

The Falling Waters Messenger

Issues Seven and Eight

July - August 2017

Volume XXXIII



One of my favorite passages of the Bible is Proverbs 3:5-8, “Trust the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight and understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body.”

The reason I treasure this passage is because in all honesty, I need a reminder to turn to God, to rely on God’s wisdom and insight rather than my own or that of others. When making every day decisions (what to wear, what to have for lunch, etc.), I rarely seek God’s insight or understanding. I figure God has bigger things to deal with than whether I wear blue or brown pants. And maybe God doesn’t care about such things - after all, God didn’t give Adam and Eve pants to wear in the garden. Conversely, when making what I think of as big decisions (what to preach, where to work, who and what to vote for, how much to spend on a car or a house, etc.), I spend a good bit of time in prayer, seeking God’s counsel.

Now, don’t get me wrong, I definitely believe God’s counsel comes to us through the insight and understanding of godly folks. But there’s a difference between recognizing the divine voice speaking through human voices and taking, or even soliciting, what other people say and appropriating it to support one’s own desires. Too often, many of us take positions on issues based on our personal preferences, prejudices, or desires and then seek to justify those positions by soliciting the support of others, or using biblical passages out of context. Don’t take my word for it, read a newspaper or listen to the news on the radio or television and observe what happens among our local and national political discourse. Or listen to some sermons on

Youtube and observe the way many preachers use biblical texts to support their own social, political, and theological agendas.

When we rely on our own insight and understanding, we close the door on the Spirit whom Jesus sent in order to guide us. When our voices rise to jack-hammer-like volumes, when we preach our personal agendas until we are hoarse, we are unable to hear the quieter voices in our midst whose insights and understandings are scattered like a flock of birds startled by the ear piercing siren of an emergency vehicle. When we are determined to hold up our own agendas as divine mandates, we turn our ideas and desires into idols just as the Israelites turned the community’s resources into the Golden Calf.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we disciples are called to a different and difficult way of being in relationship with one another and with God. We are called to wait upon the still small voice. We are called to be still and know that God is with us and speaks to us. We are called to rely not on our own insights and understandings, but to rely upon the Holy Spirit to show us how to love God and neighbor with our words, our decisions, and our actions. We are called to listen, actively, deeply, to the perspectives of others. We are called to pause in our own speaking in order to hear the voices of those with whom we disagree. We are called to respect the views of those we would call our enemies.

Friends, I tell you truthfully, none of this is possible if we rely on our own thoughts and insights. We can only accomplish these things by quieting our minds and our hearts and then opening them to God, “in whom we live, move, and have our being.” Another of my favorite Bible verses, Paul reminds us in Acts 17 that this is our truth and our reality. “For as some of your poets have said, we are God’s offspring” (Acts 17:28). Therefore, let us push through our own, human, flawed, understandings and instead let us seek and rely on the loving, merciful, wise insights and understandings of our God. Amen.

Pastor Debra

Pray Without Ceasing

Bill and Billy Berg
Justin Carper
Jimmy Cloud
Kenny Cushwa
Ron Hansen
Mary Hodges
Irvin Horst
Ted Largent
John McKune
Pete and Scott Mekkelson
Patty Runkles
Virginia Snyder
Bill Zombro



Flock Notes

Congratulations to **Rob and JR Sloan**, coach and member of this year's Berkeley County Pride Lacrosse team after winning the WV Scholastic Lacrosse Association Division 2 title in May.

Congratulations to **MaggieBeth and Tony Ponton** on the birth of their son, Luke Wayne, on June 8. Luke weighed 8 lbs. 3 ozs. Both mommy and baby are doing well.

FWPC sponsored a **Berkeley County U8 Soccer** team with spring. That team, the Roadrunners, coached by Mike Fleagle, brought home the silver in the end-of-season tournament. Alex Fleagle and Irvin Horst's great-grandson, Brailen Horst, played on the team. Congratulations Roadrunners!

Congratulations to **Nat Hylton** who was inducted into the National Music Honor Society in May.

Congratulations to two of our high schoolers, **JR Sloan and Stuart Collis**. JR made 4th bass drum in the Musselman High School Marching Band and Stuart made the Martinsburg High School Good Times Show Choir. Well done, guys!

Happy Birthday July-August

July

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



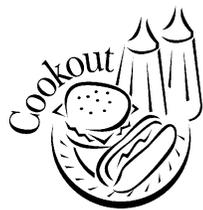
August

1 Ron Hansen
Carl Lamb
7 Nancy Shipper
8 Hannah Locke
12 Gavin Smoot
16 Chuck Hydorn
17 Jeff Campbell
19 John Cushwa
28 Irvin Horst
29 Greg Runkles
31 Tammy Hylton
Galen Runkles

Greeters for July- August

July 2 John MacDonald, Tammy Hylton, Nat Hylton
July 9 John MacDonald, Shelly McFillan, Helen Brown
July 19 Ruth Berg, Kirk Chambers, Bettie Jane Porterfield
July 23 John MacDonald, Denny and Darla Grove
July 30 Kate Lewis Brown, Pete and Sue Mekkelson
Aug. 6 Fawn Fleagle, Rob and Tina Sloan
Aug. 13 Brenda Carper, Bill and Judith Lawrenson
Aug. 20 Diana McKinley, Pat and Sherry Dockeney
Aug. 27 Galen Runkles, Sara and Steve Tamplin

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 2 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 2	Fawn and John Fleagle
July 9	Ruth Berg, Marge Chamblin
July 16	Anna and Adam Collis
July 23	Heather and Archie Locke
July 30	Tammy and Nat Hylton

August 6	Robin and Helen Brown
August 13	Kelsey and Kadence Blaine
August 20	Laura and Paul Peach
August 27	Fawn and Pamela Fleagle

Women's Bible Study



The **Women's Bible Study** will meet on July 12, in Fellowship Hall for Lesson 9 led by Lillie Largent. On August 9th at 10:00 a.m. they will begin their new study with the introduction to, "Cloud of Witness" 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.

News From Sunday School

Our step-up day program is being planned for Sunday, August 27 with the Sunday School Picnic following worship at the pavilion. Hot dogs will be furnished. Please bring a covered-dish to share



VBS Success

Our theme this year was "**Hero Central**" where students were introduced to a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

They raised \$350.00 for Nadia Ayoub, our missionary in the Ukraine. They also collected pasta, fruit cups and toilet paper for the Amazing Grace Fund. Children won medals for participation in the coloring contest. 35 students had perfect attendance the entire week.

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.

You Can Help

We will be collecting school supplies for Spring Mills Primary, Potomack Intermediate, and Spring Mills Middle School in July and August. A wish list will be posted. School begins August 21.

Looking Back with Ron Hansen

Our article this month is by Bettie Jane Porterfield.

In June the church completed another very successful Vacation Bible School. An event occurred in the early 1920s which places our church among the pioneer churches in America in the field of Christian Education. It was at this time that Mrs. Robinson, mother of Stuart Robinson, (who was raised in Falling Waters_church and became a pastor)organized the Sunday School. This was a new venture in the world, especially in America.

From the Sunday School came the idea for summer Bible School. Bible School includes the whole community and often visiting grandchildren of folks who have a connection to the church as well as other friends.

In researching old church newsletters the following appears in a letter from June 29, 1931, about Daily Vacation Bible School:

D.V.B.S.

A Daily Vacation Bible School will be conducted at Spring Mills, beginning June 29. A young lady from the Assembly's Training School in Richmond, Va., employed by the Presbytery, will be in charge, and she will be assisted by as many local teachers and helpers as necessary. We hope to arrange transportation for children who are not within walking distance. While the school is under Presbyterian management, there will be no sectarian teaching, and we shall be glad to have all the children of the community attend. There will be no charge. Further announcement will be made in our June newsletter.

Pastor Debra mentioned in her sermon that Bible School is 15 hours for the week, the equivalent of about 4 months of Sunday School classes. This points

out its importance since it reaches lots of children who do not regularly attend Sunday School.

Before Fellowship Hall was built, classes were held in each corner of the church, on the balcony, in the vestibule, in the Community House, and on the front porch of the manse. (There is an up-coming article on the Community House.) How blessed we are now to have a Fellowship Hall, pavilion and a paved parking lot.

The schools have been held for 1 week from 9:00 - 12:00; 1 week from 9:00 - 2:00 with lunch in between; for 2 weeks from 9:00 - 12:00 and for 2 weeks with Mondays excluded.

Enrollment has fluctuated from under 20 students to over 70 students. (73 in 1931) Note the framed photo in Fellowship Hall over the glass case of Bible School in 1935.

I found in joining the group this year that the teachers have as much fun as the students. How God has blessed us with all these years of touching children's lives and teaching them about the gospel!

Concerts in the Community

Sunday, September 10, 2017 (3:00 p.m.)

The Blue and Gray Chorus

In honor of Veteran's Day they will end their program with some Patriotic songs.

Friday, October 27, 2017 (7:00 p.m.)

Elizabeth von Trapp

Elizabeth is the daughter of Baron and Marie von Trapp whose story was told in "the Sound of Music".

Sunday, November 19, 2017 (3:00 p.m.)

D'Amore Duo

This is a classical guitar and oboe duo.

June Update for Hedgesville Area Community of Churches (HACC)

HACC would like to say a special *thank you* to the generous congregation of Falling Waters Presbyterian Church. Your astounding \$770 has now begun to be used. Friday, June 23rd was our first Grow to Share produce give away for the 2017 season. We spent \$225 at the Shippensburg Auction and brought back a bin of very large cabbages, 3 boxes of broccoli, a ton of zucchini and cucumbers, 2 boxes of turnips, a box of red onions, a box of spring onions, 150# of extra-large potatoes, and 2 boxes of beautiful heads of leaf lettuce. In addition, Butler's donated 2 boxes of cabbages and zucchini. We served 55 people who represented 298 family members! We did have some cabbages left over and one box of broccoli which we took to the Rescue Mission in Martinsburg, as is our custom when we have anything left.

I can't thank you enough for making this great start such a success! I'd like to invite you to be a part of our forum, either to just come and participate in our meeting (2nd Tuesdays of each month), and/or to volunteer to set up on the 4th Thursday evening (7:00p.m. at Hedgesville United Methodist Church), or help hand out produce on the 4th Friday of each month at HUMC. You would be most welcome!

Our other major effort is in facilitating the ecumenical Thanksgiving Service each year, particularly our "Celebrate the Spirit" award, in which each participating church acknowledges someone, or

more than someone, within their congregation who exemplifies the spirit of Jesus Christ in humble, quiet works within our community that helps to show God's love in some way. We work with church leadership to make that happen, and Carl Howard has been instrumental in keeping the flame alive within our local Hedgesville community. Well done, Carl! He is now passing that baton to Pastor Debra, and, may I say, it will also be a pleasure to work with her!

If you have any questions, I'd be happy to address them.

Sincerely,

Sara Tamplin Chair, HACC

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Conversation About Outreach at FWPC

The Outreach Committee is hosting a conversation about outreach efforts at FWPC on Sunday, July 9, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. The more people who join the conversation, the more useful it will be. We really hope you will join us.

If you are not able to be part of the conversation but have thoughts you'd like to share, please email Kate Lewis Brown at johnkatebrown@comcast.net before July 9 so we can incorporate your thoughts into our discussion.