



THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

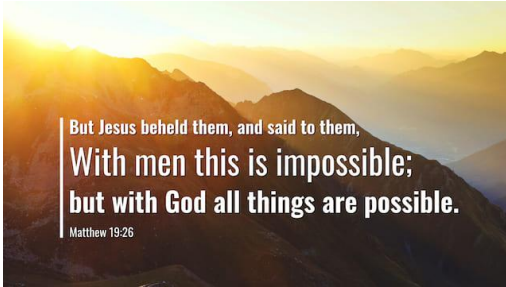
(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

MARCH 2025

BY CHANCE

Keeping Faith in Hard Times



I recently came across an excellent book entitled “Getting Through What You’ll Never Get Over.” It’s a provocative title and reading it has helped me a lot through some hard times of my own.

While checking in recently at a doctor’s office I overheard the receptionist describing the sudden and unexpected loss of her son. Without being intrusive or pushy I asked her if I could be of any help

and that I would lift her up in my prayers. She was appreciative of my conversation with her although I kept it short and low key. Once I got home I decided to buy another copy of the book I had found so helpful and I dropped it off to her the next time I went to the office.

Hard times come in lots of ways. Life can turn sudden and hard on us at any given moment. It often turns difficult just when we expect it the least. We can never really “prepare” for hard times except by having a faith in the Lord’s presence and calling on his strength when our own isn’t sufficient. The loss of a loved one is one of life’s hardest times to get through. We’ll never get over it, but we can find ways to get through it. The loss of our job can be a difficult jolt with lots of costs to us that go far beyond the economic losses. Self-esteem, familiar routines, the loss of connections at work can all take a toll. The betrayal of a friend, especially one we felt especially fond of can be devastating. Hard times come in lots of ways. In fact, the book of Job is centered around one man’s loss in every way imaginable.

Pat answers never bring much help either. Faith can come hard. Old answers can seem trite or just don’t work any longer for us. Words of support that are meant to be kind can sting and rub our wounds even deeper. Familiar passages of scriptures can lose their meaning or suddenly cause us to think in different ways.

There are ways to get through what we’ll never over, however. Keeping faith in the Lord has always been a help to me even in my hardest moments. Searching the scriptures with a new heart and new openness can bring new insights that we never had before. Coming to church and being with other people of faith can help us rediscover the power of community. We give strength to one another and when we are weak others can share their strength with us and when others are weak we can share our strength with them. Accepting that nothing stays the same and facing the inevitable losses of life and the ups and downs as part of life can help us as well. There are lots of other ways we can get through what we’ll never get over. What are the ways that have helped you through your hard times and deepest losses in life?

May God give you the strength and the faith to get through your hard times.

D. Robert Chance

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.

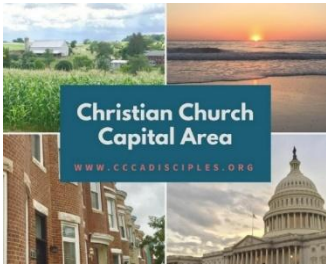
Patty Collins- Please keep Sam's Splaine's mother Patty, in your prayers. She loves telephone calls too

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

PLEASE LIFT UP THE FOLLOWING CONGREGATIONS IN YOUR PRAYERS
THIS MONTH

March

- 2-The Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister & President, and the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States & Canada - <https://disciples.org/ogmp/> / Angola
- 9 - Fort Washington Christian Church, Fort Washington, Maryland - www.fortwashingtonchurch.com/ / Lebanon
- 16 - Garfield Memorial Christian Church, McLean, Virginia - <http://www.garfieldmemorialcc.com/> / Korea
- 23 - First Christian Church, Falls Church, Virginia - www.fccfc.org/ / Honduras
- 30 - First Christian Church, Hagerstown, Maryland - <http://www.fcchagerstown.org/> / East Timor

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.



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

**BIRTHDAYS THIS COMING MONTH
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



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

John Small March 03
Roberto Lopez March 05
Gifty Amuzu March 09
Lloyd Samuels March 10
Linda Vincent March 10
Tim Gartrell March 12
Mason Chance March 18
Jane Small March 27
Nina Schneider March 31

NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES



Fellowship / Amy Buckingham and Mary Chance

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

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a huge success. Thanks to all who helped and all who came.

Look for information on the upcoming SONRISE BREAKFAST & WORSHIP...APRIL 20 AT 9:00 A.M.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education...We have an Adult Sunday School Class each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Small Conference Room. We have Children's Church during the Worship Service for children in the Fellowship Hall.

We are one teacher short, if you would like to be a teacher for the Children's Church please see Mary Chance. We provide the lesson plan, the materials, a Bible focused time of fun and learning for the children.

JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP
ON SUNDAYS

In Person and Online Worship Services are available every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. www.aspenhillcc.org /go to "See Us on YouTube link and click on the current week or any week in the past that you would like to see."



Average Attendance for the past month...

In Person 32 Online 18 Total 50 YTD 50

Lent begins Sunday March 9 and each Sunday we have a unique “Banner Ceremony” during the worship service. Each Sunday of Lent has a different focus and takes us from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday. It’s a great time to be reminded of the journey of Christ to the cross and more importantly to His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

It’s a wonderful time to invite friends to join you or even come with you to church.



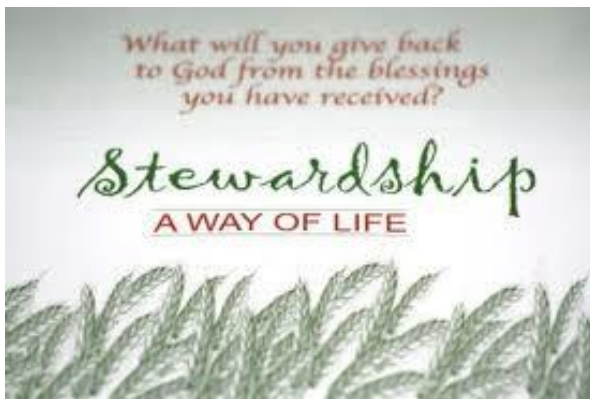
John Small

It’s been a long hard winter and the toll on our building has been extra hard. Several snows required having our lot and our sidewalks plowed and cleared. Special thanks to Roberto Lopez who helped clear the

sidewalks in the circle at our driveway of the snow. Way to go Roberto!

We had to install a new furnace as well. Heating costs are much higher this year than in the past few years as we’re sure you know from your own experiences at home.

Thanks for all you do to help support our property efforts. See me if you can help with some things. There are lots of things to do and few hands to help.



Thank you for your faithfulness!

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.

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure, you use it will be measured back to you. - Luke 6:38 NIV



Outreach ... Connie Spoon

The Souper Bowl was a huge success. Thanks to you lots of hungry people were fed with an abundance of cans of soup, all coming from the abundance of your faithfulness. Team B, those with birthdays between July and December won the contest but the real winners were the people who were fed.

The Week of Compassion is going on in February and so far your giving has been wonderful. We'll give you an update once all the giving has been given and counted. Through the Week of Compassion, we are there, along with other Christian Churches to respond to emergencies and much need interventions for people here in the United States and all over the world. Why? Because we care and because Jesus told us to take care of the least of these!



Board Meeting

Highlights From The Board

- The Board met on February 12 via Zoom and had lots of business to deal with.
- Reports were shared from all of the Ministry Chairs and the Pastor as well as Financial Reports from the Treasurer and

Financial Secretary.

- We are trying to catch up on some financial records following the loss of our Administrative Assistant at the end of 2024.
- Dr. Chance shared the joyful news of welcoming our new Administrative Assistant, which is highlighted below.



Meet Terri Abney, who joined our staff on February 10! Terri hails from Washington, D.C. and describes herself as a humbled child of God and a proud dog mommy.

I've had the privilege of working across various fields and roles, and each experience has shaped me into the woman I am today. As I reflect on my journey, I see how my professional and spiritual growth have played a key role in refining my expertise. They've also brought me back home, reconnecting me with what truly matters. I've had the honor of working with diverse individuals, and it's been deeply fulfilling to advocate for the underprivileged and overlooked.

Outside of work, I love spending quality time with my loved ones, serving others, reading, cooking, and diving into Bible study. Meditating on God's word has been a constant source of guidance in my life. I'm both excited and humbled to serve the Aspen Hill Christian Church Community, where I can continue to grow and give back.

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13501 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20905