

The Pipe Line

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July 6, 2021

FROM THE PASTOR

There was a time that my assignments included writing a weekly newspaper column about religion. It wasn't about my faith or about an interpretation of a particular scripture, but was rather about what was going on in the churches and faith community in the four-county area we covered. I typically compiled a round-up of services and special events, and wrote a feature story about someone or something.

I wrote about a woman who was advised to terminate a pregnancy because of medical concerns, but instead opted to stay in bed for the duration. It was there she learned to paint, and all these years later, she was having an art show and her now-teenaged daughter was with her. I didn't know all those details when I called the woman. I only knew she was having an art show, and figured she would have some sort of story to tell. Everyone has a story. You do. Your friends do. The people you meet at church do. There are people here who you have known for years, but you don't know their stories, not really. As I think of us being back together in person and emerging from the pandemic, I would encourage you to find someone whose story you may not know as well as you might. Listen to him or her.

I wrote a story about a man who had built a lighted rock cross that laid flat on the ground on a hillside. Thousands of people driving by could see that lighted cross on the hillside. The man told me about swinging a sledgehammer to bust the stones out of a mountainside. He told me how a nearby tree would drop nuts on the lightbulbs and the bulbs would shatter with a big kapow. He would replace the bulbs regularly. He would trim the grass around the rocks. I'd remembered how years earlier, in the first months of my newspaper career, I'd passed that lighted cross every couple of weeks on my way back and forth covering government meetings. It would often be late at night by the time I was going home. Seeing the light of the cross gave me a sense of comfort that God was with me in the every day of life. As I think of us being back together in person and emerging from the pandemic, I would encourage you to think about how the man created a way to express his faith, did the work and then kept it going. Think about how you can live out your faith.

As it happened, I found the story of the lighted cross just by driving by and talking to the man. But many of the story ideas, like the one about the artist, came from poring through about 50 or so church bulletins and newsletters each week. One of the common threads that I remember reading every summer was how pastors would fuss at their congregation members for not being in church in July by saying things like, "God doesn't take a vacation." It so happens that we came back together in person on Easter and it is summer as it's starting to feel like we're more fully emerging from the pandemic. During this time in which we generally take it easier and people are often here, there, and everywhere, it might not seem like the normal or ideal time to be reminding people to recommit themselves to the church and be present in worship. But it's not an either/or. I would have re-

minded those pastors that God did rest on the seventh day. By all means, enjoy your summer. But also don't forsake the gathering of yourself in worship, as Hebrews 10:25 tells us. I like what the previous verse says, Hebrews 10:24: "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds." (NRSV). The New International Version says it this way: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." The Contemporary English Version says, "We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things."

One of the exciting things about more fully emerging from the pandemic is that we can examine how we can better serve and help people. There are opportunities you'll find by reading this edition of the newsletter. But you'll also find ways to serve and help by listening to people. You'll also find fulfillment by doing the work to live out your faith.

God bless you!

Monte

YOU'RE INVITED! You're invited to join the Church Growth and Service Committee as it seeks to find ways to serve and help others as the church emerges from the pandemic. The committee is looking at things the church has done in the past and plans for the future. How can we best direct our energies to help people? The committee meets at 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, in the fellowship hall.



The ladies of the church are invited to a luncheon at Black Knight on July 15th at 11:30 a.m.. We haven't been able to meet for a long time and we need to resume our fellowship with each other. We are looking forward to being together again. Please call the church by July 13th, as the restaurant needs a count of ladies. We hope to see you there.

OPERATION BACKPACK

Beckley Presbyterian Church has long participated in a community-wide Operation Backpack program. The program provides backpacks and supplies to students in need.



This year they are hosting a rummage sale fundraiser on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (July 8, 9 and 10) at 412 Whitestick Street, Mabscott, across from the Mabscott Fire Department.

You may also donate items for the backpacks: crayons, pencils, markers, notebooks, paper, highlighters, rulers, backpacks, erasers, calculators, 3-ring binders, pencil pouches, pencil sharpeners, pencil boxes, 2-pocket folders, glue, glue sticks.

Monetary donations are also welcome. You can send a check to Operation Backpack, P.O. Box 710, Mabscott, WV 25871.

On behalf of my family, we would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, delicious food, and beautiful flowers. We also appreciate all those who were able to attend Bill's memorial service and to the choir for being there to sing in honor of Bill. It all meant so much. The outpouring of love holds a special places in our hearts. You helped us get through this difficult time. Thank you so much.

Valerie, Erin, and Emily Hartling



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ELDERS ON CALL



July 11-17

Bob Mestrovic and Scott VanMeter

July 18-24

Dan Calvert and Nancy Cameron

July 25-31

Billy and Marie Richmond



JULY

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 June Morris | 09 Sarah Mullins |
| 01 Bernard Hurtt | 12 Minta A. Bibb |
| 03 Heather Williams | 13 Dolly R. Johnson |
| 03 Chris Lucas | 23 Meredith Hughes |
| 08 Mary Stevenson | 27 Melinda Bland |
| 09 Beth Lester | 27 Monte Mitchell |
| 09 Daniel Trader | 30 Mary Calvert |
| 09 Christopher Bland | 31 Leigh Anne Ragalyi |

MEMORIAL GIFT FUND

We are grateful for the following Memorial Gifts

--In Memory of Johnny Walker: by Mr. & Mrs. Dave Sotak

--In Memory of Albert "Mac" Tieche : by Mr. & Mrs. Dave Sotak

--In Memory of Pamella Keyser: by Mr. & Mrs. Dave Sotak, Ms. Brenda Meadows, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lucas, Ms. Harriet Jones, Ms. Patricia Johnston, Ms. Gerry Sigmund and Becky Sigmund, Ms. Barbara Daniel, Dr. & Mrs. Lewis Gravely, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Schroder, Ms. Judy Ragland, Mr. Rondal Shrewsbury.

--In Memory of of Susella Dhinakaran: by Mr. & Mrs. Dave Sotak

--In Memory of William Hartling: by Ms. Ann Harkins, Ms. Brenda Meadows, Ms. Donna Stover, Ms. Kerry L. Mullins, Ms. Naomi Worley, FMRS Health Systems, Mr. James Songer, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Schroder, Ms. Judy Ragland, Mr. Rondal Shrewsbury, Ms. Harriet Jones, Ms. Nancy Kissinger, Dr. & Mrs. Lewis Gravely, Mr. & Mrs. David Marshall, Mr. David Bradley.

MUSIC FUND

--In Memory of William Hartling: by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lucas

LECTIONARY READINGS

July 4

2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10
and Ps. 48
Ezek. 2:1-5 and
Ps 123; 2 Cor. 12:2-10;
Mark 6:1-13

July 18

2 Sam. 7:1-14a
and Ps. 89:20-37;
Jer. 23:1-6 and
Ps. 23; Eph. 2:11-22;
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 11

2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19
and Ps. 24
Amos 7:7-15
and Ps. 85:8-13;
Eph. 1:3-14;
Mark 6:14-29

July 25

2 Sam. 11:1-15
and Ps. 14;
2 Kgs. 4:42-44 and
Ps. 145:10-18; Eph.
3:14-21; John 6: 1-21

NURTURING FAITH IDEAS

July 4 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 9: Read Mark 6:1-13 Jesus and his disciples go to his hometown of Nazareth, where he preaches at the synagogue. The people were amazed; they couldn't figure out where the miracles and wisdom had come from. How could a carpenter heal all of these sick people? Where did he get this wisdom from? So why wasn't he well received by the people of Nazareth? How would you react if you saw his healing powers with your own eyes?

July 11 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 10: Read Ephesians 1: 3-14 God created us all in God's image. We have redemption through God's son, Jesus the Christ, having been forgiven for our sins because of God's grace! How does your life show your gratitude and thanks for this amazing gift of God?



July 18 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 11: Read Psalm 89:20-37 Today, we read about God's covenant, or promise, to David. God promises to protect David from the enemy; God's love will forever be with, and show through, David. How do these promises affect us now? How do we live our lives in light of these promises?

July 25 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 12: Read Psalm 14 In this passage, we read how human beings have turned away from God and God's teaching. We are reminded that when we become overwhelmed, all we have to do is be still and know God is with us. How does life change when we go against God? Have you felt distant and separated from God? How do you reconnect and get back on the right path?