

The Sampler

The Changing Future

November 2011
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John Mason

Special points of interest:

- The Changing Future
- Congregational Meeting
- Christmas Food Boxes

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God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Psalm 46:1-3

While mountains may be trembling with tumult, the Commitment and Witness Committee is hoping the congregation will find the new way of Stewardship Dedication less tempestuous.

Inside this edition of the Sampler and on the table in the vestibule is a copy of the Time and Talents Pledge 2012 for every member to indicate how they are willing to respond to God's will in supporting the ministry of Romney Presbyterian Church. Please give special consideration to serving on one of the four committees. While it is true that Jesus said where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them, the business of each committee works better with more than two people for discernment and completion. This will be especially true for 2012 as the Session becomes smaller. The chairmen listed in the pledge form are the current ones. Please contact them with any questions about how you can participate more.

Another important area on the form is at the bottom: Other. What ministry do you feel called to start in the church? As a part of changing the method of offering service opportunity, C & W wants to encourage everyone to prayerfully consider what God is prompting them to propose as a new way of making God visible in the world.

In addition to the Time and Talents Pledge 2012 forms, financial pledge forms and 2012 offering envelopes will be in the vestibule. Stewardship Dedication will be November 6, but all forms can be put in the offering plates any Sunday or mailed to the church. Stewardship is more than a single Sunday. It is a fulltime endeavor.

Another wonderful change is posting all the Fall Fling costume award winners on the church website www.romneypresbyterianchurch.org. It is exciting to utilize the technology the church already has in sharing more of what is going on with members. Please let the office know of ways you think will help promote visits to our website.

The Christian Education committee wants to increase Sunday School attendance with the wonderful teachers who willingly offer their talents. What are your ideas for bringing more people in?

By the next Sampler, Advent will be here with the combination opening hymn and litany. That was a change in the liturgy for several years that has been well received.

As we continue to move into the future, some changes will work, some will be discarded, and some changes will continue to change. The only certainty is the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose birth we will be celebrating next month. This month includes a national day of thanksgiving that we as Christians need to expand to an everyday celebration. With the changing future, the stability of God's love makes us free to embrace all possibilities!

Thanks be to God for being present in all of life!

Pastor Barb

NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Romney Presbyterian Church Session held its stated meeting on Monday, October 10, 2011. Following is a summary of business conducted:

1. Children's church will continue with the youth being responsible for that program once a month on the date of the children's choir Sunday, which is normally the 3rd Sunday of each month. Donna Baker has kindly agreed to coordinate and supervise this.
2. The annual Children's Christmas play is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011 with Donna Baker and January Hatcher coordinating that program. Other adult assistance would be appreciated to help with preparing the program. Let Mrs. Baker know if you can help.
3. Beginning this year (2011), everyone who contributes \$250 or more to the church will receive a contribution letter as required by the IRS.
4. Stewardship will not include a mailing this year. An article and a revised time & talent sheet will be published in the November Sampler. A sermon about the new model will be presented on Nov. 6.
5. Removal of dead tree and tree trimming is complete.
6. John Hott installed a Buzzer on the kitchen door and he installed leaf guard on the short section of rain gutter above office door entrance.
7. Katie Allen has agreed to ring the church bell before the Worship Service and Bonnie Long previously gave her a list of others who may do this if she is unavailable.
8. The Worship and Planning Committee ordered Advent materials for adults, youth, and children, along with bulletin inserts.
9. David Allen agreed to contact families who have members of the Youth Group to light the Advent candles on the four Sundays of Advent.
10. The committee approved Pastor Barb's request to have a community Blue Christmas Service at our church on Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.
11. Our church will host the Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Roy Knight leading the service and an offering being taken for the Romney Ministerial Association.
12. Friend Property: The Property is razed and can be used for parking. Plans are underway for using gravel to cover the lot.
13. October, November and December 4 cents- a-meal donations will go towards the Christmas Food boxes.
14. Linda Shriver will serve as the commissioner to the November 8, 2011 Presbytery meeting in Winchester, VA.
15. Fellowship Dinners Scheduled:

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011	Thanksgiving
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012	Covered Dish
Thursday, April 5, 2012	Maundy Thursday Seder Meal
Sunday, May 20, 2012	@ St. Luke Chapel following service
Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012	Fall picnic and ice cream social

September Financial Spotlight

Total Income-\$8,606 Expenses-\$9,475.39 Loss Income-\$869.39
NOW Balance10-10-11-\$6,532.96

**Congregational Meeting
on November 13, 2011
to vote on selling Indian Heights Chapel
to God's Word Fellowship**

At the September meeting, the Session approved the closure of Indian Heights Chapel as an outreach ministry due to lack of attendance.

At the October meeting, the Session discussed the offer of purchase made by God's Word Fellowship congregation which needs to move from their present worship location.

The session **recommends** to the congregation the selling of Indian Heights Chapel to God's Word Fellowship Church group for a price of \$4800 to be paid in 12 installments of \$400 per month for one year from the date of the sale. If this 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.

The deed on record for the property lists Lee R. Smith as the seller with all rights of buying back the property ending with his death. The congregation can sell to anyone.

The enthusiastic response of another religious group to conduct services is a gift from God. They plan to improve the property with water, a kitchen, and to conduct an outreach ministry in the area.

This recommendation to sell is made with joy and sadness. Many members have faithfully served at Indian Heights over the years. A history is being compiled with stories and names of those who were involved.

Please share any memories or knowledge you have of the initiation of ministry, building the structure and leading services or Sunday School.

Be in attendance after worship on November 13 to participate in discerning God's will for Indian Heights.

Commitment and Witness Committee

A New Way to Pledge Stewardship

The Commitment and Witness Committee is proposing a new way to think about pledging our time, talents and treasures. Thanks to the efforts in previous years, a list of willing and available people has been compiled. Rather than distributing Time and Talent sheets to everyone this year, changes can be made on the sheet in this Sampler or on extras in the vestibule and returned to the church office. Pledge cards and Offering envelopes for 2012 are also available in the vestibule.

Responding to a request for more information, C&W wants everyone to know that the regular weekly and/or pledged giving to Romney Presbyterian Church in 2011 provided:

A week of Vacation Bible School \$1200 Youth activities \$700

Graduating High School Senior Active Youth scholarships of \$100 each

10% of budget (\$14,000 of \$149,287.20) to:

Haiti Education \$1250

Romney Ministerial Association \$750

PCUSA direct Missionary Support \$2000 (Haiti and El Salvador)

PCUSA 1% Seminary Fund to Union Seminary \$1000

PCUSA and Shenandoah Presbytery \$6000

Various Outreach programs including website \$3000

Nursery during worship \$1800 Music and worship resources \$1200

Property Care and Maintenance \$35,000

as well as an efficiently functioning office, part-time secretary/bookkeeper and full-time called ordained pastor.

The meaning of Christian stewardship has focused many times on tithing, but this is not the priority definition when discussing the subject. The priorities involved are how time is spent, how relationships are retained, and then how money is spent. The meaning involves how the precious gifts that God has given to all are used and cared for.

The good steward is someone who is doing the best he can with the things that God has given him. Romney Presbyterian Church is blessed with people who share their time, talents and treasures supporting the ministry of this particular church.

Please let the C&W committee know how you feel about this new way of pledging stewardship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: 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



The **2011 Hampshire County Christmas Food Box Program** anticipates helping over 250 needy families this year. The distribution day will be **Saturday, December 10th**. The referral form will appear in the Hampshire Review at the beginning of November with a closing date of **November 28th**. Please mark this date on your calendar. We will be accepting any monetary donations beginning now. Please make your checks out to Romney Presbyterian but footnote the check for Christmas Food Boxes. The committee thanks all who will be participating with this worthwhile community project.

Operation Christmas Child (Shoebbox Project) - 2011

Throw out the shoes and fill the box for Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child. In 2010, nearly 8 million children received a gift-filled shoe box for Christmas. Boxes are given out in over 100 countries. The Lord uses this ministry to delight millions of children, break down cultural and language barriers, and advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ. People often wonder how much of a difference a shoe box can make in the life of a child who is poor, sick, hungry, or traumatized by war. In Lithuania, "the sad girl," Deana, felt all alone. A classmate prayed for and invited Deana to an Operation Christmas Child program at her church, where Deana received not only a shoebox gift but heard the good news of the Gospel and God's great love for her. A little later, Deana accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. Today Deana is married and is a Sunday school teacher, working and organizing local Operation Christmas Child events in Lithuania; where each shoebox truly represents a Gospel opportunity. Please change a plain shoe box into a gift of love and bring joy and hope into a child's heart. Pick up a pamphlet that has an envelope attached. Include \$7.00 (checks made out to Samaritan's Purse), and mark the label for the appropriate age and gender. Please make sure the boxes are at the church by Sunday, November 13, when they will be dedicated and begin the journey to share God's Greatest Love Gift. Remember Matthew 25:37-40.



Ja'Naye Corbin & Maggie Mason

Recipe of the Month.... Cranberry Chicken

1 can crushed cranberry (not jellied)
1 cup catalina salad dressing (many times I use with onion in it)
1 pkg soup—onion, 1 pkg soup—herb & garlic (both are Lipton)
Mrs. Dash seasoning

Mix together soup pkgs., crushed cranberry, and salad dressing. Pour over boneless chicken (can use breast and/or thighs-or any large pieces of meat that have been seasoned with Mrs. Dash. Use a 9"x13" pan. Cook at 375 degrees covered for 45 minutes, uncovered for 15 minutes. Serve over noodles and some green vegetable. Very easy! Very tasty!

Maggie Mason



Faith Community Nurse Corner



November is Diabetes Awareness Month. Diabetes is on the increase in the United States and it is estimated that 26 million people have diabetes. That is 8.3% of the population in the US. In West Virginia in 2007, 234,000 or 10.8% of the population had diabetes. In 2011, it is estimated that 12% of the population of the state have diabetes. This is one of the highest rates in the nation.

During the month of November, I will be putting out information sheets on different aspects of diabetes. Please take a few minutes and look at these. If you have any questions, please feel free to catch me on Sunday morning and ask them. If I don't know the answer, I will be glad to find it for you.

Have a great month and enjoy the beautiful season of fall.

In Christian love,
Beth

Presbyterian Women

THANK OFFERING SERVICE: Afternoon and evening circle ladies: The Thank Offering Service will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The evening meeting will be a joint gathering of both afternoon and evening circles. We will sing hymns, join in prayer, and study Lesson 3 of "Confessing the Beatitudes" prior to giving our offering and enjoying refreshments. **All circle members and friends are welcome to join us for our 2011 Thank Offering Service.**

SEWING MISSIONS began again in September with two new projects. Helmet Coolers for our troops abroad and little girls sun dresses for our missions abroad.

The Helmet Cooler is a 7 inch circle of muslin filled with a small amount of water sorb crystals. The troops soak them in water for 35 minutes before placing them in their helmets. This gives relief from the heat for many hours, through evaporation. The sundresses are made from pillowcases, binding and elastic. Both helmet liners and dresses are packed with a scripture verse and a prayer.

Should anyone have any muslin, pillowcases, or elastic they do not need, we could use them. I can pick them up, just call me 304-496-8258 or leave them on the stage at the church.

Thank You, Donna Baker

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!

On Tuesday, October 18th, we hosted a luncheon for the Little Falls OWLS (older, wiser, livelier, seniors) from the Martinsburg area. We served 28 adults and 2 children, who enjoyed a lunch before riding the Potomac Eagle. A very special shout out and thank you to Diane Crane and Jane Wright Slocum, who helped with set-up, serving, and a special clean-up. Without these two women, we don't think we would have been able to have a successful event. The joke of the day was if the Mason's are cooking, make sure you ask them for GREEN BEANS!
Thanks again, ladies.

John & Maggie Mason

RPC Youth News

The Romney Presbyterian Youth Fellowship has kicked off its 2011-2012 year. After a meeting on October 9 with youth and parents (and pizza!), it was decided to meet twice a month for fellowship. We will meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month between 6-7:30 p.m., unless another activity is scheduled.

Sunday, October 23 Fall Party 6-8:00 p.m. all invited, costumes encouraged, bring finger foods

November 10 meet at the church and no meeting on Thanksgiving

December 8 meet at David Allen's home

December 22 meet at the church for caroling and end at Jeannie Hampton's home

December 24 Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

Listen, Listen... have you heard the bell ringer, Katie Allen, ringing the church bell, calling people to come worship with us on Sunday mornings?



1 Corinthians

14:15

So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind

**About and Beyond
Congratulations to Brittany Nester!
Brittany was chosen for the Homecoming Court
at Fairmont State University. Homecoming activities were October 28-29.**

Friends and family recuperating...

Ada McIntyre-in Winchester Hospital

Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ

College students – encouragement

Hampshire County School personnel and children



Jeannie Hampton's sister-in-law, who is on our Covenant Prayer List, has good news to share. "Just wanted to let you know that I received good report from my doctor. The tumor is continuing to reduce!! This chemo they have me on is working and at least it's not as hard on me this time. I still have my appetite and my hair! That's a big improvement over the last two years of chemo!! Thanks a million for all your prayers. They do work! Sherron Hampton.

Encourage those who are struggling. Don't know what to say? Then open your Bible. "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope".

Romans 15:4 NIV

CHOIR NOTE: Only 7 or 8 more rehearsals left to work on beautiful Advent music and the cantata. In Bonnie's absence Linda Shriver will be directing the choir. Ladies when attending any kind of function **here or any public place, always, always take your handbag with you.** It seems we had a hefty theft in our church recently. So sad to think this could happen within our church family. Put the thief in your prayers.

You are loved.

On a lighter note

Judge: Doctor, I've lost my memory!

Doctor: "When did this happen?"

Judge: "When did what happen?"

Memorials in Memory of Bill Bowman

Given by

Don and Frances Swope

Bob and Kim Mayhew

Sally Kuykendall

Pastor Barb Johnson

Mary Glenn

Dennis and Sandra Wolenski

Larry, Lynn and Chris McCauley

Nancy Allen

Vida Simon

Anne Hill

Alfie and Patricia Anderson

Bladen and Sally Lowndes

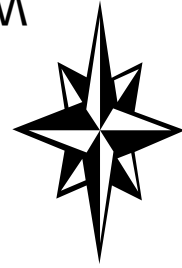
Garry and Bonnie Long

Memorial Gifts



The Co-Editors would like to start a new section in the Newsletter, starting December called **"For Sale, Trade or Give Away"**. If you have such items, please drop a note of interest in the newsletter box located on the stage and in the vestibule. We need your participation.

**Romney Presbyterian
Advent Celebration**
Who: Everyone
Where: Fellowship Hall
Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Date: Sunday, November 27, 2011
Food: Bring your favorite snack food.
The Christian Education committee
will provide drinks, paper products,
and pizza.
What: We will put up the Christmas tree,
make decorations, eat and have fun!
Hope to see



Romney Presbyterian Church
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Romney, WV 26757

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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