



THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

MARCH 2024

BY CHANCE

Nothing Better Than Example



While we were in Florida for two weeks in early January it snowed the biggest snow of the winter back home. The weather wasn't all that great in Florida, but I don't expect any sympathy because it was far worse up here around the DMV. We had freezing temperatures a good part of our time away, but it was really cold at home. We were worried about the

water lines in our camper and had to go to great effort to keep it warm enough inside the camper so the water lines wouldn't freeze. While in Florida we wore our winter coats almost every day.

We also had to worry about the snow back home too. I wouldn't normally worry about the snow while away but in this case the thought of having to drive back home in the snow and then not being able to get in our driveway with our motorhome was hanging over my head. There wasn't any way I could ask anyone to shovel my driveway for me and it's a big driveway at that. I fretted and worried and maybe even said a few bad words (OK, not maybe, I did). The big fear was that the snow and ice would freeze hard to the ground and by not being removed would be a big problem.

I was checking my home cameras to see how much of a problem we would have upon our return. While checking the camera at a random time I happened to see someone walking back and forth over my driveway. Dang, I thought, it's bad enough that we're going to have to shovel the driveway before we can get in it but now someone was tramping the snow down. As I looked further the "someone" wasn't just walking back and forth over the driveway, but they were shoveling it clean for us. Wow! Imagine that someone clearing our big driveway while we were away. We knew who it was right away before we even got a clearer image on the remote camera. It was our next-door neighbors Melissa and Doug. Unbelievable. They came twice and shoveled the snow off of our driveway and by the time we got home it was a piece of cake (Devil's Food Cake but hey I'm not griping) backing the motorhome in. When we returned, we expressed our deep and sincere gratitude, but their attitude was "no big deal, we wanted to try Doug's new shovel out anyway." Double Wow!

Kindness, thinking of others, giving of ourselves, reaching out to help others are wonderful and important qualities and Doug & Melissa set the example. While having the driveway cleared was important and much appreciated what was even more important was us experiencing the thoughtfulness of our neighbors.

Giving is like that, we do it naturally. We do it without expectation of praise or thanks. When we give of our time, or our money or gifts we set an example for others to do the same. How could we pay them back? We offered to pay them or to take them to dinner or do something nice for them, but they wouldn't have any it. They were not only beautiful givers, but they did so graciously and without expectation.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could all grow in our ability to give to others whatever gifts of spirit, time, and resources we have. Nothing proves generosity like example!

*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.

A Memorial Service for Ed Wachtman is scheduled on March 29 at 11:30 at the Chapel in Riderwood.

Sally Tomkinson passed away in July and Richard passed away last week. A Memorial Service was held at the church on Saturday, February 17 at 11:30 a.m.

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

Patty Collins- Please keep Sam's Splaine's mother Patty, in your prayers. She loves telephone calls too.

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

- 3 John Small
- 5 Roberto Lopez
- 9 Gifty Amuzu
- 10 Lloyd Samuels
- 10 Linda Vincent
- 18 Mason Chance
- 18 Charlie Sharp
- 21 Chris Lastre
- 27 Jane Small
- 31 Nina Schneider

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

UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

THE 2024 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

We are so very blessed in our congregation to be more like an extended family. We all seem to like each other and really care about each other. Fellowship hour after church is a time when we like to gather together, share some light goodies and something to drink (coffee, juice). We need folks to sign up to sponsor a fellowship hour. Check your calendar and sign up to bring some treats to share. Setting up and cleaning up are relatively quick and easy and the treats can be as simple or fancy as you like. The sign-up sheet is next to the door to the kitchen. Let's fill up all the blank spaces this week. Thanks.

Looking forward to a new year of fellowship with you all.



PROPERTY...John Small

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

We entered into a contract with McCarthy Landscaping for snow removal on the sidewalks. While expensive we simply didn't get enough volunteers to continue doing it ourselves.

We have had several large building expenses but due to your generosity are able to keep our building in excellent condition.



OUTREACH...Connie Spoon

The SOUPER Bowl was a huge success this year with Team 1 donating 126 cans and Team 2 with 212 for a whopping total of 338 cans of soup! Fortunately, the folks from MUM were here for their monthly food distribution and received our contribution on February 4. Many thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause!

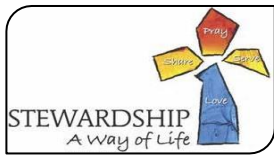
Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Week of Compassion (WOC) special offering. Many thanks to Jane and John for speaking on the 18th and 25th.

WORSHIP...Gwen Mott via Carol Knott



We are in the season of Easter which ends with the joyous celebration of the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, March 31. Palm Sunday, March 24 begins Holy Week celebrating Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday the foot washing by Jesus and Jesus' last supper with his Apostles in the upper room is commemorated. Good Friday is remembered for the crucifixion of Jesus.

Now is a good time to reread the stories in the Bible relating to this last week of Jesus' life. (Matthew, Mark or Luke) Join us for worship each Sunday as we travel the road to the joyful ending on Easter morning.



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. We will soon be launching our Annual Every Member Commitment program. Be on the lookout for a thoughtful and creative and important EMC effort as we seek your pledges for our 2024 ministries. The cost of living is somewhere around 2.5 % so any increase in your giving of less than that is actually a cut in your giving. Faithful Living Equals Faithful Giving!

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



Highlights from the Board Meeting, February 15, 2024

- 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 discussed.
- A prison ministry named Kairos was discussed and will be discussed further.
- The Leader's Retreat plans were reviewed.
- Ministry Opportunities Sunday was discussed, and plans outlined.
- The meeting ended with prayer.
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FACTS & FIGURES: WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY

The good news is attendance is increasing and heading in the right direction. 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.

(INCLUDES BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

February Average Total: 47 (36 in person /11 online)

Year to Date Average: Total: 43 (31 in person /12 online)

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

Are you inviting friends, neighbors, co-workers to church? Sharing the Good News of Jesus and of our church are a privilege and responsibility of every one of us.

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 Rosemary for possible inclusion in the future.

The deadline for the April newsletter is March 17th.

**NEW Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9:00 AM-3:00 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



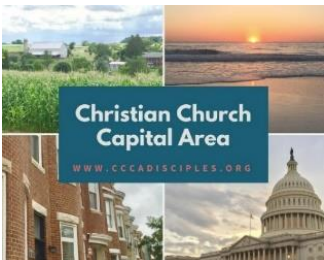
Help us re-stock our food pantry.



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

- 3-Bethany House Apartments & Rockville Nursing Home, Rockville, Maryland / Lesotho
- 10-English Consul Christian Church, Baltimore, Maryland / Jordan
- 17-Fairfax Christian Church, Fairfax, Virginia - <http://fairfaxchristian.org> / Japan
- 24-First Christian Church, Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia - www.fcalexandria.com / Sri Lanka
- 31-The Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister & President, and the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States & Canada - <https://disciples.org/ogmp/> / Angola