

The Sampler April 2011

From the
Pastor



Preparing for the Future

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11
And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, Matthew 28:18-19

On Sunday, April 3, at the called congregational meeting, the active members of Romney Presbyterian Church will have the opportunity to prepare for the future with hope for growth and expanded ministry to the community. The hope is framed in the Session recommendation: To offer Mr. Tom Friend \$125,000 for title to the Marsham St/Birch Lane corner lot adjacent to the manse with the understanding that Mr. Friend will pay closing costs.

It has been a long process getting to this moment in the life of the church. In April 2010, Mr. Friend let the church know that the property was for sale. Bob Allen, as Property Chair, took the lead in finding answers to questions from the Session, especially concerning asbestos removal and letting the rental tenants know about the sale. On August 2, 2010, an inspection found asbestos only in the basement which would greatly reduce demolition costs.

At the September 2010 Session meeting, the committee of Bob Allen, Bill Pownell, Don Cookman, Jim Miller, Susan Miller, John Mason and Bill Bowman was authorized to negotiate a purchase price for the property. At a delayed meeting on December 1, 2010, Mr. Friend said his asking price was \$195,000 and the least he would accept was \$165,000. In December, the Session agreed to offer Mr. Friend \$75,000, which was refused. Mr. Friend was invited to get in touch with the church in the future if his price changed.

On March 2, 2011, Mr. Friend contacted Bob Allen with a revised offer of \$145,000. At the March Session meeting, a counteroffer of \$100,000 was approved. Bob Allen talked with Mr. Friend who said it was too low but eventually agreed to \$135,000 if the offer was in writing. A Special Session meeting was called for Sunday, March 20, 2011, when the above recommendation was approved. Through Bob Allen, Mr. Friend agreed to \$125,000 with his paying closing costs, **understanding that the final decision would be made by a vote of the active members of the congregation.**

Is the land worth \$125,000 in today's housing market? Probably not. Mr. Friend views the property as rental with a livable structure after some repairs were made which he immediately stopped after accepting the offer.

What is the value of the land to Romney Presbyterian Church? In the immediate future, it can be utilized as off-street parking. In the distant future, it could become the site of a physical activities center or other structure for ministry to the community.

The immediate issue is obtaining the land before Mr. Friend invests in renovations and resumes building use as a rental property. While the monetary cost may not be recovered, the opportunity for future ministry is without measure. The vision for the future can include so many more possibilities with the additional area for expansion.

Please lift up the meeting in your prayers. If you are an active member, please be at the meeting after worship on Sunday, April 3.

The future of Romney Presbyterian Church is in your hands. Join me in thanking God for abundance and opportunity.

Pastor Barb

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NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Romney Presbyterian Church session held its stated meeting on Monday, March 14th.

Following is a summary of business conducted by the session:

- Chip Herriott will be contacting pastors and others to arrange for supply pastors to serve in the coming months for Pastor Barb's upcoming vacation days and sabbatical. Confirmation Sunday will be on May 15 with a reception after the worship service to welcome the newly confirmed youth.
- Worship service and Dinner on the Grounds at St. Luke's will be on May 22. Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. with dinner afterwards. Folks will do as before, bringing their picnic meal for their family (rather than a carry-in to share). We will also at that time have our Senior Recognition for those seniors who are graduating this year. Sunday School is cancelled for this day.
- Romney Presbyterian will participate in Heritage Fest again this year. In September, we will have a special worship service, followed by Tea on the Lawn.
- Pastor Barb ordered and received bulletin inserts to be used at the beginning of our regular worship services during Lent. These are responsive readings between the worship leader and our congregation with verses of "Lift High the Cross."
- Vacation Bible School is confirmed for the evenings of June 26-30, 2011.
- Youth Group Director- A new search will be conducted for this position.
- The young adult Sunday School class is meeting in Fellowship Hall for more room. New members are welcome to join! Linda Shriver served at the class teacher.
- The Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, April 24, 2011.
- The church has received commitment from the membership to purchase fifty (50) padded metal chairs. The project will proceed with an honor/memory plaque being hung listing those who donated the chairs. John and Maggie Mason are chairing the project.
- The chair of the Nominating Committee will be Nancy Bowman with Jane Slocum serving on the committee as a session member.
- The session approved the transfer of membership of Linda Reece to the Springfield Presbyterian Church.
- A building use request made by Eric Phillips was approved for June 17-18, 2011. The session approved the Dr. Rev. Katherine Jackson to perform the wedding of Lara Detrick and Eric Phillips on June 18, 2011.
- The following session members were assigned church accounts to audit. Town Church: Nancy Bowman & Cindy Nester; Sunday School: Linda Shriver & Vida Simon; Memorial Fund: Jane Slocum & Anne Hill; Presbyterian Women: Jeannie Hampton & Vida Simon; Trust Fund: John Mason & Nancy Bowman; St. Luke Chapel & St. Luke Cemetery: Bill Pownell & Kathy Kuykendall
- Dennis Whitacre, of Stephen's City, performed work on the sound system and further explained the operation of the equipment to the committee at a cost of \$225.00.
- Corbin's Electric performed work on the heat pump for Fellowship Hall.

Treasurer To Date Snapshot February 2011

Total Income	\$9,417.91	Account Balance
Total Expenses	6,673.02	NOW Account - \$22,885.26
Net Income	2,744.89	

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The Afternoon Circle - aka "The Brown Baggers" Front row, Magdelene Sitar and Pat York; back row, l. to r.: Bonnie Long, Jeannie Hampton, Ada McIntyre, and Jane Wright Slocum. - met recently in the Church library for our monthly meeting. We meet in the library at 12:00 noon on the second Tuesday of each month, bring our bag lunch (hence "The Brown Baggers" title) and are now studying the Book of Revelations. Come and join us; all are welcome.



Congratulations To Trevor Shaffer on winning first place in the Romney Elementary School Fifth Grade Social Studies Fair. Trevor's theme for his project was "Puppy Mills." When he was doing Page duty in Charleston on the 27th of February, he got to see two Bills being passed and one of the Bills was legislation against puppy mills. What a coincidence, huh?

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011. Mrs. Kuykendall's Sunday school class will fill and hide eggs for the younger Sunday school children. We will have opening exercises in Fellowship Hall as usual, and then everyone will go to class until the eggs are hidden. The hunt will take place in the Sanctuary if it's cold or wet outside. If the weather is nice, the eggs will be hidden outside. We look forward to seeing you Easter morning!

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for June 26-30, 6-8:00 p.m.



Once again it is time to remember past saints and honor living ones. Easter lilies will be available at \$8.50 each to be placed in the sanctuary before Easter, culminating in a well decorated sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Sign-up forms to purchase the lilies will be available in the vestibule for the next few Sundays. The forms can be placed in the collection box in the vestibule or returned to the church office. Deadline is **Sunday, April 17th**.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP MEAL

for David Watterworth

Saturday, April 16, 2011

at 12:00 noon

Mark your Calendar for the following Easter Celebrations



Call the church office if you are planning on attending the
CHRISTIAN SEDER DINNER
April 21, 2011
6:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

Romney First Baptist Church
April 24, 2011
7:00 a.m.

Speaker – Reverend Barbara R. Johnson

Romney Presbyterian Church
100 West Rosemary Lane
Romney, WV 26757-1632

Non-Profit Organization
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Return Service Requested