

# THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

OCTOBER 2024

## ***BY CHANCE***

### **Game Cameras and Life**



Some years ago, I bought an outdoor Game Camera. Game Cameras are designed for hunters or hikers to strap to a tree in the woods and record snapshots of any kind of animal or person that enters the field of view. The game camera will pick up people, deer, turkey, dogs, any kind of object that moves into the view. The images of the snapshots are stored on a flash drive. When you're ready to see what was captured on the camera you remove the disk and place into your computer to see what was captured.

Initially, I had a lot of fun with my new game camera. It was an in-expensive model. I moved it around to different trees to see what went on down in the woods. I got all kinds of cool pictures of deer, squirrels, the landscapers as they dumped leaves back into the woods. I was really excited when I got an image of a big old wild turkey walking in view. That was cool. He was a big old "gobbler" strutting his stuff.

Over the last year I got busy with other things and forgot about my game camera. I suddenly remembered it one day and went down into the woods to find the camera, take out the card and see what was going on in the woods. I looked at the trees where I usually placed the camera but there was no game camera to be found. I had always strapped the camera to a tree with a strong outdoors strap and in a line with a good clear view. But, after searching extensively there was no camera to be found. I was frustrated with myself as I couldn't remember where I had strapped the camera. It wasn't likely that anyone would have taken the camera but still I began to wonder. I eventually called it a day and went back to the house empty handed and frustrated.

A few days later I went back down for another try. I just happened to look down at exactly the right moment and I saw the camera laying on the ground enveloped in old dead leaves. Either the strap had worn and broken on its own or more likely a deer had rubbed up against it and broken the strap. When I picked the camera up water came pouring out and I knew the camera was destroyed. I took the camera back to my office and pulled the card out. The camera was indeed hopelessly broken but the card still showed some images on it. The last image recorded was the full-face image of a deer who was very curious. It was probably the deer that knocked the camera down from the tree. Oh well, I shouldn't have let so much time pass between checking the camera anyway. My bad. I had a great picture of the deer's eyes, mouth and snout face on, however.

Life is a lot like the story of my game camera. When we forget to check on our relationships with each other and with the Lord bad things are going to happen. If we forget to nurture time with each other, especially those we are closest to our relationships are going to "leak water" eventually be gone altogether. If we fail to keep in relationship with the Lord and the His church the strap that links us together is going to break and our relationship will be gone. The lesson is to not let that happen to our relationships with either each other or the Lord.

I can replace the game camera, and probably will, but it's a lot harder and more difficult to replace lost relationships. Remember to keep checking in with those you love and with the Lord. The pictures are irreplaceable.

*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.*

...



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Rich Link
- 6 Dahlia Williams
- 7 Cecelia Samuels
- 9 Eric & Monica Hanson
- 12 Kathie Gartrell
- 12 Lee Alderman
- 15 Eric Hanson
- 15 Janis Hanson
- 19 Jack & Janis Hanson
- 24 Drew Buckingham
- 26 Trevor Buckingham
- 27 Donald Brooks
- 29 Holly Brooks

\*\*\*\*\*

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

## **UPDATING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY**

We do our best to keep the church directory up to date. But we need your help to do that. Anytime your phone number, email or address changes please let the office know with either a phone call or an email so we can keep our records current.

## **NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES**



### **FELLOWSHIP...Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance**

We're excited to announce the start of our much-anticipated Annual Fruit Sale! Don't miss the Reminders and Fruit Order Form in this month's Newsletter article.



### **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**

Fall is upon us and our next Outreach project is Thanksgiving gift cards for the needy families at Georgian Forest Elementary School. We changed the baskets in the last few years to include gift cards only. This way the families are able to purchase the items they want at a convenient time for them. Gift cards (with receipts attached) or monetary donations will be accepted through November 17. Our food pantry is available for anyone in need. Please contact the church office for assistance.

### **WORSHIP...Gwen Mott via Carol Knott**



An event on the calendar of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is the Week of the Ministry. We celebrate, honor, and show appreciation for those in ministry. It has been on the calendar since 1933. The following are a few scriptures concerning workers in ministry as we all are. 2 Corinthians 4:5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. (NIV) Hebrews 13:7 Remember your leaders,

those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith

## STEWARDSHIP...



Our Every Member Commitment Campaign is about the begin. The theme this year is “Journey to Generosity.” Look for a Pledge Card and a Journey to Generosity note in the mail beginning now. We are all called to giving more faithfully and with more generosity in every aspect of our lives.

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



### **FACTS & FIGURES: WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER**

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)**

September Average Total: 53 (31 in person /10 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](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.

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 November newsletter is October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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.



***Welcome New Members!***



Carol Ingraham has recently joined our church family, though she remains homebound due to severe environmental allergies, Carol watches the service via YouTube. She was blessed with 58 wonderful years of marriage to her husband, Timothy who sadly passed away in 2020. Carol is a proud grandmother of 5 and great grandmother to 10 great-grandchildren! Writing is a passion she enjoys, a gift passed down from her mother, who authored two children's books. Despite her health challenges, Carol remains connected to her faith and family through her love for storytelling. She also enjoys visits to her home or

phone calls. Welcome to Carol. Please keep Carol in your prayers as she has struggled with health issues recently.

\*\*\*\*\*



Tim and Kathie Gartrell joined AHCC on September 8<sup>th</sup> as transfers from the United Methodist denomination.

Tim grew up in Aspen Hill. He spent many years working in the auto parts industry and now works for the Montgomery County Board of Elections as a voting equipment technician.

Kathie is a long-time resident of this area who has also lived in Delaware and Oklahoma. After spending most of her career at National Geographic, she now works for Afar travel media as their editorial production manager.

They have been married 32 years and live in Wheaton in the house that belonged to Tim's grandparents. Most of their free time is spent looking after their three cats and watching local sports, especially the Commanders, Orioles, and Capitals. They shared that they are excited to join such a friendly and active congregation. We're sure excited to welcome Tim & Kathie.

## 2024 Capital Area Prayer Calendar for This Month

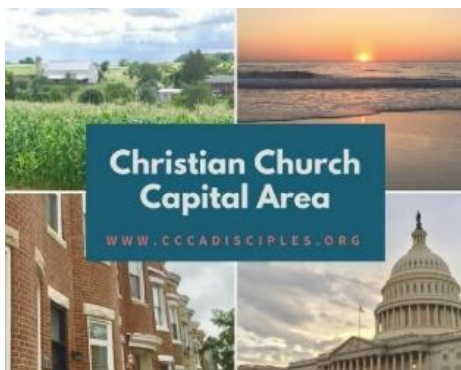
### October

**6** - Bethany Christian Church, Fort Washington, Maryland. The nation of Nepal.

**13** - The Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses of the Disciples of Christ, especially the University of Lynchburg, Lynchburg, VA and Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago, IL / Italy

**20** - The College of Regional Ministers and the other 31 Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada / Japan

**27** - Christian Temple, Catonsville, Maryland - [www.christiantemple.org](http://www.christiantemple.org) / Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



### **One Offering Many Ministries...**

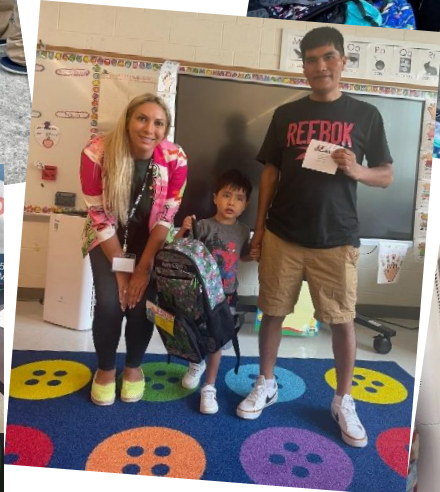
We take a special "over and above" our regular giving to provide additional support to the Christian Church-Capital Area. 100% of what you give goes to the regional church to help with its many ministries beyond our local congregation. Every gift, no matter small or large counts. Help us provide this additional support to the region. In addition a percentage of our regular offering is sent to the Disciples of Christ ministries throughout the world and to the CCCA.



## Annual Fall Campout

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.

## BACKPACKS FOR KIDS!



Georgian Forest extends their heartfelt gratitude for your

support and generosity. Thanks to your kindness, we were able to collect **56 backpacks** for the students in Georgian Forest Elementary School! Your contributions will have a lasting impact, ensuring that each child starts the school year with the tools they need to succeed. Your thoughtfulness and dedication to our community truly makes a difference.

**Thank You For Your Generosity**



## **FRUIT SALE**

### **REMINDERS 2024**

Please be sure to fill in the name, address, and phone number for each order taken. This will help us if we need to contact the customer.

2. Fill in the order form for each order; this is our only record. Be sure Mary Chance gets the original order form.
3. Final orders must be turned in by **NOVEMBER 17.** Our order must be turned in by November 18 to Florida Fruit Association.
4. **DELIVERY DATE:** The fruit is scheduled to be delivered to the church on **Friday, December 6. Pick up date will be Saturday, December 7. ALL fruit MUST BE delivered on that date.** Tentative times will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to help avoid a rush. Please remind those you sell to that they must pick up their fruit during those times.
5. **REMEMBER: FRUIT SELLS ITSELF!** We appreciate your support in this fundraiser. Please help us make this a MAJOR success!!!
6. **THERE ARE PLENTY OF EXTRA FORMS AVAILABLE!!** Feel free to get more!! See Mary Chance. Also, please use our individual order form for each customer.

**BE SURE TO COLLECT ALL THE MONEY AT THE TIME OF THE SALE!** Money should be turned in with each order form. We pay for our fruit at the time of delivery so we must have all the money before the fruit is brought to us. Checks should be made payable to Aspen Hill Christian Church.

**NOTE:** If you are picking up your entire order, please come early so we can double check the order **before** you leave the church. Also please let us know that you will be picking up your order. We will have it put together for you to check when you arrive.

**Use This Form Below for your sales. Let's Do It!**



Sold To \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Sold by \_\_\_\_\_

**NAVELS** QTY TOTAL AMOUNT

4/5 Bushel(48-64 per box).....	\$36.00	_____	_____
2/5 Bushel(24-32 per box).....	28.50	_____	_____
10 lb. box(16-20 per box).....	18.25	_____	_____

**HAMLINS**

4/5 Bushel(80-100 per box).....	\$33.00	_____	_____
2/5 Bushel(40-50 per box).....	27.50	_____	_____

**MANDARINS (like clementines)**

10 lb. (36-44).....	\$28.00	_____	_____
---------------------	---------	-------	-------

**RED GRAPEFRUIT**

4/5 Bushel (32-40 per box).....	\$36.00	_____	_____
2/5 Bushel (16- 24 per box).....	\$28.50	_____	_____
10 lb. box (12 per box).....	\$15.25	_____	_____

**MIXED BOX - (16-20 Navels, 10-12 Grapefruit)**

2/5 Bushel only.....	\$31.00	_____	_____
----------------------	---------	-------	-------

**APPLES**

1/2 Bushel (36-44per box)	\$32.50	_____	_____
---------------------------	---------	-------	-------

**APPLES and PEARS (14 apples. 14 pears)**

One size only	\$35.00	_____	_____
---------------	---------	-------	-------

**PEARS**

One size only (28 per box )	\$31.00	_____	_____
-----------------------------	---------	-------	-------

**FRESH FRUIT SAMPLER (6 apples, 4 pears, 4 red grapefruit, 6 navel oranges, 6 mandarins)**

One size only	\$36.00	_____	_____
---------------	---------	-------	-------

# In Loving Memory of



We are sad to share that our beloved Blake Buckingham, of Brookeville, MD, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, passed away at his home, unexpectedly on August 15, 2024. Born on November 5, 1970, Blake lived a life marked by unwavering commitment to his family and an enduring spirit of kindness. His New Hampshire roots shaped him throughout his life.

Blake is survived by his cherished wife, Amy Buckingham, with whom he shared 31 years of marriage and countless memories. His legacy lives on through his four sons: Drew, Trevor, Carter and Cooper and his beloved granddaughter, Kaia Buckingham. He is also survived by his mother, Cheryl Buckingham, and his sister, Amber Buckingham and Father and Mother-in-Law Bob & Mary Chance. He leaves behind to mourn his memory his sister-in-law Beth Appleyard of Roanoke, VA; brother-in-law Matthew Chance, sister-in-law Cassie Chance of New Market, MD, 4 nephews (Garrett, Nick, Tristan, and Mason), 2 nieces (Marybeth and Brooke).

Blake was a source of strength and guidance for his sons, always leading by example and offering unconditional support. A graduate of Wake Forest University, he was known for his love of family, sports, and was a faithful and active member of Aspen Hill Christian Church. Blake had a unique way of bringing joy and energy into every aspect of his life. His most treasured times were spent with his family, cheering for the Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins, Celtics, and Wake Forest Deacons. His enthusiasm for Formula 1 racing, skiing, traveling, and times shared with his wife and sons were a defining feature of his vibrant personality. Blake was also known for his integrity, his sense of humor, and his generosity. He had a remarkable ability to connect with others and make them feel valued. His warm presence and thoughtful demeanor will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Blake's memory will forever be a beacon of love and inspiration for his family and friends. He leaves behind a legacy of compassion and dedication that will continue to touch the lives of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

A Celebration of Life was held at Aspen Hill Christian Church on Saturday, August 24, 2024, at 1pm. Dr. Chance and Dave Bowers led the Service.

In lieu of flowers please choose a donation in Blake's name to either Aspen Hill Christian Church, 13501 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20906 or [sharewinterfoundation.org](http://sharewinterfoundation.org)

\*\*\*\*\*



Eleanor Pernia was a lifelong Washingtonian and beloved dance teacher. Eleanor Pernia passed away Thursday, August 15, 2024, of natural causes. She was 87.

As owner and artistic director of the Eleanor Pernia Studio of Dance in Beltsville, MD she taught students from around the DC metro area developing their dance skills, instilling confidence and sharing with them her love of dance.

She is survived by her former husband Marcos Pernia; daughter Kim Joanne Pernia, sons Marcos and Christopher B. Pernia, three grandchildren, three great grandchildren and niece Elizabeth Omarr.

Eleanor was interred in a private service at Ft. Lincoln cemetery. A celebration of her life is planned for Sunday, September 29, 1 to 4 p.m. at Riderwood. She will be missed by all who knew her.