

# The Sampler February 2010

From the  
Pastor



## The Ultimate Gift

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

Some of the best gifts of the Christmas holiday season are the specials shown on television. The Hallmark Channel, ABC Family and Lifetime usually show my favorite repeats and also have some that I have never seen before.

This past December a movie was shown that was new for most people and really got them talking. The Ultimate Gift, a feature film released in 2007 to movie theaters, was shown several times on television in 2009. I know I saw parts of it over several days. I tracked it down as a feature film and now own the DVD so I can watch the entire film. In the process, I learned that it was based on the book by Jim Stovall. Not only is the film and book a wonderful story, but the author also exemplifies hope and goodness in a world of challenges.

Jim Stovall lost his sight from a degenerative eye disease at age 29, has been a national champion Olympic weightlifter, the President of the Emmy Award-winning Narrative Television Network, and a highly sought after author and platform speaker. Steve Forbes, president and CEO of Forbes magazine, says, "Jim Stovall is one of the most extraordinary men of our era." After writing several nonfiction books, the first titled *You Don't Have To Be Blind To See*, he created the fictional work *The Ultimate Gift* and its sequel *The Ultimate Life*.

The liturgical season of Lent begins on February 17, Ash Wednesday. Lent is the time of year to purge whatever gets in the way of following God into the new resurrection reality of Christ. It is a time for serious individual reflection as well as a time of solemn assembly. Repentance is a key discipline of this holy season which culminates with the glorious celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

During the season of Lent, I will be using *The Ultimate Gift* and *The Ultimate Life* as resources to present modern day reality connected to the Revised Common Lectionary scriptures. I am very excited about this preaching opportunity because whenever I think of the Ultimate Gift, the very familiar scripture quotation at the top of this page comes to mind.

God was, is and will be the Ultimate Giver. The Giver of life, love and joy.

During January, the Sunday School opening has been exploring the story of Noah and the flood. After the creation of the world and the expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the separation of humans from God became so extreme that God chose to flood away everything on earth except those in the Ark. After that event, God said "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." Genesis 9:8-11

Lent is the time to reflect about our relationship with the Ultimate Gift Giver who got so frustrated with His creation that God was moved to destroy it but later gave His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as redemption for our sins. God gave us Love so we might know Joy.

During Lent, take time to thank God for loving YOU so very much!

*Pastor Barb*



## NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The session held its January meeting on Sunday January 10, 2010 in conjunction with the annual officers' retreat. At the meeting, the session made plans for the year. Chip Herriott was elected Clerk of Session, Nancy Bowman was appointed Church Treasurer, and Mary Glenn was appointed Assistant Treasurer. Ray Stein was appointed Key Church Communicator for 2010. The four sessional committees elected chairmen and set their meeting times as follows:

- Christian Education: Cindy Nester, Chairmen; other session member— Kathy Kuykendall Linda Shriver; meetings—fourth Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m.
- Commitment and Witness: Margritt Mason and Nancy Bowman, co-chairmen; other session member—Jane Wright Slocum; meetings—first Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m.
- Property and service: Bob Allen, chairman; other session members—Donald H. Cookman and Billy Pownell; meetings—first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- Worship and Planning: Vida Simon, chairman; other session members—Chip Herriott and Sally Lowndes; meetings—first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Also at the meeting:

- The regular monthly (stated) session meetings were set for the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- A copy of an Overture to Presbytery from the Waynesboro church was received.
- Jane Wright Slocum, with the assistance of Ada McIntyre, agreed to organize the March 17, 2010 Lenten Lunch hosted by the church since Nancy Bowman would be out of town.
- Mission Study Questions were received from Shenandoah 2010, the presbytery's mission study committee. The session was asked to have all session members answer the questions, compile the answers, and return them to the committee. Shenandoah 2010 will be conducting the mission study for the presbytery. After the completion of the mission study, the search will begin for a new General Presbyter.

The following actions were taken:

- John Dan Sitar, Magdalene Sitar, Gayle Allen, Tim Allen, Bill Bowman, Beth Herriott, Sue Voit, John Mason, Mary Glenn, Nicole Pownell, Sandy Wolenski, Dennis Wolenski, Mike Coleman, Paula Cookman, Bob Allen, Donald H. Cookman, Chip Herriott, Margritt Mason, Nancy Bowman, Sally Lowndes, Cindy Nester, Jane Wright Slocum, Billy Pownell, Linda Shriver, and Vida Simon were approved as offering counters.
- The following were elected commissioners to presbytery:
  - Saturday February 13, 2010, Spring Hill Church, Staunton, VA—Margritt Mason
  - Tuesday May 10, 2010, Cooks Creek Church, Harrisonburg, VA—Vida Simon
  - Saturday August 21, 2010, Franklin Church, Franklin, WV—Billy Pownell
  - Tuesday November 9, 2010, location to be announced—Nancy Bowman
- Garry , Clerk of Session, Church Treasurer, and Church Secretary were granted permission to complete and submit the Year End Statistical Report.

### Treasurer Monthly Snapshot

#### December 2009

Total Income - \$12,637.88

Total Expenses - \$11,754.20

Net Income - \$833.68

#### December 2009

Account Balances

Money Market - \$13,269.94

Now Account - \$27,833.68



The youth once again are participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. They have been giving a moment for mission on Sunday mornings prior to Super Bowl Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. The youth are having a competition between the two teams that are going to the Super Bowl. Church goers can put their money or can goods in the soup pot that has their favorite Super Bowl Team. Then we will follow the team that will win the Romney Presbyterian Souper Bowl. All donations will be given to the Romney Food Pantry. On February 7<sup>th</sup> will be a Souper Bowl Tailgate Party from 12:05 to 2:00 p.m. for the youth and others that would like to join them. The youth would like to thank you for all your support.

## Spotlight on Youth

Trevor Shaffer, 9- year-old (10 on February 17<sup>th</sup>) son of Brian and Dr. Heather Shaffer and great-grandson of Jeannie Hampton, is a relative newcomer to Hampshire County. Born in Fairmont, WV, Trevor and his family moved to Alabama while his mom studied veterinary medicine; when she finished her studies, the family moved to Slanesville, where they now live. A fourth grader at Romney Elementary School, Trevor particularly enjoys lunch, recess, and free days when he and his school friends can play “Musical Freeze”; however, school is far from all play for Trevor—he currently excels in his studies and has been placed in gifted-level classes. Outside school he is involved in many sports—he plays basketball, football, fall and spring baseball, and fall soccer. It’s pretty clear that Trevor enjoys running sports—so much so that he put that running to good use in the 2009 Great Pumpkin Race in which he placed third and he and other 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys placed first overall. Besides sports, Trevor attends 4-H meetings once a month and goes to camp during the summer. Last summer he entered his pig Rawhide in the county fair. Trevor worked hard with Rawhide—he built a pen for him, dug a mud pit for him, and helped feed him. Besides being a hard worker and active athlete, he’s also a great saver—the proceeds from Rawhide’s sale have gone toward Trevor’s college fund. Furthermore, he participated in the 2009 Hampshire County Horse Show, where his horse Royal took one second and two first place ribbons. Most importantly, he sings in the Youth Choir, collects Communion cups after services, participates with the rest of his Sunday school class in such activities as the lighting of the Advent candle, and collects money for 4 cents a meal. In April 2009 Trevor read during the Christian Seder service; and in December 2009 he took part in the Christmas Sunday School program giving a confident, spirited reading of “Sing Praises,” singing in the Youth Choir, and taking the role of “Seven Swans a Swimming” in “The Twelve Days of Christmas” skit. His future goals at church include becoming a Greeter and a Worship Leader. To that end, Trevor recently joined his Grandmother in the pulpit to lead the congregation in the Call to Worship. Lastly, he would like to become an actor one day; thus, all his work at Romney Presbyterian Church may prove quite valuable. We certainly appreciate his efforts. Hats off to Trevor, our exceptionally enthusiastic youth in the spotlight!



**Presbyterian Women Evening Circle** Will be meeting February 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Gennie Heatwole will be our leader for the Bible Lesson, devotions by Margritt Mason and Vida Simon will be the host. All women are invited.

**Sewing Missions** wants to thank everyone who gave to their mission project. We collected 104 hats, 10 onesies, 10 blankets and 10 bibs. There is still time to give should you choose. We will be working on toys, hospital gowns and baby hats until the end of May when we ship the items out. If you would like to help or just come for the company, you will be made very welcome. We meet the third Tuesday in every month.

A Great **BIG** Thank You for your help with the HC Christmas Food Box Program! To our church family we want to thank you for your help, financial support, and your prayers as we worked to distribute the Christmas Food Boxes in December. Thank You from the bottom of our hearts. John & Maggie Mason

**Lenten Luncheons 2010**  
**“A Journey of Hope”**

February 17<sup>th</sup>  
February 24<sup>th</sup>  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
March 10<sup>th</sup>  
March 17<sup>th</sup>  
March 24<sup>th</sup>  
March 31<sup>st</sup>

Pastor Roy Knight,  
Pastor Jack Hanks,  
Father Bill Kuchinsky,  
Pastor Jim Mou,  
Pastor Barbara R. Johnson,  
Pastor Michael Simon,  
Pastor Ron DiCiolla,

Romney First United Methodist Church  
First Baptist Church  
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church  
Romney Assembly of God  
Romney Presbyterian Church  
St Stephens Episcopal Church  
Romney Church of the Nazarene



Mark Your Calendars for VBS, June 20-24

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

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Romney, WV 26757



Presidents' Day

# The Sampler

# February 2010

Return Service Requested

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Church Office Phone -304-822-5083 Email - [office@romnepresbyteritanchurch.org](mailto:office@romnepresbyteritanchurch.org)