

The Falling Waters Messenger

Issues Seven and Eight

July - August 2015

Volume XXXI

Perhaps it is because I spent too many years with my life organized around the school schedule, but even more than New Year's Eve, the lazy days of summer are a time I find I reflect on the year, my life and what things I might want to change with the start of the 'new year' in the fall. Often that question has more to do with what is lacking or where are the holes in my life or work.

So in the last couple weeks when Pastor Carl sent me yet another thought provoking article, I find it sticks with me. It was an article on how we become disciples. As in how do we help people move from being new members to being authentic followers of Jesus? The article is by Bob Farr and Kay Kotan, condensed from their book *Ten Prescriptions for a Healthy Church* (Abingdon Press, 2015).

They said: "We have come to believe that if we come to worship, attend Sunday school, serve on a couple of committees, and participate in Vacation Bible School, somehow we become disciples. We have come to believe this happens by osmosis — if you come to the church and hang around a bit, you will develop into an authentic follower of Jesus Christ."

It made me stop and think about the churches I grew up in and those I have since been involved with, and they are many! While some did better at talking about discipleship and what it means to be a follower of Jesus (not just be saved), not one had any clear program to teach that. While we might do a pretty good job of teaching the Bible and knowing what the Bible has to say in our Sunday Schools, how well do we do with teaching what that means about how we live our lives? Too often we leave any questions of spiritual development and accountable behavior to the individual to figure out for themselves.

The authors say the first question is "What does an Authentic Follower of Jesus look like?" It is a good

question for us all to reflect on because it gives us some clearer idea of the way ahead for us as we answer the question about what is lacking in our own spiritual lives and what we need to focus on. Your meditating on this question might include what are the traits, beliefs, and experiences that you think people need to have in order to grow in their faith and live it out daily? What would you want to know and experience so that your daily life is changed to walk closer to Christ?

The next question is what do you need from the church to help you grow more in your spiritual life? Farr and Kotan talk about one church that developed a process known as *The Quest*, which provides for four different ways that adults can connect to small groups, Sunday school, service projects, and so on. Those four ways are Explore, Connect, Grow, and Unleash. All of their existing small-group ministries were redefined according to these components, and every new small group, whether through Christian education or service, is created with this intentional faith development classification in mind. In other words, in all that we do in the church, how are we free to explore our understanding and faith, how are we connecting deeper to one another and to God, where are we growing and how are we being set free in ourselves or with others to serve in new and energizing ways?

Our spiritual life is a never-ending journey. Hopefully we continue to grow in ever deeper understandings of what it means to follow Jesus as we go through all stages of our lives. I have come to believe that it is important to be intentional about nurturing our spiritual life and paying attention to where we are on our faith journey and to not just get lost in the work of the church....which can keep us busy and distracted.

What do you find yourself reflecting on this summer, while you are on vacation, enjoying the pool, relaxing in whatever ways you are relaxing? Pastor Rose

Pray Without Ceasing

Bill and Billy Berg
 Waneda Bowers
 Joan Chambers
 The Family of Deborah Chambers
 Jimmy Cloud
 Kenny Cushwa
 Jimmy Dunham
 Mary Hodges
 Irvin Horst
 Ted Largent
 Mary Catherine Payne
 Virginia Snyder
 Paula Tobin
 Carolyn Weidman
 Bill Zombro



Greeters for July- August

July 5 Ron Hansen, Tammy Hylton, Nancy Linton
 July 12 Ron Hansen, Richard and Donna Pill
 July 19 Ron and Lyn Hansen, Elizabeth Kaetzel
 July 26 Ron Hansen, Denny and Darla Grove

Aug. 2 Brenda Carper, Rob and Tina Sloan
 Aug. 9 Fawn Fleagle, Becky Hawthorne, Donna Steele
 Aug. 16 , Audrey and John MacDonald
 Aug. 23 Diana McKinley, Amanda and Carl Lamb
 Aug. 30 Galen Runkles, Tom and Kim Tucker

Dinner and a Movie for the Summer

We will not meet in July.
 Our feature for August 15th
 will be a film chosen by one of our
 movie goers. Watch the bulletin
 for details on the location of dinner.



Happy Birthday July-August

July 3 Mary Catherine Payne
 7 Richard Goodell
 Stuart Collis
 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



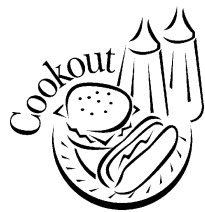
August 1 Bill Perrott
 Ron Hansen
 Carl Lamb
 2 Rachel Collins
 3 Joey Widmeyer
 4 Dorothy Hurley
 7 Nancy Shipper
 8 Hannah Locke
 12 Gavin Smoot
 16 Paula Tobin
 Chuck Hydorn
 17 Jeff Campbell
 19 John Cushwa
 28 Irvin Horst
 29 Greg Runkles
 31 Tammy Hylton
 Galen Runkles

News From Sunday School



Our step-up day program is being
 planned for Sunday, August 30 with the
 Sunday School Picnic following worship
 at the pavilion. Hot dogs will be
 furnished.

Celebrating Our Independence



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 July 5 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.

July 5	Renee Campbell, Lauren Ruble
July 12	Ruth Berg, Marge Chamblin
July 19	Anna and Adam Collis
July 26	Heather and Archie Locke

August 2	Tammy Hylton, Tiffany Henry
August 9	Tina and Ellie Sloan
August 16	Kelsey Shipper, Ellie Sloan
August 23	Laura and Paul Peach
August 30	Fawn Fleagle, Pamela Fleagle

Flock Notes

Kyle Hoover, grandson of **Lillie and Ted Largent**, was awarded Knight of the Golden Horseshoe on May 1, 2015 at a ceremony in Charleston, WV. He received a golden pin in the shape of a horseshoe which symbolized his knowledge and understanding of his state's proud heritage.

Pastor Rose received a note from the Department of Veterans Affairs thanking **John Fleagle, Jack Fleagle, John MacDonald, Ron Hansen and John E. Brown**, for their willingness to put up and take down its Avenue of Flags for the Memorial Day program on May 30, 2015.

Our sympathy is extended to **Deborah Chambers** and family following the death of Deborah's father, Jim Worley on June 20, 2015.

Congratulations to Richard and Dixie Blizzard on the birth of a grandson, James Kelly Lucas, Jr. to their daughter, Sarah and her husband Jimmy on June 25, 2015. "Little Jimmy" as his grandfather calls him, is the great-grandson of Avalon Blizzard.

Congratulations and best wishes to our Supply Organist, Amanda Lewis, and Garry Jones who were married on June 14, 2015. They thank the congregation for the flowers placed in the sanctuary in their honor.

Women's Bible Study



The **Women's Bible Study** will not meet in July. On August 12th 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 \$10.00.

Vespers in the Park War Memorial Park



The Eastern Panhandle Mission Community will host **Vespers in the Park** on August 2 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to worship together as Presbyterians. Pastor Bill Moore will be the coordinator. Tuscarora will make the bulletins and direct the music. Mountain Chapel will host a covered-dish picnic preceding the service at the main pavilion at 5:30.

Concerts in the Community

We've gone through a learning curve with the concerts and have decided that we're no longer going to assign seats for the general audience. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. If you want to be assured of seating in the front center section of the sanctuary for every concert, you will have to buy a subscription. A subscription is for one concert season, that is, 4 concerts from September-May. Within the reserved front center section, seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The benefit of being a subscriber to Concerts in the Community is that you will be given a seat in the reserved center section of the main floor. Subscriptions are \$20.00 per person for a season (4 concerts) and entitle you to a reserved section ticket as well as one free student ticket for the reserved section. Only the subscribers and their students will be permitted in the reserved section. If a subscriber is bringing more than one student, an additional ticket will have to be purchased for each additional student, but the student may sit in the reserved section with the subscriber. Tickets will be mailed to subscribers several weeks before the concert.

Please note: our current plan is to make the first concert of each season "Berkeley County Has Talent" and the concert will be free with no ticket required. However, even for that concert subscribers will be given a card that permits them to sit in the reserved section. For more information, please call me 304-754-5039 or email me at johnkatebrown@comcast.net. You may purchase a subscription now for the 2015-2016 season.

Kate Lewis Brown

New Address

Pete and Sue Mekkelson have moved. Their new address is: 14 Chagrin Dr., Falling Waters, WV 25419. We wish them much happiness in their new home.

Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes Needs Your Help

Food is needed for the hungry in our area. Unfortunately this is the time of year when donations are not as plentiful. If you would like to help there is a list of specific items needed on the Mission Bulletin Board in the hallway into Fellowship Hall. Donated food can be delivered to Hedgesville UM church on Tuesday thru Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please call 304-754-8793 before you deliver to be sure someone is available to let you into the pantry.

The **Grow to Share** program will run from June - September. This program provides fresh fruits and vegetables which are distributed at the same time as Loaves and Fishes from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. on the fourth Friday of the month at Hedgesville UM. Your fresh produce donations can be delivered on the fourth Thursday of the month between 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Again, please call first to make sure someone is there.

Monetary donations are always accepted and check may be written to Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes and mailed to PO Box 35, Hedgesville, WV 25427.

Get the news of our missionaries as well as other local mission opportunities on our **Mission Bulletin Board**.

VBS Success

Our theme this year was "SonSpark Labs". Explorers found their imaginations spark to life as they researched answers to universal questions by delving into the shadows of the ancient past, exploring scientific wonders of the present and even searching beyond - to an infinite future!

They raised \$572.00 for Nadia Ayoub, our missionary in the Ukraine. They also collected pasta, fruit cups and toilet paper for the Amazing Grace Fund. Children won gold medals for participation in the coloring contest and sparked their imaginations by creating a creature friend for Clipper from the Island of Paper.

Thank you to the congregation for its prayers and monetary donations and for all adults who helped in so many ways to make this important ministry to our youth a success.