



THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

FEBRUARY 2025



BY CHANCE

SURPRISED BY A PAIR OF FOXES

While sitting in the car in the driveway of my house earlier this week I just happened to look to the right as my eyes picked up motion. I was pleasantly surprised to see two foxes running right past me. The snow-covered yard was only a few feet away from the edge of the driveway and it was a shot of adrenaline to see the red fox against the white snow. They were poetry in motion as they sped by so fast I was lucky to have seen them at all.

In the day and age of urbanization, crowded roads, and busyness on the phone or in conversation it was like a miracle for me to see these two foxes race by me. God speaks to me through nature but this the first time he used a simple passing of the foxes to remind me of some important things.

The first thing the good Lord reminded me was that we're all in the world together, fox and man alike and seeing myself in the midst of it all was refreshing to me. Nature is a beautiful thing and one of the losses of our busy lives and hustle and bustle world is that we sometimes get too busy or too preoccupied to see the beauty of nature all around us. We need to open our eyes, look at the daily unfolding of nature in the world around us and rejoice in it. The Psalmist wrote many words revealing his connections with nature and the Lord's creation.

Secondly, after a while I realized the foxes were running from the direction where one of my neighbors keeps a chicken coop and the fox were probably being chased away by the neighbor's dog who protects the chickens. At least that the dog's job. I remember when the little boy who oversees the chickens told me one day, "Bob, your fox are trying to get my chickens." "Tony, I asked, what makes them 'my' fox. "Well,," he replied, they come from your yard." "That doesn't make them my fox," I replied. Actually, they belong to Mother Nature or the Lord, but they just came through my yard from the woods below. That's our own story in life too. We come from the Lord through lots of different "yards," but we belong to the Lord. Life is always in transition. Life is always about change. Life is always about going from one place to another. We don't always know it at the time, but life is on the move.

I don't want to make too much of it, after all it was just a couple of foxes running past me, but it was a wonderful moment and somehow I felt connected with the world around me and I saw the beauty of nature.

Are you paying attention to the world around you? Are you trying to leave time in your life to look around and see the world around you? Are you listening to the birds singing? Are you watching the beauty of nature as it unfolds and takes place all around every day?

Like the psalmist I see the wonder and presence of the Lord in the beauty of the world in which we live.

How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what he has done!

² Each day announces it to the following day; each night repeats it to the next.

³ No speech or words are used, no sound is heard; ⁴ yet their message^[b] goes out to all the world and is heard to the ends of the earth. Psalm 19:1-4

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

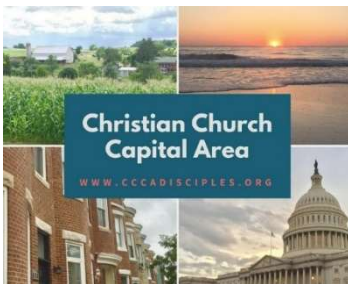
Please continue to keep in your prayers the Buckingham and Chance Family.

Susan Montgomery needs our prayers as she recovers from some difficult surgery.

Shawn Morran who works for Splaine Security and is recovering from a bad fall off a ladder.

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

FEBRUARY 4-TWELFTH STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH,
WASHINGTON, DC - WWW.12THSTCC.ORG / GHANA

11-THE CAPITAL AREA COMMISSION FOR MINISTRY AND ALL
CANDIDATES CURRENTLY UNDER CARE / MARSHALL ISLANDS

17-EDGEMERE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – / THAILAND

24-DOWNSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, WILLIAMSPORT, MARYLAND -
[HTTP://WWW.DOWNSVILLEDOC.NET/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.DOWNSVILLEDOC.NET/INDEX.HTML) / COSTA RICA

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.

A new Directory will be coming out soon so now is the time to call the office and be sure we have your correct address, email and other vital information.

Temporary Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 10 AM-2:00 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



Feb 04 Susan Montgomery
Feb 06 Cooper Buckingham
Feb 13 Matthew Chance
Feb 14 Carter Buckingham
Feb 19 Marie Mulligan
Feb 20 Jill D'Andrea
Feb 25 Lisa Price

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

Please submit your articles, updates, and any information you might like to include in future newsletters to the church office. The deadline for the February newsletter is January 19th.

NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

Amy Buckingham & Mary Chance



FELLOWSHIP

Please be sure to sign up to provide the Fellowship Period following our Worship Service. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Room

We provide the coffee, you provide cookies, pretzels, whatever you like. We depend on our members and friends providing as much of the Fellowship as possible. Thanks for signing up.

John Small



PROPERTY

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. We have a new furnace for the narthex and bathrooms.

Thank you for your faithful giving. It is needed now...more than ever.



STEWARDSHIP

“The generous person will prosper, and whoever refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:25

Who Have You Invited to Church Recently?

+ EVANGELISM

Sharing the Good News is the first and most basic call of every follower of Jesus Christ.



education

Children's Church is a big success thanks to our teacher's and the leadership of Mary Chance. It is held during the worship service

WORSHIP

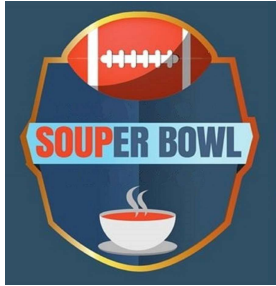
WORSHIP IS IN PERSON EVERY SUNDAY 11:00 AM & ONLINE AT WWW.ASPENHILLCC.ORG / USE THE FACEBOOK LINK

The good news is worship 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)

January Average Total: 52 (34 in person /18 online) 😊

Year to Date Average: Total: 52 (34 in person /18 online) 😊



OUTREACH

January 26th – February 29th

Souper Bowl...Each year we have Souper Bowl of our own. It's not the "Super Bowl" that's related to the National Football League, but a "SOUPER" Bowl related to our desire to help feed the hungry. We divided our congregation into two teams and each team competes with the other to see who brings in the most cans of soup. Then all of the cans of soup we collect go to Manna, a local food bank where people can go for help with their grocery needs.

This year the Teams will be the "First Sixers" and the "Second Sixers." You are a "First Sixer" if you were born between the months of January and June. You are "Second Sixer" if you were born between August and December. Being a Leo, I'm laying the challenge down now! Look out "First Sixers" we're coming after you."

The Souper Bowl begins January 26 and ends February 9th. The losers will have to stand and sing a song of defeat to the winners who will beam with pride at being "winners." Of course, the real winners are the hungry who will benefit

The game is on...Bring cans of soup and place them in "your team's" box in the front of the sanctuary

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Silver Spring, MD 20905