



The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Ten

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*From the
Pastor*



God is full of surprises. In the story of God's people, there have been many twists and turns, many mighty leaps forward followed by bone jarring reversals of fortune. It seems almost impossible that

humanity can survive the ride. However, with God all things are possible. The mountains are climbed, raging rivers are forded, the still waters are found and the heavenly banquet provided, but sometimes we are not quite sure how we made it. It only makes sense if we play our part trusting that God will provide all we need to accomplish what fits into the divine plan.

The story of Ruth is one where nothing seems to logically fit together. Elimelech and his family leave Bethlehem (which literally means "house of bread") because there is no bread and go to live amongst the enemies of God in Moab. Israelites are not supposed to marry Moabites, however, Elimelech and Naomi's sons marry Moabite women. There they find a home and food and live happily for ten years. Tragically the males of the family die and once again in desperation Elimelech's wife, Naomi, is forced to return home to find what meager provisions she can amongst her own people. She does the logical thing and tells her Moabite daughters-in-law to stay with their own people where they will be cared for. But, one of her daughters-in-law, Ruth, refuses to take the safe and sensible option. She says she will go with her mother-in-law and care for her even though it makes no sense. God provides and strangers become family. God works His purpose in a remarkable way because of their love for each other and their trust in God.

Congregations come together in surprising ways. Who would ever have predicted that people

from the Maryland, Iowa, California, New Jersey, the eastern panhandle of West Virginia and countless other areas of the world would gather together to worship, do mission, and accomplish ministry in Hedgesville, WV, that would somehow fit into God's larger plan for the world. The odds are long, but somehow it all works.

How are we to react to the totally improbable story in which we find ourselves? We could try to go our own way, write our own script, or create our own destiny. Doing so often leads to lonely and aimless lives. Life can be tough enough even when we face it together armed with faith in God and love for each other. Self-directed solo acts do not seem to stand up to the test of time.

We are to be thankful for the opportunities God gives us. We should be thankful for the people God puts in our lives to journey with us, for the strangers God puts in our pathways, and for places God sends us even if we have never heard of them before. God sets before us improbable and seemingly impossible tasks to accomplish. We should be thankful for the gifts and talents God provides us and for willing hearts to persevere and overcome the obstacles that come our way.

As we enter Stewardship season, look at all the ways that God has blessed you. As you contemplate what you will pledge to the Lord for the coming year, ask yourself, "How will I contribute to the work of God and the ministry of Falling Waters Presbyterian Church?" Be thankful and play your part for you never know when you, like Ruth, might become the great grandmother of a king.

Pastor John

Pray Without Ceasing

Bill, Billy and Eric Berg
 Gladys Burcker
 Kenny Cushwa
 Mary Hodges
 Irvin Horst
 Ruth Linton
 Pete Mekkelson
 Hobert Mullenax
 Bettie Jane Porterfield
 Sharron and Joe Reel
 Nancy Shipper
 Bea and Craig Taynton
 Bill Zombro



World Communion Sunday

October 6, 2019

World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration started by Presbyterians in the 1930's. It affirms the power of the Lord's Supper to unite the churches of Jesus Christ. Join us on October 1st as we join Presbyterians and other denominations all over the world to celebrate communion.



On World Communion Sunday, Presbyterians are challenged to support the annual **Peace and Global Witness Offering**. This offering is used in various ways to promote peacemaking in innovative ways to alleviate violence whether it is domestic or otherwise. This offering is one of the four offerings of national and international scope that we at Falling Waters Presbyterian church support. **It will be collected on October 13.**

The offering is divided so that 25% goes to our own Amazing Grace Fund, another 25% links congregations in ministries of peace and reconciliation throughout presbyteries and synods. 50% advocates for Christ's peace and justice in cultures of violence through education and Christian witness. Checks may be made payable to FWPC and marked "Peace" on the memo line.

Happy Birthday -October

October 1 Bill Berg, Jr.
 2 Crystal Mason
 8 Tina Sloan
 14 Lita Howard-Gois
 15 Lauren Ruble Kerns
 26 Trey Arvon
 26 Chad Cushwa
 29 Andrew Ruble



Wish These Friends a "Happy Birthday!"

Greeters for October

(Kathy Goodell- Head Elder)

6 Kathy, Rob and Tina Sloan
 13 Kathy, Becky and Sam Tobin
 20 Kathy, Sherry and Pat Dockeney
 27 Kathy, Joan and Don Campbell

It's Time for the BGB!

The Men's Big Greasy Breakfast is scheduled for October 19 at 9:00 a.m. Fellowship and food - can't get any better than that! If you are interested in volunteering to help, please let John McDonald know, 304-274-2372.



Nursery Attendants

October 6 Laura and Paul Peach
 October 13 Bill and Judith Lawrensen
 October 20 Lyn Hansen, Kelly deLong
 October 27 Renee Campbell, Gracie Cramer

How Can I Help?

Are you a new member or a new regular attendee of our congregation and looking for a way to volunteer your time and get more involved in the life of the church? Are you a long time member looking for a new way to serve? Here are just a few ways you can help:

Host a coffee hour.

Our church enjoys a spirited coffee hour after worship on Sunday mornings. It is a fun time to connect with our church family, catching up with established friends and getting to know our new members. Traditionally, coffee hour consists of a hot beverage in the winter and a cool one in the summer along with a cookie or donut. Some in our congregation, however, enjoy using this time to make favorite recipes or to experiment with new ones. Please remember that if you sign up, all that is expected of you is a simple treat to accompany the beverage. Those volunteering are responsible for set up and clean up. If you have any questions please call Kathy Goodell at 754-3607.



Become a Nursery Attendant:

Do you have a heart for toddlers? - volunteer once a quarter to watch the cutie patooties in the nursery during worship. There are always two attendants per Sunday. Parents usually bring their own diapers, wipes, etc. but there are also diapers in the downstairs women's restroom. If you would like to be included on the nursery attendant list, see Fawn, 754-8211.

Fix something.

Are you handy? The Maintenance Committee is always looking for willing hands to maintain our beautiful historic church, grounds and pavilion. Jobs currently needing attention are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. See John MacDonald to volunteer your services.

Help with the order of worship on Sunday mornings.

Pastor John is always looking for ways to get the laity (translation: the nonclergy - you and me) involved in the worship service. Are you willing to read scripture, collect the offering, sing in the choir, or be a greeter? Call the church office - 754-8211 - if you would like to assist with worship.

Make a visitor feel welcome.

We have all been newcomers at one time or another and know how it feels. Welcome our visitors with a smile and give them a Guest Bag located in the vestibule and on the small table directly inside the sanctuary. Show them where the bathrooms are located. If they have small children, accompany them to the nursery if they so desire. Invite them to stay for coffee hour.





We have **9 Sessional Committees** dedicated to overseeing the work and ministry of the church. Many hands make for light work. Assess where your talents can best be of use and get involved.

Christian Education oversees anything to do with the education of our members, i.e. children and adult Sunday School, the Sardines (teen youth group), Vacation Bible School, the church library, Confirmation or new member classes.



Congregational Nurture responds to members in crisis, coordinates visitation, and keeps the pastor informed of the congregation's needs through the Shepherd Program and the Prayer Chain.

Outreach concentrates its efforts on service in the community, seeking ways to reach out to the unchurched in our community, and church growth.

Fellowship and Recreation strives to keep our congregation connected through hospitality - covered-dish meals, picnics, after worship coffee hours and other special occasions.



Finance works with the Session on budgetary and financial matters. Formulates the church budget.

Maintenance is responsible for the church building and property, the pavilion and the manse. (excluding the cemetery) It recruits volunteers for snow removal, and grounds maintenance.

Mission coordinates the participation of our congregation with mission projects of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, by promoting special offerings and seeking opportunities to participate in overseas and local mission programs.



Mission Needs

Personnel serves as a liaison between the Session and church employees, reviews employment responsibilities and policies annually and conducts yearly reviews of all paid employees.



Worship Committee

Worship assists the pastor in the planning, evaluating, and enhancement of the worship service, prepares and sets up the elements for communion, coordinates greeters and ushers, supports the work of the church organist and choir director and makes arrangements for sanctuary decoration for special occasions and holidays.

These are just a few of the many ways you can make a difference. Our church has remained vibrant and alive for 260+ years because the enthusiastic ministry of all who enter it's doors. Help us continue to keep it that way.



Operation Christmas Child

Is our heart broken by the desperate plight of millions of children around the world? Whether they are refugees of civil war, survivors of a natural disaster or victims of extreme poverty, these little ones need to know that they are precious to God. That's the motivation behind **Operation Christmas Child**, the unique project of Samaritan's Purse that enables caring people to share God's love with hurting girls and boys in the far corners of the globe.

Plastic boxes will be provided with content guidelines inside. Fill it with toys and other presents, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope.



FWPC will again this year participate in OCC. Content guidelines are small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, hard candy, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, and watches. Do not include used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers or aerosol cans.

Shoe boxes will be collected on November 10.

Please donate \$9.00 for shipping costs. Watch your bulletin for further information.

October Movie Night



Please join us for **Movie Night** on October 19. We will eat dinner at 5:00 p.m. at Ruby Tuesday followed at 7:00 by "Time Line", a movie about archeology and time travel.

The Splendor of Christmas

Come and enjoy "The Splendor of Christmas 2" with The National Christian Choir and the NCC Children's Christmas Choir and Full Orchestra. The Frederick concert is earlier this year, Saturday, November 23, 2019, at International Community Church, 123 Byte Drive, Frederick, MD, at 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. On December 14 the Concert will be at Lampeter-Strasburg High School, Lancaster, PA, at 2:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Early Bird Special until October 7th for General Admission only at 6:00 p.m. is 2 for \$39.00. After October 7th the cost is \$22.00. Director's Circle Tickets are \$35.00 and Chairman's Circle Tickets are \$55.00.

Jeanie Cushwa can get you the tickets or you can order online at www.NationalChristianChoir.org or call by phone 240-344-4497.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit by hearing God's message through song.

Voices Needed

Cantata practice will be starting on Wednesday, October 2, at 7:00 p.m. We will be performing "Invitation to a Miracle" by Joseph M. Martin. We will practice every Wednesday (except Thanksgiving week) until the cantata performance on Sunday, December 15 during morning worship. Please come and join the choir for the cantata.



Trunk Or Treat



Please join us after the Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, October 27, in the back parking lot for a **Trunk or Treat** time for our children, with hot cider/punch to follow up at the pavilion. You can decorate your trunk anyway you desire – not necessarily scary, but any theme which catches your fancy (within reason, of course). Invite your grandchildren, nieces and nephews and/or your neighbor to join us for church and then fun and games that day. This will be a grand opportunity to interact with the future of our church, so don't be a stick-in-the-mud and come join the fun.

You are Invited

All women of the church are invited to a **lady's tea** at the Tea Cart in Berryville, VA, on October 17, 2019, at 12:30. If you wish to car pool, please be at the Grand Piano parking lot next to Hobby Lobby by 11:30. RSVP to Patty Runkles at 304-260-8445 by Oct. 13.



Paula's Community Day At FWPC

We would like to thank everyone who stepped up and volunteered on September 14. From baking cookies and cakes to manning the booths and helping to set up and/or pack up, our third annual Paula's Community Day at FWPC was a wonderful success. God blessed us with a beautiful day, although He tested our resolve with that quick shower in the morning.

We are still tallying up the expenses/receipts and will have a report to the congregation shortly. A meeting is planned for **Sunday, October 20**, after the service to talk about our strengths, weaknesses, changes and ideas for next year . . . just a little time to let the dust settle. Please mark your calendars and meet us in the corner of the Fellowship Hall that day.

With a grateful heart,
Renee Campbell

Fellowship Dinner

Please join us on October 20 immediately following worship for a Fellowship Dinner in recognition of Bettie Jane Porterfield. Bettie Jane has compiled a special book of our church history that she plans to present to the congregation that day. Please bring a covered-dish to share. (Please note the change in date from the regular Fellowship Dinner schedule. A coffee hour will follow worship on October 27.)

Shared Thoughts by Judith Lawrenson

One of my very favorite songs is "Autumn Leaves." It is a bit sad, but then sometimes the changing seasons and the passage of time can be a bit sad, can't it? Change often can be a cause for anxiety or even fear. Change brings unknowns. Change may bring threats. Change can also be something positive, but even then we may wonder: positive for whom? Well, let me just say that doing something a bit differently should not be argued against, but should be something that is open for discussion.

I hate to imagine where we would be without something changing in the way things were done. Imagine the first guy who said something like, "Maybe this meat would taste better if we roasted it over that warm flaming thing over there that Connie the Cave Woman just invented." Okay, I know that is extreme, but as the leaves turn into the beautiful color pallet that tells us that Mother Nature herself in bringing changes, maybe we could check out some things in our lives that could be improved upon.

I put it out there that doing things the way they have always been done is not bad or wrong if it works for the most people who are concerned with what is happening. We should go with what is best for all concerned, obviously, but we should also be looking at how people may feel who are not concerned directly in a decision of procedure. It is better to find out up front who exactly has a buy in. Grumbles and behind the back comments are not good in any circumstance let alone life in a small church.

On a personal level, I have just had a big birthday and I always look at that as a time to evaluate and at least try to make some positive changes. For me birthdays are like New Year's Eve to others. I make and actually write down some ideas.

I do NOT mean things like lose 10 pounds or don't spend time on Face book. I look to things like trying to do things in a way that might make a difference to someone else. I look at where I make donations, I look at my health, and yes, I look at gray hair and wrinkles, but not as a bad thing. I ask myself the question "How do you feel?" This covers a lot of territory if you think about it. I also always resolve to pray. I think of all of the things we do as Church, prayer is up there as the most important. We pray together, we pray individually, and we pray in groups. That is one thing that should never change!

Looking Back with Bettie Jane Porterfield and Ron Hansen

In 1987, Burr and Phillip Porterfield, were concerned about the condition of the original Falling Waters Cemetery that is located on Cunningham Drive. This was also the location of our original church founded in 1745. There was a huge amount of brush and overgrowth, and many of the tombstones had deteriorated. They decided they wanted to volunteer to clean up and rehab the cemetery, but they soon discovered that the amount of work that was needed far exceeded their expectations. They and their volunteer crew worked for six weeks removing 8 truck-loads of debris and overgrowth (tree stumps, etc). Once all the "clean-up" work was completed, they were overwhelmed by the degree of the decay of the old original tombstones.

Those tombstones bore the names of the original founders of Falling Waters Presbyterian Church and include tombstones marking the graves of the very earliest settlers of this land. They included the very earliest Porterfields. These graves of our founding members were from the time Revolutionary War when George Washington became our nation's first president.

Since the original church was located just yards from the cemetery, the bodies of the deceased could easily be moved to the cemetery. The earliest tombstones seemed to be shaped by hands with limited inscriptions; and much of the writing had decayed so it was barely legible.

A company that specialized in deciphering decaying tombstones was hired; and after the information from the stones was uncovered, work began re-cutting the stones to make them legible. New bronze plates with inscriptions were also placed beneath the historic slabs.

Because children commonly died at an early age, there are many children's graves in the old cemetery.

As the work continued, the Porterfields were running out of money; but they realized they could not stop their work. Burr Porterfield said, "This is the beginning of America here". He realized the old cemetery represents the beginning of our country. They had spent \$6,000 so far, and they had worked for many weeks. An additional year's worth of work would be required for completion of the restoration of the tombstones.