



# THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

January 2026

## So Many Memories

Christmas brings so many memories for me; it can be overwhelming. I suspect the same may be true for you, too. Some of the memories are good, some are great, and some are bad or sad. Life is like that, we all have good times and good memories as well as bad times and bad memories.

The memories are suspended in time for me. That is to say, they seem like just yesterday, and at the same time, they seem so very far away. I remember all the Christmases past with my mom and dad and brother, and sisters when we eagerly awaited for Santa Claus to come and surprise us with gifts, some of which we expected and some which were a total surprise. It's funny how certain memories stand out, and others are a blur. Among the ones that stand out are the years my brother and I got bows and arrows. We were told not to shoot the arrows at each other, of course, but no one mentioned shooting our arrows straight up into the air to see how far they would fly. After we released the arrows while standing in the backyard yard we looked up to see how far they went up. That wasn't the problem. The problem was we weren't smart enough to figure out that what goes up must come down—gravity or something like that, we hadn't learned it yet.

One of the arrows hit my brother in his face, just to the right of his eye. Thank God it missed his eye by millimeters. Once the worry was over, the scolding followed, and we had to surrender our bows and arrows to the proper authorities, i.e., our dad. To say he was none too pleased with us would be the understatement of the year. He said there was no way his sons could be that stupid. I think he was wrong.

Another year, Santa left me a weight set so I could get strong and build up my muscles. I was so excited that I immediately picked up the bar and weights, lifted it high up over my head, and quickly realized it was way more weight than I could sustain. As I fell backwards with the bar, the good news was that I fell into the tree, which broke my fall. The bad news was that the tree was demolished. Worse yet, there were two perfect holes in the tile floor where the weights on each end of the bar landed with a thud.

Both memories are kind of funny now, but not so much then. The thing that links all these memories together was the love and forgiveness our parents put into helping Santa bring wonderful gifts every year, and how we never bothered to thank them or recognize how much they loved us. I wish beyond all wishes I could go back and let my dad and mom know how much I appreciated their gifts and their love. My family was never very good at expressing feelings, except for anger, which we were masters at expressing. Oh well, I forgive myself, as after all, we were just kids, I doubt if most of my friends were any better at expressing thanks than we were. Besides, mom and dad didn't bring all those gifts to get thanks; they brought them to us for the sheer joy and love in their hearts.

As the new year dawns upon us, let us practice thankfulness a little better and with more consistency. Let us realize all the gifts and blessings we receive from so many others in this new year, and may we practice the art of expressing our feelings of joy and appreciation. Speaking of which, I can never thank you enough for all the love and support you have given to my family and me over the last fifty-three years.

God bless you all, and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We all have a lot to be thankful for.



***Please let us know if you are aware of someone who is ill or is a shut-in.***

*Edwina Meheaux – Please keep her in your prayers. Give her a call.*

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

*David Jordan, who is struggling, appreciates our prayers. He is in Brooke Grove Rehab Center.*

*Janis Hanson, who is limited to being home due to other health issues.*

*Paul Leiberton, who is dealing with health issues.*

*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.***



**Please lift the following congregations in your prayers this month.**

**January**

7-United Christian Church, Lexington Park, Maryland

14-Retired clergy and spouses in the Capital Area Region

21-Our Region and all churches that are currently in Search and Call for their next Interim or Settled Minister

28-United Christian Parish, Reston, Virginia



**We have had updates since we released a new directory in December. Please let us know of any other corrections, as we are going to release a new directory with all the updates.**

If you have a change in your address, phone number, or email, contact Cyndi in the office so she can keep our information up to date. You can reach her at [office@aspenhillcc.org](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org) or call 301-871-7222.

# January



## Church Office Hours:

**Monday-Thursday and Friday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM**

**Wednesday 8:00 – 2:00 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 301-871-722**

**The office will be closed December 25 - January 2 and on the 19<sup>th</sup>.**



## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Jack Hanson     January 12

Joel Owen        January 29

***Please let the Church Office know if Your Birthdate or Anniversary Date Is Wrong or missing, so we may correct it .***

## ***Highlights From The Board***



### **Board Meeting**

- The Board meeting was held on December 10, 2025.
- Financial reports were reviewed.
- An update on our Search Process was provided.
- Ministry Reports were shared.
- Budget for the upcoming year was discussed.

# 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 Fellowship hour is growing, so come on over, bring our visitors with you, and enjoy being together around the tables.



## **Christian Education / Position Vacant At This Time**

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 in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to our volunteers who lead Children's Church each week: Phyllis Brown, Pam Force, Lisa Knight & Jayna, Jennifer Sharma, and Lou Ann Rector.



## **Worship / Gwen Mott**

We are beginning a new year and have numerous opportunities to make it a fantastic one. One way is to attend church every Sunday. That can lead to being more involved in more activities here at church.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* Romans 15:13

Don't miss this time of worship! In-person and Online Worship Services are available every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. [www.aspenhillcc.org](http://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 November 2025**

Month...	In Person 34	Online 13	Total 47
YTD...	In Person 35	Online 17	Total 52



## Property

The property is in relatively good shape. A few minor issues have been addressed, with special thanks to Roberto Lopez. We are currently working on cleaning out and updating some of the old offices and the library. If you would like to help with property projects, please talk to John Small.



*Stewardship*  
a way of life

## Stewardship

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*



## Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one, celebrate a birthday, or an anniversary. Sign up to donate altar flowers. Sign up in the fellowship hall or email Cyndi at [office@aspenhillcc.org](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org). Please include the date of dedication, your name, and the dedication (dedicated to/for). AHCC requests a donation of \$30 (\$25 for the flowers and \$5 for delivery) to cover the cost of flowers each week.



Thank you to all those who made our fruit sale a success. Folks stepped up with short notice to unload the truck, sort the orders, and deliver boxes to our customers. Things were different this year, but as usual, you made it work. **We made \$1860.75 to help the General Fund. Thank You All!**

*Mary Chance*



## Outreach

Thank you to everyone who generously donated toys or funds for the children of Georgian Forest Elementary School. Our final total was 60 toys, crayons, books, and 14 \$10 gift cards for the older siblings. Our next annual Outreach project, "SOUPER BOWL," begins in late January. All soups will be donated to a local food pantry. Please consider a donation when we begin this important food drive.

The food pantry is fully stocked and available for anyone in need. Contact Cyndi in the church office for assistance. Call the office at 301-871-7222 or email her at [office@aspenhillcc.org](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org).

*Connie Spoon*





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