



THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

SEPTEMBER 2024

BY CHANCE

A Dog Named Tucker



As you know we recently suffered the terrible loss in our lives with the death our son-in-law Blake. We can't even understand or deal with our own grief let alone our daughter Amy's grief or the grief of our beloved grandsons Drew, Trevor, Carter, and Cooper. Our whole family grieves, and we want to support them but there are no words, no ability to embrace enough or to help those we love the most. There is no way to be prepared for the next moment that comes in any of our lives. I don't know if we ever have things figured out, my best guess is we don't.

I always encourage people who have suffered a loss in their lives to hear what people say to them for what the best of what they intended not what actually gets conveyed with their words. We mean the best when we offer words of condolence, love, or support but all too often what comes out is hollow or shallow or at their worst painful. I do my best to hear what people have said to us with the best of their intentions not their actual message. We mean well but sometimes our words of faith come out wrong, trite, and just don't help. Sometimes our shared faith helps in deep ways as well.

One time several years ago there was the tragic drowning of a young child in a family that was close friends of our daughter Beth. It came while we were camping at Myrtle Beach in August. There were no words we could offer, no wisdom to share, nothing to do but we wanted so desperately to help. Beth offered to have a couple of the youngest siblings come and be with us for the day in our camper while the family sorted things out. I will never forget that day. Two little children sitting in our camper with Mary and I and Beth, Marybeth, and Brooke. There was nothing we could say to the children as they sobbed so deeply from their hearts.

Somehow, with the compassion and wisdom that only a dog has Tucker sat next to the little children and placed his head on their laps. He sat with them, laid his head in their laps and in the powerful and magical language of presence just sat with them. They hugged him and petted him, and his presence was beyond anything I have ever witnessed in my life. I will never have words of wisdom that could even come close to what Tucker did that day.

A dog named Tucker taught me the greatest lesson I have ever learned in all my years and all my training. The best we can do is to simply come and sit with those who grieve deeply in their time of loss. There are no words, no scriptures, no statements of theology that can come close to helping people when they grieve than to simply offer our presence. Of course, we have to know when to leave as well. Somehow Tucker knew when to put his head in the little children's laps and when to move away. We should be so wise. Love and support are shown in many different ways, but none surpasses just being with each other. Thank you to all of you who have given our family your love and support in so many different ways. Meals, words of comfort, hugs, cards, stories shared, and faith shared all help, but nothing surpasses just knowing you care. A dog named Tucker taught me this in a profound way.

*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

Carol Ingraham-Carol is shut-in and appreciates being in your prayers and thoughts.

Please continue to keep in your prayers the Buckingham and Chance Family.

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 Brook 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.

***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

Recently I was talking to someone about the picnic we had in June. One seemed to have a really enjoyable time socializing and of course eating! We were talking at program council about activities we could have for the same fun and food. Connie sponsored a fellowship hour to celebrate those folks that have a birthday in July.

What a great idea. I am going to do the same in August for August birthdays. Let's see if we can get enough folk to take a month and celebrate all the birthdays for that month. Please let me know and sign up on the fellowship list. Great idea Connie! Let's keep the party going.

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

The Backpack Drive was a tremendous success with **56** 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

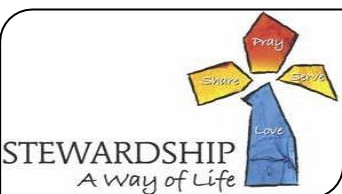
The end of summer is approaching, and our lives will return to a regular routine. Being in church each Sunday for worship is important and we are important to each other.

Romans 12:5

“.....so, in Christ we who are many forms one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

See you 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 AUGUST

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)

August Average Total: 54 (35 in person /19 online) 😊

Year to Date Average: Total: 51 (35 in person /17 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 inclusion in the future.

The deadline for the October newsletter is September 15th.

**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.



2024 Capital Area Prayer Calendar for This Month

- 1 -Our Ecumenical & Interfaith Partners -
<https://councilonchristianunity.org/> / South Africa
- 8 - Mount Olivet Christian Church, Baltimore, Maryland - India
- 15 - National City Christian Church, Washington, DC -
<http://www.nationalcitycc.org> & Iglesia Cristiana Nacional (Discipulos de Cristo), Washington, DC - Kenya
- 22 - The Capital Area Commission for Congregational Life / Germany
- 29 - Second Washington Chapel Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Hyattsville, Maryland / Philippines

One Offering Many Ministries...



Each September we take a special offering to support the ministries of our Regional Church, The Christian Church-Capital Area. 100% of what is received through your generosity is sent to the Christian Church Capital Area in addition to our regular monthly giving. The CCCA is comprised of congregations in Maryland , Virginia, Delaware and West Virginia. The regional church assists congregations in search of clergy, provides continuing education opportunities for clergy and churches and provides Camp & Conference programs for both youth and adults. Every gift, no matter how small or large counts. Help us support the CCCA. Please give your additional gift no later than September 22 as an over and above gift marked "One Offering Many Ministries".



Our Annual Fall Campout is October 4-6 at Pine Grove Furnace in Pennsylvania . Campers of all kinds and levels of experience welcome. See Mary Chance or Dr. Chance for details and additional information. The campground is nestled in the pines with hiking, campfires, shared meals and plenty of camping fun.