

# The Sampler June 2009

From the  
Pastor



## Everything But Ordinary

On May 31, the church calendar moves from the season of Easter to Pentecost—WEAR RED that Sunday. Trinity Sunday is June 7 when Communion will be celebrated along with Romney High School Reunions. Then on June 14, Ordinary Time resumes. We had a few Sundays of Ordinary Time after Christmas before Lent began, but now the long stretch starts. Not until November 22 and Christ the King Sunday does the church calendar designate any Sunday as anything other than Ordinary.

As I have written in the past, Ordinary Time does not mean not exceptional in any way or lacking special distinction, rank, or status. Ordinary Time in the church calendar actually refers to *ordinal* - being a numerical order in a series. So starting with the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time on June 14, Sunday worship will move through all the 'ths' ...12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, etc. ... to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time on November 15. Ordinary Time will just take us sequentially through the year without any special liturgical celebration. But Ordinary Time does not mean that either Sunday worship or our Christian lives are to become ordinary or unexceptional. Quite the contrary!

Now is the time we are free from the distractions of special traditional celebrations to realize each and every day of our life is an extraordinary time. Now we need to consider our every day habits and choices. Are we really following the model of Jesus? Are we aware of how important our relationships are? Do we truly love ourselves - with care of body, mind and spirit? Do we truly love our neighbors?

As I get ready to attend my niece's high school graduation, memories of my three daughters' graduations and my own are running around in my head. How *ordinary* is high school graduation. It occurs every year and has since the first high school was formed. But how *extraordinary*, how unique, was my high school graduation! (I was valedictorian.) How special was each graduation of my daughters, with the eldest receiving the International Baccalaureate degree in addition to the Atlanta Public Schools college prep degree.

While generic high school graduation is an ordinary event, maybe comparable to the sun rising in the east every morning, each graduation is special and different from all others when we are involved with it personally. Every action of every day of our lives is actually special and unique, even when they seem to be repetitious ordinary events.

Recognition of the distinctiveness of each moment of our lives in Ordinary Time came to me while I was swimming my ordinary 72 laps at the Wellness Center pool. Five days a week for almost an hour I go back and forth with the same stroke. What an example of *ordinary*! However, my breathing changes, my intensity changes, my focus changes, my desire to keep going changes!

What is **your** form of *ordinary*? Is it reading the paper in the morning, doing laundry, cooking meals to share, coming to church on Sunday? Do you appreciate how the *ordinary* is everything but the same, the usual, the repetitious?

As you enter the church liturgical season of Ordinary Time, glorify God by celebrating the gift of grace with thanksgiving for the extraordinary uniqueness of your life. You are everything but *ordinary*.

*Pastor Barb*

## NEWS FROM THE SESSION



The session held its regular monthly meeting on Monday May 11, 2009. At the meeting, the session:

- Continued its study of the Confession of 1967 by reading and discussing paragraphs 9.48-9.50 of the Book of Confessions.
- Read and discussed the Book of Order section G-10.0301 (Minutes and Records).
- Heard a report on the 141<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Presbytery of Shenandoah, held on February 14, 2009 at the Massanutten Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, VA, from Commissioner Chip Herriott.
- Received a bequest from the estate of Virginia Pancake.
- Learned that the contract with Nationwide for the church's insurance had been finalized.

The following actions were taken:

- Danny Slocum would be hired to repair the mortar joints of exterior brick work on the west wall of the sanctuary near the basement door.
- A rotting tree would be removed from the new children's playground.
- The Moment for Mission would be moved to follow the announcements in the worship service.
- Weekly attendance would be printed in the bulletin.
- The Presbyterian Women's mission project with Heifer Project International would become an all-congregation project. The Presbyterian Women would begin the project with a contribution in memory of Madeline Blue.
- The fellowship dinners for May, June, and August 2009 would be cancelled.
- The October 2009 fellowship dinner would be cancelled. A representative from Heifer Project International would be invited to speak during worship on Sunday October 18, 2009 with a covered dish luncheon afterwards.

### Treasurer Monthly Snapshot

April 2009

Total Income -	\$9,837.11	Accounts	
Total Expenses -	\$9,741.98	Money Markets -	\$13,222.08
Net Income -	\$ 95.13	NOW	- \$35,942.47



The church family extends their sympathy to David, Amy, John and Barbara Pancake on the death of their daughter and granddaughter, Erin Pancake and to the family of Charles Haslacker.

**MEMORIAL GIFT...**in memory of Madeline Blue from Joe and Elizabeth Powers.



**CONGRATULATIONS...**to our graduating seniors: Timothy Allen, Chelsea Kuykendall, Richard Kuykendall and Brittany Nester.

John and Margritt Mason would like to invite the church family to their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on June 14, 2009. The reception will be held in the



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Feeling "swamped?" Fear not! Come help out at Crocodile Dock (Vacation Bible School) June 21-25th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. and allow God to bless you in new ways. We could still use more youth and adult helpers. Also please bring in any of the following you might have by June 14th, for the decorations and crafts: Spanish moss, inflatable alligators, fishing nets, a small fishing boat, or other fishing equipment, green or blue fabric, lanterns, crates, greenery, and empty small water bottles with caps (help! we need 40 of those!). You can leave these items on the stage in the fellowship hall. Please pray for the leaders, helpers, and especially the children, that we would all learn more about God and become closer to Him through the week's activities together.

Some participants might even be led to accept Jesus as their Lord and savior during this time. And, as in past years, we'll have the Bible Memory Buddies to help us remember the day's verse. For example on Wednesday June 24th, Blossom, the awesome opossum, may seem to come back to life, but Jesus really did as in Matthew 28:5-6: "Don't be afraid! ...He is risen from the dead." So...fear not! And join us this summer for VBS. Contact Alana Hartman at 822-5608 for more information.



The Volunteer Farm of Shenandoah, near Woodstock, has issued a call for volunteers to immediately help plant vegetables to help feed the hungry through the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. The rain put us a couple of weeks behind in our spring planting, and so we need extra volunteers to help catch-up.

Last year the farm had the assistance of 3,100 volunteers to produce 35 tons of fresh vegetables to help feed the hungry, who normally receive only canned goods through the food bank. This year we are shooting for 50 tons of vegetables, but we will need 5,000 to 6,000 volunteers to meet our goal.

Those wishing to volunteer should go to the website: [www.VolunteerFarm.Org](http://www.VolunteerFarm.Org), The "Calendar" shows what work is expected each day, the number of volunteers needed. Then you select the day you are needed and register online. Directions to the Shenandoah farm are also on the web. Work on the farm is normally from 8:00 a.m. until about noon.

"We do not work Sundays, but we are very much in need of volunteers on weekdays. Those under 18 and not accompanied by their parents need to complete a liability form found on the website.

**'Building the Dream' rescheduled event set for June 12**

AUGUSTA – Hospice of the Panhandle officials will unveil plans for the future of hospice care in the Eastern Panhandle at its rescheduled “Building the Dream” event on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Hampshire County Health Department. The event will feature entertainment by the bluegrass band “Our Wives Think We’re Working.” Free food and fellowship also will be offered.

In addition to the band performance, CEO Margaret Cogswell will offer remarks about the inpatient facility and offices and how Hampshire County residents will be served through the new building project.

No funds will be collected during the evening. Hampshire County Hospice Campaign Chair, Evelyn Baker emphasized that the event is not designed as a fundraiser, but instead gives residents a chance to learn about Hospice’s exciting plans.

For more information, call Sherri Myers at the Hospice office at (304) 822-8813. No tickets are necessary, and the event is free.



**Vacation Bible School**

**June 21-25**

**6:00 8:00 p.m.**

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

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# The Sampler

## June 2009

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**Church Office Phone –304-822-5083 Email – office@romneypresbyterianchurch.org**