

# The Falling Waters Messenger

Issues Seven and Eight

July - August 2014

Volume XXX

## Living In Between

“I love that we are a connectional church” is what someone said to me again this week. Most of the time I feel the same way since it is why I joined the Presbyterian Church. I liked that we have structures that make us deal with each other and work out our differences. But like everything there is a down side. When we start talking about our differences, it is tempting to huddle with the like-minded. Differences can make us anxious.

This week as I listen to the results of what happened at General Assembly, I feel again the anxiety of what will happen to our church. I firmly believe that when we pray for the commissioners at General Assembly and when they pray each session and before each vote, that God answers pray and has guided the commissioners. I might not always agree and I might worry about what will happen but I continue to believe that we are the church of God and the Holy Spirit is at work in us ALL. This is true of the larger church as well as congregations.

Even as some fear that the Presbyterian Church USA will die, there have been 260 new worshipping communities planted. There is much creativity in the way the church is growing, many of these worshipping communities do not look like traditional churches but are finding ways to meet the people where they are and minister to the needs they have.

Always during times of change and transitions it is natural to wonder what will happen, what will come next. Sometimes jumping to conclusions helps

to relieve anxiety and feel things are more settled than they are. Living in the “in between times” is a most difficult place to live. It is however, where we are. It is where FWPC is right now, “in between the time of Pastor John and the next installed yet to be known pastor”. It is where we are as the Church of Christ: “in between the time Jesus walked with us to show us the way and the time when we shall all be in the glorious presence of God and all tears are wiped away”.

At times like this I find myself turning to Corinthians and Paul’s wonderful writing that reminds the church in Corinth of their membership in the body of Christ. It almost doesn’t matter where in Corinthians. Sometimes it could be I Cor. 3: “So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything but only God who give the growth.....” and ” For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building”. Or I turn over to Chapter 12 and am reminded of the one-ness of the body of Christ. The eye is no more important than the foot or maybe even the toe nail is no more important than the nose hair. Together, we all make up the body of Christ.

And thanks be to God that it is His Body that he continues to build. We are called to be in this in between time and like the early church will most likely spend our lives here. We trust that God continues to do His work in His Church through the Holy Spirit at work in us. On His faithfulness we can depend.

Pastor Rose

## A Note from a Member on the Mission Study Group

I admit I had no idea what was involved when I agreed to be part of this group, but I am learning and growing more passionate along the way.

A mission study involves a deep-down look at our church – our highs, our lows, where we need to go and how we need to grow. The questionnaires we were all asked to complete give each of us a voice regarding our relationship with FWPC, our opinions on how we can improve or what we especially love – if you haven't completed one, please do so immediately. Without your questionnaire . . . you are silent.

The study looks at our history; looking back gives us a foundation and courage to step forward and keep moving. I am very proud of our heritage and will do everything in my power to guarantee it will continue through my watch; I know you feel the same.

A mission study also looks at our involvement in the community where God has planted us. We look at population growth, age groups, studies showing what each age group is looking for in a church . . . if a study has been completed we are looking at it. I am amazed at how our community has changed in the last ten years and that I have been around and not seen it. I compare it to watching your child day after day and then suddenly realizing how short his coat sleeves have become. Sometimes it is good to step back and take a new look.

That is the bottom line of a mission study – to take a step back for a fresh look. Carl Howard made a statement at our last meeting that has haunted me: “If FWPC ceased to exist tomorrow, would our local community be affected?” I know as a church we give to Loaves and Fishes and many other local charities, but do we truly have a “face” in our community? Are we just a church on a hill on Route 901 with a nice new sign that people see on their way to I-81? I know we want to be more, but are we? And if we are not, how do we become a vibrant part of our community?

All these questions need to be answered before we can truly look for a pastor to give us a “perfect fit” for our journey. Filling our pulpit is so much more than finding a new employee. We will need to find a person who has the gifts we need to keep us growing in Christ and being a “force to be reckoned with” in our community. The Mission Study helps us decide exactly what those gifts are at this particular point in time for FWPC.

We are planning a **congregational dinner and mission study discussion/open forum for August 3**. Please mark your calendars and make a list of questions/concerns you may want to bring up on that date. Additionally, please feel free to touch base with any member of the Mission Study in the meantime. This is our church - be proactive.

Renee Campbell

## Pray Without Ceasing

Bill and Billy Berg  
Waneda Bowers  
Joan Chambers  
Jimmy Cloud  
Kenny Cushwa  
Jimmy Dunham  
Mary Hodges  
Irvin Horst  
Ted Largent  
Denny Martin  
Mary Catherine Payne  
Virginia Snyder



## Greeters for July- August

July 6 Ron Hansen, Tammy Hylton, Richard Stukey  
July 13 Ron Hansen, Phil and Gwen Noll  
July 20 Ron and Lyn Hansen, Elizabeth Kaetzel  
July 27 Ron Hansen, Denny and Darla Grove

Aug. 3 Nancy Linton, Dinah & Steve Aulavbaugh  
Aug. 10 Renee and Jeff Campbell, Diana McKinley  
Aug. 17 Paula Tobin, Craig and Bea Taynton  
Aug. 24 Diana McKinley, John Cormack, David Dodd  
Aug. 31 Galen Runkles, Tom and Kim Tucker

### Is Your Pledge Up to Date?

Offering Income to date as of May 31, 2014:  
\$63,015.45  
Expenses to date: \$57,581.45  
Net difference: \$5434.00

## Happy Birthday July-August

July 3 Mary Catherine Payne  
7 Richard Goodell  
Stuart Lantz  
9 Tiffany Henry  
12 Alan Ruble  
Tony Ponton  
13 Anna Collis  
16 Jill Spangler  
17 Tink Manor  
18 Olivia lamb  
19 Carolyn Weidman  
20 Sam Tobin  
22 Jeff Smoot  
Laura Beauchamp  
24 Fawn Fleagle  
26 Brian Cushwa  
28 Nikki Arvon  
Becca Chambers



August 1 Bill Perrott  
Ron Hansen  
Carl Lamb  
2 Rachel Collins  
3 Joey Widmeyer  
4 Dorothy Hurley  
7 Nancy Shipper  
8 Hannah Locke  
12 Gavin Smoot  
16 Paula Tobin  
Chuck Hydorn  
17 Jeff Campbell  
19 John Cushwa  
28 Irvin Horst  
29 Greg Runkles  
31 Tammy Hylton  
Galen Runkles

## News From Sunday School

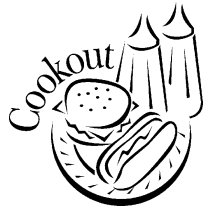


Our step-up day program is being planned for Sunday, August 31 with the Sunday School Picnic following worship at the pavilion. Hot dogs will be furnished.

# Celebrating Our Independence



Nursery Attendants



Every year we celebrate the birth of this great nation, and most of all, the freedom that we enjoy as citizens of the United States. The land we love and the freedom we enjoy within its borders did not happen by chance, but was designed and ushered into existence by God himself. His hand has constantly been upon our country and its affairs.

Join us immediately following worship on June 29 for our annual **Independence Celebration and Picnic** at our pavilion. Dress is casual. Hot dogs, buns, drinks, ice and tableware will be provided. Please bring a covered-dish to share.

The next **covered-dish Fellowship Dinner** is scheduled for August 3 immediately following worship when the Mission Study Group will be reporting on their progress and answering any questions the congregation may have.

## Women's Bible Study



The **Women's Bible Study** will not meet in July. On August 20th at 10:00 a.m. they will begin their new study, "Reconciling Paul" at the home of Kathy Goodell. Please bring a covered-dish to share. The study will be followed by swimming. New study guides are available in Fellowship Hall and cost \$8.00.

## Mission Committee News

We will collect an offering on July 13 to go to **HACC** (Hedgesville Area Community of Churches) for their Grow-to-Share program which provides fresh produce to people in need in conjunction with Loaves and Fishes.

July 6  
July 13  
July 20  
July 27

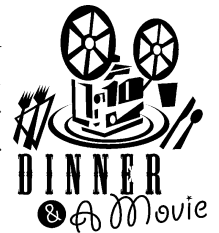
Renee Campbell, Lauren Ruble  
Ruth Berg, Marge Chamblin  
Anna and Adam Collis  
Heather and Archie Locke

August 3  
August 10  
August 17  
August 24  
August 31

Pamela Fleagle, Linda Martin  
Tina and Ellie Sloan  
Amanda and Carl Lamb  
Laura and Paul Peach  
Candace Hurst, Courtlyn Richter

## Dinner and a Movie for the Summer

Our feature for July 19th has not yet been chosen so if you have an idea for a light summer comedy, see John Fleagle. Dinner will be at Bob Evans at 5:00 p.m. followed by the movie at 7:00.



Our feature for August 18<sup>th</sup> will be a film chosen by one of our movie goers. Watch the bulletin for details on the location of dinner.

## Confirmation Class

Parents of any youth interested in a Confirmation Class should speak to Pastor Rose. Date and time will be determined later to accommodate the pastor's and youth's schedules.

## Flock Notes

*It's a Girl!*



Congratulations to Anna and Adam Collis on the birth of their third child and first daughter, Scarlet Ottilie, on June 12. Scarlet weighed 6 lb., 6 oz. She joins her big brothers, Stuart and Van, at home. Her grandparents are Skip and Yvonne Lantz.

# Vespers in the Park War Memorial Park Sundays - 7:00 p.m.



The Eastern Panhandle Mission Community will host **Vespers in the Park** on August 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to worship together as Presbyterians. Jeanie Cushwa will lead the joint choir. There will be a short rehearsal just before the service at 6:45. Rev. Brad Langdon will be making the arrangements. Mountain Chapel will host a covered-dish picnic preceding the service at the main pavilion at 5:30.

## Heitt Funds Report

At the Session, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Session received the report of the Heitt Bequest Steering Committee. Below are the actions that the Session voted to take based on the recommendations of the Steering Committee and some feedback from the Trustees.

As you may be aware the Steering Committee laid out for themselves a listening process during which they received suggestions from the congregation. They met often and gave much prayerful thought to the decisions they made. It became clear that there were many projects and concerns the congregation has about the facility and the work of the church.

The Heitt Bequest Steering Committee was lead by Kate Lewis Brown, and the members were Ron Hansen, Becky Hawthorne, Archie Locke and Kelsey Shipper. The Session appreciated the difficult task the group took on and thanks them for their work.

1. \$2,500 will be given to the community organizations. It was thought important to restore some of the cuts that were made because of budget constraints the last couple years.
2. \$4,000 will be given to the maintenance committee for the multipurpose court. The youth have wanted a basketball court for some time and the hope is that it can be used for our own youth and be a welcoming place for activities with the community youth.

3. \$3,000 will be given to the Worship Committee. There are several projects the Worship Committee has in mind....stay tuned!

4. \$3,000 will be given to the Trinity Youth Conference. This program started with the Synod and has been an important influence in the lives of our college age youth. The Session is pleased to continue to support its work

5. \$1,500 will be taken from the Legacy Fund to pay for an AED. Given the age of our congregation and that every public building is served well to have this safety equipment available, it was felt strongly that it needs to be purchased. Anyone interested in training to use it?

6. \$3,000 will be given to the Evangelism committee with the understanding that \$500 of that amount will go toward the new sound system.

7. \$1,000 will be taken from the Legacy Fund toward the new sound system. Again the sound system is permanent equipment that is needed to enhance the possibilities in worship, not just so it will be easier to hear in certain places in the sanctuary but also for other possible options programming.

8. \$8,126.08 will be given to the maintenance committee to put toward repaving the upper parking lot and paving the stone lot.

9. The Session will discuss a Capital Campaign, to raise \$250,000 at the next Session meeting. The Capital Campaign would be to help with some larger projects that would improve the ease of use of the facilities and well as long term maintenance. Some of the suggestions were to improvements to the Fellowship Hall such as converting to central, replacing windows, anticipate the time the roof will need to be replaced, additional funds for paving the parking lots, and possibly installing an elevator. Another suggestion that funds could be used for is the establishment of a columbarium on the property with a small garden and benches for reflection.

If you are interested in seeing the complete list of the Steering Committee's recommendations and the rationale, please contact the church office and a copy will be emailed to you or can be printed.

Again, thanks to the Heitt Bequest Steering Committee and praise be for the dedication of Ms. Heitt to the ministry and mission of small churches. May these things enhance the ministry of FWPC and be used to the Glory of God.