



# THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

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## Photostats of Hands on the Wall

Sometime long ago in another galaxy, I began inviting children to get a photocopy of their hands or a drawing of their picture. Most were delighted to have a copy of their handprint, a few weren't interested, and I had to watch one little guy who would sneak back into the copy room while I wasn't looking and try to take a copy of his face. Fortunately, for his sake, I always caught him before he succeeded, thus preserving his eyesight. Eventually, I learned to keep a closer eye on that little guy.

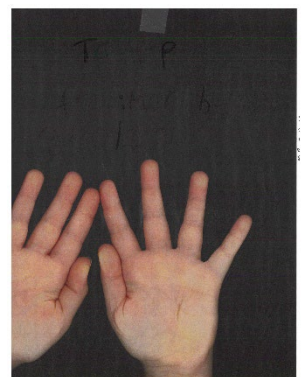
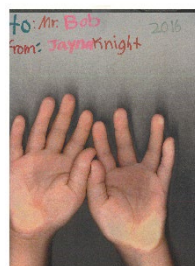
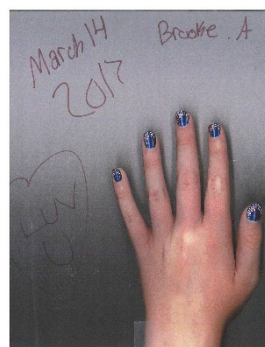
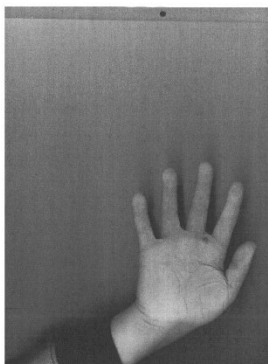
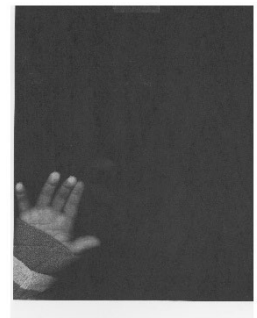
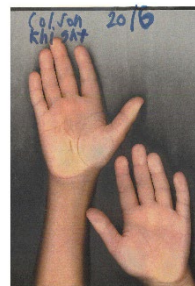
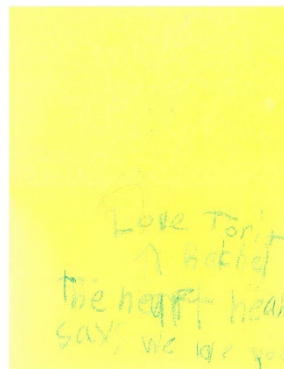
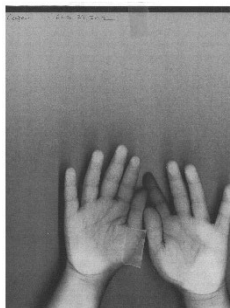
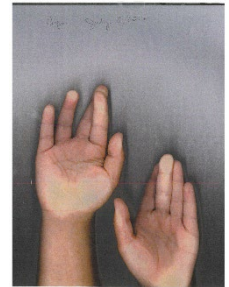
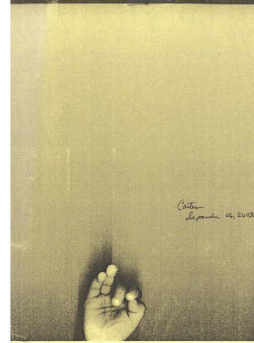
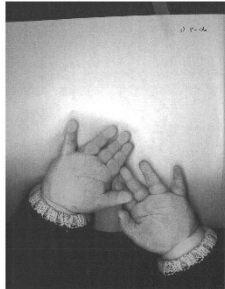
Usually, I would make two copies, one to give to the child (who was delighted beyond words) and a second to post on my "wall of honor". The "wall of honor" was simply the closet door in my office, and over the years, the photocopies and pictures of little and sometimes bigger hands got more and more crowded, and soon the closet door was plastered with pictures of hands two and three deep. Often the child would write a message to me on the photocopy of their hands, sometimes we began putting dates on the pictures to mark the occasion, and sometimes nothing, just the handprint.

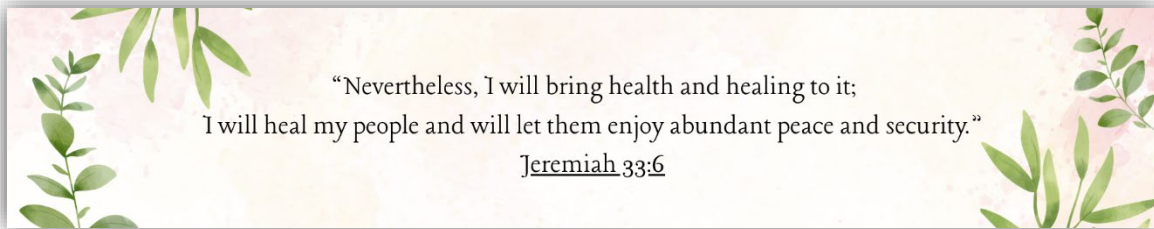
The messages were and always will be priceless. Each child had a unique personality and a way of expressing what they wanted to say. One of my grandchildren, over 30 years ago, wrote, "Thanks, Pop, for being a great minister". One child wrote "Bruce the Goose" in reference to a beloved statue of a goose that one of our elderly members wanted to give to me, but I, in turn, gave it to the church and asked one of our strong men to bring it to the Quiet Garden, where it remains today. Others, the ones with "artistic inclinations," drew pictures showing me in the pulpit or with crosses, and each one had their own unique way of expressing their personality. Many of those children are now grown, married, and raising their own families. Every one of them is special to me.

In the process of cleaning out my office, I decided it was time to take the photocopies of hands and pictures down. I took them off the door, one by one, ever so carefully, using my pocket knife, scissors, and sometimes just my fingers. I was very careful not to tear or damage them or scar the door. I am attempting to find these kids and give them back a treasured piece of their past as little people. I don't know if they will treasure them as much as I do, but they mean the world to me. Each one reflects a little person's life I touched, and our church touched in some small way. I don't know if I will make a notebook of them or what, but I scanned each one and made a second copy of each as well. They represent something very important to me in my ministry. Just a little off the top of my head, in a spare moment when the Holy Spirit guided me, I invented a way to touch little people's lives and mark a point in time that can never be recaptured. The copies of hands and their drawings were a reflection of how I touched a child's life in some small way. I'm going to a few "samples" at the end of my article. I've downsized them, of course, so you could see a larger sample. In reality, each one is a full sheet of paper.

I believe we all want to find meaning in our lives. I believe we all want to make a difference. Sometimes the difference is a small one, long forgotten in the unrelenting march of time, and sometimes in deeply significant ways we may not even be aware of. The great Viktor Frankl called it "Man's Search for

Meaning". Many of you, if not all of you, have touched my life in more ways than I can express. I hope I have touched yours as well. The cynic in me says, 'throw those old hand prints away,' but the spirit in me says, 'No way Jose! Keep them forever, and share them as much as you can.' Many of those kids and their families are long gone from the church, but I rejoice in the small way that we were able to touch their lives. Jesus said, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:40)





***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.*

*Gwen Mott, who is home and recovering from a serious but unknown illness.*

*Janis Hanson is homebound but still loves cards, calls, and even visits. See Jack before coming over to visit, however.*

*Patty Chance (Bob's sister) is being treated for cancer.*

*Pam Force is struggling with several stomach issues.*

*All those who suffer from grief and loss and who struggle with illness in any form.*

***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.

- 5 - Pilgrimage Christian Church, Suitland, Maryland
- 12 - Rockville Christian Church, Rockville, Maryland
- 19 - Grace Christian Church, Boonesboro, MD
- 26 - Lansdowne Christian Church, Baltimore, Maryland

## July Birthdays

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Julia Courtney  | 4  |
| Gaylene Cottone | 13 |
| David Jordan    | 13 |
| Robert Force    | 22 |
| Jason Leonard   | 22 |
| Mary Sigel      | 26 |
| Paul Leiberton  | 30 |

## August Birthdays

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Veronica Williams | 2  |
| Bob Chance        | 11 |
| Angel Hampton     | 15 |
| Erin May          | 25 |



### July

Matthew & Cassie Chance July 12, 2003

### August

John & Jane Small August 21, 1971

*Please let the Church Office know if your birthdate or anniversary is incorrect or missing. So, we may correct it.*

## Average Attendance

### Average Attendance for May 2026

|          |              |           |          |
|----------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Month... | In Person 35 | Online 16 | Total 51 |
| YTD...   | In Person 35 | Online 18 | Total 53 |



## Highlights From The Board

***The Board meeting was held on June 10, 2026.***

Financial reports were reviewed.

An update on our Search Process was provided.

Ministry Reports were shared.

Our minister, Dr. Chance, shared his activities and ministries, and stressed that we all need to share the Gospel and the wonderful church we are all part of, bringing new disciples to the church.



### Order 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 \$30 donation (\$25 for flowers and \$5 for delivery) to cover the weekly cost of flowers.

## NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

### Fellowship



#### Fellowship / Amy Buckingham and Mary Chance

We are running out of goodies to share during the fellowship hour. Please consider signing up for a fellowship period. We provide coffee. All you need to supply is some cookies or the like. No need for anything fancy, just some snacks.

#### Worship / Gwen Mott

During the summer months, our church attendance may be less regular, but we can remain spiritually connected. Include your Bible in your summertime reading. Challenge yourself to read a short New Testament book in a week. Or perhaps the Proverbs, one chapter a day, 31 chapters in Proverbs. Enjoy a scripture for summer: *Isaiah 49:10*. Join us in person, or you can join the service on YouTube while traveling on vacation.

### Worship



## Outreach

Our annual Backpack Drive will take place from July 26 through August 16 for the children of Georgian Forest Elementary School. Please refer to the list of suggested school supplies included in this newsletter. If you prefer to make a financial donation, please mail or provide a check to the church, and we will shop for you. Please consider contributing to this worthy Outreach program.

Our food pantry is available to anyone in need. Please contact the church office for assistance.

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**THIS IS THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER, A COMBINED JULY & AUGUST ISSUE.**

# Backpacks for Kids

## July 26 - August 16

We will be collecting the following school supplies and putting them in a backpack for a child in need at Georgian Woods Elementary School. A representative from the school will pick everything up on August 17.

Backpack \* Black Binder 1" or 2 ½" \* Black Composition book  
Wide Rule loose-leaf paper \* Box of 24 Crayons \* Zipper Pencil Case  
Scissors \* Glue sticks \* Yellow Highlighter \* Pocket Folders  
Large Erasers \* Pencils

Place in the box in the front of the Sanctuary  
and say a prayer for the child who receives it.

# INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS



## **SummerFest – Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm**

**506 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD**

On June 27th from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm, SummerFest is a fun-packed and free event to commemorate America's independence. A fireworks display will start around 9:20 pm.

## **MoCo 250 Shine Together – Albert Einstein High School**

**11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington, MD 20895**

This event will help kick off Montgomery County's 250<sup>th</sup> summer of memories and celebration. MoCo 250 Shine Together begins July 3 at 7 p.m. with live music from The fireworks display will begin at approximately 9:15 PM.

## **Germantown Glory – South Germantown Recreational Park**

**18041 Central Park Circle, Boyds, MD**

Germantown Glory will kick off on July 4th at 7:00 pm at the South Germantown Recreational Park. The fireworks display will begin at approximately 9:15 pm.

## **Rockville's Independence Day – Mattie J. T. Stepanek Park**

**1800 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD**

The City of Rockville's Independence Day Celebration returns on July 4th at Mattie J. T. Stepanek Park in King Farm. The event kicks off with live music, followed by 20 minutes of fireworks.

## **Upper Montgomery County VFD 4th of July Fireworks – Soccer Fields**

**14650 Hughes Road, Poolesville, MD**

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department will once again sponsor a fantastic fireworks display on July 4th. The event will be held at 14650 Hughes Road in Poolesville. Gates will open at 5:00 pm, and the price of admission is \$10 per car.

**The following events will be held for Independence Day.** They are being held on different days from June 27 to July 4. If you would like additional information on these events, you can find it here:

<https://visitmontgomery.com/blog/festivals-events/fourth-of-july-fireworks/>



Dr. Chance celebrates the 55th anniversary of his ordination on August 22. Do you recognize him in this photo taken on the day of his ordination? The special ceremony was held at Washington Memorial Christian Church in Oxon Hill, Maryland. His Church History professor is standing just to the left of Dr. Chance with the host and home minister just to his right. Dr. Chance was baptized in the baptistry behind the pastors, taking part in the ceremony. Fifty-eight years plus of ministry and fifty-five years since his ordination, but who's counting?





*it was unforgettable!*



Dr. Chance will be retiring at the end of August and, with sadness, says he plans to find time to celebrate all the love and joy he has received and shared with Bethel Christian Church, Central Christian Church, and 53+ years of ministry here at Aspen Hill Christian Church. His wife, Mary, has been a beloved partner in his ministry from the beginning, and his three children, Amy, Beth, and Matthew, were all raised in the church. Bob and Mary's eight grandchildren were all raised right here, too. It will be a sad time in many ways. We wish Bob, Mary, and their family well as their life's journey takes an exciting new turn. Without Mary, Bob says he wouldn't have lasted a day! Safe travels on your journey, and thank you for all you have done for AHCC.







# SUMMER SCHEDULE

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 3 - Office Closed  
July 4 - Holiday

## PROGRAM COUNCIL MEETING

Combined Meeting  
JULY 22 - 7 PM

## BOARD MEETING

Combined Meeting  
JULY 22 - 7 PM

## BACKPACKS FOR KIDS

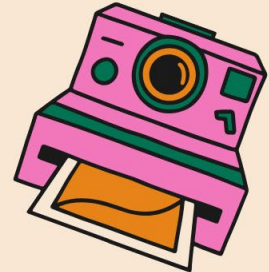
Fill backpack with school supplies from list  
August 2 - August 16

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

August 16

# JULY & AUGUST

Things slow down a little bit for summer.  
Enjoy your vacations and your family.  
We will see you on Sundays, or if you are away you  
can view the service on YouTube online.





**ASPEN HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**13501 Georgia Avenue**  
**Silver Spring, MD 20906**

**Church Office Hours:**

**Monday-Thursday and Friday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Wednesday 8:00 – 2:00 PM**

**The office will be closed on Friday, July 3.**

**Please let the office know how you would like your newsletter delivered! USPS, Email, or Both.**

**[office@aspenhillcc.org](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org)**

**301-871-722**

