



The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Two

February 2015

Volume XXXI

Pastor's Corner

The Transition Continues.....

By now you realize that this time of transition is not simply holding in place, treading water, waiting for the next installed pastor.

You have participated in the Mission Study, you have now voted for a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and they are meeting for several hours every two weeks for now. As they begin the process of reviewing resumes (or as the church refers to them...Pastor Information Forms), they may even meet more often.

But again, your work is not to sit by waiting...patiently or impatiently! For starters, you can, and I hope, will be in prayer not just for the PNC but for whomever God is preparing for the call to serve this congregation as pastor.

Another thing I hope you are doing is keeping in mind the Vision and Mission statement that was put forward by the Mission Study Group...developed with your feedback.

Vision Statement: *Because God first loved us, we are called to love, serve, and witness.*

Mission Statement: *"We, as members of the body of Christ at the Falling Waters Presbyterian Church, strive to be an extended family—reaching out to one another, our community and the world. In offering ourselves to this sacred mission, we will show the way of Christ so that the community and the world in which we live may learn "to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God."*

Your work as a congregation is to be seeking God's leading in filling out or if you would fleshing out these statements. How are you called to fill out this vision to love, serve and witness? How do you see this congregation reaching out to the community and world and offering itself to "this sacred mission of showing the way of Christ to the community". In other words, how do we working to bring about God's Kingdom here and now.

I have heard the comment several times during this year with you that "We are just a small rural church." It is certainly true that is your history. I challenge you to look around the community. While the congregation is in transition, the community around us is in transition. We have been named part of the Metro-Washington area. We are one of, if not the, fastest growing regions of the state. Rather than being a small rural community, we are becoming what is often referred to as a bedroom community with many people who commute elsewhere for work.

Often in bedroom communities, people don't get to know one another very easily or have a connection to community institutions. So a question for FWPC as you seek to live out your Mission Statement, might be to think how you might become a place in this community, as it goes through transition and growth, where people come together, get to know each other, become part of the community. Those of you who have lived here your whole life know the value of community, of being known by and knowing your neighbors. Those of us who have moved here in the last 20 years, were often drawn to the small community feel of this wonderful part of the country.

Growth and change can be painful as new people and new perspectives get incorporated into our midst. They might challenge our 'ways we have always done things' when they bring their own ways of how 'things have been done.'! They might think differently or even talk differently. Sometimes it is more comfortable to treat new people as if they are welcome as long as they sit back until they've learned how 'we do things'.

Maybe you have some other ideas about how to carry out the Mission of FWPC to reach out to the community and the world around us. Let's keep the conversation going.

Pastor Rose

Pray Without Ceasing

Bill and Billy Berg
Waneda Bowers
Joan Chambers
Jimmy Cloud
Jimmy Dunham
Mary Hodges
Irvin Horst
Ted Largent
Mary Catherine Payne
Patty Runkles
Virginia Snyder
Bill Zombro



Sessional Committee Assignments for 2015

Clerk of Session - Ruth Berg
Congregational Nurture - Jessica Ruqus
Worship -
Fellowship & Recreation - Paul Peach
Mission - Kathy Goodell
Evangelism - Kate Lewis Brown
Christian Education - Kelsey Shipper
Personnel - Ron Hansen
Maintenance - Steve Aulabaugh
Stewardship and Finance -

Our committees are in need of volunteers. Prayerfully consider where your strengths and talents can best be used and get in touch with the committee chair to help.

February Birthdays

1 Gail Cushwa
1 John MacDonald
2 April Higginbottom
2 Diana McKinley
4 Kathy Goodell
8 Diana Manor
11 Sue Mekkelson
12 Pamela Fleagle
17 Susie Cushwa
19 Robin Brown
21 Pete Mekkelson
24 Nat Hylton



February Greeters

Steve Aulabaugh - Head Elder

1 Steve and Dinah Aulabaugh, Donna Steele
8 Steve, Marge and Richard Chamblin
15 Steve, Susie Cushwa, Crystal Mason
22 Steve, Audrey and John MacDonald

Christian Ed - oversee adult and Youth Sunday School, VBS, Sardines and any other education church program.

Congregational Nurture - responsible for Shepherd Program, Prayer Chain and visitation.

Evangelism - facilitate church growth and community outreach.

Fellowship and Recreation - organize fellowship dinners, recreational events, coffee hour, and refreshments for miscellaneous meals, gatherings and funeral receptions.

Finance and Stewardship - Set and manage budget and church finances.

Maintenance - maintain church property excluding cemetery, and maintain manse property.

Mission - Coordinate church participation in mission activities of Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly and Eastern Panhandle Mission Community. Promote special offerings and seek opportunities for community and overseas mission projects.

Personnel - Serve as liaison between Session and church employees. Recommend salaries and conduct yearly reviews of all paid employees.

Worship - Assist pastor in planning and enhancement of Sunday worship, seasonal and special worship services, children's church, and communion. Support work of church organist and choir. Arrange for sanctuary decorations.

It's Music to Your Ears!



You are invited to a **Music Festival** sponsored by the Eastern Panhandle Mission Community on February 22 at Tuscarora at 4:30 p.m. Come for a pleasant afternoon of praise by making a joyful noise!

Movie Night

Join us on February 21 for **Dinner and A Movie**. We will meet at Bob Evans at 5:00 for dinner followed by the movie "The Buccaneers" starring Charlton Heston and Yul Brenner. There will be refreshments and door prizes.



In Appreciation

On behalf of the Journal and **Warm the Children Fund**, Patty Runkles would like to thank the congregation for its generous support of this program to provide warm clothing to the children of Berkeley County at Christmas. Our congregation's donation of \$590.00 was greatly appreciated.



Nursery Attendants

February 1
February 8
February 15
February 22

Ruth Berg, Helen Brown
Lyn Hansen, Elizabeth Kaetzel
Audrey MacDonald, Lacy Linton
Renee Campbell, Tiffany Henr

Safe for Sale

The Trustees are selling their small safe for \$395.00. It is made by Century and was originally purchased for \$599.00. If interested, please check it out in the Under The Sea Room and then feel free to talk with any Trustee.

Souper Bowl of Caring



The "Souper Bowl of Caring" is an effort to glorify God and care for "the least of these our brothers" by encouraging people to give one dollar each as they leave worship on February 1. The Sardines will have a large soup pot to collect the donations as parishioners leave worship the morning of the game. This involvement teaches our young people that they can make a positive difference in the lives of others. All monies will be given to Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes at Hedgesville United Methodist Church. Let's begin the new year by sharing one of the many blessings that we have so richly enjoyed — that delicious bowl of soup. Thank you to all who join with us in loving God in this simple but significant way.

Looking Back with Ron Hansen

John and Kathleen Cormack have donated a display case. Ron will be displaying FWPC archival documents and other interesting history items in the case which will be located in Fellowship Hall. Thank you John and Kathleen. We appreciate your generosity.

Flock Notes

Congratulations to **Lyn Hansen** who was elected President of the Eastern Panhandle Builders Association. She was installed on January 27th.

Evangelism/Transformation



It's time to turn around our "...timid and uncertain evangelism program" as the Mission Study put it. But everyone has to work together; a few people can't do it alone. The Evangelism/Transformation Committee has some ideas of what we'd like to do, but we need your input and involvement. We need people:

- to attend one of two idea-generating sessions and/or a decision-making meeting. Or give your ideas to Kate Lewis Brown.
- to serve as part of the Evangelism/Transformation Committee – a steering committee, meeting only when necessary.
- who have the time to commit to an ongoing service project in the community.
- who are interested in working on one event that might be held at the church or on the church grounds, or somewhere else in the community.
- who aren't able to commit to anything specific but are willing to be called upon to help out from time to time – making cookies, for example.

Our evangelism program will be all about



between our church and the community, by serving in projects in the community as well as holding events in our church and its grounds for the community.

The dates and times for the idea-generating and decision-making meetings are as follows:

6. Thursday, February 5 at 7 p.m. for idea-sharing
7. Sunday, February 8, after church for idea-sharing (we'll reserve a table in Fellowship Hall and start the meeting after about 15 or 20 minutes.
8. Monday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. for decision-making.

Please let Kate Lewis Brown or Renee Campbell know if you would like to join us in any of the ways listed above.



Estate Planning

When someone mentions estate planning, what is your first thought? If you said a will, you are not alone. For many people, a will is the cornerstone of a well-organized estate plan. But, in reality, there's much more to consider on the path to successful estate planning.

Estate planning is the managing your accumulated assets for the present and the future and can protect, preserve and distribute your investments throughout your lifetime and upon your death. It can help you prepare for possible future needs, such as health problems, accidents and unforeseen financial challenges and may even reduce the tax consequences on your current assets and future estate taxes.

How does faith play a role in estate planning? Actually, it is an ideal opportunity to make a statement of your faith that lives on long after you're gone.

Charitable bequests, for example can be written into your will. You can choose a particular dollar amount or a percentage of your estate, such as a tithe of 10% to your church. Another option is to make a charitable bequest of the residual of your estate, that is determined after other specific bequests have been made to your heirs.

You may also want to consider establishing a charitable remainder trust or charitable gift annuity during your lifetime or in your will.

Both plans will pay you, or a designated beneficiary, a lifetime income. The remainder of the gift may establish a permanent endowment fund for the benefit of your chosen beneficiary. These options may be appealing if you would like to provide for a loved one at your death, or if you need the income now and would benefit from a charitable tax deduction.

These are just a few of the choices to be considered. Often, family members are invited to join in the discussion and planning to ensure that everyone is informed of your wishes.

Your legal advisor will be instrumental in helping you finalize your plans. To find out more about charitable estate planning or about other gift options open to you, www.PresbyterianFoundation.org

Pancake Dinner Scheduled



SHROVE TUESDAY

The Sardines will host their annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** on February 17 at 6:30 p.m. to thank the congregation for all its support throughout the year. Join them for biscuits, pancakes and sausage gray and other delectable fattening comfort food.

The Lenten Journey Begins



The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days excluding Sundays. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week and in that week are three of the most significant days on the Christian Calendar. These days are Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Several worship opportunities are planned for Lent to help children, youth and adults experience the Easter Season in a meaningful way. Rev. Carl Howard will lead us with an **Ash Wednesday Service** on February 18 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us.