

The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Twelve

December 2014

Volume XXX

What Makes A Good Leader?

A colleague, The Rev. Jan Edminston, who is now an executive presbyter in Chicago, recently wrote on her blog: “The sermon - to me- is the dessert. If we consider it the main course we are going to die of theological malnutrition.

Yes, many of our preachers are elegant and brilliant and excellent at interpreting scripture for daily life. But excellent pastors are also Walking Sermons, modeling what discipleship looks like and offering spiritual reflection in every meeting, class, and conversation. We’ve all known Good Preachers who are rarely confused for Jesus.”

While this may be heresy in Presbyterian Churches since we spend a good bit of time in our seminaries training good preachers, I think she makes an important point and I wanted to raise it up for you as you take this next step in your search for a new pastor. As Jan Edminston goes on to point out in her blog post: too often we look for good preachers as if the sermon is the most important aspect of what happens in our lives together as the church; as if everything is centered around it, the most important things happen on Sunday morning during one hour of worship.

If the only reflecting we do on theology or the Bible happens one hour on Sunday morning, we may be neglecting our own calling to study the scriptures and reflect on our own lives. If we invest much in the one hour to have the best preaching possible, the best music, we may be forgetting that Christianity is a way of life, not an hour. If we think that if we have a wonderful Sunday worship experience that is what will bring people to the church, it will not be enough to get them in the door. If we depend on the sermon for our theological reflection and then go off to Coffee

Hour and our Sunday afternoon activities, it will not be much of a spiritually transformative experience.

So I urge you as you think about the next pastor, consider what makes a good leader, not just a good preacher. We have trained good and competent preachers in our seminaries for many years. It has been suggested that perhaps the problem we have in the church is that we have not trained good leaders who will challenge us to grow in our discipleship and in our walk on our faith journey.

So what makes a good leader? A good leader will call you to be the disciples you are called to be. A good leader will equip you for the work of the saints...not try to do it all themselves. A good leader will sometimes make you uncomfortable as they call you to grow in your own faith experience. A good leader will not let you settle for maintaining but will urge you to look at where God is calling you in the future of this church. A good leader will, as Jan Edminston says, be a Walking Sermon. They will be someone who models what they preach about discipleship but also reflect theologically on daily life in meetings, class and conversation.

What are you looking for in a good leader?

Pastor Rose



Pray Without Ceasing

Billy Berg
Waneda Bowers
Janis Bucklew
Joan Chambers
Jimmy Cloud
Jimmy Dunham
Mary Hodges
Irvin Horst
Ted Largent
Mary Catherine Payne
Bill Perrott
Jessica Ruqus
Virginia Snyder



December Greeters

7 Ruth Berg, Pamela Fleagle, Becky Hawthorne
14 Ruth Berg, Tom and Kim Tucker
21 Ruth Berg, Sharron and Joe Reel
28 Ruth Berg, Robin Brown, Helen Brown

Happy Birthday

2 Jason & Beth Henry
6 Carolyn Linton
10 Dinah Aulabaugh
12 Ernie Weidman
15 Yvonne Lantz
20 Holly Brown
20 Linda Martin
21 Laura Peach
22 Nancy Linton
27 Richard Chamblin
25 Bea Taynton
30 Kim Tucker
31 Denny Martin
31 Hollie Higginbottom



Amazing Grace Fund



Plans are under way to ensure that approximately 20 disadvantaged families in our local area are provided fixings for a Christmas dinner, a turkey, gifts (for children) and other essential products.

Tuscarora Presbyterian Church is already working on the food boxes and children's gifts. Therefore we here at FWPC plan to provide the turkeys and other essential necessities. This is where we need your help. Boxes have been placed in the Fellowship Hall and downstairs to collect items such as **(lots of) toilet paper, paper towels, bar soap, laundry and dish washing detergent.** Anyone wanting to make a donation please contact Beth Henry (274-2112) or Brenda Carper (274-3053). Items are needed no later than **December 7.** Your kind gestures will change lives.

Women's Christmas Brunch



The Women's Bible Study group will meet, Wednesday, December 10, at the home of Jeanie Cushwa at 10:00 a.m. for brunch. There will be no

lesson but they will have devotions, and sing Christmas carols. Please bring a covered-dish to share. All ladies are welcome to come. Jeanie's address is 117 Adrian Drive, Martinsburg.

Movie Night

Please join us for **Dinner and a Movie** on December 20. We will meet for dinner at 5:00 at Cracker Barrel followed by the movie, "The Book Thief" in Fellowship Hall at 7:00. We will have refreshments and door prizes.



Holiday Mission Opportunities

Thank you to all who provided shoe boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**.



For the past five years members of FWPC have made a donation at Christmas to the **Warm the Children** fund through the Martinsburg Journal. This program has donated about \$431,000 in warm clothing to thousands of children in Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties. Last year the number of children served was nearly 500. There are no administrative costs and 100% of the money is used directly for the children. The program relies solely on volunteers - those who coordinate the program and also those who donate their time to shop with the parents. Patty Runkles has volunteered with this program for the last 5 years. Checks may be made payable to "Warm the Children" and given to Patty Runkles. Cash donations are also welcome. **Cut-off date is December 7.** Patty and the Journal thank you for your generosity in the past and hope you will continue to support the program this year.

Nursery Attendants

December 7	Adam and Anna Collis
December 14	Heather and Archie Locke
December 21	Candace and Ellie Hurst
December 28	Amanda and Carl Lamb

The Wonder of Christmas

Come celebrate "The Wonder of Christmas" with the **National Christian Choir and the National Christian Childrens Christmas Choir** on Saturday, December 6 at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at Immanuel's Church, 16819 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20905.

The 160 member choir is directed by Kathy Bowman and the 150 member Children's Choir is directed by Donna Issacs and all accompanied by Full Orchestra.

General Admission is \$18.00 with the Director's Circle tickets at \$25.00..Order on line at www.NationalChristianChoir.org or by phone at 1-301-670-6331 or toll free 1-800-599-4710.

Our own Nat and Jacob Hylton are members of the Children's Choir and Jeanie Cushwa is in the Adult Choir.

You will be filled with Christmas Joy as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Budget and Finance

Through October 2014	
Offering Income	\$123,999.95
Expenses	\$123,405.08
Net Difference	\$594.87



During Advent there will be two **Angel Trees** in the sanctuary on the landings going up to the balcony.

Please feel free to bring an angel ornament of your own to place on the trees in memory or honor of a loved one. If you wish your love one's name to be included in a list, please see Susie Cushwa.

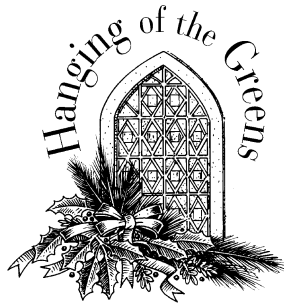
GOOD NEWS! GREAT JOY!



The birth of Jesus gave joy to a people who had been waiting for the Messiah. His birth fulfilled one promise and made another. Jesus changed the lives of people he met and touched and he continues to change the lives of people he touches—through Scripture, through the Holy Spirit and through the people who follow him today. We, here at FWPC, have the opportunity to share that joy this holiday season.

Advent devotionals, “Proclaiming the Good News of God’s Peace”, underwritten by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, are available in the vestibule. These devotionals connect us as we read the same passages of scripture each day. Please take one per family.

We will begin the Advent Season with a “**Hanging of the Greens**” service on December 7 at 10:00 a.m. when we will bring our sanctuary alive with holiday color.



Christmas Cantata

The Hedgesville Community Choir will present the **Christmas Cantata**, “Images of Adoration” by Pepper Choplin, on December 14 at FWPC at 3:00 p.m. A cookie and punch reception will follow.

December 21 will be our **Service of Lessons and Carols**. A congregational Meeting will follow worship and then the Fellowship Dinner will follow the meeting. Communion will be celebrated.



Christmas Eve Service

There will be a **candlelight service with communion** on Christmas Eve at 11:00.

A **Morning Prayer Service** is being planned for December 30th.

Children’s Activities

Our preschool and elementary school children will present a **Nativity Pageant** during worship on December 14. It is always fun to watch our children recreate the Christmas story in costume and song.

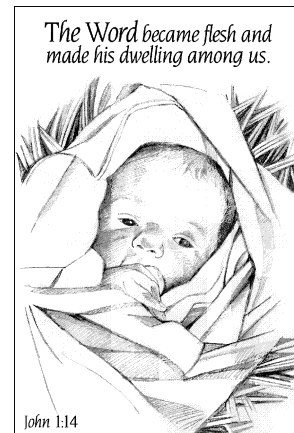


Flock Notes

Congratulations to **Laura Peach, Jessica Ruqus, Tina Sloan and Donna Steele**, who were awarded grants for their classrooms from the Eastern WV Community Foundation.

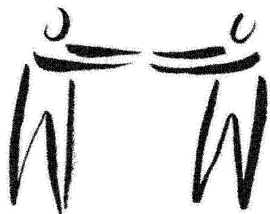
Christmas Concert

The **Berkeley Community Chorus** will hold a Holiday Concert on Saturday, December 13, 2014, at Martinsburg First Presbyterian, 220 S. Queen St., Martinsburg at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$8.00 for Adults, \$6.00 for Seniors and free admission for children 12 and under.



North Berkeley County Loaves and Fishes Needs You

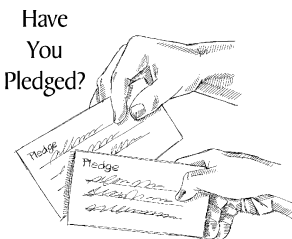
Our Christmas Eve Offering will benefit **Northern Berkeley County Loaves and Fishes** located at Hedgesville United Methodist church. Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes is made up of volunteers who help distribute food to the poor and people who are struggling through hard times, whether it is from illness or a loss of job. The Hedgesville United Methodist Church has provided space for a pantry to store and distribute food on the 4th Friday of each month from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. the only exceptions are November and December which we distribute on the 3rd Friday due to the holidays. All of the food comes from the generosity of the churches in our community and personal donations. Normally it feeds 60-70 adults and 40-45 children each month. Your assistance with food and cash donations is always greatly appreciated. Food donations may be dropped off at Hedgesville United Methodist Monday through Thursday from 9:00 - 1:00. Please call 754-8793 to be certain someone will be there to assist you. Should you have any questions, please call Dottie Shickle 754-3792.



Reach out to those in need

We Appreciate Your Commitment

Thank you to all who **pledged** in support of our 2015 budget. As of November 23, because of your generosity we have received 25 pledges totaling \$98,108. If you haven't pledged as of yet and would like to, its not too late. Pledge cards are available on the small table in back of the sanctuary and may be placed in with the morning offering collection.



Good News of Great Joy!

In this season when we celebrate the child born in Bethlehem, we also realize that the birth of Jesus ushered in a new realm of God's love at work in the world. This love causes us to recognize the image of God imbedded in all humankind. It compels us to reach out with charity, justice, and grace. We seek to honor every child of God. This, too, is how we celebrate the child born on that first Christmas day.

Presbyterians can respond to that love at Christmas by giving generously to the **Christmas Joy Offering**. The offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. At the same time, the Offering helps families of both active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs. As we celebrate Jesus' love in our lives this Christmas, our gifts bear joyful witness to the power of that boundless love that changes lives.

What Is the Christmas Joy Offering?

For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA). Today this Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical assistance to Presbyterian church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. The Offering dates back to the 1930s, when the former Presbyterian Church in the United States began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement income and provide supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families.

Although its roots trace back many years, this special offering remains just as essential today. Equally important to the financial help provided is the spiritual benefit received. Again and again, the individuals and families helped by the Offering say that as crucial as the financial assistance is, what really sustains them is the knowledge that the church is standing with them in their time of need.

We will collect the Joy Offering on **December 21**.

Evangelism at FWPC

In our Mission Study, it states that “A timid and uncertain evangelism program” was one of three general areas identified by church members as “needing to be strengthened.” What it didn’t and couldn’t say is what members mean by evangelism, because evangelism means different things to different people. Without knowing how our members define evangelism, however, we do know that most mainline Protestant churches (including the Presbyterian Church USA) have moved beyond the concept of evangelism as being knocking on doors, handing out tracts on street corners, and collaring people to ask them if they are “saved” or to pressure them to come to church. The current concept of evangelism is about developing relationships in the community around the church and bringing God’s love to people there – being a church that works to transform the community around it for the better.

Hopefully, sometime in the next few months, the Session will discuss evangelism in our church and how we can best take the church to the community, build relationships with people in the community, and, possibly, bring people to our church. The Evangelism Committee will be meeting after the holidays to discuss some evangelism options for our church, in addition to those noted in the Mission Study. We would love to have you join the committee. Please let me know if you would be willing to be a part of the Evangelism Committee – I’ll keep meetings to a minimum. In addition, if you are interested, I can give you a report I wrote following the Taking the Church to the Community conference held recently at Wesley Seminary. If you’d like to read it, let me know and I will give you a copy.

Kate Lewis Brown

Library Corner

There are two versions of I Am Malala, one for adults and the other for young readers, on the Library Corner in Fellowship Hall.

I am Malala (Adult)

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest recipient ever of the Nobel Peace Prize.

I Am Malala is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

I Am Malala makes you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.