I Went to a Garden Party

One of my favorite songs from long ago is “Garden Party” by Ricky Nelson. He had a problem with being a teen idol who had starred in the old Ozzie & Harriet Nelson television series. He had a difficult time growing out of and beyond and out of his teen image from the T.V. series and it posed real problems for him. Wherever he went people wanted to see and hear the same old songs he had sung as a teen idol. He was tired of that. He wanted to sing new songs but the crowds wanted only the old songs. It was a terrific metaphor for what I was experiencing in the church and so I resonated a lot with its message.

In particular the words from his song Garden Party that have always resonated with me included this chorus:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{But if memories were all I sang} \\
\text{I'd rather drive a truck} \\
\text{But it's all right now} \\
\text{I learned my lesson well} \\
\text{You see, you can't please everyone} \\
\text{So you got to please yourself}
\end{align*}
\]

That’s the truth. If memories were all I sang, I’d rather drive a truck. “Right”! “Spot on”! “Nailed it”! When I was young it was especially easy for me to identify with what Nelson was saying. I saw “old” people in the church refusing to accept change, staying locked in to the “old ways” of thinking and doing things. Of course at that age “30” was “old” to me. As a young person trying to introduce “change” to churches much in need of change, attached to the old ways and especially resistant to change I found the words to Garden Party inspiring. I wanted to do more than just sing old memories. I wanted to sing some new memories too.

I’m in a different place now. Now, I’m one of the “old timers”. I find change harder and harder to gravitate to, harder to negotiate, a bit more troublesome than when I was a young buck intent on “all things change”. I never was one of those radical young guys wanting to throw the baby out with the bath water but change was good.

It’s kind of funny though how things look different now than years ago and how my perspective changed over the years. Having said that I still resonate with “if memories were all I sang, I’d rather drive a truck”. Being older I have more memories that are precious to me, more stories to tell and more of a tendency to get into those good old times but I want to experience new things, new ways of doing things and staying young at heart. The church of today has to be about tomorrow, not yesterday. The church needs to always be looking forward, not backwards and the church, if it is to continue to be relevant in making new disciples, is called to look through the windshield, not the rear-view mirror. While cherishing and learning the lessons of the past let’s keep looking forward and singing the song in new ways.
**NEWS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**PRAYER LIST**

Please let us know if you know of someone who is sick or is a shut-in. Thank you.

*Michael Lastre – Keep in your prayers.*

*Dolores Wachtman – Keep in your prayers.*

*Wauneta Wine – Please keep Wauneta and Jim in your prayers.*

*Al Abraham* – Recovering at his daughter’s home in Kansas. Call the church office if you would like Al’s address while in Kansas.

*Edwina Meheux* – Now at Homecrest. Please keep in your prayers.

*Marge Skucas* – Please keep in your prayers

*Patty Clark* - Please keep Patty in your prayers.

If you would like to send cards, please call office for address.

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**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

2 Tracy Miller

6 Roger Crutchfield

13 Sasha Treasure

19 Cassie Chance

16 Amy & Blake Buckingham

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**PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW OF YOUR BIRTHDATE AND/OR ANNIVERSARY DATE SO WE MAY CELEBRATE WITH YOU!**

Worship Services are Now Back In Person !!!!

11:00AM Sunday

Worship service will continue to be offered online as soon as we can get it posted. Keep checking www.aspenhillcc.org, click on videos, choose the date you want.
FELLOWSHIP…Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance
We are enjoying fellowship time outside after service and we hope you are too! There was a nice turn out for the Wrights’ baby shower. We are so excited to welcome a new baby into the church family. Now that we are having nice weather, we hope more of you will join us in fellowship after the service. Remember - if you would like to sponsor the outdoor refreshments one Sunday, just call the office and let us know. Take care & continued blessings!

PROPERTY…Jeff Price
Greetings from the Property Ministry. The roof above the Church entrance and office area has started to leak when it rains. We have repairs scheduled and it will be a very expensive undertaking. The repair cost will be the “Hot Button” campaign this year so please prayerfully consider your participation this year. Have a safe and enjoyable June.

OUTREACH…Connie Spoon
Our food pantry is stocked with plenty of non-perishable items. If you are in need of assistance or would like to donate to the food pantry, please contact the church office and we will do everything we can to coordinate with you. It’s hard to believe that our backpack drive will begin soon (July/August). The school supply list will be available in the July newsletter. Please continue to keep everyone in the church and community in your prayers.

WORSHIP…Carol Knott
Our worship services continue to be meaningful in many ways beginning with the weekly sermon. On June 6th we will have Membership Sunday when we recognize the year that we joined Aspen Hill. Have you been a member for a long time or are you a fairly new member? Then on June 20th, Fathers’ Day will be celebrated. Let us think of how important fathers have been in our lives. It is so good to come to church in person and we are also following the Covid guidelines for our county. We do have seats available so if you haven’t come yet. Make it this Sunday. You’ll be glad you did!
STEWARDSHIP…John Small

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your continued support during this year. Through your giving you have enabled the ministries of our church to continue even with the complications of the pandemic. As we enter the summer months and things begin to loosen up, please remember that our church needs your continued support throughout the Summer even as many of us finally will be able to go on vacations again.

Starting Soon: We will begin our Hot Button Campaign for 2021 in the next few weeks. The proceeds from the campaign will be used to help pay some of the cost associated with replacing our roofs on both the old and new buildings. As Dr. Chance has mentioned over the past few weeks, the roof over the office complex has been leaking in several places and must be replaced immediately. In addition, the remaining roof areas are several years past their lifetime and need to be replaced as well. During the month of June, you will receive a Hot Button campaign pledge card. Please prayerfully consider your over and above gift to this very important campaign.

On the horizon we will be having a church fair on September 18th. The fair is being chaired by Linda Vincent. If you would like to help, please contact Linda ASAP. In addition, if you would like to make items to sell at the craft table the time to start is now.

Congratulations Graduates!

On Sunday May 23rd we celebrated how proud we are of our recent Graduates!

- Marybeth Appleyard Daughter of Beth Appleyard graduated from Howard High School
- Tristan Burch Son of Arlyn Sanchez graduated from Univ. of Md. College Park
- Carter Buckingham Son of Blake and Amy Buckingham graduated from Sherwood High School
- Rebekah Lynd Granddaughter of Karen Heidelberger graduated from Paint Brandch High School
- Raven L McChesney Granddaughter of Connie Spoon graduated from High School
- Dakota Simons Son of Lisa Price graduated from Univ of MD Baltimore

Have You Heard About the Church Fair?

Please put Saturday, September 18th on your calendar for our Church Fair, an event that the church used to have several years ago.

We will have tables set up for the selling of Plants (real and artificial), Jewelry (costume and handmade), Crafts (including Christmas decorations and all types of wreaths), Books and an "Odds and Ends" table. In the past, these have been the most popular items that sell. If you are planning any "spring cleaning", we ask that church members put aside items no longer wanted and donate them to be sold at the fair. Items should be in reasonably good condition. Flyers will be made at a later date and distributed by volunteers around the area. We will also advertise on social media. In order for our fair to be a success, we will need lots of volunteers for various jobs, such as help...
to set up the tables and clean up following the fair. If you have any questions or want to discuss any "special talents" you have and are willing to contribute those talents for the fair, please see me, or call me at home. Thanks for any assistance you can provide to help make this fair a successful endeavor.
Linda Vincent (301) 452-3917 (cell)

Highlights from The Board Meeting

The Board met via Zoom on May 12. Among the items discussed and actions taken are:

- Reports from the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Ministry Chairs, Elders & Deacons, Pastor, and other leaders.
- Received the generous gift from the Queen family in honor of Galen & Virginia.
- Approved letting Dr. Chance decide on the best alternative for selling a car received from Betty Williams’ estate.
- Approved a motion to fix and upgrade the audio and visual abilities to make our worship services available online in a better format.
- Approved setting a goal of $10,000.00 for the Hot Button Campaign.
- Approved re-opening the church for use by both the Monday and Friday night AA groups providing they accept the required agreements in advance.
- Prayed for God’s continued guidance in these challenging times.

A note from Phoenix Friday Night Alcoholics in Recovery Group

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Submit Your Articles, Updates, & Information we might like to include in future Newsletters to Karen for possible inclusion in the future.
Please keep your giving up both faithfully and regularly. These are challenging times. The church has continued to provide wonderful ministry throughout the year and we need you to keep bringing your offerings in. Even keeping our budget to absolute minimum increases our expenses will exceed our income and we need each other to be faithful.

You can drop your offerings by the office...

Mail your offerings in... OR

Give “Online”...

Worship is now in person Sunday at 11:00AM and online the following day at www.aspenhillcc.org, then click on the green “Videos” Tab. Be sure to click the thumbs-up icon and make any nice comments you want to. Comments help drive our visibility to others up. Share the links for our weekly worship with your friends and neighbors

FACTS & FIGURES

Worship Attendance in April (Includes both in person and online)

 April Average  78
 YTD Average  94