



CALVIN CHATTER

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia
Serving Christ & Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester since 1800

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www.firstchurch-winchester.org

Friends from Guatemala Are Coming to Winchester!

Save the Date—October 13



We are blessed to have International Peacemakers from Guatemala visit us in Shenandoah Presbytery from October 12 through 17. Our friends from Guatemala will be here in Winchester at First Church on Thursday, October 13, and in worship with us on Sunday, October 16. Mission co-worker **Karla Koll** has visited us before. She is accompanying **Juana Herlinda Yak**, who we first met as a member of the Faith Stories Project and who has worked with us on our last two trips to Guatemala when we visited and worked at the Health Post where she is the president of the health committee.

On Thursday, October 13, at 6 p.m., First Church will host a dinner and presentation by Juana Herlinda. Dinner will be catered by Cuna del Sol, a Guatemalan restaurant in Manassas. (The meal will be Chicken Pepian. Those of us who have traveled to Guatemala will tell you this is an outstanding dish, and Guatemalan food is NOT spicy.) The cost will be \$10 per person for dinner, and tickets will be for sale in the Gathering Space beginning October 2nd. After dinner, Juana Herlinda will share stories about her life and how she sees her work as a Peacemaker, followed by a time for questions. We expect to conclude by 8 p.m.

On October 14 and 15 they will be hosted by Bethesda Church near Lexington and Massanutten Church near Harrisonburg. They will bring greetings at our worship services on the October 16.

We hope many of you will be interested in learning more about their work and the new ways that we can reach out to serve Christ in the world.



October 2: World Communion/Peacemaking Sunday

Church receives major gift



Artie Reed

First Presbyterian Church was the recipient of a bequest from the estate of long-time church member **Artie Reed**. The gift amounted to \$332,458.32 and has been placed in the Growth and Development Fund and invested by the Trustees. The Session is considering several possibilities for the use of this bequest, including using it toward doing essential major work on our fifty-year-old heating and air conditioning system.

Artie was born in Fort Valley and lived in the area her whole life. She married **Harry Cain**, with whom she built a home in Stephens City, and after his death married **Millard Reed**. She worked as a beautician, first at a shop in Winchester and later out of her home. Artie had a fierce and independent spirit and loved conversation. She had a great love for the church, which she joined in 1951.

Artie lived a long and active life, dying in November 2010 at the age of 98. The legacy she leaves to her church is a wonderful affirmation of her love of the Lord and her faithfulness to this community of faith.



Church Picnic

Sunday, October 9, 12:30 p.m.

Jim Barnett Park

Kiwanis Shelter #2

Fellowship, food, and games

The Faith Stories Project: A New Adult Education Opportunity

Those of us who have experienced the Faith Stories Project with our friends in Guatemala have seen the power of sharing our faith stories in this way. The women who have participated in the project over time have developed a strong bond and have grown in their faith in unique and special ways. We have seen it in Guatemala, and we want to have that experience here in Winchester. The project teaches us simple theatre and storytelling skills that increase our awareness of the importance of sharing our story in a variety of ways. It also gives us different ways to look at our story that helps to grow our faith and broaden our perspective. This takes time and trust. So our intent is to meet together for about six months to learn these new skills and share our stories. We invite anyone who would like to have this new experience to join us. Although we will be learning some theatre skills and using them to tell our stories, there is no intention of doing any public performance unless the group decides that we want to do that.

The Faith Stories Project Group will begin with a retreat on October 21-23 at Camp Paddy Run. The retreat will be lead by professional group facilitator and director of the Faith Stories Project **Jennifer Thalman Kepler**. The schedule is still being developed but will be available soon. The cost of the retreat is dependent on the number of people who attend. We will need a commitment for the retreat by October 16. Look for more information coming in the bulletin and eNotices or contact **Sandy Cleaver** (662-3108) or **Carolyn Thalman** (723-0433).



Meeting of the Congregation

To elect Elder Nominating Committee

Sunday, October 9, 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

A Book and a Buck for Ethiopian Children

By Ed Pendleton



The Ethiopian Partnership Committee of Shenandoah Presbytery is working with Books for Africa (www.booksforafrica.org) to nurture a reading culture in Ethiopia by connecting children with books. Opequon Church partnered with the Illubabor Bethel Synod to build a library in Mettu, Ethiopia, the location of our two church-to-church partnerships at the Mettu and Ketta Mekane Yesus churches ("where Jesus lives"). Children of all faiths use the library as a place to study and read outside of school. However, the bookshelves in this library are almost entirely empty. The Partnership Committee is seeking gently used (or new) fiction and non-fiction books for children pre-school through 8th grade (ages 5-14). These books will supplement and enrich the library's academic materials and other books provided by Books for Africa.

Our First Presbyterian Ethiopian Team wants to sponsor "A Book and a Buck" project in cooperation with other churches in the Presbytery. Beginning in mid-October until mid-November, we will collect children's books as described above (omitting magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias or coloring books). Books for Africa is providing textbooks and other reference books. We ask you to contribute \$1 for each book you donate. The bucks will go toward shipping costs from the U.S. to Djibouti (the port for landlocked Ethiopia) and thence to Addis Ababa, where they will be picked up by our church partners and transported to Mettu. The project has raised nearly \$4,000 but needs an additional \$13,000 to ship a 40-foot container

containing several thousand books. If we collect enough books, or duplicate books, we may also be able to send books to the Youth Hostel, an orphanage in Gore, Ethiopia, or the Bethel Girls School in Addis Ababa. We'll set up a collection point for dropping off books on Sundays or during the week.

As anyone who has visited Ethiopia will tell you, children there are energetic and enthusiastic learners. Many walk miles to and from school each day. Children are learning English in their schools and will love these books. This project is a direct, tangible way for our congregation (and maybe especially our children) to make a positive difference for children whose needs are so great.

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact Ed Pendleton (665-4489, ed.libba@gmail.com).



Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meals

resume October 5

5:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Class on Reading and Use of Scripture led by Dan McCoig will be offered from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Donegal House

Wanted: Church Helpers

By Brent Miller

We have a beautiful, albeit large, facility that we can be thankful for. I have shown the buildings to quite a few “outsiders,” and they have all been very impressed. This year, a small group of people (**Tim England, Wayne Patteson, Chris Oldham, Joe Kalbach**, and myself) have been doing some small repairs around the church, some of which never seem to get done. We have replaced some lamps outside, weather stripped the sanctuary doors, re-lamped the choir loft, changed the HVAC filters, painted this and that, repaired storm windows, caulked some windows, replaced a motor in the boiler room, repaired several fire doors, removed the ceiling in the basement hallway to expose the leaking HVAC pipes, installed new exit lights, replaced some missing or broken door closers, adjusted other door closers, trimmed shrubbery, filled holes, pruned trees, installed furniture glides, pulled weeds, installed new thermostats, and some other things. If we hired outside people to perform these tasks, the estimated value of this work would be more than \$10,000. With the donation of most materials and all of the time, the total cost to the church was less than \$600. In other words, an investment of \$600 yielded a payback of \$10,000. Not too shabby! Are we done? Not by a long shot! We have many more jobs to accomplish around our properties, and more are cropping up all the time. I must also add that, aside from the obvious benefits to the church, we all had a good time working together on these projects! And, we haven’t missed a meal yet!

Some upcoming projects include sound-deadening banners for Donegal House, weather strip the arched office and chapel doors, general gardening and cleanup around the outside of the buildings, repair the doors at Old Stone, install lights and outlets in the Sanctuary crawl space, more furniture glides, more painting, more door closers and adjustments, rework the windows at Old Stone, repair the shutters at Old Stone, install functional outlets at Old Stone, continue the preventative maintenance and general maintenance duties,

resolve some ongoing lighting issues, install a new ceiling in the basement hallway, and so on.

For the upcoming projects around our facilities, we need carpenters, gardeners, woodworkers, general handypersons, seamstresses, painters, electricians, furniture repairers, specialty cleaners, whatever skill you can offer. Think you have no skills to offer? Come and join us and learn one! Think you have no time? Most of the work required an hour or two to accomplish, and scheduling is very flexible. Still convinced you have no skills or time? We are in need of donors for the materials needed. We are also in need of the usual handy-man tools; we have some, but could use more.

To offer your services or get further information, contact **Brent Miller**, brmiller@visuallink.com or (540) 888-4200. Thanks!



HVAC Renovations Update

By Brent Miller

For this year we have identified a small portion of the HVAC renovations that may be accomplished now. The church offices and library (Rooms 101, 102, 103, and 104) will be disconnected from the old system and have a new system of their own installed. Also, the Graham Room, Kent Room, and the adjacent bathroom will be converted over to having heating and cooling available. This work is anticipated to cost \$60,000 and will provide increased comfort in all of these areas. The work done now will not need to be redone next year when the entire system is renovated; that is, we are accomplishing a small, but needed, part of the overall plan now. For further information on this phase, contact **Joe Kalbach**.

Also, our existing boilers and air compressor are due for their biennial inspection. This work is scheduled for September 26. This should be the last time these inspections will be required. The results of these inspections will be posted soon. For further information regarding these inspections, contact **Brent Miller** at brmiller@visuallink.com or (540) 888-4200.



***CCAP Sunday
3rd Sunday
of each month***

October 16

***"When he saw the
crowds, he had
compassion on them
because they were
harassed and helpless,
like sheep without a
shepherd. Then he said
to his disciples, 'The
harvest is plentiful but
the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the
harvest, therefore, to
send out workers into
his harvest field.'"***

Matthew 9:36-38

***Four Cents-A-Meal
Hunger Offering
4th Sunday
of each month***

October 23



Challenge Gifts to Benefit WATTS and CCAP

An anonymous donor from our congregation will match gifts given to WATTS (Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter) up to a total of \$2,500 with a corresponding gift to CCAP (Congregational Community Action Program). This is a great opportunity to make our charitable giving go twice as far in assisting neighbors impacted by the challenging economy. For example, \$25 to WATTS results in \$25 to CCAP. Let's ensure that \$2500 goes to WATTS so that \$2,500 can go to CCAP.



Funding Emergency for Winchester Day Nursery

By Brookie Phillips

The Winchester Day Nursery has been operating for more than 70 years providing affordable pre-school and childcare services for working families in our community. Its primary goal is to fully prepare children for public school. It stresses academics, social skills and a love of learning. The nursery seeks to improve the academics and readiness for children entering kindergarten and allow parents to work and provide financially for their families.

The Winchester Day Nursery has been a United Way partner since its inception and relied heavily on an annual allocation to remain solvent. However, the nursery has been notified that it will not be receiving any funds from the United Way this year, representing a loss of income of approximately \$26,000.

Without these funds the nursery cannot cover staff salaries and operating expenses such as utilities, food, educational supplies, insurance and state mandated requirements.

The nursery is reaching out to its supporters in the community to help sustain the nursery. Without help, its current finances will not allow it to remain in operation beyond the early part of 2012. If you would like to help, please send a check to the church or place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning and note "Winchester Day Nursery" on the memo line. Thank you.



Your Session at Work

The congregationally-elected elders of Session meet monthly on the third Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Graham Room. Actions of the September meeting included setting aside scholarship monies to assist and encourage children and youth participation in Christian summer camps and the adoption of a narrative budget for the 2011 stewardship campaign of "Touching Lives Everyday."

All meetings of Session are open.

Births

- Aug 30 William Lawrence Pinna, son of Whitney and Jim Pinna, grandson of Kathy and Jay Wetsel
- Sep 6 James Allen Black IV, son of Caroline and Buster Black, grandson of Ginny and Joe Kalbach
- Sep 8 Quinn Mae Aikens, daughter of April and Jason Aikens, granddaughter of Elaine and Walter Aikens, and great-granddaughter Mildred and Carl Bowers
- Sep 9 Albin Campbell Lane, daughter of Sarah and Ryan Lane, granddaughter of Pam and Jeff Webber
- Sep 19 William Lawrence Foltz, great-grandson of Jane and Bill Lawrence
- Sep 23 Clara Elizabeth Nail, great-granddaughter of Hugh Dailey

In Memoriam, with Christian sympathy to the families

- Aug 24 Nellie Shaw
- Sep 2 Eloise Martin
- Sep 8 Bill Dillon
- Sep 11 Audrey Anna Churchill

DEADLINE FOR THE November CALVIN CHATTER is October 12.

Send submissions to calvin.chatter@verizon.net.

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Founded July 16, 1788; Organized September 7, 1800

Sunday Worship Services 7:30 a.m. (Boyd Chapel), 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

New Stone Gathering (Fellowship Hall), 8:30 a.m.

Coffee and Cookies 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Richard W. Reifsnyder

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Dan M. McCoig, Jr.

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Parish Associate: The Reverend Elizabeth Lewis

Director of Children's Ministry: Todd Bowman

Minister of Music: Roger Callis

Director of Adult Handbell Choirs: Lynn Reifsnyder

Organist: Pat Byers

Music Leader for New Stone Gathering: Amy Bowman