

The Sampler July 2011

Making the Most of Freedom

Each year on July 4th, Americans celebrate Independence Day. It's a time to remember the brave men and women who built our nation and secured the freedom we enjoy today. But it's also an occasion to consider how we can make the most of that liberty as believers and members of our communities.

There are people all over the world who live in places where Christian worship is illegal. But here in the United States, nothing hinders us from gathering to sing, pray, or discuss Scripture as often as we choose (something all believers should fight to preserve). Religious freedom is a privilege, and it carries a great responsibility--one that extends beyond our private devotional lives and fellowship with other members of the church--and we should never take it for granted.

As followers of Christ, we're called to live our faith in such a way that we influence people around us for the sake of God's kingdom. That means family, neighbors, coworkers, and acquaintances should be able to discern something about our lives that sets us apart from the world.

The way we handle suffering, uncertainty, or unfairness testifies to the Holy Spirit's work of setting us free from our old ways. And sometimes, what may seem like the smallest gestures can amount to a profound witness of the Lord's goodness. We need to remember that, though we may be citizens of an earthly nation, we are above all citizens of heaven and representatives of the living God (Philippians 3:20-21).

Ask yourself this question: *How am I using the gift of freedom?* Does your private behavior match what you do in public? Do your choices reflect the character of our Savior? Choose today to let the Father's love flow through you--forgive and serve others as an example of true freedom in Christ, and you will be a light to the world.

--a word from Charles F. Stanley



The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.



Work of the Session...

The Romney Presbyterian Church Session held its stated meeting on Monday, June 13th. Following is a summary of business conducted by the session:

1. Alana Hartman volunteered to do nursery for the summer. A schedule will still be posted by the nursery door in case anyone would like to volunteer for a week or two so she may have a break.
2. Extended materials may be used from VBS for summer Sunday School. Scott and Laura Staley were also working on posting a schedule for teachers in the summer. Anyone interested, should see them.
3. Bump up day for Sunday School will be September 11, 2011. Third grade bibles will be given out. Starting this year, sixth graders will also be receiving a teen bible. The committee will be giving out teen bibles to any youth without one.
4. Due to the need of room, the Christian Education committee has set a clean out day on July 13th at 6 pm for the back Sunday School room serving as storage. Anyone having items should remove them before this date. The room or stuff has not been used in a long time.
5. The Sunday School thanks Mary Glenn for her outstanding work in preparing and presenting our opening messages. She will be stepping down from doing opening. The committee has appreciated her hard work. We will need an additional person to help with opening. If you can do that, please see someone on Christian Education or Sue Staley.
6. Scott and Laura Staley will be unable to direct the Christmas play this year for Sunday School. If anyone is interested in directing, they can give you some advice.
7. The maple tree near Loudoun Thompson's fence is dying and needs to be removed. Brother's Tree Service will be contacted to do the work.
8. Building use for Michael Cheshire's wedding was approved. The wedding will be the evening of September 17, officiated by the Rev. John Avery.
9. A new heat pump to replace the system that services the office and restrooms will be purchased.
10. On the 31st of July, we will have Rev. Dale Rawlings in the pulpit. Rev. Rawlings will preach and also officiate at the baptism of Kadynce Adelle Douglas, infant daughter of Cynda and Kevin Douglas.
11. On Father's Day we will honor fathers by having the children hand out bookmarks.
12. Teacher Dedication and PW Officer Installation is scheduled for September 18, 2011.
13. All church accounts have been audited and reported as correct to the session.

The July stated session meeting has been cancelled.



A busy spring and summer has found...***Kaitlyn and Jocelyn Hartman** participating in a tumbling recital, taking swimming lessons and Kaitlyn attending Clover Bud day at Hampshire County 4-H Camp.

***Trevor and Hunter Shaffer** are busy with 4-H. Trevor attended 4-H Camp and is on the AYSO travelling team. He placed first in the regional 4-H public speaking contest. Hunter, attending Clover Bud day at 4-H Camp. Little sister, Makinley has started walking and running.

***Britt Dolly** placed 4th in the State Math Field Day and **Bryson Dolly** won first place in the State Social Studies Fair. Both have participated in a piano recital as well as playing on the AYSO travelling team.

The **Mayfield Brothers, John Carl and Grant** were members of the Hampshire County Little League Champs (Twins). John will play on the Hampshire County All Star Team.

* Their family spent a week at the beach. The grandchildren of Jane Slocum are having a busy summer.

Danielle and Maggie attended 4-H Camp and both will attend a Church Camp near Terra Alta. Maggie is on the travelling soccer team. Our faithful nursery helpers, **Lindsay and Josh** will tour Italy in July and their brother, **Jacob** plans to attend Alpha I 4-H Camp at Jackson’s Mill. Jacob was also on the Little League Champs Team.

*The summer finds **Tim Allen** serving with ECI for 4-H Camps in Wyoming, McDowell, Upshur, Monoghalia, and Tucker County’s. **Jonathan** worked as a lifeguard at the Romney Pool and will spend the remainder of the summer at Frost Valley YMCA Camp NY as a counselor. **Katie Ann** attended Hampshire County 4-H Camp. Camp Horseshoe, soccer camp and Alpha I 4-H. She is also finding time to help with VBS.

* **Emily Pownell** participated in a dance and gymnastic recital, placed 2nd place in the GFWC of Romney Arts Department art contest for the 2nd Graders and is attending Energy Express. Both Emily and **Sarah** will attend VBS after a wonderful family beach vacation.

***Abigail “Abbie” Nester** has recently participated in two fundraising pageants. The first pageant in April was the "Spring Fantasy Pageant" hosted by the Romney Assembly of God Church. The pageant proceeds went towards youth going to summer camp. The second pageant held in May was the 1st "Annual Race for a Cure" pageant. Abbie won "Prettiest Eyes" in her age category. All proceeds went to the Hampshire County Relay for Life event.

***Mary Ann Kuykendall** was recognized at the WVU School of Pharmacy Scholarships and Awards Convocation as the recipient of the Academy of student Pharmacists Scholarship.

Keep your eyes peeled “for the rest of the story” on our youth and their doings.



The Christian Education Committee has set the date of **July 13th at 6 p.m.** to clean out the back upstairs Sunday School room. Everything needs to go. We are asking if you have something stored, to please remove it before that date. The room is being cleared out to make needed room for an additional Sunday School Class.

Share your coffee hour recipe. A recipe will be featured every month in the newsletter. Please email your recipes to the office along with your name.



Want to have a relaxing, fun-filled fellowship afternoon? A ride in the country and a summer picnic is just the thing. Mark Saturday, July 30th, on your calendar for a pot-luck picnic at the home of John and Maggie Mason in Levels. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Come at 4pm to visit and we’ll eat at 5pm. Directions will be available at the church. Hope to see you there!



THANK YOU

Sunday School and the Christian Education Committee would love to extend a big thank you to Mary Glenn. She has worked very hard doing Sunday School openings and children sermons during morning worship. She has brought much joy to both the adults and children in our church.

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