



THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

SEPTEMBER 2023



By Chance

Memories of Whiffle Ball

I received an email from the brother of my lifelong and late friend Jeff Trollinger today. Robert asked me to forward a tribute he had put together in honor of Jeff to friends Jeff and I had grown up playing ball with and sharing as school mates.

Robert's tribute would be a bit difficult to share or explain with anyone who wasn't part of how we all grew up together, but it was wonderful and showed a lot of love between Robert and his brother.

In sharing the tribute (partly centered around the game of whiffle ball) I thought of my own memories of playing whiffle ball with my brother Steve in our backyard. Whiffle ball didn't have a set of universal rules and we all tailored the rules and how the game was played according to where we were able to play and how many people were playing, much like the way we used to play baseball on the playground when there weren't enough people to fill out two complete teams. Unless you know what "pitcher's mound poison" means you wouldn't understand the way the rules could be altered without harming the game. Robert and Jeff played by their own set of rules when they played whiffle ball at their place which was very different from the rules Steve and I played by. We played in different "backyards," so we had to modify the rules to fit our playing field.

Tailoring the rules of a whiffle ball game to suit our own situation and way of defining the game is one thing in whiffle ball or playground baseball, but something very different when it comes to faith and following the Lord. We have a set of rules called the Bible. While the Bible is open to different interpretations and different degrees of emphasis, it shouldn't be re-written wholesale to suit our particular circumstances or situations. It's the same Bible whether it's my backyard or yours. It's one thing to make the rules fit in my backyard whiffle ball game but something else to re-write the rules that are unequivocal in the Bible. I fully understand context, textual criticism, form criticism and all that, but bending the Bible to fit my backyard just doesn't work.

Not everything in the Bible has to be taken literally (nor should it be); otherwise, we wouldn't be eating pork and would have to abide by lots of rules and texts that don't apply equally to our faith. But having said that, the spirit and the tone of having a clear set of guidance and direction as we seek to live out our faith is important.

Do you follow the Bible? Do you turn to the Bible for guidance? Are you able to interpret the Bible in its deepest and fullest sense to apply to your own life? The Bible isn't meant to be unyielding or code bound, but in it we find the way the game of life is meant to be played and we're honor bound to give it the rightful place in our pursuit of faith.

Blessings, Dr. Chance

*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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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Bob & Mary Chance
- 4 Jim & Mary Sigel
- 5 Mary Chance
- 7 Arlyn Sanchez
- 8 Brooke Appleyard
- 10 Greg Vass
- 12 Debbie Owen
- 16 Lisa Knight
- 18 Orlando Lastre
- 24 Luke Hanson
- 27 Debbie Sullivan

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 AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE DURING OFFICE HOURS. ONE COPY PER HOUSEHOLD, PLEASE.

NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES



FELLOWSHIP...Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance

The summer is coming to an end and along with that comes an end to vacations. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in church. Fellowship hour after church is a great time to catch up with each other. There are plenty of spaces available to sign up and sponsor a fellowship hour. Check your calendar and pick a couple dates to bring in some goodies to share. Also there has been some interest in having a picnic. If you would be interested in helping with a picnic after church please talk to Mary Chance on Sunday.



PROPERTY...John Small

Now that our 2023 Hot Button Campaign is completed, the work to spruce up the kitchen is underway.

- The hood filters for the stove have been replaced.
- The condensate pump has been wired into the Air Conditioning unit for the Fellowship Hall to prevent future water leaks.
- The ceiling in the kitchen has been repaired thanks to Roberto Lopez. The final step of painting will be completed over the next week.
- Next steps include work on the Stove and replacing the microwave.

Other items:

- As many of you may have noticed, the sheathing on the cross above the main entrance was damaged during the severe storms we had a few weeks ago. The roofing company that worked on our roofs has been contacted and is in the process of repairing the damage.
- We replaced the main backflow valve in our plumbing system as required by WSSC.

If you are interested in helping with our property ministry to keep our church facilities in good condition, please contact me (johnsmallmb66@gmail.com).



OUTREACH...Connie Spoon

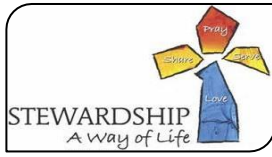
The Backpack Drive was a tremendous success with 46 backpacks full of school supplies for the children of Georgian Forest Elementary School! What a fantastic show of generosity from our wonderful congregation!

The food pantry is available for anyone in need. Please contact the church office for assistance.



WORSHIP...Gwen Mott via Carol Knott

Did you know that there is a "National Back to Church Sunday"? I just found it on Google. Since 2009, the third Sunday in September is the day observed. It had been called "the largest community-based outreach effort in the nation." We don't need a special Sunday to come back to church. Summer is almost over. Return each Sunday – in church – and be with family and friends as we support and share life together as part of God's community.



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, August 16 , 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 AUGUST

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)

August Average Total: 52 (30 person /22 online)

Year to Date Average: Total: 57 (34 in person /23 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 (September 17 for the October 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 would like your newsletter delivered! USPS, Email or Both.
office@aspenhillcc.org or call 301-871-7222



September Meetings

Program Council – September 6 @ 7:00 PM

St. Paul's Breakfast – September 10 @ 8:30 AM

Board Meeting – September 13 @ 7:00 PM

Nominating Committee – September 20 @ 7:00 PM



***46 Backpacks filled with school supplies were donated to Georgian Forest Elementary School!
Thank you to everyone who donated!***

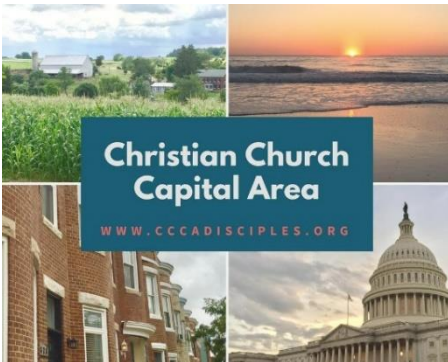


Music Festival at Aspen Hill Christian Church Saturday, September 16, 2:00-6:00 PM

From the DC Underground web site: “The Washington, D.C. metro area is home to some of the most influential decision-makers in the world. But what if our area also became known as a hub for some of the most effective disciple-makers in the world?”

We are excited to share with Oakdale Emory Church in Olney and other congregations in the DC Underground by having a Music Festival on our parking lot. The event will be on Saturday, September 16, and will involve music from different churches and perhaps different languages as well. As soon as we know the times we'll let everyone know but in the meantime block out the afternoon on the 16th from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM to come for all or any part of this wonderful event. For more information, please see Dr. Chance. The goal of the program is to reach our neighborhood with the wonderful message of Jesus Christ through a diversity of musical styles and languages.

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.

- September 3 Second Washington Chapel Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Hyattsville, Maryland Paul Chimhungwe, Botswana
- 10 Mount Olivet Christian Church, Baltimore, Maryland - Xiomara Cintron-Garcia, Colombia
- 17 National City Christian Church, Washington, DC - <http://www.nationalcitycc.org> Iglesia Cristiana Nacional (Discipulos de Cristo), Washington, DC - Victor Makari, Palestine
- 24 The Capital Area Commission for Congregational Life



August 18, 2023

Dear **Aspen Hill Christian Church**,

Thank you for your gift of **\$100** to Shepherd's Table, processed on **8/17/2023**.

Your generous donation has given Shepherd's Table the opportunity to serve clients like **Rochelle**. Rochelle has been staying at Progress Place since January of this year. She participates in all the programs that Shepherd's Table offers such as daily meals, the resource center for mail and necessities, and the clothing closet. When asked about her time at Shepherd's Table, she shares, "You guys do a really good job. Your staff is caring. You know, you make us feel human. When I know for myself I fight everyday to push and you know, just telling myself this too shall pass. This is only... But the staff here is very friendly. It's helpful. You don't look down on us."

With your contributions, we can provide critical support to hundreds of individuals in our community who are struggling with food insecurity, homelessness, and poverty. Your donation ensures that we have the resources to continue providing access to daily hot, nutritious meals and other vital social services. In the first quarter of 2023, we have seen a **48% increase** in meals served, we believe this is due in part to inflation and many COVID-19 programs ending. Your support means so much to us!

Reminder: In December 2023, Shepherd's Table celebrates our 40th anniversary.

None of this would be possible without donors like you. Thank you for your support!

In solidarity,

Manny Hidalgo
Executive Director

P.S. This confirms that Shepherd's Table is qualified as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No goods or services were provided for this donation.

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www.shepherdstable.org