

The Sampler

December 2011
Co-Editors-
Diane Crane
John Mason

Special points of interest:

- Which Future
- Congregational Meeting Information
- Sunday School News

Inside this issue:

Session Info.	2
Congregational Meeting	3
Sunday School News	4
Recipe of Month	5
Nurse's Corner	6
Christmas Gift Idea	7

Which Future

The titles of my page since April have included the word future. April – Preparing for the Future, May – Paying for the Future, June – The Immediate Future, October – The Continuing Future, and November – The Changing Future.

This month is titled Which Future in recognition of the variety of ways in which we mark when the future begins. Advent marks the new liturgical year which started on Sunday, November 27. The calendars I bought for my grandchildren all mark January 1 as the new year. Unless some urgent church business arises, the Session ended their year in November and will start the new one in January. While they will be having a break, students and teachers all know their year runs from August to May or June, depending on how many snow days occur.

In the pool area of the Wellness Center, there is the following quote by Maria Robinson: Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending. So there does not have to be a defined start to the future. The future can be defined as the ending each one of us creates.

Paul tells us this newness is part of being a Christian. *So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!* 2 Corinthians 5:17

I love Mary's song – the Magnificent – to put me in the Christmas spirit while it reminds me about the true meaning of the future.

*"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."* Luke 1:46-55

However you calculate when the new future begins, may our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ journey with you every step of the way to remind you that LOVE is the most important definer of the future.

May the joys of this season be part of every day of your future!

Pastor Barb

NEWS FROM THE SESSION

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, November 13, 2011 and the Session held its stated meeting on Monday November 14, 2011. Following is a summary of business conducted by the Session:

- The congregation affirmed Session approval of ending ministry at Indian Heights Chapel.
- The deed to Indian Heights Chapel will be presented to God's Word Fellowship at no cost with the understanding that they will pay any legal fees associated with the transfer of the property. In the future, if the chapel is no longer used for a Christian religious purpose, Romney Presbyterian Church will have the first option for buying back this property at the selling cost (\$0.00) plus improvements.
- Children's Church: November 20, 2011 and December 11, 2011. (Cindy Nester along with her teens will conduct Children's church in December.)
- December 4, 2011 - Annual Business Meeting
- December 11, 2011, will be the Christmas Play directed by Donna Baker. The committee will check with Donna for what she may need in the way of assistance. Anyone willing to lend a hand in helping during Sunday School is welcome.
- The next Christian Education committee meeting will be November 20, 2011.
- Christmas Joy Offering Moment for Mission will be Sunday, December 11, with dedication of offering on Sunday, December 18. Jane Slocum will give Moment for Mission.
- The Shared Mission Support of \$3000 will be sent to Presbytery.
- The Haiti Education Fund of \$1250 will be sent.
- Please send address and email corrections for the 2012 directory to the office.
- The Romney Ministerial Association be given the \$750 with no restrictions.
- The Youth are authorized to collect Souper Bowl funds starting in January 2012.
- Session committees will not be meeting in December.
- The Youth Group will provide the Christmas Eve service beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Elder Installation was scheduled for Sunday, January 8, 2012.
- Communion was scheduled for January 15, 2012 and February 19, 2012.
- Vida Simon was elected church treasurer for 2012.
- Kathy Kuykendall was elected Clerk of Session for 2012.
- Krista Van Nostran and Mark Hare were approved as our supported missionaries for 2012.
- Starting in January 2012, the Session will meet on the second Sunday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- The Session warmly welcomes Beth Herriott to the Elder Class of 2013.

October Financial Spotlight

Total Income -\$23,391.73 Expenses-\$11,716.09 Net Income-\$11,675.64

Minutes of Congregational Meeting
Romney Presbyterian Church
Romney, West Virginia
November 13, 2011

After being duly announced on Sunday, October 16, 23, 30, and November 6, 2011, Moderator Reverend Barbara R. Johnson, pastor of this church, called the congregational meeting to order on Sunday, November 13, 2011, at 12:06 p.m., in the sanctuary, immediately following morning worship.

The moderator opened with prayer. The purpose of this congregational meeting was to affirm session approval of ending ministry at Indian Heights Chapel and to vote on selling the property to God's Word Fellowship.

Rev. Johnson stated that she, as pastor of the church, was moderator of the congregation and that the clerk of session, Kathy L. Kuykendall, was the secretary of the congregation. The secretary declared that a quorum was present. The minutes of the previous congregational meeting, held on Sunday, September 18, 2011, were read and approved by the session at its October 10, 2011, stated meeting. There was no request for the secretary to read the minutes aloud.

The moderator recognized Bill Pownell, chair of the Property Committee to proceed with the business at hand. Elder Pownell began with asking the congregation to affirm Session approval of ending ministry at Indian Heights Chapel. Following a short discussion, the congregation unanimously voted in favor of affirming Session approval to end our ministry at Indian Heights Chapel.

The second recommendation to the congregation was to sell Indian Heights Chapel to God's Word Fellowship. If the chapel is no longer used for a Christian religious purpose, Romney Presbyterian Church will have the first option for buying back this property at the selling cost plus improvements. Elder Pownell asked for discussion on the recommendation.

John Dan Sitar moved to amend the recommendation to give the God's Word Fellowship the Indian Heights Chapel at no cost with the understanding that they would pay any legal fees plus \$10.00 associated with the transfer of the property. Ray Stein seconded the motion. The congregation was split on the motion with the majority voting to approve the amendment. Following discussion, the congregation then voted on the recommendation as amended. The congregation approved the "sale" of Indian Heights Chapel by voice vote.

There being no further business, the congregational meeting adjourned in due order at 12:28 p.m. with prayer by the moderator.

Some members of the congregation were moved to tears on the completion of the transfer.

Our Church is a Giving Congregation

Special Offerings during the church year

1. Great Hour of Sharing
2. Pentecost Offering
3. Peacemaking Offering
4. Davis-Stuart, Inc.
5. Joy Gift Offering
6. Sunnyside and Massenetta

A special notice about Blanket Offering—\$355.00

The calendar of events now includes: The youth group leading the Souper Bowl Event for 2012.

The church also supports the Annual Christmas Food Box Program. This project provides 300 Christmas meals for the needy of Hampshire County.

From Commitment and Witness

Just A Reminder: The **2011 Hampshire County Christmas Food Box Program** will be **Saturday, December 10th**. The box preparations will begin at 8am at the Romney Army Reserve Building, off of Rt. 28. Those who will be picking up at County Pride, please meet there at 6:30am. We appreciate all the help and monetary donations to this worthwhile community project. We give glory to God for His blessing with this activity that shows the community His great love. John & Maggie Mason

Sunday School



Our Sunday School class (Adult) is studying the Apostle's Creed. There are thirteen lessons in which we discuss each section of the Apostle's Creed, and we watch a DVD in which others discuss the various sections of the Apostle's Creed. Each episode starts with several questions to get us thinking about the material we are to study. Then scriptures are used to help us in our study. This will be followed by a short story taken from someone's experiences and ends with suggestions on ways in which we can implement our lesson in helping others.

Vida Simon, Teacher

You probably missed the **TREE DECORATING** in the Fellowship Hall. If this is true you really missed a great time of fellowship and fun. The children did a first class job of making and placing the decorations for the tree. And you missed the snacks.

Children's Christmas Program
"Mary Remembers"
December 11, 2011
9:45 a.m.
Everyone is invited

Presbyterian Women News

The PW Circles will be meeting on Tuesday, December 13 in the Church Library. The Afternoon Circle at noon and Evening Circle at 7:00 p.m.

We will be studying Confessing the Beatitudes Lesson #4 in the Study book— "Honored are those who are famished and parched for Justice". Carole Eversole will host the Evening Circle and Vida Simon will present the lesson.

For those of you who are collecting items for the Women who are housed at the Hampshire/Mineral County Crisis Center in Keyser, you can bring your items to the December Circle Meetings. The "Need List" includes personal care items like soap, brushes, combs, toothpaste and toothbrushes, emery boards, tampons, Kleenex, shampoo, etc. The Women really enjoy receiving items in a "gently used" handbag.

Also, Maggie Mason would appreciate your input on how to show our appreciation to our two missionaries at Christmas from the money collect at the OWLS Luncheon in September.

Recipe of the Month

Colorful Kielbasa

1 can (10 3/4 ounces) condensed cream of celery soup, undiluted

1 1/2 Cups water

1 Tablespoon butter or margarine

1 pound smoked kielbasa, cut into 1/2 inch pieces

3/4 cup uncooked long grain rice

1 package (10 ounces) frozen peas

1 jar (4 1/2 ounces) sliced mushrooms, drained

1 cup (4 ounces) cheddar cheese

In a skillet, combine soup, water and butter. Bring to a boil. Add kielbasa and rice. Reduce heat: cover and simmer about 18 minutes or until rice is almost tender. Stir in peas and mushrooms. Cover and simmer 15 minutes or until is tender and peas are heated through. Sprinkle with cheese; cover and let stand until melted.

Yield: 4-6 servings

Submitted by Nicole Pownell

Thanks to all that provided food and service for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. A great time was had by all. You can see the mural by the children hanging up in the Hall.

Thank you all for what you have done for us. The ladies of the church, for the meals you've sent, all of the prayers, cards, and phone calls! We want too thank Pastor Barb for the hospital visits. Carole Eversole and Phyllis Messick, for running errands and being our private chauffeurs. May God bless you all. Dick and Ada McIntyre

P.S. Our family thanks you all for being our family away from home!

About and Beyond

Wasn't it nice to have Kevin, Christie and young Max Stein here in church. Max drew lots of attention in the nursery. One person left congregation early to go see Max.

Congratulations...To Alison Brandon and Andrew Ginder on the birth of their son, Eli Brandon Ginder. Proud grandparents are George and Sue Brandon.

To Jarrett and Crystal Rinker on the arrival of their daughter, Spencer Bella. Proud grandparents are Steve and DeeDee Rinker and great grandparents are Gary and Kaye Strawn.

To Terry and Heather Stein on the arrival of their daughter, Adelaide Evelyn. Proud grandparents are Ray and Barb Stein.

Prayer Concerns...Sally Kuykendall—knee surgery

Magdene Sitar-knee surgery

Jeannie Hampton –eye Surgery

Bob Allen-torn ligaments

Dick and Ada McIntyre-home recovery



The month of December brings to mind the thoughts of many things. For most of us the first thing we think about when we think of December is Christmas- the birth of a baby in a humble manger that changed the world for mankind. My favorite Christmas program is the "Charlie Brown Christmas" by Charles Schultz. The part of this show that always gets to me is when Charlie Brown, who is very frustrated with the commercialization of Christmas asks, "Does anyone know the real meaning of Christmas?" and Linus replies, "I do." Linus then proceeds to walk onto the stage and tell the Christmas story in a way that only a child can do. I hope we can all hold onto the real meaning of Christmas this year and always.

December also brings shorter days, colder weather and the commercial side of Christmas. Please remember this December to slow down, spend time with family, friends and loved ones. December is the month of love-- God's love for us made flesh and blood and our love for each other.

Here are some things to do this December to spread love to others:

Smile at people when you meet them on the street and greet them with a friendly hello.

Take time to visit someone that is unable to get out. Take some cookies and hot chocolate and have an impromptu winter picnic with them.

Send Christmas cards to our soldiers stationed abroad.

Volunteer to work at the food pantry or make a donation to the local food pantry.

Take some time for **you** each day to sit and reflect.

Volunteer at a homeless shelter or find out if there is something you can donate to them. Many shelters are asking for donations of gloves, hats/toboggans and socks.

Visit a nursing home, perhaps taking some friends along and sing Christmas carols for the residents.

Read the Christmas story to children in your neighborhood.

Invite a friend or neighbor to come to church or Sunday School with you.

Help someone decorate that is unable to do it by themselves.

Give away smiles and hugs freely. They cost you nothing and make someone else feel good.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. And remember...God loves you. Pass it on.

In Christian love,

Beth



Memorials for Bill Bowman

Ed and Sarah Morgret, Lawrence and Rosslyn Selzer, Betty Rice, Janet Buckley, Romney High School Class of 1954, Law Office of Buchbauer and McGuire, P.C. and Liz Gedling.

Memorials for 9-11 Victims

Bladen and Sally Lowndes

2nd Annual Help Your Neighbor Fund Book Sale. Because of your support, we were able to bring in over \$2,000 for local emergency assistance. Our thanks to all of the generous folks who contributed books. Thanks again for your support!

Blessings to all,

Teresa Reddick, Outreach Coordinator-Catholic Charities WV

Dates for the **Toys from the Heart Store** in Fellowship Hall at Romney First UMC are as follows: Beginning the week of December 6th. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week during regular Food Pantry Hours, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Tis' the Season for the Light up a Life Tree in Hampshire County. Mark your calendars now to attend the annual tree lighting ceremony for Light up a Life on Tuesday, December 6. Watch for more details in the church bulletin.

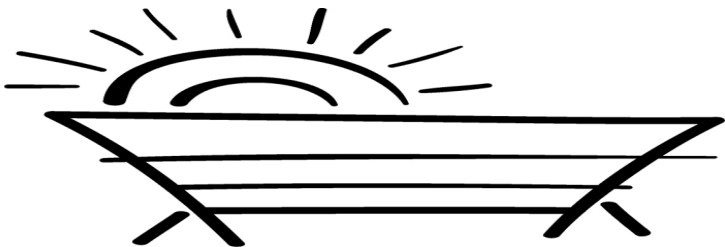


AN IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is truly right around the corner! IT is time to waste money on all kinds of "sit-arounds" and other items that we don't really need. Wait! It doesn't have to be that way! Why not give gifts in the real spirit of Christmas? Give a gift to Heifer International in honor of your loved ones. This is a wonderful idea for teach gifts. Most people would rather have an honorarium that will actually help someone than to have almost anything else. You can get a notification card for every \$10 you give.

Heifer International is an organization that gives animals—everything from bees to heifers—to people in extremely poor communities. They also teach the recipients how to care for, breed, and use their animals to support themselves. Recipients must also agree to share the offspring of their animals with their neighbors. What a wonderful way to fight the scourge of poverty!

Cards are in the vestibule. Please give this Christmas to honor Christ's children.



CHRISTMAS
SCHEDULE

DATES TO REMEMBER

Annual Business Meeting — December 4 at 12:05 p.m.
Christmas Food Boxes — December 10 at 8:00 a.m.
Children's Christmas Program — December 11 at 9:45 a.m.
Adult Choir Cantata — December 18 at 11:00 a.m.
Youth Christmas Eve Program — December 24
Christmas Carol Sing — December 25 at 11:00 a.m.

Romney Presbyterian Church
110 West Rosemary Lane
Romney, WV 26757

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID-Permit #12
Romney, WV 26757

The Sampler
December 2011

Return Service Requested

Back issues of the Sampler are available on our Website www.romneypresbyterianchurch.org.
Church Office Phone—304-822-5083 **Email**-office@romneypresbyterianchurch.org