

The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Nine

September 2014

Volume XXX

Moving Forward

While spring seems all about freshness and renewal as new buds appear and new life begins to burst forth, this time of year seems to represent the fullness of life. Plants have grown mature and have given or are giving their bounty...that is, if they have survived the wetness of spring or the dryness of summer or vice versa.

Children return to school, another year closer to leaving home. At church we celebrate as they rise to a new Sunday School class. Adults take a deep breath and hope they got enough rest over the summer and are prepared for the onslaught a new school year brings.

This year the seeds sown in the spring when the Mission Study group was appointed, that have been nurtured by the hard work of the group under the leadership of Rev. Carl Howard, and that have been watered by the input of the whole congregation, are about to burst forth in the form of a report. The draft is finished and after some editing and minor revisions, the Mission Study Report will be presented to the Session at the September sated meeting.

After that, the report will be submitted to the Committee on Church Development and with their approval, the Committee on Ministry will recommend to Presbytery that you elect a Pastor Nominating Committee, usually referred to as the PNC. All these committee meetings will take place before the November Presbytery meeting, so most likely a congregational meeting will be held in early December to elect the PNC.

This process can seem cumbersome to those not familiar with the process. So let me tell you a bit about the theology of call in the Presbyterian polity (form of government). Our theology says that we hear God's voice through our own individual prayer life, through study of the scriptures and through the community of faith. Each step is guided by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, an individual could not come and say to the congregation, I believe God

is calling me to serve this congregation, without that being confirmed by the congregation and the Presbytery. Nor does the Presbytery or any committee of the Presbytery say, you have to go to this church because we believe God is calling you there, which would be more like the Methodist system...again unless it was confirmed by the local church and the individual.

Each step is taken with prayer that seeks God's guidance through the Holy Spirit. For you Star Trek fans, we Presbyterians would be the Vulcans - accused of being the "chosen frozen...too cerebral and deliberate. Education and thoughtful consideration have always been held in high regard. You may see that as a positive or a negative and frankly sometimes it is both.

The other reason for all the steps and various committee involvements is, believe it or not, a pastoral concern. The system has been set up to provide help to congregations going through transitions so that various people and committees along the way can affirm the congregation is on the right track or can raise questions when they see patterns that might need to be addressed.

I cannot speak for the whole Presbytery or the committees of Presbytery but I can tell you that I have seen you, the church, here at Falling Waters, move through this time of transition with a willingness to learn and grow, a commitment to carrying on God's work and a whole lot of grace. You have much to commend you.

Pastor Rose



September Birthdays

3 Larry Brown	14 Joan Chambers
3 Skip Lantz	17 Alex Fleagle
4 Phil Noll	19 Mary Hodges
4 Reggie Miller	20 Waneda Bowers
5 Jack Fleagle	21 Lucas Shipper
12 Tom Tucker	22 Renee Campbell
13 Kelsey Shipper	23 Pam Chamblin
13 John Brown	24 Steve Aulabaugh



Nursery Attendants

Sept. 7	Tina and Ellie Sloan
Sept. 14	Lyn Hansen, Courtlyn Richter
Sept. 21	Tammy Hylton, Lacy Linton
Sept. 28	Beth and Tiffany Henry

EPMC Music Festival

COME ENJOY HYMN SINGING,
and OTHER MUSICAL TALENTS!

When:

*Sunday, September 28, 2014
at 4:30 p.m.*

Where:

Tomahawk Presbyterian Church

**Church Choirs are encouraged to attend as a group
and to take part in the singing.**

***If you play a musical instrument and would like to
participate, please contact the church
304-754-8869***

Refreshments and Fellowship to follow the Festival.
Hope to see everyone there!

Pray Without Ceasing

Bill Berg
Waneda Bowers
Joan Chambers
Jimmy Cloud
Bill Cole
David Dodd
Jimmy Dunham
Mary Hodges
Irvin Horst
Ted Largent
Denny Martin
Mary Catherine Payne
Craig Taynton
Virginia Snyder



Amazing Grace Fund

The **Amazing Grace Fund** expresses its appreciation to everyone who participated in "Christmas in July". It was with your commitment that we were able to feed and provide clothing for numerous children in the local area during the summer months. They often were waiting for us, anticipating what we would bring. They would start consuming the food as soon as they were given snacks. Thanks for your support.

Movie Night



Join us on September 27 at 5:00 p.m. for dinner at Cracker Barrel followed at 7:00 by "A River Runs Through It". Please note the change in the regular meeting night.

Greeters for September

Brenda Carper- Head Elder

Sept. 7	Brenda, Denny and Linda Martin
Sept. 15	Brenda, Heather and Archie Locke
Sept. 21	Brenda, Rod DeKett, Maxine Taylor
Sept. 28	Brenda, Carl and Amanda Lamb

Flock Notes

Congratulations and best wishes to **Donna Hockman and Richard Pill** who were married in our sanctuary on July 12. Their new address is: 911 Hoffman Rd., Martinsburg, WV 25404.

Tony and MaggieBeth Ponton have moved. Their new address is: 229 Station Terrace West, Martinsburg, WV 25403.

The Lambs have moved into their new house. Their address is: 136 Medallion Dr., Hedgesville, WV 25427.



A new **Coffee Hour sign-up sheet** for the fall quarter is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you haven't hosted a coffee hour in awhile, please consider it for the fall. You may also call Kathy Goodell at 754-3607.

Finance Committee Report

as of July 31, 2014

Offering Income to date:	\$89,362.65
Expenses to date:	\$97,123.70
Net difference:	(\$7,761.05)

THE 2014 BIG EVENT – Registration is Now OPEN!

The 2014 BIG EVENT is set for Saturday, September 13, at Massanetta Springs Conference Center. This Fourth Annual Big Event features special training events for Presbyterian Women including the HORIZONS Bible Study, youth leaders, mission advocates, church leaders looking at church disaster plans, Small church concerns, Hunger & Justice concerns and Stewardship, plus much more. But that's not all.

The Annual MISSION FAIR offers a place to either showcase or to learn about all the great mission happening in Shenandoah Presbytery.

Gather up a car or a van load of people from your congregation and come to the Big Event for a great day of worship, fellowship, workshops and good food.

To register and to see a full listing of workshops and events, go to: www.shenpres.org/BigEvent/2014BIGEVENT.html.

Mountain Chapel's Pet Blessing Service, September 14

The Mountain Chapel congregation will have a Pet Blessing Service on Sunday, September 14 at 6 p.m. at the home of the Rev. Brad and Mary Ruth Langdon, 3446 Tabler Station Road, Martinsburg. In case of rain, the event will be cancelled.

All pets (and pet owners) are welcome, provided pets are leashed or caged. An offering will be received to benefit the Humane Society of Berkeley County. Donations of pet food and supplies, and cleaning supplies are encouraged. Refreshments will be served after the service.

The Langdons' farm home is located one mile west of I-81, Exit 8. Go west on Tabler Station Road to the four-way stop. Turn left onto Arden-Nollville Road, then after 150 feet turn left into the first driveway.

If you or you and your pet(s) plan to attend, please notify the Langdons in advance by Sunday, September 5 at jblangdon@comcast.net or telephone 304-229-5623. Thank you!

Stewardship Questions for Reflection

1. Who taught you about being generous?
2. What have you taught others?
3. When have you received a generous gift from another?
4. Where have you seen God's abundance in your home, congregation, and community?

Hedgesville Has Talent

I hope everyone will be able to attend our inaugural concert, **Hedgesville Has Talent**. Trinity will be singing so spread the word because we know how wonderful they are. Please do come out and support our performers! It should be fun and it's free! Just fill out one of the forms and put it in one of the boxes and I'll get your tickets to you.

We still could use two ushers for the balcony, just in case. I don't yet know whether we'll need to use the balcony, but may well need some of the seats there. If there are patrons up there, we'll need ushers there as well.

Simple Gifts

Our second concert will feature the duo called **Simple Gifts**. Everyone who has attended one of their concerts has raved about them and we're very fortunate to have them coming to our church. I hope you all will plan to attend and will encourage friends and family to attend as well. More information about them will be in the next newsletter and in bulletin inserts.

For the rest of our concerts, we're offering a reduced price for the balcony, primarily because there are no cushions on the seats up there!

Tickets for Simple Gifts go on sale on September 21, 2014, and we'll be selling tickets after the **Hedgesville Has Talent concert**. So be sure to get your tickets then so you'll get the best seats!

Looking Back-Looking Forward with Ron Hansen

Our Church has such a great and interesting history. A while back this question was asked, "Why has this little red brick Country Church lasted so long?" We answered that question then, as we answer it now. It is the people, the congregation, the members. They are devoted to the church. We have a long history of "devoted, committed members". They have seen the good times and the not so good times. When times were hard and difficult the committed members didn't just leave, they understood commitment and are here today.

Over the past 269 years FWPC has faced many challenges. It burned down not once, but twice. Those committed members rebuilt and our present church still stands today. The members, then and today, (some descendants of members long ago, some more recent members) remain committed. The members have been steadfast and resilient. That is why we last, we go on. We are not quitters. The devoted members are not just passing through. When they join they understand what commitment means to God and the Church. Changes and difficulties come and go when you are an active member of a church.

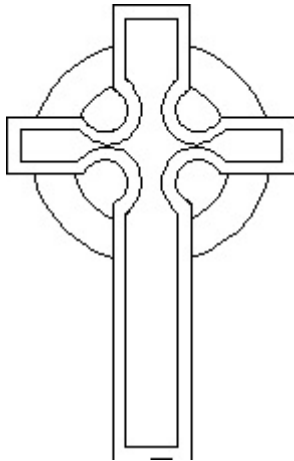
Now, as many times in the past, we face a challenge. We are in a time of transition, a process of finding a new pastor. By direction from Presbytery we are having a Mission Study. Keeping communication open is important. Everyone's thoughts and concerns are of value. Jumping to conclusions based on fears or anxieties can be destructive, however, asking questions when you hear a rumor or something you don't like can be helpful. For instance, recently there has been some anxiety about our order of worship. We have an inspiring Sunday Service with wonderful music. There has never been any intention of changing that.

We have been blessed with a very good and helpful Interim Pastor. Recently, Pastor Rose invited Rev. David Witt, a knowledgeable speaker on the Book of Order, to the August Session meeting to speak on the roles and responsibilities of committees and the Session in the Presbyterian Church. Elders and committee members gained an understanding of their proper their roles within the church, especially in church finances.

Certainly our Church has changed in little ways and big ways over its long history. Just think back as recently as the 1969. Some wanted to build all-purpose room addition to our little church. I'll bet that was met with some resistance for sure, but they worked through it and look what we have - a wonderful, useful Fellowship Hall! Some changes are more recent. We have a reputation as a "welcoming" church. One change was repurposing the vestibule of the church as a welcome area before the worship service, to greet people. Another was the implementation of name tags. When people are involved, opinions are shared and questions are asked. We have always worked it out. That is a sign of committed and healthy church.

Change is inevitable. It can be positive or negative. It is up to us to shape it for our future. This is our chance for our church. Every member of our congregation needs a vision for our church, a Dream...

What is your Vision?... for our Church, for its future?



Musicians Needed

FWPC is seeking two individuals to fill the paid positions of Music Director and Church Organist. We are looking for people who are dedicated, have a positive disposition, strong organizational skills, and can collaborate with the pastor, staff and volunteers in the church as a whole. For a full job description and requirements go to <http://fwpc.info> or call 304-754-8211 and leave a message or call Monday, Tuesday or Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.. If interested, please e-mail a resume to fwpcusa@gmail.com or submit a resume at the church office, 2928 Hammonds Mill Rd., Hedgesville, WV 25427, during normal office hours.