

The Sampler September 2009

From the
Pastor



Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

When many of Jesus' disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" **John 6: 60, 66-67**

Worship at the Presbytery meeting in Warrenton, VA, on Saturday, August 22, 2009 included a three part sermon. The Pastor Emeritus preached on Yesterday, the current Associate on Today, and a college freshman on Tomorrow. My initial reaction when reading over the bulletin was discomfort with the thought of three sermons. The reality was a wonderful perspective of the church heard through the ideas of three faithful members of the body.

The lectionary Gospel for the next day, Sunday, August 23, included the scripture at the beginning of this article. Jesus had been calling himself the bread of heaven that a person was going to have to eat for eternal life. Many of his followers, his disciples, just could not understand or believe what he was saying. Rather than stick with Jesus through faith, they gave up and turned away.

"This teaching is difficult. Who can accept it?" While we have the gift of two thousand years of thoughtful consideration, cultural indoctrination, and societal approval, the teaching is still difficult. God so loved the world that he gave his only son – a person of God incarnate, born and living in human flesh - to suffer and die – to be tortured in that human body – so everyone – all of us and our neighbors – who believes in Jesus, God, the Loving Father, the Triune Holy One may not perish but have eternal life.

This Good News has been a part of the fabric of every Yesterday since the resurrection of Christ. It began as a single body of believers, became corrupted just as with the Hebrew people we learn about in the Old Testament stories, and split into several different denominational groups who championed specific interpretations of God's Word. As it says in Ecclesiastes, What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has already been, in the ages before us. Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 Yesterday is where we can look to see what has been done.

So the disharmony of Today should not be a surprise, unfortunately. History repeats itself with great regularity. The Good News and the model of Jesus Christ did bring about change during his time and during many additional ages since then. Love, hope and peace can be a part of the world right now. People just have to respond to the question Jesus asks - "Do you also wish to go away?" – with a resounding NO. With actions and words, people today must live and proclaim the Good News. Of course, it has been done yesterday, but today is a day that the Lord has made for US to carry out the change Jesus began. Today we have the responsibility to accept the difficult teaching and to help others to embrace the wonderful mystery of 'eating' a loving Savior.

Tomorrow is in the hands of God. Tomorrow will bring additional challenges. Tomorrow God will be no different than he has been in the past, including expectations of growth and change. Just because we are successfully living in the comfort of Today does not mean that Tomorrow will not be difficult. God and his Love are forever. How we are to respond to his love – with complete trust and faith - remains the same. We just must be ready to respond in new and hard ways.

Every day we are actually living in Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. God's certain love of Yesterday, faithful action of Today, and trust that Tomorrow will give new opportunities to serve our Lord. Let us rejoice and be glad always!

Pastor Barb

Nominating Committee...The 2009 Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend the following people to be elected as Elders to the Class of 2012: Bill Pownell, Kathy Kuykendall, Linda Shriver, Vida Simon. Four Elders will be elected during the **Congregational Meeting on September, 2009**, following the worship service at the town church. Additional nominations can be made from the floor, providing permission has been obtained from the nominee.

July 2009		Treasurer To Date Snapshot		July 2009	
Total Income -	\$8,383.91	Account Balances		Money Market -	\$ 13,242.20
Total Expenses -	\$9,586.36	Now Account -			\$ 31,007.92
Deficit	- 1,202.45				



There are many reasons why you should want to join the choir. Here are five suggested reasons:

Character. Choir helps build character. People who sing in the choir give up one night a week and worship faithfully. These people have real character. (Some members in the choir are real characters!)

Healthy. Choir makes you healthy. How often do you exercise your lungs? Your lungs are important to living. If you really want to enjoy living and be healthier, come and sing with us.

Otherwise. Otherwise it won't be as much fun if you're not there. Otherwise you'll miss many opportunities to offer God your expressions of praise and adoration.

Interesting. You'll sing interesting music. You'll hear interesting comments about your singing. You'll meet some interesting characters (see letter "C"). Your interest in worship will increase and grow as you prepare to participate in the next Sunday's worship.

Relaxation. After a stressful day of decision-making – should I sell this, buy that, watch this, cook that – it will be so relaxing to have someone say to you, "Sing this"!

Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 2nd, 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please join us.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS...Afternoon Circle will be meeting 1:00 p.m. at the church. Evening Circle will be meeting Tuesday, September 8th at the home of Betty Rice for a covered dish dinner at 6:00 p.m. Following the meal Betty will present our lesson on Joshua.

PW Coordinating Team Meeting will be held September at the town church.

Sewing Missions will meet on the Third Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering ~ September 12, 2009

Morning Workshops

Bible Study/Joshua, a Journey of Faith, Leadership Development, Treasurer/Celebration Giving, Historian, Footlights in the Sanctuary: Drama in the Church, Together in Service, Predatory Lending & Other Scams.

Afternoon Workshops

Bible Study/Joshua, a Journey of Faith, Using the Internet to Enhance Your PW, A Heart for God, Faith and Values Through the Eyes of Dr. Seuss, Advent, Ethiopia Then and Now, the 20th Anniversary of the Shenandoah/ Ethiopian Partnership, Advocacy Issues - Immigration/ Health Care.

Registration deadline is September 4th. Any questions contact Gennie Heatwole at 822-5036.



Blanket Offering – September 20th

Peacemaking Offering – October 4th



On July 28 in anticipation of Sunflower Fest the youth of the Summer Sensations program helped to beautify Romney Presbyterian Church by planting flowers and spreading mulch. The event was organized by Sally and Bladen Lowndes and Nancy and Bob Allen. Youth helping included Jay and Abby Nester, Jocelyn and Kaitlyn Hartman and Hannah Householder along with leader Michael Cheshire. Adults helping were Sally and Bladen Lowndes, Cindy and Brittany Nester, Alana Hartman, Nancy Bowman, Bonnie Long and Anne Hill. The results have lifted our spirits!

The **Christian Ed Committee** needs a couple of volunteers to lead a youth meeting on Sunday, October 4th at 7:00 p.m. to plan the Fall Fling, which will be October 25th. We also need you to attend the Fall Fling and supervise activities. Please contact Alana Hartman at 822-5608 by September 13th if you can help in this way.

Congratulations...to Timothy Allen and Brittany Nester for being awarded the Shenandoah Presbytery Scholarships. The funds cam from various gifts given by Presbyterians (Graftons, the Browns, the Hogsheads, the McClungs and the Blues to name a few) who desired that the abundance that God gave to them would be used for scholarships.

Richard Kuykendall, 4324 Chandler Ridge Circle, Raleigh, NC 27603
Mary Ann Kuykendall, 942 Chestnut Ridge Road, Apt. E, Morgantown, WV 26505
Brittany Nester, Bryant Place #519, D1120 Bryant Street, Fairmont, WV 26554-1521
MSC246 **Timothy Allen**, WV Wesleyan College, 59 College Ave., Buckhannon, WV 26201



Thank You to
Bob Allen
& Billy Pownell
Property Committee

For fixing several things in the upstairs Sunday School Area. We are blessed to have you!

HERITAGE DAYS AT ROMNEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Once a year, for the past several years, our congregation has moved back in time during the Heritage Days celebration in September. This fall it is being called Hampshire Heritage Fest, our congregation will be participating in Heritage Sunday, September 13th. It is very likely re-enactors will be attending our 11 O'clock service.

Upon entering the sanctuary, men and women are reminded there will be segregated seating as in days of yore. We encourage you to dress in "period" attire. This can be as simple as long skirts, blouses, bonnets or hats for the ladies; dark trousers, white shirts (can be worn tieless) black string ties for the men. The hymns and anthem sung will be from the 1860's era. The Presbyterian Women will be serving light refreshments on the lawn following the morning worship service.



In memory of Jim Bonar from Emily Pancake and Rebecca Miller Ackerman.

Blue & Gray Barbershop Chorus, September 19, 7:00 p.m. at Romney First United Methodist Church.



Youth Sponsor
Picnic
Ice Cream Social

The church youth group is sponsoring a picnic and ice cream social **Sunday, September 20 at 5:30 p.m.** Bring your favorite covered dish and ice cream topping for the sundae bar and join us for an evening of fellowship and fun. Hot dogs, hamburgers and homemade ice cream will be provided. Youth members and anyone that wishes to help make ice cream should arrive at 3:30 p.m.

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

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Return Service Requested

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