

The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Two

February 2016

Volume XXXII

Pastor's Corner

Love Rules.....

"The Lord your God is one and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" *Mark 12:28* (among others!)

"Every person bears the divine image so when anyone is injured the heart of God is wounded." ---John Calvin
We sing: *"They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love...."*

These days, nearly every week, often several times a week, articles or new books come across my inbox, my email, my Facebook account about the closing of churches; the need for revitalization of the church; about all the 'nones' who have no truck with the church or established religion.

Many have answers or at least guesses at the causes of the decline of Christendom or as one I saw recently propounding on the suicide of the liberal/mainline church.

Most likely each one has a piece of the truth. One of the common threads I hear is that we as the church have drifted for many years. We enjoyed and fed our spiritual lives by being together with people we liked so we gathered to worship each week and to support some mission program, too often from a distance.

But there are many out there who do good and charitable works, who live as decent people with the people they love. So it seems to me that as the church we really need to struggle with what sets us apart. What do we have to offer that others don't have? Why would we tell people they should join us in church?

What I believe we have is the model of Jesus

who showed us and called us to follow him as disciples in the radical love that he showed to all people from the highest in society that he encountered to the lowest outcast.

As we live in this age where little respect is shown to people who disagree with one another, when name calling by our public figures in the media and in politics and yes sometimes even in the church is more than a daily occurrence, it seems to me we have a great opportunity for witness to God's love.

Too often these days in the name of religion people seem to feel the need to speak for God in their passing judgment on others. As one friend put it, they seem to think that God needs defending and they have taken on the job. God has managed to survive before creation and will be around for all of eternity so I can probably let go of that job.

What God does require of me and calls me to each day is the radical love, not just word but deed that He showed me in Jesus Christ. The love that offers grace and mercy in the face of my sins and faults; the love that seeks me out when I am the lone sheep having wandered away from the crowd; the love that turns the other cheek, that loves the rabbi and prostitute alike; the love that nothing can separate me from.....that love will be there for us always and we are called to share it in the *same radical way*.

As we enter this Lenten time and move again toward Good Friday and Easter, I invite you to spend time contemplating the love that God had for us in sending His Son into the world for us. And maybe this Lent instead of giving something up (like chocolate or sugar) we might consider what we can give to show that love...even if it is just a kind word to the person we most vehemently disagree with because after all they may most need to feel God's love today.

Pastor Rose

Pray Without Ceasing

The Family of Robert Abruzzino
Pam Arvon
Bill and Billy Berg
The Family of Waneda Bowers
Joan Chambers
Jimmy Cloud
Kenny Cushwa
Mary Hodges
Irvin Horst
Ted Largent
Pete Mekkelson
Bill Perrott
Virginia Snyder
Paula Tobin
Bill Zombro



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

7 Steve and Dinah Aulabaugh, Becky Hawthorne
14 Steve, Audrey and John MacDonald
21 Steve, Amanda and Carl Lamb
28 Steve, Marge and Richard Chamblin

Sessional Committee Assignments for 2016

Clerk of Session - Ruth Berg
Congregational Nurture*
Worship - Jessica Ruqus, liaison
Fellowship & Recreation*
Mission - Kathy Goodell
Outreach - Kate Lewis Brown
Christian Education - Renee Campbell
Personnel - Ron Hansen
Maintenance - Steve Aulabaugh
Finance*
Stewardship - Ron and Lyn Hansen

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.

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.

Outreach - 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 - 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.

*to be determined at next Session Meeting

It's Music to Your Ears!



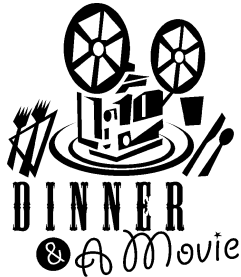
You are invited to a **Music Festival** sponsored by the Eastern Panhandle Mission Community on February 28 at Little Falls at 4:30 p.m. Come for a pleasant afternoon of praise by making a joyful noise!



February 7	Audrey MacDonald, Pamela Fleagle
February 14	Lyn Hansen, Elizabeth Kaetzel
February 21	Robin Brown, Helen Brown
February 28	Renee Campbell, Tiffany Henry

Movie Night

Join us on February 13 for **Dinner and A Movie**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall for pizza at 5:00 while we watch the 3+ hour movie, "Exodus" starring Paul Newman and Eve Marie Saint. There will be refreshments and door prizes.



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 7. 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.

Caring for our World

There are some others in the community who are concerned about the litter along Rte. 901/Hammonds Mill Road. The person who raised the issue with our group at The Woods, agreed as Session had decided, the road is too dangerous with curves and speed of drivers for any group to adopt the road for clean-up.

Anyone interested in seeing this area cleaned up more, please contact Berkeley County Council Members to ask them to do something more about the litter along our road.

You can write to Council members at 400 West Stephen Street, Suite 201, Martinsburg, WV 25401.

You can go the www.berkeleycountycomm.org and find emails to contact individual council members.

Offering for Nadia Ayoub

The Mission Committee is collecting an offering the entire months of January and February to benefit our missionary, **Nadia Ayoub**, in the Ukraine. If you would like to contribute, checks made payable to FWPC and marked "Nadia" on the memo line may be placed in with the morning offering.

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.

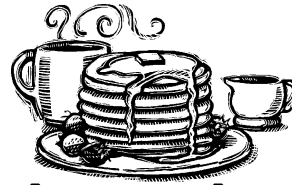
You may also want to consider establishing a charitable remainder trust or charitable gift annuity during your lifetime or in your will.

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 9 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.

Orphan Sunday Delayed.....

Back in the Fall, Candy Hurst brought to our attention an event called Orphan Sunday. Orphan Sunday came about when an American visitor to a church in Zambia was struck by the passionate plea of the pastor for consideration of the orphans. While we as Christians have always been called to care for the Orphans we aren't always aware of their plight is so many parts of the world. Orphan Sunday was set up to help raise awareness and coordinate the efforts of so many groups set up to seek to help the orphans around the world. It is usually held in November.

So on Feb 14th, the Mission and Worship Committees have invited Erma Perkins (Pastor Rose's sister-in-law) to speak to us about work she is involved with in South Africa. When she was working in Rochester as a hospice nurse, her hospice partnered with a hospice in South Africa that was working primarily with women who were HIV positive and dying with AIDS. Often the children were the only ones left who were the caretakers of their dying mothers.

The hospice found they also needed to provide for the care of the children. Out of that work, Erma also became involved with the work of the MusaweNkosi, an orphanage established to care of children orphaned by AIDS. Erma has worked here in the States by speaking about the work there in South Africa and raising money through the sale of craft items from the area. So on Feb 14th when she is here, she will be speaking about the work and a table will be set up during coffee hour for anyone interested in the crafts.

Please mark the date on your calendar.

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 10 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us.

Flock Notes

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of **Waneda Bowers**, long time member of FWPC, who passed away on January 28.

Robert Abruzzino, father of Christopher and Giana Abruzzino, passed away in January. Giana and Christopher are the grandchildren of Helen Brown.

Thank you to **Tyler Henry** who plowed our parking lots following the blizzard that dumped 40" of snow on Hedgesville.