



# Presbyterian

## R E P O R T E R

Volume 57, Issue 8, October 2017

### A Note from the Pastor

#### Halloween on the Hill

As a result of our congregation's New Beginnings re-visioning process from 2013-2015, it became clear that we needed to learn more about the issues facing our community if we were going to remain a relevant and vital congregation.

One way we have sought to do this is by co-hosting with Emmanuel Episcopal a community-wide Halloween festival for our community's children and their families. For the past three years, we have offered safe space and hospitality to several hundred children and their families on the Saturday closest to October 31st.

In recognition that some of these families are vulnerable to drug abuse, this year we have invited two community partners who are dedicated to raising awareness of opioid abuse and prevention and treatment options. In addition to food, fun and candy, this year we are also providing education and resources related to the opioid epidemic in our community.

**Did you know that one out of every five babies born at Western Maryland Health System is addicted to drugs? Or that Allegany County ranks second only to Baltimore in the number of overdose deaths per capita?** If you have been wondering how you might learn more about the opioid crisis or how you can help, this is your opportunity to do that. A number of groups in the community are working together to address this crisis and they need our help.

JOIN US FOR HALLOWEEN ON THE HILL ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 with our new friends: *Hope Against Heroin*, a faith-based organization founded and run by people in recovery and families of those affected by drug use; and *Prescribe Change Allegany County*, a state-funded campaign to create awareness and educate citizens about the growing crisis of opioid prescription drugs, and heroin misuse and abuse in our community. For more details about how you can help, look for the "Halloween on the Hill: Volunteers Needed" in the Learn and Grow Section on page!!!!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolene". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the "Yours in Christ," text.

## SEPTEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2017 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. David Stickler served as Clerk, *pro temp.*

The Session took the following actions:

- Approved the year to date financials as of August 31, 2017
- Approved the sale of homemade crafts by the Maasi Tribesmen in connection with their program hosted by World Artists Experiences in the Fellowship Hall on October 6, 2017.
- Confirmed the electronic vote of Session to approve the expenditure of \$1,750.00 for supplemental services for the new church database software.
- Approved the Buildings and Grounds Committee recommendation to engage:
  - 1) Burkey's Furniture and Carpeting to install carpet and wall based on three staircase landings and install new all base in the basement hallway at a total cost of \$2,378.11.
  - 2) Ammons Construction to center the new light outside the Pastor's Office for \$300.00 to be paid from the Endowment Fund.

In addition the Session heard:

- A report from Nadene Stroup, Director of Learning Tree Nursery School giving a historical overview, highlighting the goals and ideals of the school and outlines the activities available to students.
- A report from Agnes Yont on the supplemental funds needed to complete the update to the Church's database software.
- A report from Shirley Giarritta that the Fall Cleanup Day has been scheduled for Saturday, October 21 from 9:00 a.m. until noon.
- A report from Rev. Kelly concerning the West Virginia Mission Trip.
- A report from Carolyn Mathews that Livestream has been replaced by Facebook/YouTube for broadcasting our worship services.
- A report from Joe Weaver about the 2017-2018 program offerings educational plan.
- A report from Buck Belt that planning is underway for Halloween on the Hill and a new Church Directory.
- Rev. Kelly reported that she and Phil Mills attended the Presbytery meeting where she was installed as Vice Moderator.
- The membership of the Southminster Committee shall include Pam Jan, Sharon Squires, Rev. Kelly, Phil Mills, Janet Hendershot, and Gary See. The Committee is reviewing the offer of purchase from Bethany House of the Lord.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk or Moderator.

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# CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE CONNECTIONS REV. KELLY INSTALLED AS VICE-MODERATOR



Rev. Kelly was installed as the new Presbytery Vice-Moderator, along with Elder Adrienne Knight, a Moderator, on September 14th at Knox Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. Caroline will succeed Elder Knight as Moderator next year and will be installed in a service hosted by First Presbyterian in September of 2018.



Debbie Wodaski	1-Oct
Sandi Rowland	4-Oct
Rick Bissell	7-Oct
Bill Courtney	15-Oct
Miranda Kellermeyer	15-Oct
Bob Courtney	19-Oct
Charlene Lelinski	20-Oct
Carlotta Shaffer	24-Oct
Nadene Stroup	24-Oct
Susan Wilson	24-Oct
Sandy Fritz	25-Oct
Sharon Squires	28-Oct
Stephen Weddle	29-Oct

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

The Congregational Care and Outreach Committee are working to produce an updated church directory this fall. Photographers and people assisting in updating the congregation's contact information will be in the parlor after worship on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and November 5<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the printed church photo directory should be available to the congregation before Christmas. All the updates to the directory will be reflected in the electronic version of the directory used by people who download the Instant Church Directory on their smart phones.

## BUILDING & GROUNDS FALL CLEAN UP DAY



On **Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**, the Buildings & Grounds Committee invites you to come out and help clean-up the church from **9AM-12PM**. Time to start putting the outside to bed for the Fall and polishing up the inside for Advent.

**We need your help and talents, so please sign up for the following:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Painting**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Heavy Lifting**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Organizing the Kitchen and Pantry**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Yard Work**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

Our theme for our Stewardship Campaign this year is “Giving with Gratitude: It's A Time To...” During this Stewardship Season, we will focus on time and how time resonates differently with all of us. Time is truly precious! Time is given by God so freely but disappears so quickly. How are we, as God’s people, being called to spend our time and give our resources? How will it enhance our lives and help our church?

We know that stewardship is not just one season, but a year round response that recognizes everything is a gift from God. We know that stewardship is a response to God’s love and faithfulness, not only financially, but in how we spend our time. We will ask that people give proportionately and with joy in response to God’s love.

During worship in the months of October and early November, some of our members will share their personal stories of faith and how God and our church have impacted their lives.

Also in the month of October, we will once again have small group Stewardship dinners which we encourage everyone to attend. We learned how those dinners promoted fellowship and gave us an opportunity to understand our church’s financial condition and how our giving impacts our mission.

On behalf of the stewardship committee and session, I would like to thank you for your past ministry of giving and ask that you again prayerfully reflect on the financial support that you may provide in 2018. Your pledges represent the largest component of the church’s budget. With your support we can plan our priorities for both our ministry and mission.

**2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**  
**GIVING WITH GRATITUDE**  
**IT'S A TIME TO...**  
**FALL FELLOWSHIP DINNERS**

Dear friends:

This year's Stewardship dinners are taking shape as we plan for the opportunity to break bread with other members, learn more about our Church's financial health and the role your giving will play in constructing the 2018 budget. The host will provide the main course, and you are asked to bring side dishes, bread, beverages or desserts.

Those who have agreed to host dinners and their dinner dates are as follows:

- **Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: Rex and Sandra Burton's home in LaVale at 6:00 PM**
- **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>: Buck and Jane Belt's home in LaVale at 5:30PM**
- **Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>: Mike and Cathy Levitas' home in Lavale at 6:00 PM is FULL!!**
- **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>: Bob and Sharon Kazary's home in Grantsville at 3:00PM**

Please contact Brittany at the church office to complete your dinner reservation. The Stewardship Committee and church office are coordinating the dinners with guests and hosts.

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**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Fall Fellowship Dinners**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to attend a dinner on:

Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM: \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Halloween on the Hill: Volunteers Needed!

The fun begins on October 28, 2017, Saturday, from 2-4PM at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. First Presbyterian Church will host the "trunk or treat" portion in our parking lot. This is open to the public and will be an outdoor only event this year.

Halloween on the Hill is a joint event sponsored by Emmanuel Episcopal, First Presbyterian, Hope Against Heroin, and Prescribe Change. The committee has begun working on items like a Bounce House, a pumpkin patch to paint faces on the pumpkins, face painting for the youngsters, games, a small animal feature to get up close and personal with some critters, and an opportunity to look at information about drug abuse prevention with knowledgeable folks to talk about it and answer your questions.

There will be refreshments and perhaps a costume contest.

We need willing helpers for the above activities and candy donations for the "trunk or treat". Last year we had 200-300 people attend so we can use your help.

Please contact Brittany in the office, Buck Belt (301-707-8072) or Barbara Aber (301-461-3729) to join the team.

## FAITH FORMATION FALL OFFERINGS SUNDAY MORNING OPPORTUNITIES



### YOUNG DISCIPLES

**2-5 year olds - An Illustrated Compassion:  
Learning to Love Like God**

**Facilitators: Ginny Reid and Jessie Gates**

A flexible lesson using stories, coloring and music, this curriculum offers children the opportunity to learn about God's compassion in the Bible and help them turn concepts of compassion into actions.

*This curriculum will also serve as the basis for a children's lesson offered in the nursery in place of the sermon during worship.*

Location: Nursery (1<sup>st</sup> floor Education Building)

Day/Time: Sundays, 9:45 AM

### ADULTS

**Personalizing Bible Stories**

**Facilitator: Katie Ross**

In this interactive class we will read and study many of the familiar Bible stories. We will look at them from a very human perspective. What do we think the main characters were thinking and feeling? What do we think that God was trying to tell them? What is God trying to tell us through these stories? There will also be time for sharing joys, concerns and Christian fellowship. Resource: *The 52 Greatest Stories of the Bible* by Kenneth Boa and John Alan Turner.

*Bibles will be provided; however participants are encouraged to bring a study bible with them.*

Location: Chapel

Day/Time: Sundays, 9:45 AM

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### WV FLOOD RECOVERY WORK CAMP



It was a privilege and pleasure to offer our time and talents to serve two families who lost their homes in a devastating flash flood in Kanawha County, West Virginia during the week of September 17th. Our team consisted of the very experienced home construction individuals to the ready and willing to learn workers. Working together with our various skills, we helped in the finishing process of two new homes for the affected families. We were fortunate to interact with the families. We served them, but the two families served us in demonstrating their resilience and faith in dealing with disaster. The Holy Spirit was with us and is with our West Virginia friends.

The Mission Committee would like to thank Phil Mills for organizing the trip and team members, Bob Courtney, Julie Courtney, Gary Hendrickson, Mike Levitas, Caroline Kelly, Jim Mooney and Judy Stern. We also thank the congregation for their donations and prayers. Please ask any of the team members to share their experiences and reflections.



### ALLA SUROKA: INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION



Robert and Yulia Gamble, along with Alla Suroka who serves as the project manager for This Child Here, will be here on Sunday October 29th. Alla has been chosen by The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. to be one of 12 International Peacemakers. She will be introduced during worship, and make a presentation with a light lunch served after worship service.

## QHOLAQHOE MOUNTAIN CONNECTION



Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections (QMC) was established in 2009 in response to the dire needs of the population of the rural Qholaqhoe Mountain region of the country of Lesotho, a developing country geographically surrounded by South Africa.

QMC's mission is to benefit the people of Qholaqhoe, Lesotho by providing the financial assistance to promote the ability of students to receive an education.

Thanks to FPC donation five young children will be awarded scholarships for school fees, extra food for lunch, testing fees, and a school uniform and shoes.

**See page 9 for thank you letter that was sent to us.**





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## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

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QHOLAQHOE MOUNTAIN CONNECTIONS

P.O. BOX 405 • HONEOYE FALLS, NY 14472



August 14, 2017

Judy Stern, Co-Moderator  
Missions Committee  
First Presbyterian Church  
11 Washington Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502-2995

Dear Judy and All Members of Missions,

Thank you for your generous donation! Five young children who are finishing Form 7 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade US) and who will not be able to attend high school because they have no financial support are going to be awarded a scholarship thanks to you. The school year in Lesotho begins the end of January and ends in early December. The teachers and administrators at Qholaqhoe High School will be meeting with community members and teachers from the local elementary schools to select students. We will travel to Qholaqhoe in early February 2018 and meet with the students, travel to their village and meet their family. Often the selected students live alone, either as the head of family with younger siblings in their care, or with extended family. Some students will have a mother and father who are subsistence farmers and have no money for school fees.

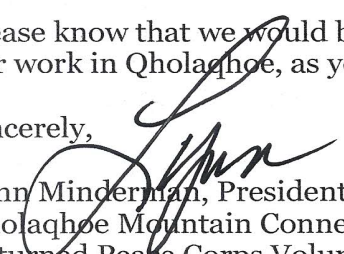
The \$250 tuition per student will provide them with school fees, extra food at lunch, testing fees, a school uniform and shoes. The donation for food will help support our Emergency Food Fund, managed by Me Makabeli, a maths teacher, who travels to the nearest town once a month and purchases food supplies for students who have no food at home and no nearby family. We have sent funds to the principal of QHS, Me Mamare Mosaase, for the last 16 weeks of school this year. She will purchase more food so children can have extra helpings at lunchtime and will be given an added meal on Friday. This is often the only meal these children receive each day.

When we return in March, you will receive photographs of each student, their home village, family members and a letter. The students will write to you two more times during the school year. The letters back and forth between sponsor and students has proved amazingly helpful to these children. Attending school is a hardship, as they must also help with home chores of finding fuel, water, caring for cattle, goats and gardens. Students often walk one or two hours each way to school.

We are updating our website, [www.qmconnect.org](http://www.qmconnect.org), and will be sending our yearly newsletter in October.

Please know that we would be happy to travel to Cumberland and give a slide/movie presentation of our work in Qholaqhoe, as you have been supporters for many years and we value your trust.

Sincerely,

  
Lynn Minderman, President  
Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections  
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer  
Lesotho 2007-08

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

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### THIS CHILD HERE ODESSA PEACE CAMP REPORT



Part of our global mission money designated to “This Child Here” benefited not only Robert Gamble’s Peace Camp in Odessa this summer, but our Czech partners in Vsetin, Czech Republic. Three young adults from the Vsetin church were volunteers at the camp, which was attended by twelve refugee families.

Robert’s message, the evening the camp closed: ...These three volunteers, Martin, Daniel and Anet need an award for going beyond the call of duty at our Peace Camp for refugees! By caring, befriending, energizing, and relating to young and old, they were an inspiration to everyone. I never expected to be so blessed by having them. When you said, “Hope our participation at your mission will be helpful,” you got what you hoped for. As did we!...

The Czech youths’ description of the camp was:

*In the middle of July we set off to Odessa in Ukraine, where we were supposed to take part at the Peace Camp, organized by This Child Here for families that had to escape from warzone at the east Ukrainian border. Just after the arrival we met Robert Gamble, Alla Soroka and other people from the staff, later also those twelve families who took part in the camp. We spent marvelous moments there, in which had workshops and taught kids to juggle, played games and walked on slackline. We also organized an international evening, in which we briefly introduced our country and taught all participants the songs we sing in our youth group. After two weeks we were returning home, overwhelmed with the openness, warm acceptance and also by the strength of the families who experienced the war, left their homes and had to start from the very beginning.*

*Anet Hrbáčková, Martin Knebl, Daniel Voda*

One of the goals of our partnership is to jointly support some of each other’s missions. Both the Vsetín church and ours donated to the camp for the three youth to attend. We are happy that everything went well and that the youth arrived safely home and were excited about the mission. They are grateful for the opportunity that was offered through our partnership. Hopefully we can find other projects to work on together, monetarily and in person.

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## WORSHIP & MUSIC

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Led by Beau Hartman, our next Contemplative Prayer Service in the style of the Taizé community will be offered in the chapel at 5:00PM on Sunday, October 15th. You can come as you are, invite a friend, or the person walking down the street. You may remain silent or participate in the singing and reading. You can also bring an instrument to join in! We will gather for this service on the third Sunday each month.

### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

This October promises to be a busy and exciting time for the music ministry at FPC!

On October 29, as we observe the 500th year of the Reformation, the Sanctuary Choir will be joined by special guest violinist Wesley Mason to present an extended anthem by the Dutch baroque composer Dietrich Buxtehude, based on an original hymn of Martin Luther.

Other Sundays during the month will feature favorite choral anthems from the FPC music library, as well as some new additions to the repertoire by contemporary composers.

In addition to Sunday morning worship, you are also invited to attend a special Contemplative Prayer Service on October 15 at 5:00 p.m. in the chapel. This month we will welcome Beau Hartman as our guest musician for worship in the style of the Taizé Community.

As always, you are invited to participate in our music ministry! The Sanctuary Choir is always open to new members, regardless of musical experience or how often you are able to commit to singing. For more information, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Yours in Christ,  
Bryan Lohr

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# WORSHIP & MUSIC

## COMMUNION SERVICES THIS SEASON

THE DIRECTORY FOR WORSHIP indicates that communion may be received in one of three traditional ways: passing the elements to each other around the communion table; coming forward to receive the elements by intinction; or seated in the pews. For most Sundays of the year we practice communion by intinction. However, when the service is of a more somber nature, we receive communion in our seats. The following is our communion schedule for the next few months.

**November 5<sup>th</sup> –**  
seated communion for All Saints Day as we remember all the “saints” of our lives

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> -**  
seated communion for Advent as we prepare for Christ’s birth

**December 24<sup>th</sup> –**  
communion by intinction to celebrate Christ’s birth

**January 7<sup>th</sup> –**  
communion by intinction to celebrate Epiphany

## FALL KICK-OFF



Everyone enjoyed a wonderful potluck picnic lunch after worship.



Rev. Kelly and Elder Cathy Levitas talk with Elena Corley and Samuel Kellermeyer during a Time for Young Disciples.



Linda Smith and Aaron Hendrickson sample the smorgasbord of desserts.



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## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

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### MAASAI RETURN TO CUMBERLAND



World Artists Experiences will bring the Maasai from Kenya for a performance on October 6th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church. The event is free and open to the public. Invite your friends and families!

Dressed as they have for centuries, the Maasai will present the age old traditions of their people from Southern Kenya which includes a unique form of dances, storytelling and music. They will demonstrate their unique jumping form of dancing, tell stories, and sing in multi-part harmonies. The six men are authentic Maasai herdsman and warriors, and the two women come with their crafts, dance and music as they would perform in the villages. Handmade crafts from their village will be on display and for sale.

ALL monies raised through donations and craft sales will go to the Maasai through the PAL Foundation to buy a well boring machine. Southern Kenya has been experiencing a drought for several years. These semi nomads desperately need water for themselves and their cattle.

The public is also invited to a demonstration and sale of the Maasai's intricate beadwork on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 10am at Mountain City Traditional Arts at [25 E. Main Street, Frostburg](#).

Thanks to Rolfe, and Bill and Amy Workman for being host families for the Maasai, and all other church members who are assisting. For more information, call Linda Smith or Rolfe Singerman, WAE ambassadors.

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First Presbyterian Church  
Eleven Washington Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

**We Thank God For:**

*October*

Address Service Requested

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## **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

In an effort to bring down cost of printing newsletters each month we would like to hear from you:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to continue to receive my monthly newsletter by mail.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be added to the E-News list and receive my newsletter by email instead of by traditional mail.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to remove my self from the newsletter mailing list.

Please call or email your responses to [firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com).