up and ready for this new way of support and commitment to self-care, rejuvenation, mutual sharing, and spiritual growth.

There will be more programs to come and another retreat will be planned for this first trial group, but we hope and pray that this will be a chance for us all to overcome some of the loneliness of ministry that we all face.

*- Pastor Shannon*



**IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES TO YOUR INFORMATION IN THE PARISH DIRECTORY (I.E., ADDRESS CHANGE, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS, ETC.) PLEASE CONTACT CECIL IN THE CHURCH OFFICE EITHER BY PHONE, 410-527-1844 OR EMAIL AT OFFICE@ASHLANDPC.ORG. THANK YOU!!**

**LENT 2018 “AMAZING GRACE: NOT ALL IS LOST”**  
**LUKE 15:11-32**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>February 14</b> | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>                                       |
| <b>February 18</b> | <b>Why Forgive? (Colossians 3:12-17)</b>                   |
| <b>February 25</b> | <b>Naming the Hurt (Matthews 18-15-35)</b>                 |
| <b>March 4</b>     | <b>Granting Forgiveness/Communion<br/>(Jeremiah 31:34)</b> |
| <b>March 11</b>    | <b>Needing Forgiveness (Matthew 5:23-24)</b>               |
| <b>March 18</b>    | <b>Forgiving Yourself (Ephesians 4:31-32)</b>              |
| <b>March 25</b>    | <b>Palm Sunday/His Last Days/Cantata</b>                   |
| <b>March 29</b>    | <b>Maundy Thursday</b>                                     |
| <b>April 1</b>     | <b>Easter</b>  |



**Special Music welcomes *Kathrin Murray & Troy King*, Guitar Duo, on February 11 at Worship!**

A native of Hawaii, Ms. Murray received her Bachelor's Degree from Denver's Lamont School of Music, and a Master's from the Peabody Conservatory. She is an active soloist, chamber musician and teacher, currently teaching at the Baltimore School for the Arts, McDaniel College and the Bryn Mawr School.

Mr. King holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute and the University of Denver. He has performed in concert throughout the U.S., Europe and Latin America, and has been heard on the BBC and frequently on Public Radio, both in the U.S. and Spain. Mr. King teaches classical guitar and guitar ensemble at Towson University.

**Looking Ahead:**

**March 11**                      **Jacqueline Pollauf, Harpist**

**April 1 Easter Sunday**   **Greg Small, Trumpeter**



**MISSION COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
ON SUNDAY,  
*FEBRUARY 18*  
AFTER WORSHIP**



**Fay Husted, the Baltimore City/County Chapter Coordinator for Project Linus is looking for volunteers to help sew labels on donated blankets. They meet on the first Monday of the month at 9:30 am in the sewing room. You do not have to commit to coming every month—come whenever you can! No experience required!**

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 14, 2018  
SERVICE AT 7:00 p.m.**





NEXT CHURCH

# THE DESERT IN BLOOM

LIVING, DYING, AND RISING  
IN A WILDERNESS CHURCH

[Nextchurch.net](http://Nextchurch.net)

8 NATIONAL  
1 GATHERING  
0 BALTIMORE, MD  
2 FEBRUARY 26-28

The NEXT Church National Gathering is filled with church leaders (pastors and lay people) sharing stories of their experiences of ministry, new ideas they are trying, and honest conversations about ministry today. Creative worship centers us around God's presence. Multiple opportunities to engage in workshops and conversation about particular aspects of ministry foster new and deeper connections. We hope you will join us!

NEXT Church gatherings are for EVERYONE who is interested in the health and vitality of the church and we know that health and vitality can't be achieved without ruling elders, deacons, and church members playing an active role.

We have a number of places in the National Gathering that we hope will be particularly helpful to lay leaders: **20% off registration!** Use the code **LayLeaderDiscount** to receive 20% off your registration. The code is good for the Connector (\$152) and Sustainer (\$255) levels as well as single day tickets (\$80-\$111). Make the choice that works best for you and your budget. (If the Gathering is still cost prohibitive, please apply for a scholarship; we don't want cost to exclude anyone from participation.) Please note: the lay leader discount code may be applied on the Eventbrite page by clicking "enter promotional code" at the top of the ticket page, which pops up when you click "tickets."

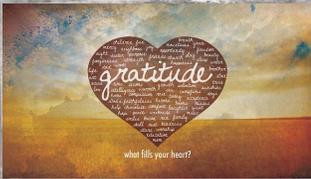
**Workshops:** Lay leaders are welcome at ANY workshops that are of interest, but two we want to turn your attention to particular are **In Ministry Together: How Laity Can Embrace Their Call and Leadership Essentials for Laity**. Both of those will be offered on Tuesday.

The Gathering is being held at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, 202 E Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21202 on February 26-28.



## GRATITUDE CORNER

*From Fay Husted, Coordinator for Project Linus:*



Because of you, the Baltimore Chapter of Project Linus was able to donate over 2500 blankets to 18 different facilities during 2017. We thank you for your monetary gifts and your donations of beautifully crafted blankets, fabric, yarn, and especially your time! Your contributions helped our chapter bring comfort and joy to many children in Baltimore.





**Sunday School 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Fellowship after Worship**

**WEEKLY EVENTS ...**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Sundays</b><br/><b>Tuesdays</b><br/><b>Wednesdays</b><br/><b>Thursdays</b><br/><b>Fridays</b><br/><b>Saturday</b></p> | <p><b>Special Needs Troop #927 2:00 p.m.; Church of the Nazarene 5:00—7:00 p.m.</b><br/><b>Daisy Troop #625 6:00-7:00 p.m.; Church of the Nazarene Choir Practice 7:30—9:30 pm</b><br/><b>Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings 8:30 p.m.</b><br/><b>Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.-7:30 pm; Chancel Choir: 8:00 p.m.</b><br/><b>Church of the Nazarene (3rd Friday) 9:30 p.m.—Midnight</b><br/><b>Alcoholic Anonymous Svc. Mtg. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Church of the Nazarene 7:30-9:30 p.m.</b></p> |
|---|---|

| SUN   | MON   | TUE                               | WED  | THU | FRI | SAT                          |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----|-----|------------------------------|
|   |   |                                   |  | 1   | 2   | 3                            |
| <p><b>4 5th Sunday after Epiphany</b><br/>9:30 am Sunday School<br/>10:30 am Worship Service<br/><b>Congregational Meeting after Worship</b></p>                                      | <p>5<br/>Project Linus<br/>9:30 am</p>  | 6                                 | 7  | 8   | 9   | 10                           |
| <p><b>11 Transfiguration of the Lord</b><br/>9:30 am Sunday School<br/>10:30 am Worship Service<br/><br/><b>Special Music:<br/>Kathrin Murray &amp;<br/>Troy King, Guitar Duo</b></p> | <p>12<br/>Women's Group<br/>12:30 pm</p>  | <p>13<br/>Session<br/>6:30 pm</p> | <p>14<br/>Service<br/>7:00 pm<br/><br/><br/>ASH<br/>WEDNESDAY</p> | 15  | 16  | 17                           |
| <p><b>18 1st Sunday in Lent</b><br/>9:30 am Sunday School<br/>10:30 am Worship Service<br/><br/><b>Mission Committee Mtg.<br/>After Worship</b></p>                                   | <p>19<br/></p> | 20                                | 21   | 22  | 23  | 24<br>Sarah's Hope<br>2-5 pm |
| <p><b>25 2nd Sunday in Lent</b><br/>9:30 am Sunday School<br/>10:30 am Worship Service</p>  | 26  | 27                                | 28   |     |     |                              |

## ASHLAND CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

| Birthdays  | Anniversaries               | Deacon/Elder Ordination Anniversaries   |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| 2/03 Amy Cavolo<br>2/08 Drew Wagner<br>2/15 Robbie Wheeler<br>2/16 Karen Hensley<br>2/24 Mike Benzak<br>Emily Wheeler<br>2/26 Mary Jo Kern<br>2/28 Sandy St. Germain | 2/20 Jerry and Penny DeBoer | 2/2 Jim St. Germain (2003)<br>2/15 Cathy Griffiths (2015)<br>Gene Ruhl (2015)<br>Rene Florendo (2015)<br>2/25 Vince Mendel (2007) |

*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

| 2018                        | February  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>USHERS/<br/>GREETERS</b> | 2/4 Julee Ward<br><br>2/11<br>2/18<br>2/25                                      |
| <b>SERVERS</b>              | 2/4 Julee Ward  |
| <b>LITURGIST</b>            | 2/11<br>2/18<br>2/25  |
| <b>VAN<br/>DRIVERS</b>      | 2/4 Jerry DeBoer<br>2/11 Butch Zink<br>2/18 Bill Kobokovich<br>2/25 Bob Hensley |

*As we look ahead to the season of Lent, why not become more involved in Worship as part of your Lenten Spiritual practices? Sign up to be an usher/greeter, liturgist or server. Sign up sheets are on the table in the hallway.*





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