

The Sampler

September 2011

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A 57 Cent Church

A 57 cent Church

A little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it was 'too crowded.'

'I can't go to Sunday School,' she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by.

Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday school class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, and she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings. Her parents called for the kindhearted pastor who had befriended their daughter to handle the final arrangements.

As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled red purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57 cents and a note, scribbled in childish handwriting, which read: 'This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School.'

For two years she had saved for this offering of love. When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocket-book to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion.

He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building. But the story does not end there....

A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a wealthy realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands.

When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered to sell it to the little church for 57 cents. Church members made large donations. Checks came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000.00--a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividends.

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300. And be sure to visit Temple University, where thousands of students are educated.

Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building which houses hundreds of beautiful children, built so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday school time.

In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russell H. Conwell, author of the book, 'Acres of Diamonds'.

This is a true story, which goes to show WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH 57 CENTS.



Friends and family recuperating...

The Barengo family visited and worshipped with us in July and requested prayer for US Army PFC Kyle Hockenberry, 19 year old, from the Marietta Presbyterian Church in Ohio who lost both legs and one arm from an explosion in Afghanistan.

Sarah Parsons Wood, niece of Sally Kuykendall, daughter of the Frances Pancake and Bill Jones, and granddaughter of the late Rev. Allen Jones, diagnosed with Lou Gehrigs disease.

Sally Kuykendall recovering from knee surgery

Dick and Ada McIntrye – car accident

Pastor Barb and Nancy Bowman – eye surgery

College students – encouragement

Hampshire County School personal and children – starting back to school

Nominating Committee Reports

Nominating Committee...The 2011 Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend Beth Herriott to be elected as Elder to the Class of 2013. She will be elected during the **Congregational Meeting on September, 18, 2011**, following the worship service at the town church.

Additional nominations can be made from the floor, providing permission has been obtained from the nominee.

Hampshire Heritage Festival September 11, 2011

Don't rush off after worship!!! Join us at the town church for "Lemonade on the Lawn" immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service for a few sweet nibbles, a cool glass of lemonade, and some great fellowship.

Dr. John Franklin will be worship speaker at the 2:00 p.m. worship event at the Romney Fire Hall.

The PW Circles will be studying the "Confessing the Beatitudes" based on Matthew 5:3 and Luke 6:20-24.

If you would like a study guide please contact a circle chairman. The Afternoon Circle will be meeting in the church library on September 13 at 12:15 p.m. Evening Circle will meet at Anne Hill's home and Betty Rice will lead the Bible Study.



Women's Fellowship

ATTENTION LADIES...Set aside the morning of Saturday, September 24 for a time of fellowship, fun, and repast. We will gather at 9:45 and have brunch at 10 a.m. This will be a special time for all women of the church to come together and enjoy each other's company. Please bring something to share for the brunch. If you need transportation or child care, please call the church office or Maggie Mason. This is also an opportunity to invite someone to join you. Please let us know if you will be coming as we are looking forward to seeing all of you and being together to praise our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our Young People --

Levi Richman attended VBS and Hampshire County 4-H Cloverbud Day. As a member of the Herders and Homemakers 4-H Club, he exhibited his project on "Care of Dogs", *Levi has two, Sadie and Mingo*. From his vegetable garden he displayed green peppers, carrots, and lima beans. He enjoyed the Outer Banks with family and friends and many days of swimming, fishing, biking, camping and riding his go cart.

A busy summer was ordered for **Evan and Ella Staley**. While Ella attended VBS, Evan was helping with the children's games. He attended 4-H camp as a Cherokee and led the soccer clinic. Evan participated in a basketball camp in Winchester while Ella attended special gymnastic classes. Evan's projects at the Hampshire County fair included teen leadership and display of sweet potatoes – both will be included in the 2012 WV State Fair 4-H exhibits. Ella chose the Seneca tribe as a first year camper. Her 4-H project, "This Is 4-H", will be displayed at the WV state fair in 2012. She attended the WV state fair this year and had a "wonderful" visit at The Greenbrier while her mother had a business meeting at the resort. Ella will be in the fourth grade this fall and Evan will be in the eighth grade where he will be on the Romney Middle School Football Team.

In the Potter's Hands

"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64: 8

The Shenandoah Presbytery Middler Rally

for 6th, 7th & 8th graders & Adult Leaders
(1 adult chaperone per every 7 youth)

Sunday, September 25, 2011
10:30-3:30 - (arrive before 10:15 am)

Camp Massanetta at Massanetta Springs
\$12 per person (Paid for by RPC)
hands on activities - recreation- energizers - music - food - fun – worship

Registration Deadline: Thursday, September 15
Call the church secretary, Dottie, at 822-5083 to reserve your spot.

The BIG EVENT

Saturday, September 10, 2011
Massanetta Springs Conference Center

The Big Event is a coming together of Shenandoah Presbytery congregations-members, Presbyterian Women, church officers, pastors and other church professionals to celebrate our oneness in Christ. The day is designed for people of all ages and stages of life. It is a time of worship, learning, sharing, and fun. It is an opportunity to renew your faith and feed your soul. Full registration forms will soon be sent out, but plan now for a full and enriching day!

Workshop Topics:

- Bible Study on the Beatitudes Ethiopian Partnership
- Ministry with Small Churches Writing Church History
- Clerk of Session Training
- Transformational Planning for A New Form of Government Missional Church
- Teaching Children
- Presbyterian Women in Mission
- Teaching Adults
- Presbyterian Women Officer Training
- Spirituality
- Ministry of Prayer Shawls
- Connecting Through Facebook
- Church Treasurer Training
- Using MS Office in Ministry
- How to Make A Herbal Advent Wreath Demonstration
- Building the Team: Teaching & Ruling Elders as
Servant/Leaders on the Same Page

Schedule:

8:00-9:00 am Registration in Stewart Hall
Mission Fair in Calvin Hall

8:45 am Singing in Stewart Hall

9:00-9:50 am Worship in Stewart Hall

10:00-11:30 am Morning Workshops in various locations

11:45am Lunch in Hotel Dining Room
Mission Fair in Calvin Hall

1:00-2:30 pm Afternoon Workshops in various locations

2:40-3:00 pm Closing Celebration in Stewart Hall

15-minute Bible Study -- Charles Stanley

The Value of Submission

>> An Open Door for Transformation

READ Isaiah 45:9

Imagine that you are a piece of clay in the hands of the divine potter, your heavenly Father. What kinds of clay are you? Do you yield to the pressure of His hand, or do you harden your will and refuse to bend? His goal is to shape believers into the image of His Son and to make them vessels He can use to accomplish His plans in this world. But if we refuse to let Him mold us, our hearts grow hard and resistant.

The benefits of a heart yielded to God are worth any sacrifices He may require of us. Our plans will never be as good as what the Lord wants to do in the through us. If we'll just let Him have His way with our lives, we will be transformed.

EXPLORE

Submission to the Holy Spirit

>> Galatians 5:16-17. If we walk by the Spirit, we'll have victory over sinful, fleshly habits and desires.

>> Ephesians 3:14-16. Those who yield to the Spirit's control gain inner strength.

Submission to Scripture

>> 1 Peter 1:22-23. Obedience to God's Word purifies our souls so that we can sincerely love others.

>> John 14:21. Keeping Christ's commandments increases our intimacy with Him.

Submission to God's Will

>> Romans 12:1-2. When we are willing to let go of our plans and renew our minds to accept God's purposes, we'll experience His good, acceptable, and perfect will.

>> 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. The Lord wants to produce within us a joyful, prayerful, and thankful attitude.

Submission to the Lord during Trials

>> Romans 5:3-5. Those who abide in God during times of adversity instead of always trying to escape hardships will develop endurance, proven character, and hope.

>> 1 Peter 1:6-7. When we're distressed, the Lord is working to produce something that is more precious than gold—proven faith, which rejoices even in suffering.

REFLECT

1. Does any part of your life need transformation? Have you withheld that area from the Lord?
2. What would it cost you to surrender your will to God's? How would your life improve if you fully submitted to Him? What price will you pay by refusing?

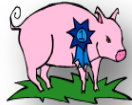
From Your Faith Community Nurse

WOW! I can't believe we are heading into September already. The Hampshire County fair is going on this week so our 4-H kids are busy with their animals and projects at the fair. The teachers and school staff started back this week and next week the kids go back to school. The new school year brings a new world of possibilities to the kids and to adults also. Learning and education does not end when you graduate from high school or college. As I am sure most of you know, learning is a life-long adventure. In the coming month, which I am calling Step-tember, I will be bringing you information on increasing the number of steps you take in a day, (did you know you should be walking 10,000 steps a day) how to be healthy as you age, and information on cholesterol- what's good, what's bad and what to do to make it better.

Look for the info sheets in the Fellowship Hall and in the vestibule in the coming weeks.

Step-tember tip #1: Circle around the block when you go outside to get your mail.

Have a great month!



Romney Presbyterian Church
110 West Rosemary Lane
Romney, WV 26757

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