



AUGUST 2010 ISSUE



### The Simple Pleasures of August

August is such a wonderful month. Even in hectic, overstressed, busy Washington D.C. life slows down a little bit. The searing heat requires us to slow up a bit. People being gone on vacation means we can't get hold of everyone, all the time, instantly. Government takes a holiday too. Life just seems to slow down, although I confess that vacations can be pretty hectic and stressful too.

August is a month of many cherished memories for me. Growing up we rarely went on what we would call vacations like I do today but somehow we always found time to go somewhere for a long weekend or whatever. Of course, with my birthday coming in August I have lots of memories of going to dinner and having a birthday celebration. My folks did a pretty good job at trying to make everyone's birthday a special day. I have memories of playing baseball, in spite of the searing heat. I get a good laugh out of remembering our old playground rule when it came to choosing teams. "If you get Chico, we get the next two players". Chico was bigger and older than the rest of us and he was worth two of any of the other players. August brings lots of fond memories for me, no doubt about it. I hope it does for you too.

The other day on my way to the church I was reminded of something else special about August. As I waited at an intersection I saw a patch of ground covered with Queen Anne's Lace and Chicory. The white and the blue flowers made a beautiful picture. I just love the flowers of summer. It's a little soon yet for them to be in full bloom but soon the Joe Pye Weed will be in full flower and that's another beautiful wild flower of the dog days of summer.

It's a good time to slow down. It's a good time to be reminded of all the natural beauty that surrounds us. The amazing thing about the Chicory and the Queen Anne's Lace is that you can even see it growing in the most pavement covered inner city portions of the landscape. It's a good time to reflect on what truly matters in your life and what is most important to you.

Perhaps you've been too busy for church lately. August is a good time to be un-busy and find your way back to God's house. Perhaps, you've been over stressed. August is a good time to get "un-stressed" and come back home to church. Perhaps you've been running too hard. August is a good time to slow down, sit a spell and enjoy the beauty of the day.

Blessings, and we look forward to seeing you at God's house – this coming Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

# NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –Mary Chance



As always, Vacation Bible School was a great success. Attendance was not as high this year as it has been in the past, but we have an awesome group of kids. Many, many thanks to all those folks that made it possible to offer yet another successful program. Thanks to Rosanne, Amanda, Margo, Hope, Mario, Amy, Lou Ann, Arlyn, Marie, Andrew, Monica, Lissa, Joy, Sally and our fearless leader, Dr Bob. All these folks worked hard to offer a fantastic program.

Just a reminder that Sunday School classes will begin again on September 12. I will be looking for two teachers this year so please contact me if you are interested in joining an elite team. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

## EVANGELISM/MEMBERSHIP - Karen Shpiece



Pictorial Directories are now in and available to all the people that had their pictures taken and are in the directory. See me at church on Sunday and I will give you your directory. Again only those who had their pictures taken are entitled to receive a directory. Thank you.

## FELLOWSHIP - Amy Buckingham



Oh, YEAH!!! Lots of opportunities are available in the fellowship ministry! We need people willing to take on sponsoring a fellowship hour after our worship service - won't you please check your calendar and sign up???? I am ACTIVELY seeking a fellowship hour coordinator – someone who would help make sure that slots are filled and the fellowship hours are accounted for!

Please see me if you are willing to help out! There may be a few spaces available for our Bethany Beach retreat in the fall - the third weekend in September is a wonderful time to get to the beach!!! Please call the church office or see Amy if you have interest! Get involved! Our church needs us all!

## OUTREACH, Lissa Costa



We provided another delicious meal to Carroll House. Thanks to our cooks-Jean, Sally and Monica!

## WORSHIP – Debbie Sullivan



I hope everyone is having a fun, safe and blessed summer. Our Worship service will continue to be at 10:00 a.m. through the month of August.

It has been nice to have a slightly different order to the service for the summer and the special music has been very enjoyable and inspirational.

Our intern minister, Chad McCabe will be preaching on August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will be there to hear his spiritual messages.

**Worship service will return to 11:00 a.m. on September 12<sup>th</sup>.**



## STEWARDSHIP, Ralph Leslie

As a part of Stewardship we are asking our members "What giving means to them." This was submitted by Eric Hanson.

Monica and I make an annual financial pledge to AHCC and we are faithful givers because it is the right thing to do and the Bible teaches us to do so. We also pledge so the Church can develop a budget and operate. Those are two basic reasons why we give but are not the only reasons. I think it goes deeper than that.

I've had many tutors in giving. My parents, my wife Monica and my pastor, Dr. Chance, they all influenced my commitment to giving, each with a different style and flair but in the end they taught and continue to teach me the same lessons.

1. God has blessed me more than I can fathom, It is an honor to give in return.
2. Nothing teaches character better than generosity because sharing makes me bigger.
3. Giving is better than receiving because giving starts the receiving process.
4. Don't be selfish.
5. Give joyfully
6. Only by giving will I be able to receive more than I already have.

Thank you for allowing me to share a few thoughts. Together in Christ – Eric & Monica

### *~In Memory of Mary Purcell~*

Mary was a long time member of Aspen Hill Christian Church. She performed at the piano during many social functions, playing melodies of several nationalities and songs of yesteryear. She had a special gift of being able to read and speak several languages.

Mary is survived by her son, Theodore, four stepchildren, six grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Mary will be greatly missed by her many friends at AHCC.

