

# THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

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Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

JULY 2024

## ***BY CHANCE***

### **Noticing the Happy People As They Walk By**



I often see people, especially young people walking down the street, or in a shopping mall or about anywhere people go, and they have a big smile on their face. Sure, they are talking on the ever-present cell phone but less they seem to be so happy and carefree. I wonder “how come they’re so dad gummed happy”?

I remember when I was young, and happy and carefree. Maybe when young people are bee bopping along they aren’t burdened with all the stress and problems what we adults carry with us every day. Having said that I remember being stressed when I was a young buck. Stress and problems weighing on our shoulders are a relative thing. I mean, worrying about all the job stress I go through seems a lot more important and serious than to me now than when I was sixteen and worrying about my grade in Algebra or whether some girl liked me or not. But, in reality each in their own time had big importance to me.

Attitude is up to each of us. As I age I find it easier and easier to be grumpy or wear a heavy-laden frown on my face or be short with people who are saying stupid things or doing stupid things, but age isn’t an acceptable excuse.

How I feel and how I react is up to me. How you feel and how you react is up to you. How we stride down the road of life is up to each of us. We each get to set the thermostat on our feelings, our attitudes, our walk, the look on our faces, the whole package of we project and what people see.

I’m not saying it’s easy to beam brightly from where I sit these days but it’s up to me not to let the problems, the stresses and the worries wear me down or make me look like the Grinch.

I don’t know about you, but I like being around people who are happy, pleasant, and even while facing their problems and stresses still find a way to smile. Invariably those kinds of people help me smile, help me keep problems in perspective and help me be a happier person myself.

What do people see when you see you walking down the street? What does your demeanor say to the world around you? John Prine said “A clown puts his makeup on upside down So he wears a smile even when he wears a frown. Let’s all try to be a little happier, face life with a little more zest, and walk in such a way that people look at us and wonder what makes us so happy.

I’m not saying we shouldn’t worry about things, or be dismissive of our stresses and our problems, I’m just saying let’s not let them define us. Life is short...grin...sunshine is good for your teeth 😊



# 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.

The "Hello Summer" picnic was a huge success. We hope you enjoy it as much as everyone else did. Thank you to all who contributed, especially Mary and Amy for pulling it all together.



## 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](mailto: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

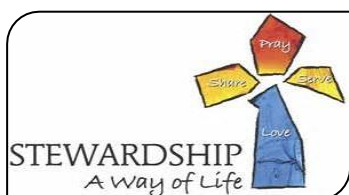
Our annual Backpack Drive will begin July 28 through August 11 for the Georgian Forest Elementary School children. Please refer to the list of suggested school supplies included in this newsletter. If you prefer to donate, we will shop for you. Please consider contributing to this worthy Outreach project.



## WORSHIP...Gwen Mott via Carol Knott

As we enter the summer season, the weather is turning quite warm. There is a place where you can experience comfortable temperatures and wonderful lessons. Of course, it is at our Sunday morning worship services. Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. Romans 10:17 What better place to be on a warm Sunday 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!**



## **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)**

June Average Total: 61 (44 in person /17 online) 😊

Year to Date Average: Total: 44 (35 in person /16 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](http://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](http://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.

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

The deadline for the August newsletter is July 21<sup>st</sup>.

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**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](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org) or call 301-871-7222



## 2024 Capital Area Prayer Calendar for This Month

7 - Shepherd Park Christian Church, Washington, DC -

<http://www.shepherdparkchristianchurch.org> / Hungary

14 - The National Convocation, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples and Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries -

[www.nationalconvocation.org](http://www.nationalconvocation.org) / Cambodia

21 - For all congregants, clergy, and churches in transition due to closure / Korea

28 - Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC -

<http://www.mparkchurch.orgS> / Colombia

A special welcome to Mrs. Carol Ingraham who joined the church recently. Carol lives in Rockville and although unable to attend in person watches online every week and is thrilled with being a part of our wonderful church. Welcome Carol!



### *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)*

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

We're not done but to date we have collected \$7000.00 given by 25 people. That's wonderful! Thank you for all your kindness and generosity.

But I'm hope we're not done. If you have not given yet please do so and know every little bit helps. God bless you!