



# THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

DECEMBER 2024



## *BY CHANCE*

### **Thanksgiving Memories**

As Thanksgiving dawns upon us my heart is full of wonderful memories. The Norman Rockwell vision of a Thanksgiving dinner that show a table full of family and friends with a beautiful mother and father serving a golden cooked turkey and everyone smiling and happy is a wonderful image even if it's not exactly the whole story. Thanksgiving has its wonderful memories, but it also has some memories that are not so wonderful. I've learned to embrace both the good times and the bad times and claim them as my own and all part of life.

Among the more wonderful memories of "Thanksgivings Past" I think of all the football games that occupied the first half of the day. My memories are not the ones where we sat around and watched football on television but the ones where we went and played for several hours, using every ounce of energy we had to play for the sheer joy of winning the "Turkey Bowl" as it was most often called. I remember my beautiful girlfriend who later became my wife sitting for hours on a cold metal bleacher watching us even though she wasn't a big sports fan. What a lucky guy I was.

My friends and I played a rough and tumble version of tackle with no equipment, no head gear and when you got tackled you got nailed to the ground good and hard. We learned invaluable skills that would serve us well later in life. Nobody wanted to play on a team that was obviously overmatched, so we took turns picking players in order to have balanced teams with skill players at all levels. Nobody wanted to play on the line either, so we gave everyone an opportunity to play as an End or a backfield position at some point during the game. We practiced the same careful placement on defensive positions as well.

We played until we dropped. Then I went home to my family, cleaned up and lived with aching muscles and sore bones the rest of the day. My parents treated us to a wonderful Thanksgiving feast and all the world seemed right. One year during the game I got knocked unconscious for a brief period. I got up, finished the game (so I'm told), and drove on home after the game. Later friends called to see how I was doing. I had absolutely no memory of any of it including driving home. Those were the days. I continued the Turkey Bowl tradition long into my adult life and quit when I reached the point I couldn't walk any longer and got into a fight with two deacons in the church. Now, as I hobble along I am paying the rent on those golden "Turkey Bowls."

Another favorite Thanksgiving memory of mine was gathering around the table with my mother and father, brother and sisters and usually a friend or two of our family and having a wonderful meal. One year a friend of my dad's and my first "employer" bellowed "what do I have to do to get enough water during this meal." My dad, a man of few words got up, opened the window to the dining room, went outside and passed a water hose through the window and asked Charlie if that would do the trick. We all laughed; except my mother who didn't think it was so funny. We always ate on mom's finest China. Thanksgiving is full of memories for all of my life. Each new year brings new special memories. Times with our children and grandchildren will always be in our hearts. What unites all the varied memories is the people who shared the day with us and made it special. Thanksgiving at its best isn't about what's on the table but rather who is around the table with us.

May your Thanksgiving Day be blessed and may new memories of the present join old memories of the past as we share our tales of Thanksgiving both past and present. Remember, it's the people in our lives who share the journey with us that are what we celebrate first on Thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving.

# 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.*

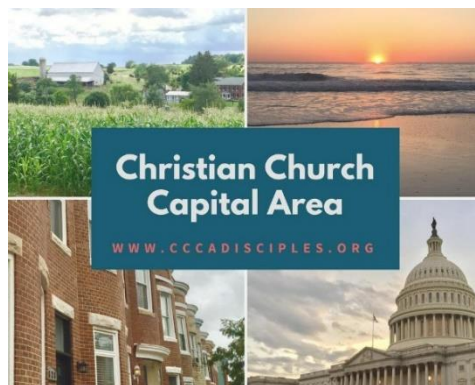
*Please continue to keep in your prayers the Buckingham and Chance Family.*

*Susan Montgomery*

*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.***

## CCCA DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR



### **December**

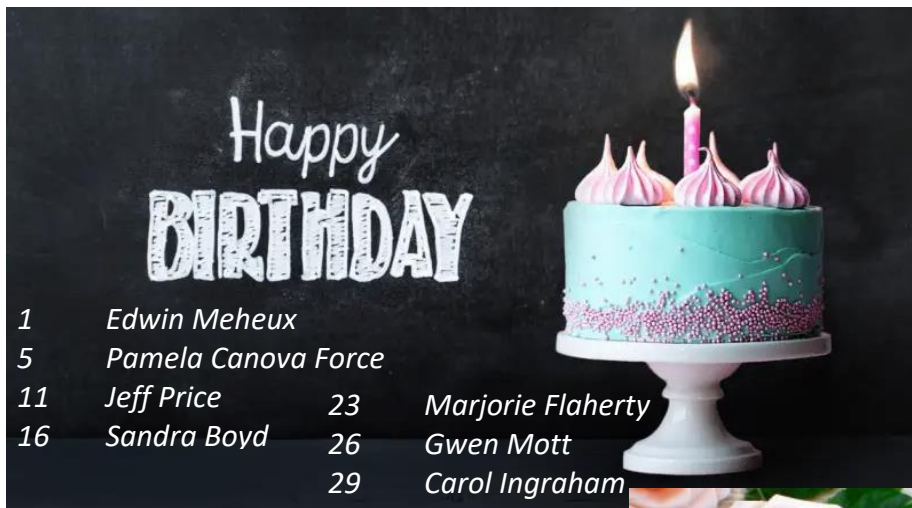
- 1 - University Christian Church, Hyattsville, Maryland
- 8 - Aspen Hill Christian Church, Aspen Hill, Maryland
- 15 - Beaver Creek Christian Church, Hagerstown, Maryland
- 22 - North Chevy Chase Christian Church, Chevy Chase, Maryland
- 29 - Winchester Avenue Christian Church, Martinsburg, Virginia

# 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 or call 301-871-722**



Happy  
**BIRTHDAY**

1	Edwin Meheux		
5	Pamela Canova Force		
11	Jeff Price	23	Marjorie Flaherty
16	Sandra Boyd	26	Gwen Mott
		29	Carol Ingraham



Happy  
 Anniversary

17 Robert Force & Pamela Canova

Please submit your articles, updates, and any information you might like to include in future newsletters to the church office. The deadline for the January newsletter is December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## Christmas Punch



*Servings: 14*  
*Prep 5minutes*  
*Ready in 5 minutes*

### Ingredients

- 6 cups cranberry juice or pomegranate cranberry juice\*
- 3 cups pineapple juice\*\*
- 1 Tbsp almond extract
- 3 liters ginger ale
- 1 (12 oz.) bag fresh cranberries (optional)
- 2 fresh limes, sliced (optional)
- Ice

### Instructions

1. Pour cranberry juice, pineapple juice, and almond extract into a large drink dispenser and mix.
2. Pour in ginger ale and give it one quick stir.
3. Add in cranberries, ice and ginger ale. Serve within a few hours for the best results as it will start to go flat.

**\*If you have a cherished recipe you'd like to share on next month's Newsletter, please email it to [office@aspenhillcc.org](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org).**

# NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

*Amy Buckingham & Mary Chance*




**F E L L O W S H I P**

Our annual Christmas Caroling Night will take place on December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the season with traditional carols and heartwarming melodies.

Don't forget to please bring your favorite sweet treat to share!

*John Small*



**P R O P E R T Y**

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.

*Connie Spoon*



**O U T R E A C H**

Our Thanksgiving basket project was a tremendous success thanks to the generous members of this congregation. We were able to bless —— local families with a lovely Thanksgiving meal. As the Christmas season approaches, we will collect new unwrapped toys for the Georgian Forest Elementary School children. Please consider a donation to place under the tree.

Deadline is set for December 17th.

# Worship

Our busy month in the church has arrived. Advent begins on December 1, 2024. Advent is the time of preparing for the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth. We will light a candle each Sunday of Advent and the fifth candle, the Christ candle, will be lit at our Christmas Eve service, December 24, at 7:00 pm. This is the joyous season of Christmas, please join us for our special services. *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. -Isaiah 9:6*

## FACTS & FIGURES: WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER

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)*

November Average Total: 54 (40 in person /15 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.**

**Worship in person at 11:00 AM every Sunday**

11:00 every Sunday Live on  
our YouTube Channel  
Online  
Worship Services



# STEWARDSHIP

## Luke 16:1

He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions.



## Offering

AN ACT  
OF  
WORSHIP

To make giving as convenient as possible. We offer several options for you to contribute.

- Mail Slot – You can place your offering in the secure mail slot located at the church entrance.
- Online Giving – Visit our website <https://aspenhillcc.org> to make your donation.
- Sunday Service – Offering will be collected during our Sunday worship services.
- Mail – You may also send your gift by mail to the church office.



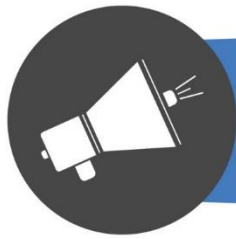
## + EVANGELISM

Consider extending an invitation this week. Remember, it's not about pressuring anyone but about offering an opportunity for growth. Who knows? Your invitation could be the start of a powerful journey in someone's life.



## education

We are looking for volunteers to serve in the Education Department. If you feel called to help, and would like to get involved, please reach out to Mary Chance for more details.



## DON'T MISS OUT

### December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Giving Tree:** A great way to accomplish this is by helping us decorate our giving tree in the Narthex with beautiful ornaments. The contributions received will help fund the many programs supported by our church. Please consider your church this Christmas season by purchasing an ornament.



**Toys for Children:** We are excited to one again support our annual Toys 4 Kids drive! We're asking for donations of new, unwrapped toys. If you're able to contribute, please bring your gift to the church by December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### December 7<sup>th</sup>

#### Fruit pick up!

Please remember to pick up your fruit between 10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M. We will have everything ready for you, so swing by during those hours to collect your orders!



Thank you and enjoy the fresh fruits!

### December 10<sup>th</sup>

#### Christmas Caroling 7:00PM- 8:30PM



Get into the holiday spirit from 7:00PM-8:30PM for an evening of joyful Christmas caroling! Let's gather together to sing beloved carols and share the warmth of the season. Please bring a treat to share as we spread cheer in our fellowship hall. All are welcome- invite your friends and family!

See you there!



December 1<sup>st</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Poinsettia's**



It's time for our annual Christmas Poinsettia sale! Choose from red, white or pink poinsettias, each poinsettia costs \$16.25. **Orders are due by December 16<sup>th</sup>.** When ordering please remember to include your name and specify if the poinsettia is in honor or in memory of someone special. Let's fill our sanctuary with beauty and remembrance this Christmas!

December 24<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Eve Service 7:30 PM**

Join us for a beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight communion service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM. Together, we'll celebrate the birth of our Savior in a peaceful, sacred atmosphere illuminated by candlelight. Following the service, stay for a time of fellowship as we share in the warmth of this special season. We look forward to celebrating with you and your family!



December 25<sup>th</sup>



As we forward to a new year, may we continue to grow together in faith, support one another in prayer, and spread the good news with joyful hearts. May this season fill your hearts with peace, and your lives with blessings.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

With love and joy,  
AHCC

December 31<sup>st</sup>



Happy New Year! May the new year be filled with faith, hope, and love. May God's blessings guide each of us, bringing peace, joy and renewed purpose in every day ahead. Withering you all a year full of growth in spirit and unity.

Have a blessed and joyful New Year together!  
AHCC