



# THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

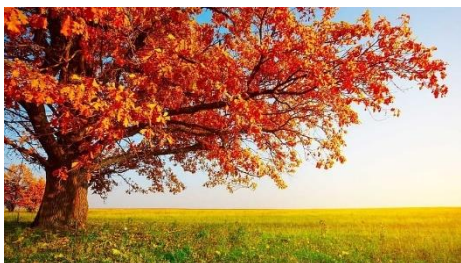
(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

NOVEMBER 2024

## ***BY CHANCE***

### **A Season of Dryness**



It's been a long dry season this Fall. With little to no rain in many weeks we are in something of a drought. It figures, I had my lawn aerated and over-seeded. The landscaper said it would be fine anyway as the morning dew would provide enough moisture for the seed to germinate. It's been so dry and so little dew that very little seed germinated.

There are a lot more serious issues in life than our grass seed not growing and the subsequent waste of a growing season, not to mention the cost involved. But the dry season this fall, and lack of new seed growth is a metaphor for life itself, not just my life but all of our lives.

There are times in all of our lives when life is dry, hot and hard. There are times when the soil of our soul can become rock hard. The soil of our soul needs refreshing just as much as the ground needs water to provide new growth and new life. Sadly, there are seasons of life when our hearts begin to dry up and as we face deep losses or grief lingers and all the love and support of friends, family and church do little to help us. To be honest, this Fall has been just such a season for me and for my family. With the loss of my son-in law, Blake, my heart hurts deeply and my faith while still here isn't generating the kind of new growth and hope I would pray for. It's a dry season spiritually for me as well as physically in my yard. I try to help our beloved daughter and grandchildren but as hard as I try my words, and my love can only go so far.

Somehow we have to find our way through something we will never get over. Somehow we have to find ways to water our soul especially when the ground is hard, and we struggle with the deepest needs and questions our faith has to offer. Everyone goes through such times. I am always touched when I read that even the greatest saints and people of all time had to go through such times. Mother Theresa went through long, hard, lonely dry spells and somehow it brings me comfort to remember that in the midst of my own long, hard dry season.

We can't order faith to sustain us or comfort off the menu of life as if faith were a restaurant and we can order whatever we need or whatever we want, and the waiter or waitress will bring it to us. Life doesn't work that way. Even the great poet and songwriter Henry Wadsworth Longfellow went through such a time. One of the most beautiful hymns he ever wrote was "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The song tells of the narrator hearing Christmas bells during the American Civil War while he despaired that hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men." After a season of anguish and despondency the carol concludes with the bells ringing out "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep and that there ultimately peace on earth and good will to men will prevail.

Even in a season when my words of faith seem to mock my soul I believe in life eternal, and the love of God will always be with me. I can't say when I will hear the bells on Christmas day, but I have no doubt God, and my faith will not leave me alone and life will go on. That's what faith is. We plant the seeds of faith and hope even the dry seasons of life and anguish and despondency will give way to a newer and deeper faith.

*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.*

...

November

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

2 Kenny & Linda Vincent

7 Eric Long

17 Connie Spoon

17 Rich Link

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**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.

**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.**



# 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. Sign up to help receive our fruit on December 6 at 5:00 here at the church AND to help us load people's orders into their cars on December 7 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



## 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 next Outreach project is providing a Thanksgiving meal to the needy families of Georgian Forest Elementary School. We are trying a different approach by providing \$50 gift cards instead of the baskets with various items. This way the families can purchase the items themselves. Gift cards with receipts or monetary donations will be accepted until November 17.

Our food pantry is available for anyone in need. Many thanks for the additional donations. Please contact the church office for more information.

## WORSHIP...Gwen Mott via Carol Knott



Sunday, November 3 we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. At this time, we will remember all members and friends that have passed during the past year. It is also the time of year when families gather to celebrate Thanksgiving. We need to reflect on all that we have and are thankful for. In doing so remember the greatest gift of all - salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Colossians 3:15: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

## STEWARDSHIP...



Our Every Member Commitment Campaign has concluded. Thank you to those members and friends who have turned in their pledge. It's not too late for those who have responded yet to do so. The hope is that everyone who is a member will make a faithful pledge for the coming year. You can find a Pledge Card in the narthex of the church or call the office and make a pledge over the phone or with an email.

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



**ONLINE**



## **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)**

October Average Total: 48 (33 in person /15 online) 😊

Year to Date Average: Total: 50 (34 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***

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>.

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

We raised \$400.00 for the ministry of the Christian Church Capital Area in addition to our regular monthly giving to the Disciples of Christ and the CCCA. Thank you for your generosity.

## 2024 Capital Area Prayer Calendar for This Month

### November

3 - Bethany Beach Christian Church, Bethany Beach, Delaware - [www.bethanybeachdisciples.org](http://www.bethanybeachdisciples.org) / Mexico

10 - Whosoever Will Christian Church, Beltsville, Maryland - <http://www.whosoeverwillcc.org> / Eswatini

17 - The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Capital Area Region, your Regional Board, your Regional Minister, Regional Elders, Staff, and Volunteers – [www.CCCADisciples.org](http://www.CCCADisciples.org) / Fiji

24 - Wilson Blvd. Christian Church, Arlington, Virginia - <http://www.wilsonboulevardcc.org> / East Timor

### **Veteran's Day Celebration**



We will celebrate Veteran's Day on November 10 during the Worship Service. Help us honor our Veterans.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**



Our Annual Meeting will be on December 1 at 12:15, immediately following the Worship Service. All Active Members are invited and encouraged to attend. At this time the Budget for 2025 will be acted upon and Officers, Elders & Deacons, Trustees will be elected. Each of our Ministries will give a short report on the highlights of their respective ministries during 2024.

### **THANKSGIVING DINNER**



Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held right after church on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24. There is a Sign Up Sheet in the Narthex. Please sign up and indicate what you will bring to our annual feast of Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for. All members, participants and friends are invited and encouraged to participate.

**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 the 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 \_\_\_\_\_