



THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

AUGUST 2023



A good friend is like
a four-leaf clover, hard
to find and lucky
to have.

By Chance **Friends**

Friends are indeed like a four-leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have. I've never been successful at finding four-leaf clovers, but I've sure been blessed with having good friends in my life.

Sometimes I take time to consciously recall my good friends that the Lord has blessed me with. It's never hard to make a mental list of the good friends who have shared a significant part of the journey of life with me. Other times, the name and the remembrance of a good friend will come to me randomly as if they were sending me a mental message. I've often discovered that if I'm thinking of a particular friend and they keep coming back to my thoughts it's a good idea to call them and make sure they are OK.

When I start thinking of good friends who once were an important part of my life but who have gone on to their reward in heaven, I walk into "holy ground." The mere remembering of their name brings joy to my heart. Of course, I wish with all my might that I could talk with them again and say to them, "I love you," and "Thank you for being such an integral part of my life."

When I start thinking of good friends who are still part of my life I am equally blessed. It's usually a cue for me to call them on the phone or arrange a lunch or dinner with them (I'm not a breakfast guy so forget that one).

I'd like to share five easy but important ways we remember and honor our good friends:

First of all is remember the good friends you have in your life. I have been blessed with good friends. Secondly, it's easy but bad to take our good friends for granted. That's a shame when it happens. I'm guilty of taking my good friends for granted too often. Third, it's a shame when I let the "little stuff" get in the way of my precious friendships or focus on some small (or even large) slight or offense, and I fail to either address my hurt or just back away from a good friend. Fourth, it's important to not squander our friendships. When we ignore our friends or take them for granted or get angry over less important things, we run the risk of squandering our friendships. Fifth, it's so important to nurture good friendships. We are better people when we have good friends in life, and we need to nurture those friendships with all the care we would give to taking care of the most precious orchid we ever saw. As the old saying goes that we learned in grade school, "Make new friends but keep the old, for one is silver and the other gold."

Who are the good friends that have been part of your life? Do you think of them enough? Do you nurture and take care of those special friends in your life? I've learned the importance of differentiating between my "acquaintances" and my true or good friends. Be sure to thank God for the friends he has sent your way in life. There's no better blessing!

*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.

Ed Wachtman

Bette Cox

Edwina Meheaux – Please keep in your prayers. Give her a call on the phone.

Patty Collins- Please keep Patty in your prayers. She loves telephone calls too.

Michael Lastre – Keep in your prayers

Susan Montgomery – Keep in your prayers

The people of Ukraine- Keep in your prayers

All those who suffer from grief and loss and who struggle with illness in any form.

There are always others—keep all in your prayers, named or unnamed. Let us know if we've missed someone.

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AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Veronica Williams |
| 11 | Bob Chance |
| 12 | Jayna Knight |
| 12 | Colson Knight |
| 15 | Angel Hampton |
| 20 | Barbara McCall |
| 21 | Jane & John Small |
| 25 | Erin May |

PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW IF YOUR BIRTHDATE AND/OR ANNIVERSARY DATE IS WRONG OR MISSING, SO WE MAY CORRECT IT.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

**THE 2023 CHURCH DIRECTORY IS COMPLETE!
YOU MAY PICK UP A COPY IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
DURING OFFICE HOURS.
ONE COPY PER HOUSEHOLD, PLEASE.**

NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES



FELLOWSHIP...Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance

The Fellowship Period is slowly building back up to the joy it was before the Covid Pandemic. We're so glad to see that. The after-worship Fellowship Period is an important part of church life. Please remember to sign up and provide the Fellowship Period on a Sunday that is open on our schedule and available for you. We like to keep it simple, maybe some coffee, cold drinks, and pre-wrapped sealed cookies or snacks. Keep it Simple! See you Sunday.



PROPERTY...John Small

Currently, the building and grounds remain in good condition with no major problems. The mild winter was a blessing, requiring little work from our fearless snow team. That said, I would like to thank everyone on the snow team for their commitment.

Like any facility, from time to time there are small tasks that need to be done around the church. A few years ago, we had a group of people known as the Carpenters Club that would meet once a month to tackle these tasks. If you are interested in helping out and joining the Carpenters Club, please let me know. Thanks.

Property Ministry Chair, John Small
John.smallmb66@mail.com



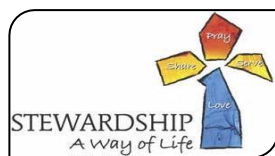
OUTREACH...Connie Spoon

The Backpack Drive is off to a great start! Please consider a donation for this worthy outreach project. The suggested school supply list is included in this newsletter, but if you prefer to make a financial donation instead, please mail or provide a check to the church and we will shop for you! The children at Georgian Forest Elementary School will be blessed by your generosity. Our food pantry is available to anyone in need. Please contact the church office for assistance.



WORSHIP...Gwen Mott via Carol Knott

We are all experiencing the summer heat and keeping as cool as possible. We are probably not outdoors as much. Now we have more indoor time; more time to read and stay cool. Why not spend our extra time reading the Bible? Another way to stay cool is on Sunday morning at church! Hope to see those who are cooling it at worship!



STEWARDSHIP...

Please Don't forget to send your offering in or place it directly in the offering plate on Sunday morning. You can also mail it to the church or drop it in the mail slot outside the main doors.

Your offering makes the Lord's ministry possible! Thank you for all you do!



Highlights from the Board Meeting, July 12 , 2023

- The meeting was opened with prayer and devotional.
- Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports were received.
- The Pastor's Report was received.
- Ministry Reports were shared by the Ministry Chairs and good discussion was held in response to the ministries taking place in the life of the church.
- Upcoming events were reviewed and final details discussed.

FACTS & FIGURES: WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR JULY



The good news is attendance is increasing and heading in the right direction. Visitors are being welcomed and contacted as available and able to do so. The bad news is there is a long way to go to reach pre-pandemic numbers. If you haven't returned yet, now is the time and please invite and bring friends and family to join you.

"I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

(INCLUDES BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

July Average Total: 55 (37 person /18 online)

Year to Date Average: Total: 56 (34 in person /22 online)

11:00 AM Sunday

The Worship service will also continue to be offered live and online. Keep checking www.aspenhillcc.org, click on the You Tube link and choose the date you want.

Worship in person at 11:00 every Sunday & Live on our YouTube Channel



We are doing our best to get people back in person, but we do understand that some people cannot make it to church on certain Sundays. To view online click www.aspenhillcc.org, then click on the Watch Us Live on YouTube icon. Once at our YouTube Page be sure to click the thumbs-up icon and subscribe to our channel. You can also make any nice comments you want to, that helps us be more visible. Comments help drive our visibility to others up. Share the links for our weekly worship with your friends and neighbors.

Please submit your articles, updates, and information we might like to include in future newsletters to Cindy for possible inclusion in the future.

The deadline for the newsletter is the third Sunday of each month (August 20 for the September issue).

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-3:30 pm, Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm



Please let the office know how you want your newsletter delivered! USPS, Email or Both. office@aspenhillcc.org or call 301-871-7222.



August Meetings

Program Council & Board Combined Meeting – August 9 @ 7:00pm

Help us re-stock our food pantry.



Items needed:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Soup
- Beans
- Juice boxes

Items may be dropped off in the wooden box outside the Fellowship Hall or bring them to the church office during office hours.

2023 Capital Area Prayer Calendar for This Month



Ephesians 6:18: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the LORD's people. You are invited to participate in the Capital Area Prayer Calendar by offering a prayer each day for the listed congregation, institution, or event during the week listed. Please pray for their pastor/executive director, lay leaders, and the community(ies) they serve. Pray also for the missionaries serving the world through our Global Ministries.

For weekly prayers, go online to: http://www.globalministries.org/weekly_prayers [Note: The Capital Area has a special relationship with two missionary sites: China and Colombia] * Indicates a discrepancy b/w what is listed on the Global Ministries website and their printed calendar.

- 6 Lansdowne Christian Church, Baltimore, Maryland - <https://www.lanscc.org/> Rachel Pellett, Jamaica
- 13 Pilgrimage Christian Church, Suitland, Maryland - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pilgrimage-ChristianChurch/113675835333514> Bosela Eale, Kenya
- 20 "More Than Enough" special campaign to support a full-time Regional Minister Maria Bakalian, Lebanon
- 27 Rockville Christian Church, Rockville, Maryland - www.rockvillechristian.org Martha Mensendiek, Japan



Annual Backpack Drive to Benefit Students at Georgian Forest Elementary July 30 – August 13

Please purchase an inexpensive but sturdy backpack and in the backpack place the following items:

- Black binder (1-inch or 2.5-inch)
- Black composition book
- Colored pencils
- Wide Rule loose leaf paper
- Box of 24 Crayons
- Zipper Pencil Case
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Yellow highlighter
- Pocket folders
- Large Erasers
- Pencils
- Lots of love and hope and prayers for the child receiving it.

Please bring your donation to church on Sunday or stop by the church office during office hours.

Thank you!

