

The Sampler

Another Choice, Maybe

FEBRUARY 2012

Co-Editors

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Special points of interest:

- Sunday School News
- History of the church

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For many years, some Presbyterians have been trying to organize within the Presbyterian Church (USA) a group with power. You may have heard of the Confessing Church movement, the New Wineskins, the Presbyterian Coalition, and others. The newest group, the Fellowship of Presbyterians, announced a new reformed denomination – the Evangelical Covenant Order (ECO)– which will be comprised of dissident PC(USA) congregations. At its January 18-20 gathering in Orlando, the group unveiled its theology and polity documents and announced it had applied for membership in the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

Already twenty-four leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – many of whom met in Orlando during the gathering which launched the new Reformed body – have written a letter urging reconciliation between the denomination and the dissident group. Those signing the letter include presbytery and synod execs, seminary presidents, directors of mission organizations, members of boards of directors of several institutions, and other Presbyterian leaders involved in our national church presence.

A called meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery in April will consider the GRACIOUS SEPARATION POLICY whose Preamble states: “These guidelines begin with fervent prayer that they will never be needed. If they should be, then both the congregation making the request and Shenandoah Presbytery (“presbytery”) will have failed in their shared responsibility to achieve the reconciliation and the unity to which scripture calls us. Nevertheless, in a time of uneasiness, rumors, and strongly held convictions, we may find ourselves faced with the unpleasant and tragic necessity of negotiating a separation between sisters and brothers in Christ. Should that time come, we would have also failed our vows if we did not carry out that process “decently and in order” with as little dishonor to the Church of Jesus Christ as possible.”

If you want more information about Shenandoah Presbytery’s policy or the ECO, I can share what I know and direct you to other resources.

I want to leave you with this from the 2011-2013 PC(USA) Book of Order F1.01b:

The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God’s mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God’s love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ. Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God’s mission.

Other than love for all God’s creation, is there really another choice?

Yours in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,
Pastor Barb

NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Romney Presbyterian Church session held its first meeting of 2012 on Sunday, January 8th. Following is a summary of business conducted by the session:

- * Romney Presbyterian Church session meetings for 2012 will be held on the third Sunday of each month beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the church library.
- * Mary Glenn was approved as assistant church treasurer.
- * Reminder: The current session each year will serve as the church trustees.
- * Committee Structure: The following committee structure was determined for 2012:
 - Christian Education:** Chair – Linda Shriver
Meeting: 4th Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
Session Member: Kathy Kuykendall
 - Commitment & Witness:** Chair – Vida Simon
Meeting: 1st Sunday at 12:30 p.m.
Session Members: Beth Herriott & John Mason
 - Worship & Planning:** Chair – Jeannie Hampton
Meeting: 1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Session Members: Vida Simon
 - Property & Service:** Co-Chairs – Anne Hill & Bill Pownell
Meeting: 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
- * Individuals approved as offering counters were: Gayle Allen, Nancy Bowman, Mike and Sheri Coleman, Paula and Don Cookman, Diane and Gary Crane, Mary Glenn, Beth and Chip Herriott, Sally Lowndes, John and Margritt Mason, Bill and Nicole Pownell, Vida Simon, John Dan Sitar, Magdalene Sitar, Jane Slocum, Sue Voit, Sandy and Dennis Wolenski.
- * Raymond Stein was approved as the Key Church Communicator.
- * Don Cookman, George Evans, Jason Hicks, and Garry Long were appointed as the Trust Fund Committee.
- * The 2011 Clerk of Session, Treasurer and Pastor were granted permission to complete the year-end statistical report.
- * The 4-cents-a-meal collection in January will be designated to Souper Bowl.
- * The following commissioners were named for the 2012 Presbytery meetings:

Sat., Feb. 11, 2012	Mt. Olive, Hinton VA	Kathy L. Kuykendall
Tue., May 8, 2011	Lexington, Lexington, VA	Anne Hill
Sat., Aug. 25, 2021	Mt. Carmel, Steeles Tavern, VA	Beth Herriott
Tue., Nov.13, 2012	Unknown	To Be Determined
- * Annual Business Meeting Proposed Change: The Session will work to prepare a written annual report of the congregation to be distributed in mid-November in preparation of the December Congregational meeting. This written report will replace the traditional verbal reports presented by the various groups in the church.
- * The next stated session meeting will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2012, starting at 1:30 p.m. in the church library.

December Financial Spotlight

Total Income—\$12,875.35 Expenses—\$12,731.67 Net Income—\$143.68

Faith Community Nurse Corner

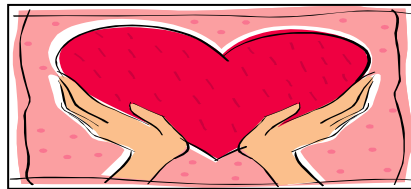
Just a few reminders this month...

It is flu season! Remember to keep a supply of tissues, aspirin/Tylenol, Jell-O, ginger ale, chicken broth or bouillon, crackers and some sports drink in the house just in case. If you find yourself with the flu, and are having vomiting and/or diarrhea, try to get 4-6 ounces of clear liquid down every hour you are awake. It doesn't take much to get you dehydrated and then you really feel bad. For the achy feeling, take aspirin or Tylenol (which ever you and/or your doctor prefer) and rest. Your body needs a lot of rest to fight this old bug.

If you have high blood pressure and want to know how you are doing or if you just want to know what your blood pressure is, remember I am in the Mary Bell Foote room during the coffee hour taking blood pressures. Remember hypertension (high blood pressure) does not have any symptoms in most cases. Risk factors for hypertension are family history of hypertension, overweight, excess salt intake, excess alcohol intake, age, diabetes, and sedentary lifestyle.

February is National Heart Month sponsored by the American Heart Association. They are having programs to get out information on signs and symptoms of heart disease, heart attack and stroke. They are also encouraging people to become certified in CPR. Did you know there is now an accepted form of CPR that does not require you to do mouth to mouth breathing? Look for information coming on this and other heart related topics during February.

Faithfully yours,
Beth



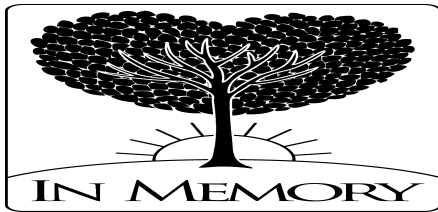
**SUNDAY SCHOOL
NEWS**

The 3rd grade Sunday School class is blessed by the participation of Emily Pownell, Ella Staley, Maggie Slocum and Catherine Corbin. The class lessons are based on the lectionary scripture. At the conclusion of the lesson, students participate in an activity that reinforces the concepts learned. These young ladies really like the out of the seat, hands-on games. The top three games/lessons are Mrs. Dolly's ever so popular "The Touch" board game, the rock game, and in the tomb-out of the tomb.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. **Proverbs 22:6**

Scott Staley, Teacher
Karina Dolly, Teacher

EVENING PW CIRCLE will be meeting in the church library on February 14 at 7:00 p.m. Patricia Taylor will have the study on Lesson 6. Mary Glenn will be our host.



Memorials in Memory of Bill Bowman

Given by

Julie Davis

Memorials in Memory of Mayor Bill Hicks

Given By

Carl and Evelyn Boice

Friends and family recuperating....

Sue Staley - recuperating

Sue Voit - broken wrist

Christy Parks and Lori Heatwole families—deaths

College students - encouragement

Hampshire Count School personnel and children

Our Nation



The prayer

OF THE RIGHTEOUS
IS POWERFUL
AND EFFECTIVE.

James 5:16, NRSV

**Lenten Luncheons
First United Methodist Church
12:00 noon**

Program Theme: *The Amazing Names of the Messiah*

Feb 22 Ash Wednesday – Roy Knight “What’s In A Name?” Romney First United Methodist Church

Feb 29 Kenneth Caplinger “A Guiding Name: Wonderful Counselor” Ebenezer/Springfield Methodist & Episcopal Church

Mar 7 Ron DiCillia “A Powerful Name: Mighty God” Church of the Nazarene

Mar 14 Barbara Johnson “A Timeless Name: Everlasting Father” Romney Presbyterian Church

Mar 21 Jack Hanks “A Comforting Name: Prince of Peace” First Baptist Church

Mar 28 Jim Mou “A Life-Saving Name: Savior” Assembly of God Church

Apr 4 Father Joe Augustine “What Do You Call Him?” Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church

THE WONDERFUL HISTORY OF THE SPIRIT'S MINISTRY IN ROMNEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Compiled by—Rev. Jerry Foust

I have been discovering the rich spiritual heritage of our church! Romney Presbyterian Church was actually born in the First Great Awakening of the 1740s.

In 1960 Anne Pancake (with research help from then candidate for the ministry Joseph Pancake) wrote an enthralling and revealing history of our church. Here are some highlights from that and other sources.

As early as 1740, Presbyterians from “The South Branch Valley” worshiped under the watchful eyes of Native Americans. The Mt. Bethel congregations (including Romney, Springfield, Frankfort [now Ridgeley] and Ft. Ashby) requested a pastor from the Donegal Presbytery in 1782. The Rev. John Lyle organized the pastorate, in 1782. The Romney congregation worshiped in the courthouse until 1824.

In 1812, Col. Andrew Woodrow deeded land to the Romney Congregation on the southwest corner of High Street and Gravel Lane, (near the present Fire Hall) “for the twofold purpose of erecting a church thereon, and for a burial ground for the dead.” (The old grave markers from that location are now at Indian Mound Cemetery.) Construction of the church on that land was delayed for several years because of “A little difference.” I wonder what the “difference” was?

The old church was finally completed and dedicated by the Rev. William Henry Foote, as he began his first pastorate, in 1824. Sunday School, which continues to this day, was begun in 1825. An 1860 article offers this colorful description of the old church:

“It was a plain old brick edifice. There were plain workmen and plainer architects in the days it was planned and built...and who does not remember the great wide aisle taking up one half of the room just in the middle, and then the wide old unpainted pine side pews: and the great tall box for a pulpit—the little round window at the back of the pulpit—the great beam reaching across the middle of the room, holding together, strengthening the upper part of the walls. And oh! The sacramental occasion—in the aisle is placed one long table, covered with snow-white linen reaching from near the door to within a few feet of the front of the pulpit. At the head of the table are placed the Sacramental plates and decanter, containing the bread and wine, the divine emblems.”

There was “a great revival of religion” in 1832, and 243 names were added to the church! As a consequence of this sudden growth, the Romney congregation separated and became Romney Presbyterian Church.

Joseph C. Pancake purchased the half-acre lot for the present church in 1859. The present church was constructed in 1860, and the Presbytery met here in 1860. During the Civil War, the sanctuary was used for a hospital, and perhaps for a stable.

To be continued in next newsletter.

When Jesus died on the cross, He was thinking of you!

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated the Bible like we treat our cell phone?
What if we carried it around in our purse or pockets?
What if we flipped through it several times a day?
What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
What if we gave it to our children as a gift?
What if we used it when we traveled?
What if we used it in case of emergency?
This is something to make you go...hmm...where is my Bible?
Oh, and one more thing.
Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.
Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities?
And no dropped calls!



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