



THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

JUNE 2024

BY CHANCE

Fifty-One Years and Counting!

Sunday, June the second marks the beginning of my 52nd year as the minister at Aspen Hill Christian Church. It's our 51st anniversary. That's amazing. It's an accomplishment few pastors and churches ever see. I never imagined I would see such a time. Fifty one years in a relationship in which we have all changed, seen things come and go, enjoyed good times and lived through bad times not to mention hard times.

I never expected to be here for the bulk of my career in ministry. I remember we almost didn't accept the call to come here because we couldn't find a house we could afford. We looked for two days and found nothing we liked that we could afford. On the day we were going back to Augusta our realtor said he had one more place for us to look it. We agreed to fit one more look into our schedule before departing. It wasn't our dream house, and it was a whopping \$40,500.00. It was two miles from the church which felt about right. It wasn't a bad little house, but the yard was terrible. The front yard was a small hill, and the back yard was a small triangular shaped yard which didn't suit us at all. But we liked it enough to take a chance on it. The church agreed to loan us the down payment at 8% interest. Howard Orebaugh found a mortgage loan for us, my dad a real estate lawyer took care of the settlement, and the rest was history.

My prevailing memories are deeply centered around the wonderful people God has blessed us with during all these years. I won't mention any by name as there are too many and I would no doubt fail to mention someone who was very special to us. Our friends in this church have been the greatest blessing God could ever had given us. We were given great neighbors who didn't attend church with us here but were the most wonderful friends we could have ever asked for. God called me to become in the Boy Scouts and more great people came into our lives through Scouting. God called me to become involved in Boys and Girls Clubs with coaching the sports I loved the most. He gave us a lifelong softball program to pour our hearts into, not to mention two knees, two shoulders and a ton of grit and grime.

Our family grew, we grew, the dream of building a new sanctuary, offices, meeting space and place of refuge unfolded over the years. We could never have asked for more. It hasn't always been wonderful days or times of joy. We've had our disagreements over the years. Some people have gone elsewhere while others, many others have come to add to the mix of great people in a great church.

I take this opportunity on our fifty-first anniversary to express our deep appreciation and genuine love for all of you in our church and in our community. Where will God call us into the next phase of our lives? I have no idea. But it appears to be pretty certain it will involve a cane, a stair climber, maybe a walker or two and a host of pills to deal with the joy of aging.

All I know is this. God has blessed us beyond words. You helped us raise our family and we are eternally grateful for your presence in our lives. God bless you all!

*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.

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

- 2 Tracy Miller
- 7 Roger Crutchfield
- 13 Sasha Treasure
- 19 Cassie Chance
- 20 Kenny Vincent
- 26 Blake & Amy Buckingham

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
ALL ARE WELCOME

FELLOWSHIP...Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance

Fellowship hour after church continues to grow. We still need folks to sign up to sponsor one. They do not have to be big and fancy. Just a little snack and drink to have while we visit each other.

Please check your calendar and pick a Sunday to do fellowship.

Also mark your calendars for June 23. We will have a picnic after church. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Just bring a side or two to share. The sign-up sheet will be put out soon.



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



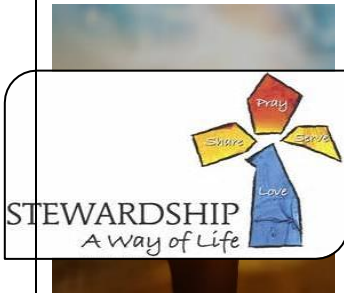
OUTREACH...Connie Spoon

It's hard to believe that our Backpack Drive will begin soon (late July/early August). The school supply list will be available in the July newsletter. Our food pantry is fully stocked at the moment. If you need assistance, please contact the church office.

church office for assistance.

WORSHIP...Gwen Mott via Carol Knott

June 16 we will honor and celebrate Fathers' Day during our worship service. A verse for Fathers and Father figures: Proverbs 4:11-12: "I will guide you in the way of wisdom and I will lead you in upright paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered, and when you run, you will not stumble." A thought: When a father kneels to help his child, he will never stand taller. Be sure to join us in church this Sunday and every Sunday.



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!





FACTS & FIGURES: WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL

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)

May Average Total: 45 (34 in person /11 online) 😊

Year to Date Average: Total: 48 (35 in person /15 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 July newsletter is June 16th.

**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





2023 Capital Area Prayer Calendar for This Month

- 2 - Good Samaritan Christian Church, Baltimore, Maryland / Botswana
- 9 - Henson Valley Christian Church, Fort Washington, Maryland - www.hensonvalleychristianchurch.org Republic of Congo
- 16 - Heritage Christian Church, Silver Spring, Maryland - <http://heritagedisciples.com> / Egypt
- 23 - Hyattstown Christian Church, Hyattstown, Maryland - <http://hyattstownchristianchurch.org> / Argentina
- 30 - The Commission for Camp & Conference and all the campers, directors, counselors, and staff at the Christian Church Conference Center at Bethany Beach / Indonesia

COMING ATTRACTIONS Be sure to put them on your calendar.



June 02 – Anniversary Sunday: We celebrate when our minister came to our church and when each of us came as well.



June 09 - Graduates Sunday: We celebrate our graduates as they complete a big part of their lives and move on to the next challenge.



June 16 - Father's Day...We celebrate our dads with a gift for every father present.



June 23 - Hello Summer Cookout Sunday. Look for a poster with how to share in and participate in making our Hello Summer Cookout a great time of fellowship. See Mary Chance or Amy Buckingham with ways you can help.

Congratulations to our Graduates. Graduate's Sunday is June 9. Come and celebrate our graduates with us.



Brooke Appleyard is graduating from Cave Hill Senior High School in Roanoke, Virginia and will be attending Virginia Tech in the Fall.

Conner McChesney is graduating from Clear Spring High School in Clear Springs, Maryland. He enlisted in the Marines and starts basic training in Parris Island, South Carolina.

Max Konzman is graduating from Blake Senior High School in Silver Spring, Maryland.

***If you have a graduate from a Trade School, High School or College or Graduates program let us know.**



Repairing the Drain Disaster Hot Button Campaign Coming in June

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

This year we are focusing on finding as much help as we can in order to pay for our major drain disaster ” that occurred during the week before Easter.

How much can we raise? That will depend on the faithfulness and response of our members and friends. Anything we raise will help repay the \$25,000 plus it has already cost us, and we had to borrow against our Memorial Funds. We had to pay the bills right away and

now we hope to recoup as much of that \$25,000 as we can.

This is a major challenge and a wonderful opportunity for all of us to step up and swing for the fences! Thank you for sharing your gift in making this possible. You'll be hearing more over the next few weeks. You will receive a note each week for the month of June and see a bulletin insert each week as well. You will receive a Pledge Card. Please pray and respond with all the generosity you can manage. We need us all..

Every year our “Hot Button” campaign enables us to do some improvements or make repairs to our beautiful building and grounds we could never afford out of the Annual Budget. This year we were hit especially hard by a failed drainage system and we were forced to borrow money from our Memorial Funds.

We hope that together we will be able to pay back as much of that money as possible. Will we raise it all? We doubt it but then again, the Bible tells us to “trust in the Lord in all times” and that’s just what we’re doing. We’re trusting in the Lord’s people to help us raise the necessary funds to pay back our Memorial Funds.

God bless you for listening and responding faithfully to our Hot Button Campaign this year.

