

Shenandoah Press

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2016



Special points of interest:

- Submit Your Church or Pastor to be spotlighted in our next issue!
- Annual Middle School Rally photos
- Big Event Mission Fair Awards
- CWS Kits Needed
- Events and Happenings around the presbytery

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A Message from our Transitional Presbyter

As I move about the presbytery meeting and worshipping with, and preaching in our congregations, I am immediately struck by the dedicated commitment I see to serve the Lord. Joyous worship, engaging fellowship, caring outreach and mission in the community and beyond are abundantly evident in all of our congregations no matter what size they may be.

I am honored and humbled to be your brother in Christ and to partner with you in the upbuilding of Christ's church. Having been a pastor for congregations of differing shapes and sizes for thirty years prior to being your transitional presbyter, I know well the challenges your congregation faces in these days. We do not find ourselves in an age where church membership is sought or

where commitment and sacrifice in the name of Christ can be assumed. The divisions we find in our national life can frequently be found in our congregations, snuffing out the clarion call to unity in Christ.

Losses of membership, commitment, and financial support have created an atmosphere of worry about the future for many of our congregations. Some of you have shared with me that you are not sure your congregation will be around in five years' time. Our presbytery has begun to reorient much of its work toward the needs of its member congregations and, in time, it is my hope and expectation that this renewed emphasis on the local congregation will produce good fruit.

In the meantime, please know that I am in constant prayer for

you and I stand ready to support your mission and ministry in any way I can. I truly believe that God is in your presence and, by the Holy Spirit, offers your congregation a way forward. Be open to that way even if it appears radically different from the past and the present. I thank God for you, your congregation, and your faithful commitment to Christ and his mission in the world.

Roy
The Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin, Jr.
Transitional Presbyter

Be Our Church or Pastor of the Month

Beginning with our November issue of the Shenandoah Press, we want to spotlight one of the churches of the presbytery. We would like to know what mission your church is involved with and what types of activities you have planned. If you are interested, please email a short church history and your mission and activity information to shenpres@shenpres.org. Include a photo or two, please.

The staff wants to also spotlight a Pastor of the Month for each issue. Please send a photo of your pastor along with some history they have with your church and items that churches of Shenandoah Presbytery would be interested in. We will continue to showcase churches and pastors each month.

The deadline is October 18 for the November issue .

Presbytery Staff is here for you

Roy Martin, Transitional Presbyter
Email – presbyter@shenpres.org

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Email – kims@shenpres.org

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Larry Holsinger, Treasurer

Goodbye Letter from Director of Presbyterian Mission Agency



Hunter Farrell

Dear colleagues in Christ's mission,
 This month marks for me 30 years of service to the Presbyterian Mission Agency. After being commissioned as mission co-workers in the summer of 1986, Ruth and I were sent to France for language study and then on to the Congo (then Zaire) to work at the Faculty of Reformed Theology of the Kasai (Ndesha) in Kananga. The experiences of these three decades are far richer than my words can express and so is my sense of thanksgiving. It was the way that Presbyterians engage in God's mission that brought me back to the church when I was in my 20s and I will always be grateful.

So it is with a heart full of gratitude and some sadness that I share with you the news that I am resigning as Director of Presbyterian World Mission as of October 14 in order to discern God's call for the next season of my life. I will be working with colleagues here to support Presbyterian World Mission to ensure a smooth transition into the future.

I am grateful beyond words for the chance to have served our church on four continents, in four languages, among colleagues in mission who have taught me so much—Congolese, Peruvian, American—and more nationalities than I can count! I look forward with great anticipation and hope to all God has in store for Presbyterian World Mission and for me in the coming chapter.

I am thankful for the grace you've shown me and for your partnership in God's mission and I look forward to continuing with you in that mission in new ways.

With you in Christ,
Hunter

Ethiopian Partnership Banquet



Belief in the gospel is exploding in Ethiopia and we have a partnership with them. What does that mean for ministry in Shenandoah Presbytery?

Shenandoah Presbytery has a mission partnership with the Illubabor Bethel Synod in Ethiopia, part of one of the fastest growing Christian communities in the world. Ethiopia – a country twice the size of Texas – is predicted to have the third largest number

of Christians in the world with 50 million members by 2050. 25% or more of them are expected to be Presbyterian/Lutherans.

What can we receive from them? What can we learn from them?

Bill Cox will discuss these questions at the next Ethiopian Partnership Banquet, Oct. 14, at the Massanutton Presbyterian Church. Bill has been involved with the

partnership since its beginning and was one of our early visitors to Ethiopia.

Please join us for the banquet and worship service. Registration is at 5:30, followed by the banquet at 6:30, and worship at 7:30. Please spread the news of this event in your congregation.

A bulletin insert and reservation form is available [here](#).

Devotional by Linda Reese

It's officially fall, and I'm remembering Sunday afternoons when I was a kid. My dad was "a wanderer" and would take the family on imaginative excursions down country roads. One particular trip took us on foot into the fall brilliance of a wooded area. We walked for a while, picked a spot, and sat down. Even our dog sensed the need to just sit and be quiet. It would take pages to describe the treasure of those moments. All these years later, all my senses come alive with the memory.

I often feel a melancholy this time of year, and I attribute it to those experiences, when my dad had shared what he had known for a long time as a hunter waiting for that unsuspecting deer. He discovered the beauty of being silent ~ not for the kill, but for the eventual awakening of sight and smell and hearing to the magnificent presence of God.

The "melancholy" might seem a badly chosen description for pleasant memories, but the yearning for quiet, simple times often feels like grief. I still miss my dad. I miss the adventures he led us on. And I miss that fresh, childhood awakening of heart to the magnificent presence of God. In the high stress of our world, I need to learn again and again how to be still... and know that He is God.

Psalm 46:10

**Be still and
 know that I
 am God**

Report from Committee on Mission & Outreach (CMO)

Disaster Kits Collected at November Presbytery Meeting

Once again we will be collecting Church World Service (CWS) kits at the November presbytery meeting which this year will be held at Opequon Church on November 1.

Only completed kits are being accepted at this time. We are no longer accepting baby kits.

Only hygiene, school and cleanup buckets are needed. Instructions can be found at <http://shenpres.org/cws-kit-guide/>.

-- Be sure to pack all of the same kits in a box together and don't mix them up. Then place the coupon label on each box showing your information. The

coupon label can be found at: <http://shenpres.org/cws-kit-guide/>

--Deliver your kits to the Shower trailer at Opequon at the Nov 1st presbytery meeting. Please do not bring them to the presbytery office this time.



Mission Fair Awards at Big Event

The Committee on Mission and Outreach are happy to announce that those who attended the Big Event Mission Fair chose their favorites as the top two displays at the Fair. Of the 20 or so displays competing, the first place award went to the Opequon Church for their display, and the second place award went to the Elkton Church for their display. Thanks to everyone who shared about their church's mission program for us all to see. Begin now to plan your church's display at next year's Big Event.

Presbytery Website Offers Resources for Mission Committees

The Presbytery website <http://shenpres.org/mission/> offers a wide variety of resources to help congregations support and grow their local mission programs. One excellent resource is a booklet titled [SEVEN STANDARDS OF GOOD MISSION PRACTICE](#). As we engage in mission activities in our communities, it is important to do so with sensitivity to those we go to help. Knowing that we go to work alongside those who seek to help changes how we approach any mission activity.

This booklet helps mission teams and mission committees prepare to go do no harm. It also encourages those who go to return and reflect on what they have seen and heard.

Another resource on the presbytery website is an excellent resource titled [CALLED TO MISSION](#). It is prepared by PCUSA World Mission staff and collects in one book the very best resources for congregations who want to be faithful in mission in their communities or where ever they

go. It includes things like CORE VALUES of good mission practice, the THREE GLOBAL INITIATIVES guiding the denomination and all of our programs, ideas on how to decide to support a PCUSA mission co-worker, and then how to do it. Download this pdf document from the website and invite your mission and outreach committees to use it as a study guide in the months ahead.

Submitted by Doug Sensabaugh



Note from Rachel Yates

Thank you again for the wonderful gift to be among you for the Big Event [last weekend]. It was a pleasure to get to know you and to share about World Mission. The Presbytery has been a strong supporter of our mission co-workers and we are truly grateful. Blessings,
Rachel Yates

(Rachel was our Guest Speaker at the Big Event this year!) Thank YOU, Rachel!

Presbytery Youth "Ignite the Light!" of Christ at Middle School Rally

The Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council Extraordinaire (SPYCE) was delighted to welcome almost 80 guests to its 14th Annual Middle School Rally on Sunday, September 25! The rustic, beautiful campus of Massanetta Springs was the perfect backdrop for a day spent talking about light and darkness, and how the love of Jesus will always triumph over any darkness in our world and

in our lives. The Rally was planned and led entirely by the 15 high school members of SPYCE and

included youth and adults from 11 churches. The message was unveiled through creative and meaningful skits, small group conversations about how our words have the power to bring hope and grace if we use them wisely, how God can meet us in our own hard times, and how through the great hope of Christ, we are led out of the

darkness and into His marvelous light. Praise God for this amazing opportunity for youth to serve in leadership roles that included music, small groups, worship planning and hospitality, and for our guests who blessed us with their presence!

Submitted by Jenna Smith



Committee on Pastoral Transition (CPT) Report

On a recent visit to one of our congregations in transition, a member approached me afterward and remarked, "Thank you for caring about our church. For years it seemed we were lost in the shuffle of all the presbytery's churches, but you've made us feel a part of it again."

**"Thank you
for caring
about our
church."**

While I cannot take all the credit for helping congregations feel better connected to the presbytery, I am delighted that I get to hear comments like the one I received that night. Fact is, the Committee on Pastoral Transition has an amazing group of dedicated volunteers who work with sessions, Pastor Nominating Committees, and entire congregations, helping our congregations be as healthy as possible for vibrant ministry.

As an extension of the entire

presbytery, CPT cares deeply about the congregations going through pastoral transition. We know that this transition time is often characterized by "hurry up and wait." We are doing



our best to respond quickly and effectively to congregations' needs. Transition is difficult; just think of all the life transitions we go through on a personal level. Now, expand that to the life of a congregation, and we have many members who are concerned about what's next for them. It can be a frustrating time, especially if a congregation hasn't gone through pastoral transition before, or for a very long time.

CPT desires to partner with congregations in ways that use the best of the congregation's resources and also draws on the expertise of the Liaisons from CPT who are working with them. When this marriage of resources works, we get comments like the one that I received recently.

It is a privilege to work with our dedicated committee members, Liaisons, Moderators, and others who serve on behalf of CPT. Together, we are making a difference for Shenandoah Presbytery and for the kingdom of God. If you'd like to learn more about how God can use you to promote increased connection through CPT, please contact me!

Lisa Wilson

Second Call: Please Help with Congregational Assessments

There's still time to volunteer to help sessions and congregations learn where they are and where they can be going through the Holy Cow Consulting Congregational Assessment Tool (the CAT). If the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this service, please investigate further. Contact Carl Howard, 304-754-3814 or

revarlhoward@comcast.net

Carl is seeking about a half dozen more teaching elders, ruling elders, deacons and other

devoted disciples who will get equipped for CAT consulting, at a two-day workshop at presbytery offices, on November 17-18.

Volunteers help sessions put together a short season of accessing the CAT (or *Conversations*, a similar tool for smaller congregations) and then interpret the results for sessions and encourage congregational discussion about discernment. All congregations in pastoral transition use the CAT or *Conversations*. Other

congregations that are investigating transformation or strategic planning find the assessment tools helpful for knowing "the state of the congregation" as God's will is sought.



Haiti Thank You

I am delighted to offer this optimistic report about our continued mission work in Haiti. In July the Windy Cove Mission Team of 2016 spent a week in Haiti. Our Team this year consisted of seven persons and traveled, worked, and worshiped well together.

Our main focus this year was to conduct four mini-Bible Schools at four different schools established and supported by the Haiti Education Foundation (HEF). These schools included Cherident (the location of the HEF Guest House where we stayed), Notre Dame School in David, Haiti. We received our end-of-school report this summer. During the school year, 8,794 meals were served to students and staff at the school. The average number of meals served each of the 186 days of school was 52. The total cost of the meals was \$2,374.38 or \$.27 per meal. So, your offerings of \$75 for each child to go to school and \$50 to provide a meal for the child made a significant difference in the life of about 52 children and teachers.

For our mini-Bible School, we sang with the children in English and in Creole, the common language of Haiti. We told and acted out the story of the Good Samaritan. For

whatever reason, the donkey was a big hit in the acting version of the story. However, the kids really did get the point. After the story, we did a coloring page to reinforce the story. We provided a small box of crayons which the children could take home with them. Then, we had a hand craft with a decorative heart which told them that Jesus loves them.

I am also glad to report to you on the feeding program at Notre Dame School in David, Haiti. We received our end-of-school report this summer. During the school year, 8,794 meals were served to students and staff at the school. The average number of meals served each of the 186 days of school was 52. The total cost of the meals was \$2,374.38 or \$.27 per meal. So, your offerings of \$75 for each child to go to school and \$50 to provide a meal for the child made a significant difference in the life of about 52 children and teachers.

We invite you to continue your support of the children and teachers at Notre Dame

School and the other HEF schools either through our Windy Cove Mission Project or directly through the Haiti Education Fund. We are always excited to introduce new people to the ministry in Haiti. We anticipate that our 2017 trip to Haiti will be in early to mid-July and will cost around \$1,000 per person. If you feel the tug of the Holy Spirit toward joining the team, let me know. You can call or email me at the numbers above. Or, perhaps you can mention this opportunity to a friend. You would be amazed at how the Lord works to put our teams together.

We truly appreciate your partnership with us in the ministry that the Lord is doing in and through us and the Haiti Education Foundation in the mountains of Haiti.

With thanksgiving,
Pastor Rob Sherrard
Windy Cove Church
Email to wcpcc@cfw.com



“Celebrate 150!” with Loch Willow

Loch Willow Church in Churchville has been celebrating all year. “Celebrate 150!” marks the sesquicentennial of our congregation, chartered by Lexington Presbytery on October 6, 1866. Loch Willow is one of the churches founded shortly after the Civil War, when horses were in short supply and rural communities needed more churches that were easier to walk to. Members of Hebron and Union Churches formed most of the first members of Loch Willow.

The highlight of the celebration year will be Homecoming on **Sunday, October 9**. Former pastor Michael Hoyt will provide the sermon based on Psalm 90:1-6 and 2 Timothy 1:1 – 14, titled “Presbyterian Frontiers.” Other former pastors, interim pastors, and ministers with roots in Loch Willow will participate in the service. A covered-dish lunch will follow worship, with an afternoon program featuring a historical slide show and music by “Southern Hospitality.”

Everyone is invited to join Loch Willow for either or both programs on Sunday. The current pastor is Reed Hopkins. For more information, call 540-337-8543 or email lochwillowpastor@comcast.net.



FALL- FEST

TINKLING SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15th

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Activities for All Ages!

Food Available

Pancake Breakfast 8:00 - 10:30 a.m. BBQ Chicken – Halves \$5.00 Dinners \$8.00
Hot Dogs, Chips, Popcorn, and Drinks

Shopping

Yard Sale, General Store, Bakery, and Accessory Boutique
Pumpkin Patch

Entertainment

Concerts by the Spring – 9:30 and 11:00 am.
12:30 and 2:00 p.m.

Pumpkin Decorating 9:00 -11:00 a.m.

Antique Car Show

Story Telling by Barbara Lawson 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Magic & Illusion Show by Wes Iseli – Noon

Face Painting 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Hay Rides 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bee Display Corn Hole Games Children's Games Fire Truck on Display

Auction 3:00 p.m.

1959 International Harvester Cub – Proceeds benefit Tinkling Spring Youth Mission Trips

Please come join us for a day full of family fun and fellowship!
With exception of the tractor auction, proceeds will benefit Tinkling Haiti Mission Work,
Love INC, and WARM Inc.

Silent Advent Retreat for Clergy

A Silent Advent Retreat for Clergy is being offered by Clergy Spirit Care, at the Bellfry Retreat Home (www.bellfry.org). Retreat begins Monday, December 12th at 4 pm and ends Wednesday, December 14th at 10 am. This retreat will be facilitated by Joy Crawford, Bill Klein, and Dawn Peck. We intend for this Silent Retreat to offer time apart to rest in God and prepare our hearts anew to receive the Christ Child. Cost estimate at this time is \$175.00 per person. Complete details will be available later this Fall; however, if you would like to reserve a space, please email Dawn Peck at dhpeck@hotmail.com.

The Sacramental Life Retreat

Save the date! April 21-23, 2017 The Sacramental Life Retreat at Massanetta Springs, VA, featuring Frances Taylor Gench, keynote speaker. For further information contact Peggy Roberson at mroberson1@juno.com

Come and Play

at the

Young Life Camp

October 16 @ 2:30

Picnic Dinner: 5:00

Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be provided
Please bring sides/desserts and canned food for the Community Kitchen at W&L.

Music:

“The Spiritual Steels” from Salem VA

Activities:

Tours Climbing Tower Screamer Swing

Gaga Ball (Octoball) Hot Tub

170 Spring House Rd, Goshen, VA 24439

Directions from Lexington: Go west on I 64, get off at exit #43. Go right off the exit and then left. Turn right onto Bratton's Run, go 2 miles and turn left onto Rockbridge Alum Springs Road. Follow to the camp entrance on the left.

Sponsored by the Maury River Mission Community

Communion Sets Available to Shenandoah Churches

Sunnyside Retirement Community In Harrisonburg has two Communion sets to give to Shenandoah Presbytery churches. In you are interested, or want more information, please contact Tom Smith, Chaplain at Sunnyside at tsmith@sunnyside.cc or 540-568-8455. Please reach out to him by October 21.

CVMC Stop Hunger Project

Central Valley Mission Community will be gathering all its member churches at Cooks Creek PC for their annual STOP HUNGER project on Saturday October 22. Members from all CVMC churches are invited to come and help with the project beginning at 8:30 am and ending around noon. A free lunch will be provided by Cooks Creek PC.

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(See Genesis 37:3-36)

10-14-1999

JOSEPH LOVED THE REACTIONS THAT HE GOT WHEN WEARING HIS NEW COAT ON AN AUTUMN COLOR TOUR

Fair Trade Happening

Saturday, October 29, 2016

9:30 am – 2:30 pm



Sponsored by

Presbyterian Women of Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church

Products for sale are clothing, jewelry, leather goods, art, foods, etc.

Featured vendors are:

- Women of the Cloud Forest – Central American jewelry, clothing & bags
- PalCraft Air – Palestinian crafts of jewelry, clothing, religious items
- Colores del Pueblo – jewelry and clothing
- Zatoun – olive oil from Palestine
- SERVV – art objects, clothing & jewelry
- Equal Exchange – food items like chocolate, coffee, spices, nuts
- Green Hummingbird – clothing
- Living Waters - exhibit

Refreshments Available.

Everyone is invited! Bring your friends and family!

Share with a neighbor!

Let's spread the word about FAIR TRADE!

For more information contact Gloria Miller, gkmiller1@verizon.net or call 540-578-5456

Cash/Checks Sales Only

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church Presents...

FREE FALL CONCERT

Featuring

"The Perkins"



Andrew and Lonnier are a father and son Gospel duo from Southwest Virginia who sing a variety of Sacred Old and Contemporary Gospel music, including several that they have written themselves.

Saturday, November 5th at 7:00 pm

at Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church

4222 Mount Clinton Pike

Harrisonburg, VA 22802



The Concert is open to the public and a free will offering may be given at the door.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information contact

Cooks Creek Church at 540-867-5117
Monday—Thursday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

PRESBYTERY OF
SHENANDOAH

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Shenandoah Presbytery

A Community of Christ for Worship, Nurture and Mission

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY is a covenant body where:

- CONGREGATIONS are empowered to be centers for mission
- PEOPLE OF GOD are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a challenging world
- CHURCH LEADERS and members are nurtured and strengthened for service
- OPEN COMMUNICATION and information are used constructively and creatively to keep us connected

Dates to Remember!

October 2016

- 3 - CCR 10:00 am
- 4 - CPT 10:00 am
- 6 - CER 10:00 am
- 9 - Ethiopia Planning Trip 3:00 pm
- 10 - AGP Search Committee 10:00 am
- 11 - Office Opens at 11:00—staff meeting
- 13 - CRM 9:30 am
- 13 - Moffett Grant Fund apps. due 4:30 pm
- 15 - CMO 9:30 am
- 18 - CNCD 4:30 pm
- 19 - CPM 9:30 am
- 23 - Timber Ridge Installation of Patrick Lanaghan 4:00 pm with reception to follow
- 25 - Staff Meeting 9:30 am
- 27 - CAT Re-Training 10:00 am
- 27 - CER 10:00 am

Church Activities

- 9 - Loch Willow 150 year Celebration 11:00 am
- 14 - Ethiopian Partnership Banquet at Massanutten Church 5:30 pm
- 15 - Tinkling Spring Fall Fest 8:00—3:00
- 16 - Young Life Camp in Goshen 2:30 pm
- 29 - Fair Trade Happening 9:30—2:30 at Cooks Creek Church

Future Dates

- Nov. 1 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery at Opequon Church 9:30 am
- Nov. 17 - 18 CAT Training 9:00-4:00
- Nov. 23 - 27 Presbytery Office Closed for Thanksgiving

* Unless otherwise noted, all committee meetings are at the office of Shenandoah Presbytery, 1111 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA.