



THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

Reflections



As I prepare for my retirement, I am experiencing many feelings, some of them in conflict with others. I feel grief over leaving a ministry I have long loved, cherished, and given everything I have to the church. I feel joy over finally having a life with new opportunities. I feel remorse over times and situations with some people that I wish I could go back to and say "Sorry"; I wish I had been kinder or more accepting or more understanding. I feel fear over what I will do once I retire. I feel joy and appreciation for all the love and friendship I have received in my fifty-four plus years

here at Aspen Hill and fifty-nine plus total including Augusta, Georgia and Bethel, Kentucky. While the majority of my memories were formed from experiences here in this wonderful church, I have many amazing and happy memories in both Georgia and Kentucky.

The years in Bethel when I was just starting and learning what ministry and church were all about were amazing. I was so innocent and naive; I can never forget that I had the opportunity to experience a way of life on the farm and in rural Kentucky long gone. Those were years of times long ago, never to be experienced again. The calendar said it was 1968 when I arrived in Bethel, but in reality it was closer to 1948.

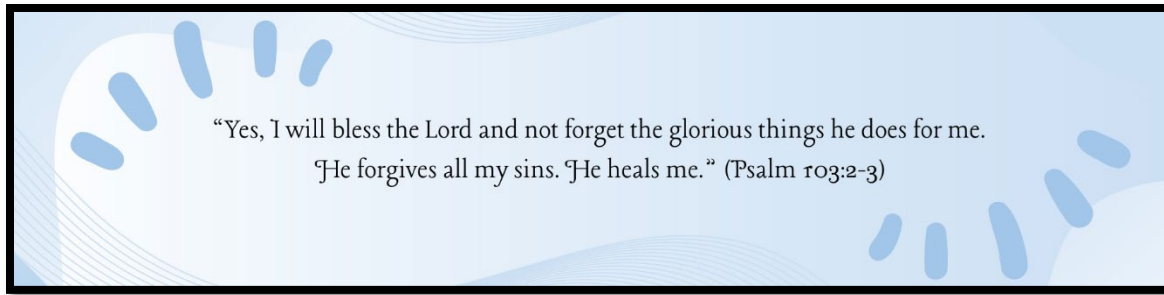
Oh, how I like to reflect on those stories again and again. My two years in Augusta were special too, but for different reasons. I was an Associate, and most of my ministry was with the youth. Ironically, I also spent wonderful time with the Golden Agers as well. I could tell a thousand and one stories from Bethel, Central, and Aspen Hill. I could write a book about real life with real people in the ministry, some of it happy, some of it not so much. Most of my stories would have to do with people because at the end of the church is about people and all the ways we live life together in the journey of life and seek the Lord's presence."

I also reflect on how much the times have changed. The mantra in the late sixties when I came of age was "The Times They Are A Changing". Little did we know how much they would change. Among the places where the greatest changes have come is the church and its place and role in a secular society. Life is all about change, constant change, unending change. Some of the changes were good, and some not so good, but all of them were impactful on those of us who lived through it, with it, and often despite it. The church is no longer in the center of town, and in fact it has moved so far out of town in its role and place that it lives on the far side of town, beyond the railroad tracks.

Mostly, I reflect on appreciation and thankfulness. I thank God for all of his guidance and blessings throughout my life. I thank Mary more than any other human being on the planet for her abiding and constant presence. I thank my children, grandchildren, and family members for their support and love. I thank the many wonderful people, too many to mention names, that God has blessed me with over the years to be my friends and partners in ministry. I don't know if I even believe in "Guardian Angels," but mine has sure been there to keep me from falling off the cliff more times than you can imagine.

As I close I reflect on Ricky Nelson's great song, "Garden Party" in which he sang the immortal words, "If memories were all I had to sing, I'd rather drive a truck." True enough. My memories are wonderful, life giving and will always be cherished but as I move into a new life, and a new world I look forward to experiencing new stories, creating new memories, making new mistakes and having new experiences. "Hello! Is there still a Bob in there somewhere? Guess I'll find out. In the meantime, thank you, God bless you, and I will always be here for you and thankful for you in my journey of life.

D. Robert Chance



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.

September

- 6 - Bethany Christian Church, Fort Washington, Maryland
- 13 -The Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses of the Disciples of Christ.
- 20 -The College of Regional Ministers and the other 31 Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In the United States and Canada.
- 27 -Christian Temple, Catonsville, Maryland

October

- 5 - Bethany Beach Christian Church, Bethany Beach, Del.
- 12 - Whosoever Will Christian Church, Beltsville, Maryland
- 19 - The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Capital Area
- 26 - Wilson Blvd. Christian Church, Arlington, Virginia



September		October	
Mary Chance	September 05	Jennifer Sharma	October 04
Arlyn Sanchez	September 07	Dahlia Williams	October 06
Brooke Appleyard	September 08	Cecilia Samuels	October 07
Lisa Knight	September 16	Lee Alderman	October 12
Luke Hanson	September 24	Kathie Gartrell	October 12
Debbie Sullivan	September 27	Eric Hanson	October 15
		Janis Hanson	October 15



Anniversaries

Bob & Mary Chance September 2

Rich Link October 5

Eric & Monica Hanson October 9

Jack & Janis Hanson October 19

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 July 2026

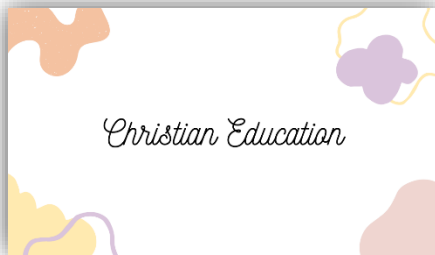
Month...	In Person	32	Online	16	Total	48
YTD...	In Person	36	Online	18	Total	53



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. 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.



Christian Education

Christian Education resumes Sunday, September 13. 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.



Stewardship

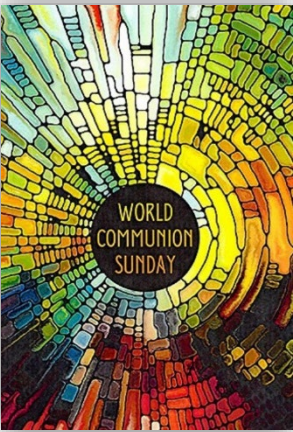
Online Giving – Visit our website <https://aspenhillcc.org> to make your donation. Sunday Service – Offering will be collected during our Sunday worship services. Mail – You may also send your gift by mail to the church office.

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



Summer is nearing the end, and a return from travel and vacations. With the season ending, it will mean more regular attendance at worship services. It has been a blessing to have the video online services when needed. We will have many more new and exciting experiences at Aspen Hill in the coming season. See you in Church! *Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Psalm 149:1-4*

In-person and online worship services are available every Sunday at 11 am. You can access our YouTube page on our website: aspenhillcc.org. If you click the red box near the top of the page labeled "Watch Us on YouTube," you will be taken to our YouTube page. Under the round picture of the church, you will see a line of words; click on the word "Live". You will be able to see which service is live and access it by clicking on it. You can bookmark the page to use each week.



World Communion Sunday is October 4

On the first Sunday of October, the 4th, we celebrate World Communion Sunday. World Communion Sunday encourages churches of the Christian faith to experience Holy Communion together. It is also a day in which we demonstrate unity among various denominations in the church. As we take communion this Sunday, imagine the hundreds of other Christians around the world also receiving communion. *1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Notable Dates

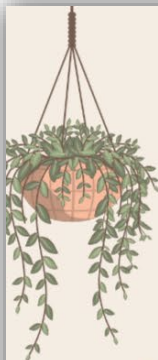
September 18th – Dr. Chance's Retirement Celebration

September 20th – Dr. Chance's last regular worship service at AHCC

September 27th – Allen Brown will lead the worship service

October 4th – Shelby Haggray's first regular worship service at AHCC

October 4th – EMC (Every Member Commitment Campaign Begins



September

Plan your month, make it productive!



2nd - Program Council

6th - World Communion Suncay

6th - St. Paul's Breakfast

6th - Worship/Wedding Anniversary Sunday

7th - Labor Day Office Closed

9th - Board Meeting

13th - Worship

18th - Dr. Chance's Retirement Celebration

20th - Worship - Dr. Chance's Last Service

20th -Newsletter Deadline

27th - Worship - Guest Minister Allen Brown



ASPEN HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Request the pleasure of your company
at the retirement dinner
of
Rev. Dr. D. Robert Chance



Friday, September 18, 2026, 6 - 9 PM

Norbeck Country Club

17200 Cashell Rd, Rockville, MD 20853

Tickets \$65 each

Business Casual Attire (collared shirt, no jeans)

Please secure your spot by mailing your check made
payable to Aspen Hill Christian Church.

*If you would like to submit a favorite photo,
a personal letter, or a brief well-wishes message,
please send it to office@aspenhillcc.org by
September 4, 2026.*

*If you would like to contribute to a gift for Bob
please include a check with your reply card.*

Kindly RSVP and submit your ticket payment
by September 4, 2026

If you have not RSVP'd, please do so by the 4th so you can join us. Let Cyndi know right away how many are in your group so we may update the Country Club. Thank you.

October SCHEDULE

Date	Occasion
4th	St. Paul's Breakfast Worship - Minister Shelby Haggary's first Sunday Every Member Commitment Campaign Begins
7th	Program Council Meeting
11th	Worship Every Member Commitment Campaign Week 2
12th	Columbus Day - Office Closed
14th	Board Meeting
18th	Worship Every Member Commitment Campaign Week 3 Newsletter Articles Due to Office
24th	Worship Every Member Commitment Campaign Week 4



Outreach / Connie Spoon

The Backpack Drive was a tremendous success! AHCC has supplied 99 backpacks full of school supplies for the children of Georgian Forest Elementary School! Thank you for your generosity! This school does great work; they are starting off this school year with 20 homeless students and a large number of other students in need. The staff at Georgian Forrest is grateful for all that we do to support them throughout the year.

As October approaches and the season of gratitude approaches, we're preparing our next Outreach project: providing Thanksgiving gift cards to families in need at Georgian Forest Elementary School. These gift cards provide families with the flexibility to purchase a Thanksgiving meal at a time that suits them best.

If you feel moved to help, we're gratefully accepting gift cards (please attach the receipt) or monetary donations through November 16. Every contribution makes a meaningful difference in helping these families enjoy a warm and nourishing holiday.

Thank you for your kindness and support.



I wanted to share a little information I learned from talking to our contact at Georgian Forest Elementary School. Going into this school year, they were already aware of 20 students who would start the school year who are homeless. Additionally, approximately 80 percent of the families of children attending the school fall below the national poverty level. They will have over 600 students starting the year with them. They have a special program that supplies free breakfast and lunch for students who qualify. Many students from families that qualify for assistance opt to travel to Georgian Forest to take advantage of this program. The generosity of the members of AHCC has a huge impact, from the amazing donation of backpacks to the upcoming gift cards for Thanksgiving meals and toys for children at Christmas. Keep up the amazing work!

Cyndi



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
Please let the office know how you would like your newsletter delivered! USPS, Email,
or Both. office@aspenhillcc.org
301-871-722

For Dr. Chance

"Almighty and ever-living God, we pray with hearts full of gratitude for the life and ministry of your servant, Dr. Robert Chance.

Thank you for the years of dedication, wisdom, and compassionate leadership he has poured into this congregation. You have used his hands to comfort the broken, his voice to proclaim your truth, and his heart to shepherd your people through every season.

As he transitions into this well-deserved retirement and steps into the honorary role of Pastor Emeritus, pour out your continued grace upon him. Grant him deep rest for his soul, peace of mind, and robust health in his body.

Bless his family, who sacrificed alongside him, and surround them with your enduring love. As a new horizon opens before him, continue to guide his steps, spark his joy, and let him feel the profound impact of a life lived for your kingdom.

For Mary

"Heavenly Father, we thank You for the faithful and selfless years Mary poured out in ministry alongside her husband. As they step into retirement, Lord, grant her a profound sense of Your physical, mental, and emotional rest.

Heal any hidden weariness or fatigue from the heavy burdens she carried so quietly. Help her to release the unwritten expectations of the congregation and find her complete worth in You alone, apart from a formal ministry title.

Bless her marriage, bringing fresh laughter, deeper companionship, and sweet moments of peace to their home. Surround her with loyal, life-giving friendships and open new doors of personal joy, creativity, and purpose. Guide her steps in this next chapter and let her feel the warmth of Your unending love every single day. In Jesus' name, Amen."



