

Mountaineer Christian Ashram



United
CHRISTIAN
ASHRAMS

September 2017

Our new Mountaineer Christian Ashram Newsletter

Welcome to our new Mountaineer Christian Ashram Newsletter. Each month, we will have different writers share experiences, insights, and wisdom that we hope will bless the community. We will also provide information that should bring our Ashram family closer together.

Birthdays, anniversaries, and special reminders that will keep us connected throughout the year. If you have any suggestions along the way, don't hesitate to share them.

Enjoy!



- > Pray for the West family.
- > Pray for the speakers who are being contacted for the 2018 & 2019 Ashrams.
- > Pray for the Board of Twelve meeting on October 28 as they review and make plans for the 2018 Ashram.
- > All the children, youth, and young adults beginning school or college.
- > Pray for your Prayer Partner!

Introductions Are In Order

I'm Pastor Gary Wheeler, and I am the new Director of the Mountaineer Christian Ashram. Let me share a bit of myself.

I grew up in western Ohio. My family did not attend church when I was little. In fact, I learned the Lord's Prayer in 2nd Grade... Elementary School! I remember Easter Sundays waiting for my grandparents to arrive for lunch. I'd turn on the TV to try to find something to watch, but all that was on were shows with a bunch of guys in bathrobes with towels on their heads saying words like "thee" and "thou" and "whosoevereth." There was always a guy in a white bathrobe named Jesus, but the movies bored me, so I turned them off.

When I was in the 3rd grade, we were invited to a Sunday evening church event that started with something they called a "potluck." Wow, there was some good food and cookies there. After dinner, the children went to another room for their own program. It was a blast. Later, as we were driving home, my mom asked, "What did you think?" I replied enthusiastically, "I want to go back!"



This began our journey in faith. Soon, Sunday School and church were a regular thing for us. My parents started going to Bible Study as well, and within a year, I saw a change in their lives. They told me that they had given their hearts to Christ.

This transformation was so astounding that during a Lay Witness Mission just before my 11th birthday, I heard the Gospel message in a way I could understand. I knew that I was a sinner, and that sin was going to result in my death. But Christ shed His blood so that I might be saved if I believed. I thought about this all night, and the next day, when an altar call was given at the end of the service, I went forward and gave my life to Christ.



Keith and Don, 2017

2018 Ashram Dates: August 2-5

Introductions Are In Order (continued)

A few months later, a caravan of travelers, including my family, drove from Ohio to Lake Junaluska to attend an Ashram. I remember only a few things from the experience. I had gotten hit in the eye with a baseball a few days prior, so I had a real shiner and wore sunglasses a lot. It was also my first exposure to grits. And we heard a message for some old guy that everyone else was excited to hear: E. Stanley Jones. In all honesty, I thought my home pastor was a better preacher, but what did I know; I was 11 years old.

Our family started attending more Ashrams: Wilmore, Kentucky (once I went there with a broken arm!), Grand St. Mary's Lake, Ohio; even twice in Kansas where my father was asked to lead the youth. They were wonderful times of spiritual growth and renewal. Eventually, summer jobs, Asbury College and Seminary, and starting ministry kept me from attending any Ashrams.

I married my junior high sweetheart, and together, we began serving churches in Kentucky, Georgia, and back home in Ohio. In 1996, Julie was diagnosed with breast cancer, and after a four year fight, she passed away. Five years later, I was blessed to meet and marry Myra. Between us, we have 4 adult aged sons, plus a 14 year old Pug named Max.

I serve as the pastor of [Germantown UMC](#). My passion for church camp leads me to serve as the pastor for a camp or two each year. Myra and I are both very involved in our Walk to Emmaus, where I serve as a Spiritual Director. I have Pilot's license and am a member and trustee in a flying club. Myra and I love to fly and see God's beautiful creation from the air.

In 2015, we felt the Lord leading us to find a spiritual renewal event beyond Emmaus, and I remembered my Ashram attending days. We found the Mountaineer Christian Ashram and were so wonderfully blessed. I offered my musical gifts the next year and was named to the Board of Twelve. Then this year, with the Board's realization that Cliff could no longer serve as our director, much prayer led to a word from God saying, "Gary, if you are asked to serve, I want you to say, 'Yes.'" So when others declined, I knew that it was God's plan. I am so humbled by this calling and your affirmation. I feel like Joshua having to follow a Moses in Clifford. But God keeps telling me from Joshua 1, "Be strong and courageous." I'm trusting God completely as I serve as your director. Together, we will continue to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Christian Ashram.

Gary

Special Dates



Birthdays

9/7 Linda Jackson
9/19 Lyla Comer



Anniversary

None



September's Stanley Snippet:

"Love Christ supremely. Hold all else in relationship to that supreme love, then all else is yours."
E. Stanley Jones, "The Way."

Short Notes

- ◆ **Get your Information Sheet In:** An information sheet was sent out to gather information within our Ashram family. If you have lost yours or did not receive one, [click here](#) to download.
- ◆ **Check out the website:** Make sure to go to www.mountaineerashram.org. We've posted a few pictures from the 2016 and 2017 Ashrams. If you have some Ashram pictures you have taken and would like to share them on the website, [email them to Gary](#).
- ◆ **Who's coming with you?** Start thinking of who you might invite to the 2018 Ashram. Ask for Lord's guidance, then begin praying for them.



Children's Program 2017