

# Aston Press

## Monthly Newsletter



### January 2024 Events

January 6th - Epiphany  
 January 7th - Communion Sunday  
 January 7th - Baptism of the Lord  
 January 9th - Session Meeting 6:30 pm  
 January 21st - Annual Congregational Meeting  
 January 21st - Installation of 2024 Session  
 January 21st - Elder Training after worship

### Elder of the Month

Donna Marie  
Gawne

610-348-6538

### Church Office Hours

Erin Schuler Coia  
Administrative Assistant

Tuesdays 10am - 1pm  
 Thursdays 10am - 1pm  
 Fridays 10am - 1pm

610-494-2634  
 astonpcusa@gmail.com

## From the Pastor's Desk

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and I wish all of you a safe and healthy New Year! I want to thank the congregation for their very generous gift to me this Christmas. This congregation continues to amaze me with their love and care.

In the secular world the Christmas trees and decorations have come down and Christmas is over. In the church calendar though we began the Christmas season on December 25th and it will continue until January 5th. This gives us the 12 days of Christmas which many only know about through the song with the partridge in a pear tree! Epiphany is on January 6th and there are 6 Sundays after Epiphany. The word Epiphany means appearance or manifestation. It celebrates the revelation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles represented by the visit of the Wise Men (Magi) to Jesus.

I usually take vacation in January but this year I took it in December. This gave me the opportunity to preach about the often forgotten story of Anna and Simeon who saw Jesus when He was about 6 weeks old. (Luke 2:22-40) They had both spent their lives living in the hope for the coming Messiah. When they each held the infant in their arms they saw their hope fulfilled.

Our world is in a dark place. The war continues in Ukraine and now there is a new war in the Middle East which threatens to spread and already involves our country's navy. In our own country the gun violence and mass shootings continue unabated. The coming presidential election brings the threat of violence. What is our hope in this dark time? We live in hope as did Anna and Simeon; we hope and pray for peace in our world, the peace that only Jesus Christ can bring.

God's blessings to all, Rev. Christine

# APC Committees



## January Birthdays

- Jan. 6th - Ruth Hiller
- Jan. 6th - Bill Gawne
- Jan. 9th - Laura Worrell
- Jan. 12th - Nick Canavin
- Jan. 17th - Lois Lawton
- Jan. 20th - Libby Vasquez
- Jan. 23rd - Carol Koffenberger Jones
- Jan. 31st - Edna Bomhoff

## January Wedding Anniversaries

- Jan. 1st - Steven and Kristi Beddow
- Jan. 10th - Lori and Rick Clements



## Buildings & Grounds/St. Andrews

Please continue to bring in your food items for our food cupboard in the church narthex and the St. Andrews group will continue to deliver these items monthly. Thanks again for everyone's help in feeding those in need.

Come join the free coffee hour on Wednesday morning at 9:00 am around the "Round Table" in the boiler room of the Church. Be prepared to solve the world's problems.

Contact Bill G if you have questions.

## Cents Ability for January

January and February Cents Ability collection will go to Chester East Side. APC has been partnering with Chester East Side for many years with Cents Ability, the APC Food Cupboard and Souper Bowl.



## Christian Education



Advent Adult Sunday School is back in January. Every Sunday at 9:15am in the MacMurchy Room. All are welcome.

Please contact the church for Children's Sunday School

## Financial Corner

Financial Corner as of Nov. 30, 2023		
How are we doing?		
	YTD Budget	YTD
Envelope Giving	55,000.00	52,637.00
Loose Offering	458.33	961.00
DC Learning Ctr	11,000.00	11,000.00
Building Use	-	915.00
Initial Offering	45.83	104.00
Per Capita	641.67	385.00
Investment Fund Div.	2,750.00	3,596.48
Insurance Div.	458.33	
Misc. Income	229.17	131.16
<b>Income</b>	<b>70,583.33</b>	<b>69,729.64</b>
Local Expenses	85,389.33	76,330.99
Mission Giving	2,062.50	2,335.00
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>87,451.83</b>	<b>78,665.99</b>
<b>Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>(16,868.50)</b>	<b>(8,936.35)</b>
Other Special Mission Offerings (C.A.)		\$ 2,006.52
Capital Expenditures		\$ 2,166.59

We are currently being supported by our earlier \$10,000 redemption and our weekly donations are not meeting what was estimated. Although our deficit is far better than what we expected at this time, mostly due to our redemption. Hopefully, with the help of your continued giving; or perhaps you can afford some "second-mile" giving? If all goes well, it looks as though we will not need additional funds from our investment account to complete our year. We may continue to experience some higher costs as we keep-up our property (inside and outside), utilities, grass cutting & miscellaneous landscaping costs, salaries, and worship & liturgical expenses, etc. Your church needs you, as we all need our church. There is much we need to do that we must be careful not to neglect anything. We miss all of you former "regulars". We hope to see you more often as this Advent and Christmas Season. We express our "Get Well's" and "Condolences" to all those in need of these. Until next month, it definitely takes "a village" to help continue our ministry during these uncertain times. Thank you, as always, for ALL your support. *Respectfully submitted: Donna Marie Gawne*



We now stand at the doorstep of the year 2024. Let us prepare to enter with joy and thanksgiving for the blessings and trials of 2023. May we forge ahead into this New Year with faith and hope in Christ Jesus our Lord. Before moving on we pause to look back at past years in Christ's service at Aston Presbyterian.

**5 years ago-2019**-Our New Years Communion Service was held on January 6<sup>th</sup> and was led by Rev. Judith Brackett. Day Care events: January 15-Spirit Day at Lima Chick-fil-a, January 23-Fairy Tale Day. In an article by Catherine Pulsifer entitled: "The Happy 365 Days Ahead" she said: "The important things in life are never really things. It is the relationships we have with others and the love we share."

**Ten Years ago-2014**-Rev. Jane Ritterson's New Year's column spoke about the death of Nelson Mandela who presided over the transition in South Africa from apartheid to minority rule in that multi-cultural democracy. Day Care held their Aston Pres. Day Care Pride Day on January 7<sup>th</sup>. We celebrated Epiphany at Worship on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Our former Choir Director Ed Paffett was diagnosed with Parkinson's, and we offered prayer for him at worship.

**Fifteen years ago- 2009**- Rev. Jane Ritterson's New Year's message talked about finding strength from God coming to us

through Christ in the coldest darkest times of our year. She also wished the congregation a year filled with the peace and abundant blessings of our Lord Jesus. The DayCare held their APC Daycare Pride Day on January 14<sup>th</sup>. On January 25<sup>th</sup>, Mission Workers Ted and Sue Wright visited us and spoke about their work in Zambia.

**Twenty years ago-2004**-Pastor Pam Cowan in her "From the Pastor's Hat Rack" column wrote that as we approach Epiphany our faith is calling us to wear a different hat than a King's Crown. Faith calls us to wear the hats of a student, parent, and guiding light. Day Care students attended a 911 Emergency Program sponsored by State Farm Insurance. They also visited the Academy of Natural Sciences. Our new "Open Door" service started on January 11, 2004.

**Twenty-five years ago - 1999** - Interim Pastor Paul Tuttle in his "In Between Thoughts" column spoke about the work of an Interim Pastor. He noted that he thought the Interim job was to foster a climate change and evaluation so that the new Pastor would be more openly welcomed and be free to begin ministry afresh

**Thirty years ago- 1994**-Pastor Scott Cupp's "Ex Cathedra" column talked about putting 1993 behind us and looking ahead to what 1994 will hold for the ministry of Aston Presbyterian. He told us to resolve to work together for the glory of

God the Father. The Deacon's Who's Who column featured long-time member Mary Glass. Mary immigrated from Norway with her parents a number of years ago. Mary served APC as a Deacon, as a True-Blue Class member, Esther circle member and Sunday School teacher. The column also featured Mary's husband Bob Glass, a long-time member who has served as Clerk of Session, Sunday School Superintendent, Senior High teacher, Elder and Deacon, and member of St. Andrew's Group.

**Forty years ago-1984**-Pastor Bob Boell in his column wrote that on Epiphany we celebrate the revelation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles as demonstrated by the coming of the Wise Men. He session nominated Judt McNelly to be a Youth Advisory Delegate at the next General Assembly and the Session nominated Susan Lawton to be a Youth Advisory Delegate to the meeting of the Synod of the Trinity this year. On January 1, 1984, the name of our Church was officially changed to Aston Presbyterian Church. Confirmation Class began on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. On January 8, 1984, our Pastor Bob Boells was installed as Moderator of the Philadelphia Presbytery at a meeting held at Media Presbyterian Church. New Officers of Presbyterian Women were Cathy Boyer, Secretary and Ruth Schuler, Treasurer.







**Forty-five years ago-1979-** Pastor Bob Boell in his column wrote: As we enter this new Year we are where everyday is blank before us. It is exciting to think of how we can best bring the Gospel Of Jesus Christ to the communities we serve. The potential for growth in service to our Lord is exciting. New Officers for 1084: Session: Rebecca Glover, Mildred Johnston, June Sidoriak, James Singley. Deacons: Jesse Davis, Janet John, John Monaghan, Bett Pyndus. Trustees: Ralph Beiswenger, Bob Joh, Jim Lawton.

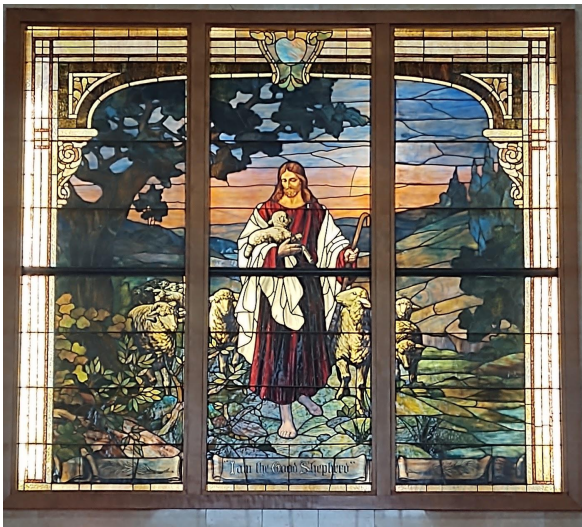
**Fifty years ago-1974-** Pastor Bob Boell thanked the congregation for allowing him the opportunity to pursue and complete his doctoral studies during 1973. He was appreciative of the welcome he and Jean received when they returned from his studies. For two Sunday, sin January of 1974 Pastor Boell's father, Rev. Robert B. Boell preached for us.

May we remember these word from the hymn; "It is a Time to Remember" as we launch into our witness for Christ in 2024;

"This is a time to remember the greatness of the Lord; he faithfully led us as promised in his Word; he has bountifully given his grace like freshening rain; he has lovingly pardoned and made us whole again." This is a time to remember the church is his; this is a time to surrender ourselves, our wealth, our powers; this is a time to be servants—to give ourselves away, building a church of the future until the coming day."

Blessing for a Happy healthy new year filled with Christ's Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

Bill Schuler



## Recipe of the Month: Oreo Truffles

### Ingredients:

38 Oreos  
8 oz cream cheese  
8 oz chocolate chips  
Sprinkles

### Instructions:

1. Line baking sheet with parchment paper
2. Crush oreos in blender into crumbs
3. Add cream cheese to oreos and mix well.
4. Scoop and roll into 1-inch balls, placing on the parchment paper and refrigerate for 30 minutes
5. Melt chocolate in double boiler.
6. Dip oreo truffles into the melted chocolate and decorate.
7. Let set in refrigerator for at least 10 minutes
8. Enjoy

Alternatives: Change up the flavor of oreos, chocolate and decorations for multiple variations of this easy treat for all to enjoy.



# Aston Pres. Learning Center



## January 2024 Learning Center Events

- Jan. 2nd - School Returns
- Jan. 13th - National Rubber Ducky Day
- Jan. 15th - Closed for MLK Jr. Day
- Jan. 18th - Super Parents Club 6:00pm
- Jan. 18th - Learning Center Board Meeting 7:00 pm

## Learning Center Giving Tree

Thanks to all that participated in the Aston Presbyterian Church Learning Center Giving Tree for Gemma Christian Services. We were able to donate several large boxes of cold weather supplies, batteries, games and much more.

# APC Learning Center

Happy New Year! We feel like 2024 came about so quickly! As we enter a new year, we are looking forward to winter activities like our 'Indoor Snow Day' Field Day, Super Parents Club, an interactive music performance from Musicopia, and the long MLK Jr. weekend. In January, we take the time to refresh and review routines, clean, and make plans for the warmer days ahead. Administration will start working on enrollment soon and planning for the 2024-2025 school year. This year, the learning center will start creating a new logo and branding campaign. Keep an eye out for some logo voting as this project progresses! We will need your votes. We love the fresh start that a new year brings and all the possibilities it presents. We wish you all a very healthy and happy 2024!

