

# The Messenger

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Zion Presbyterian Church, Helvetia  
 Pickens Presbyterian Church, Pickens

2015

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## **The Messenger**

*The Messenger* provides news on Helvetia, Pickens and the surrounding areas. Content is provided by our readers.

Articles should be kept as short as possible while including all the facts. Please note that we cannot reprint articles from newspapers or other copyrighted publications.

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[HelvetiaWV.com/Places/Church/Index.html](http://HelvetiaWV.com/Places/Church/Index.html)

## **Church News**

### **A Message from the Presbyterian Churches**

By Diane Betler

Even though the congregations at Zion Presbyterian Church and Pickens Presbyterian Church aren't large, we continue to have church services in Helvetia each Sunday morning at 10:00, and some Sundays in Pickens at 11:30. We are very grateful to Joe McInroy who diligently works to find pastors to come and deliver a sermon each week. We have been blessed to have John and Charla Koerner, Rick and Barbara Accord, Rev. Hood, Rev. Morley, David Bowers, John McCutcheon, as well as other ministers.

On January 18, 2015, the church held its annual congregational meeting that was led by Rev. Charla Koerner. The group discussed the financial reports, goals, and held the annual election of officials.

Elders for the church are Joe McInroy, Alvin Burky, and H. Kevin Betler. Deacons are Jim Smith and Diane Betler.

If you are in the area visiting family or friends any weekend, make visiting Zion Presbyterian Church or Pickens Presbyterian part of your visit. Also remember that Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is held at 8:00 p.m. each Christmas Eve and Sunrise Service is held at 8:00 p.m. each Easter Morning.

Attending any service at Zion Presbyterian Church in Helvetia or the Presbyterian Church in Pickens is a special blessing.

### **Easter Service**

By Natalie McInroy

Our Easter Service was held at 8 a.m. on Sunday April 5th. Thanks to Rick Accord for leading our service. Following the service our annual breakfast was held.

Thanks to Diane Betler for setting it all up and to everyone who brought a dish.

We want to give a special thanks to Alvin Duke and his sister Lana for the beautiful spring wreaths that are decorating the front doors of our church. Much appreciated.

Those of you who live far away please send us some news to print in the Messenger. People here in Helvetia, Pickens, and Czar would enjoy hearing from you too.

## **Pickens School**

### **New Principal**

Christine Sneberger-Long accepted the position as principal of Pickens School at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. Christine is the daughter of Anton (Tony) Sneberger and Lena Smith Sneberger of Czar. She has one sister, Diane Dulaney, and brother-in-law, Chuck Dulaney. She is married to Reverend Randy Long of Mill Creek, WV and has one daughter, Tiffany McCauley, of Buckhannon and a step-daughter, Morgan, of Mill Creek.

Christine attended Pickens School and graduated in 1983. She attended Fairmont State College and graduated in 1986 with an Elementary Education degree. She continued her education by attending Davis and Elkins College, receiving additional certifications in math, science, and remedial reading. In 2014 she received her Masters Degree from WVU in Education Administration. She has been employed with Randolph County School for 29 years.

### **Senior-Alumni Banquet**

By Maura Lewis

Principal Christine Sneberger-Long introduced the Senior Class of 2015: Brandon Neil Booth (who was unable to attend); Luciano Casillas, II; and Bryan Duane Stevens. Don Nestor presented each senior with a \$25.00 gift certificate from the Pickens Alumni Association.

One of the graduates of the Class of 1965, Robert “Bob” Fahner, was the guest speaker, and he had each of his classmates give a brief synopsis of what each had been doing since graduation. The following were in the Class of 1965, but not all were able to attend: William Andrews, Lana Duke Hull, Robert Fahrner, Charlotte Golden, Connie Hull Harper, James Morgan, James Schneider, Belinda Sutton Zickefoose, Virginia Tiffner and Katherine Winemiller Harris.

The Pickens Volunteer Fire Department served the dinner and a good time was had by all.

### **New Track Team**

By Brenda Albright

On June 30, 2015, the Randolph County Board of Education approved Pickens School to have a track team. This team will include 10 students from 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade (middle school) and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade (high school). The students will not only participate in the typical track events but also cross country.

The team will be sponsored by the funds from the extra-curricular money, fund raisers, and donations. Anyone needing more information or wanting to help sponsor this student’s opportunity may contact Brenda Albright, at 304-924-5525 or 304-626-5998.

### **Young Life Group**

By Brenda Albright

In 2014, a Young Life Christian Youth Group was established at Pickens School. This group focuses on dealing with life’s ups and downs through faith.

The group meets once a month discussing scripture and then participates in the Toilet Paper Bowl. Toilet Paper Bowl is just wrapping toilet paper with duct tape and being used as a ball.

The first year, two students, Morgan Rice and Berna Stevens, and leader Brenda

Albright, traveled to New York State for a week at camp. Everyone had a great time, sip-lining, swimming, boating and learning about the life of Christ and faith.

## **Archery Team**

By Tonia Tiffner

In case you have not heard, archery is taking off as a school sport in West Virginia. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources sponsors the program for students in grades four through twelve in West Virginia. During the 2011/2012 school year, an opportunity was presented for Pickens School to get into the sport. Levy funds were available to help start such a program and Jonn and Beki Parsons volunteered to become certified in the program and in turn coach the team.

Over the past four years, Pickens has had great success in the program bringing home medals or plaques as individuals from many tournaments. They have even qualified to shoot at the state tournament and each year have had shooters qualify to go to the national tournament held in Louisville, Kentucky.

The 2013/2014 year was once again successful. This was the first year in which Pickens had enough archers to compete as a team and they would have to shoot as a high school team but individuals would still compete in their own divisions as well.

Pickens qualified as a team to shoot at the state tournament. The top 10 individual boys and the top 10 individual girls in the elementary division, middle school division, and the high school division would advance to the national tournament in Kentucky.

Once again Pickens walked away from the state tournament with top 10 winners. Chad Tiffner placed first in the elementary boys division, Danielle Bond placed second in the elementary girls division, Haley Parsons placed tenth in the elementary girls division, Ceirra Kelley placed eighth in the middle

school girls division, and Clarrysa Kelley placed eighth in the high school girls division sending them all to the national tournament in Kentucky.

The entire team has the option of going to the national tournament to support their teammates. The team pays for most expenses associated with the trip for team members.

Because Chad Tiffner placed first in his division at the state tournament and shot at the national tournament, he was automatically invited to attend and shoot at the world tournament. This tournament was held in July in Madison, Wisconsin. This trip became a mini vacation for those attending and those who attended chose to pay for their own expenses to keep funds in the team account. The only funds which came from the team for this trip were the fees for shooting at the event.

Bright and early Saturday morning the crew which included the Tiffner family (Mike, Tonia, Chad, Shania, Mason, and Uncle Jerry Hull), the Parsons family (Jonn, Beki, Hannah, and Haley), and our photographer's family (Jerry, Dawn, Clarrysa, and Eric Kelley) set out on the long drive to Wisconsin. Saturday was spent driving most of the day and they arrived in Madison, Wisconsin that evening. They spent the night there as Chad would shoot at the tournament the next afternoon.

The next day was spent at the tournament and the crew spent one more night in Madison letting the kids have fun in the pool in the hotel and just hanging out. Monday morning the crew got up to drive a little farther north to the Wisconsin Dells which is considered to be "The Waterpark Capital of the World". The crew spent two days at the Wilderness Indoor/Outdoor Waterpark and had a blast!

Tuesday evening the Parsons/Kelley portion of the crew headed further north to visit Dawn's family in Wisconsin for a few days

while the Tiffner portion of the crew spent the rest of the evening at the resort and drove home that night to spend the last days of their vacation resting up and going camping.

This was definitely a trip to remember for the entire crew and while Chad did not place at the tournament, he represented the team quite well. Chad's rankings at the world tournament were 129th out of 369 elementary boys, 81st out of 207 fifth-grade boys, and 726th out of all 1,290 boys.

The 2014/2015 year has also been a successful one for the team. The team attended the state tournament on March 28th with most of the team being eligible to shoot at the tournament. Each year more schools are entering into the program and competition keeps getting stiffer.

As stated before we have to shoot as a high school team because students cannot shoot down to a lower division, but students can shoot up to a higher division which means all members on our team shoot up to as a high school team from our elementary members and up. Only the top 6 teams in each division are invited to shoot as teams at the state level and the team did not qualify as a team this year but 12 out of the 14 members qualified as individuals to shoot at the state tournament.

Once again they had top 10 placements who qualify to go on and shoot at the national tournament in Louisville, Kentucky. This year's qualifiers were Haley Parsons with 5th place for elementary girls, Jacob Rice with 9th place for elementary boys, and Shania Cogar with 10th place for middle school girls. All members who wished to attend travelled to Louisville, Kentucky in May. The team took the school bus for the trip and spent a few days taking in both the tournament and local sights.

This team could not be a success without the help and support from all the volunteers, parents, and supporters. Thank you all for

your support and encouragement for the team!

## **Helvetia Farm Women's Club**

By Charlotte Chandler

The Helvetia Farm Women's Club is still active and thriving in the community. We welcomed three new members in 2014 and contributed much time, work, funds, and (hopefully) fun to the community. These are some of the things we did this past year.

Jan. thru Mar. is a "down time" for us due to the weather but in April we're up & running with the *Helvetia Ramp Supper*.

Unfortunately in 2014 we had very little help for the work of cleaning ramps etc. in the weeks before the event and also low attendance, therefore profit was down. We have sadly considered canceling this much loved event for these reasons, however after much discussion and renewed interest and promised help, we decided to go ahead with it this year and see how it goes, then make that decision.

We have been pleased to see (while in the process of prepping 50 bushels of ramps) that more people are stepping up to help. The participation of the Pickens School 4H group and some of the parents have been a much appreciated addition!

In May we hosted a ham and bean luncheon for the *Dare to be Square* square dancers and callers workshop. The lunch was much appreciated and the group loved the vibe and overall experience of their time in Helvetia. Even though they don't usually repeat locations, we are happy to say we are looking forward to hosting the event again this year! Yay Helvetia!!

In September we, along with most of the community participate in a very special event, the *Helvetia Fair!* This event epitomizes what the traditions of Helvetia are all about and is attended and enjoyed by many. We're happy to say this year the

Farm Women's "quilting party" float took first prize!

In Oct. we join forces with the Pickens American Legion and host a fun and colorful *Halloween party* for the kids. Attendance is always good and there are lots of fun, food, games, prizes and creative creatures and beauties.

November will find us hard at work preparing for the annual *Community Thanksgiving Dinner*. We prepare the donated turkeys and trimmings as well as decorate and prepare the hall for a festive and thankful celebration. In addition to the usual turkey, everybody attending brings along their own special dish and after giving thanks for our bounty, the feast begins!

Also in Nov we treated ourselves to a trip to *Adaland Mansion Christmas Tea and Tour* in Phillipi. The mansion was beautifully decorated for Christmas and the tea party was spectacular; we highly recommend it.

In December first we bake lots of cookies and gathered various goodies for *Christmas Baskets for Community Shut-ins*. We meet at the Helvetia hall and have a fun and rewarding time of fellowship and creating beautiful baskets that are so appreciated by the recipients. This year we filled and delivered about 20.

Next in December was the *Feast of St Nick*, a Christmas party/celebration in the Swiss tradition just for the kids. Baking *grittibanz*, decorating cookies, playing games, lots of goodies, and best of all, a visit and treat from St. Nick himself. We were blessed to have Father Otto (Bruce) Betler visiting from Germany to read the Christmas story to the children, play guitar, and lead us in Christmas carols. The feast was followed by a covered dish dinner and dance by the Star Band. Sad to say, after much work and anticipation, we had only one local child attend, but thankfully had several from out of town. We regretfully say that unless we have more interest and commitment from

local parents and children this year we may not be doing this event again.

Our last project in December was collecting donated items for the *Pickens School Santa Shop*. We also provided wrapping materials and wrapped all of the gifts purchased by the kids.

It was a lot of work but seeing their faces light up when they saw all of their pretty packages was so worth it!

We celebrated Christmas with a fun and relaxing *Dinner/Party and Gift Exchange* at the Hutte. We cordially invite any women in and around the community to come join us or just visit to see what we're all about; we welcome new members.

*On a sad note, this year we lost two beloved and faithful, longtime members, Leslie Betler White and Virginia Burky. They are sadly missed and lovingly remembered by all.*

Note: The *Helvetia Farm Women's Cookbook* is available for sale at the *Kultur Haus* and the *Hutte*. Proceeds from these and any other monies made from events go back into the community. We hope you all had a very good year and wish you an even better 2015.

## Organizations

### Helvetia Restoration and Development Association

By Woody Higginbotham

The Helvetia Restoration and Development Organization continues to work on projects in the community. This summer we plan on making several repairs on the Museum and the railing on the bridge over to the Library.

This past year HDRO purchased 8 different post cards of the Village of Helvetia. Four of those post cards were reprints of the original set and the other 4 were new photos. There are now 12 different post cards available at the Kultur Haus and the Hutte.

The weather this year for Fasnacht did result in a lower attendance. The blizzard conditions coupled with the below zero temperatures made the event a challenge this year. Several local residents did help provide lodging so that several of our visitors did not have to venture out of here in the dangerous weather conditions. Considering the conditions Fasnacht was a success.

Restoration continues to hold Square Dances on the first Saturday of the Month. During the winter months we moved them to the Red Hall and changed the hours to 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. In the months that Daylight Savings time is in effect the hours of our dances will be the usual 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Our other main event is Swiss National Day which is held the first weekend in August.

Restoration continues to work on recording Helvetia's Historical Archives which is supported by the sale of David Sutton's book on our village.

HDRO meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month usually at 6 p.m. in the Library. Meetings are moved to the afternoon during the winter.

### **Helvetia Public Library**

By Bruce Cressler

The library added over 400-items to its collection since the last publication of *The Messenger*. The additions include both adult and juvenile books (printed and eBooks), and DVD movies. Our shared eBook collection has grown to nearly 140,000 items (text and audio) which can be downloaded to nearly any reading device from home or while at the library.

The 2015 *Summer Reading Program's* attendance was very good as we hosted a *Fun with Crafts* day every Thursday.

Our library has attained a group-viewing license for DVD movies and will begin hosting a family viewing night in the fall of 2015.

### **Kultur Haus Helvetia**

By Diane Betler

The community non-profit, *Kultur Haus Helvetia* is doing well. The building that houses the Post Office, General Store, Fasnacht Mask Museum, and Alpen Lodge continues to be a work in progress. The Helvetia Post Office remains open four hours a day. The General Store is open daily and has two part time employees. The other hours are worked by volunteers. It is convenient place for local folks to purchase basic supplies as well as a place for tourists to get t-shirts, maple syrup, honey, and other locally made products.

The Alpen Lodge now has one downstairs room with a private bath, along with four upstairs rooms with a shared bath. The second story porch offers a beautiful view of the village for lodge guests as they enjoy their morning coffee or relax in the evening listening to the chimes from the church steeple.

During the past year *Kultur Haus Helvetia* has met several of their goals. They have obtained their own 501c3 tax exempt status, a new roof was put on the main building, and the little restroom to the back of the store has been renovated to be accessible by the public. Within the coming months there are plans to replace the coal/wood heating stove with a pellet stove so that heat can be maintained throughout the night in the General Store and Post Office area.

On June 7, 2015 the Kultur Haus held their third annual open house. Approximately 40 people attended the event. Members of the Kultur Haus Board of Directors had an open meeting discussing progress, finances, and future work on the project. Community members enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship, and music on the front porch. Picnic food was provided by Dave Whipp and Kevin and Diane Betler.

Anyone wanting to see the financial reports or other information can access information at the Kultur Haus website:  
KulturHaus.HelvetiaWV.com/.

Anyone who would like to make a tax deductible donation to the non-profit organization can send it to:

*Kultur Haus Helvetia*  
P.O. Box 10  
Helvetia, WV 26224

## **Businesses**

### **Swiss Village/Hutte**

By Clare Lehmann

Every year, *Swiss Village* invests proceeds from the *Hutte* into fixing or improving its properties. The *Beekeeper Inn's* Rose Room received a face lift last spring with help from Alvin and Doug Wooten. Improvements included new flooring, fresh carpet, insulated walls, new drywall and wallpaper.

This spring 2015, we are adding a bathtub and enlarging the size of the bathroom in the Alpine Penthouse above the *Hutte*. We are especially thankful for continued support from the community and decades of dedication from our staff.

### **Coat of Arms**

By Clara Lehmann

Last year, *Coat of Arms* created introductory titles and color corrected a documentary about Cleveland artist, Derek Hess, entitled *Forced Perspective*. The film's titles were selected for the SXSW Excellence in Title Design Competition, and it took home the gold "Local Heroes" award at the Cleveland International Film Festival.

*Coat of Arms* is completing a short animated film called "Death Loves Life," slated for completion this spring and a short documentary about the *Hütte* Restaurant should be finished by the fall. Corporate and commercial clients from last year included:

Jaguar, Land Rover, Marriott, Nickelodeon, and Google.

Take a look at more of our work at  
www.CoatofArmsPost.com.

### **Modern Woodmen of America**

By Lauren Brown

*Modern Woodmen of America* is proud to announce that financial representative, Lauren D. Brown obtained her Series 6 and Series 63 licenses earlier in 2015. This enables her to now help her customers in West Virginia with variable line products as well, or anything in the financial services industry that can tied to the market. Some examples of products she is able to offer through *Modern Woodmen of America* now that she has obtained these licenses are variable life insurance, 529 college savings plans, 401(K)s, mutual funds, variable annuities, variable IRAs, ROTH IRAs, and more! Please feel free to contact her with any questions on these products.

*Modern Woodmen* is also pleased to announce that individual health will now be offered in the state of West Virginia, through *Modern Woodmen's* subsidiary *Modern Woodmen of America General Agency*. Individual health coverage will be offered through MWAGA through Blue Cross, Blue Shield. Please feel free to contact financial rep, Lauren Brown about any questions in regards to the health coverage as well.

## **People**

### **Brody Koerner**

From News Accounts

Brody Koerner has been drafted by the *New York Yankees* after pitching for the Clemson University Tigers. He received an accounting degree in three years and was a two-time ACC Academic Honor Roll member.

He will train at the Yankee facility in Tampa, FL before being assigned to a minor

league team, a path which should lead to a major league position.

Brody is the son of Loren and Brenda and the grandson of Elwood Koerner.

### **Erika Betler Bodkins**

By Diane Betler

Erika Betler Bodkins graduated residency from *West Virginia University School of Medicine* on June 12, 2015. She was awarded the Department of Family Medicine and Health Science Resident of the Year. Erika will complete her residency in December. She has been offered a faculty position as Assistant Professor and Clinician with the Department of Family Medicine and *West Virginia University School of Medicine*.

### **Sassi/Sanders Travels**

Henry and Helen (Kelley) Sassi, along with Henrietta (Betler) Sanders, enjoyed another 2 month stay in Florida this past winter (2014) in Winter Haven, where they visited Sue Vincent and her husband, John. Previously they stayed in Deland which is near Ocala where they visited Ed Dulaney, Sue Koontz and Leonard Soeffle and his wife, Sue.

This winter they booked January and February 2015 in Hernando, Florida and hope to visit with other WV people.

### **Sanders/Betler Trip**

By Pat Kimberlin

Ettie Betler Sanders recently traveled on Amtrak to Illinois with her brother, Jack Betler, for an extended visit with Jack's daughter, Pam and her family, Kevin and Livia Kimberlin and Roberta Jacobs. Their journey began in Tornado, WV with a visit with Jack's daughter, Theresa and John Stankus.

Kevin met Ettie and Jack in Charleston where they boarded the train, "The Cardinal" heading west. They traveled

coach, passing along the Ohio River Valley, going through Cincinnati and Indianapolis on the way to Chicago. They de-trained at the historic Union Station in downtown Chicago, where they had time for breakfast at Lou Mitchell's, a diner that lies at the official northern end of legendary Route 66. They then took the train, "The Texas Eagle" to Bloomington, IL where Pam and Livia picked them up.

They spent 4 weeks at the Kimberlins before heading back on the same train routes, this time with two additional passengers, Livia and Trey Shirlin, Jack's grandson, son of Karen and Dave Shirlin.

The adventure was such a success plans are underway for another trip next summer!

### **Oliver and Myrtle Williams Anniversary**

By Jeanne Williams

Oliver "Red" Williams Jr., son of Oliver and Myrtle Williams of the Fork Ridge Community near Pickens, WV and Jeanne Sutton Williams, daughter of William and Armeda Sutton of Pickens WV, celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on October 20 2014, at their home in East Dailey WV. They were married at the Presbyterian Manse in Helvetia, WV on October 20 1946 with the Rev. R. K. Robinson officiating.

They settled on the Williams farm on Fork Ridge for a year, then moved to Waneta WV, where Junior worked in the mines. They moved to East Dailey in 1958 and he retired after 42 years of mining.

They are the parents of five children, eleven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

### **Williams Reunion Celebrated**

By Jeanne Williams

Descendants of Oliver and Myrtle Williams of the Fork Ridge Community at the Webster/Randolph County line near Pickens WV gathered for their annual family reunion

August 10 2014. The event was hosted by Junior and Jeanne's family, at their home in East Dailey, WV. A pot luck-picnic dinner was served at noon followed by an afternoon of visiting and reminiscing, plus an auction.

Present were:

Oliver and Jeanne Williams, East Dailey, WV; Bob and Dolores Williams, Gouchland, VA; Steve Williams, East Dailey, WV; Amy Williams, Elkins, WV; Dee and Peggy Thomas, Brad Thomas, and Julie Stakem, Frostburg, MD; Ben, Stephanie, Cimarron, and Adara Thomas, Lock Haven, PA; Connie, Clayton, Kyle, and Connor Shaw, Silver Spring, MD; Lousie Nichols, Mannington, WV; Chuck, Donna, and Cory Cochran, Lois Martin, Tina Farley, Jeff, Tammy, Martin and Coy Anderson, Webster Springs, WV; Butch and Netia Reynolds, Lumberport, WV; and Richard Knight, Traci and Lyndon Tharp, Clarksburg, WV.

### **Sutton Reunion Celebrated**

By Jeanne Williams

The descendants of William and Armeda Sutton of the community of Pickens, WV gathered for their annual family reunion on a beautiful knoll near Lost Creek; WV; hosted by Joe and Hannah Sutton and their children.

A delicious Pot luck-picnic dinner was served at noon, followed with an entertaining afternoon of reminiscing, visiting, and an auction. A hot dog and corn roast was held in the evening.

Present were:

Oliver and Jeanne Williams, East Dailey, WV; Bob and Dolores Williams, Gouchland, VA; Roger and Lois Marsh, Jeannie Zickefoose, Buckhannon, WV; Evelyn Overton, NY; Terry, Bob, and Bill Hammond, Tina Krupa, and Faith Staley, Bellaire, Ohio; Jessie and Robin Summerfield, Rawlings, MD; Mike and Tracy, Jeff and Mary, Jessica, Leonard

Sutton, OH; Brian, Tiffany, Jordan, McKenna, and Hudson Bennett, Shirley Bowen, and Kris Moore, OH; Braenna Walker, OR; Kaytlynne Deardof, CA; Joe and Hannah Sutton, Dave and LaDonna Manley, Jim and Krista Vassil, Jason Fernandez, Kaitlyn Dinaldo, Butch Sutton, Ralph and Tanya Sutton, Elliot Sutton, Missy and Matthew Simons, Gary, Joyce and grandson Musgrave, Cathy Floyd, Tricia and Samuel Dobins, Tracey, Jeremy, and Zackery Butcher, and Donna Toms, Cogar, WV

### **9th Annual Betler Farm Reunion**

By Anna Chandler

August 7-9, 2015. Hours Friday sunrise to Sunday sundown. Family and friends - All are welcome.

What to bring: Saturday – a covered dish to share and something for the Auction.

Auction items can be historical, homemade, local craft or family memorabilia. Please include a short written description so the Auctioneer knows what they're auctioning!

## **Weddings**

### **Lehmann/Baird**

Anna Lorenz Lehmann of Helvetia, WV and Matthew Joseph Baird of Alpena, MI were happily joined in marriage on Saturday, July 11, 2015 in Helvetia, WV. Lorelei Nelson of Guam officiated the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Dan and Jody Lehmann and of Heidi and Jerry Arnett of Helvetia, WV. The bride's grandparents include Gordon Mailloux; the late Eleanor Mailloux; and the late Frederic and Mary Catherine Lehmann.

The groom is the son of Dave and Wanda Baird of Otisville, MI and of Nancy Beckman of Schoolcraft, MI. The groom's grandparents include Ruth Beckman; the late Frederick Beckman; and the late Joseph and Margaret Baird.

Mr. and Mrs. Baird reside in Portage, Michigan and both attend school at Western Michigan University. Matt is earning his bachelor's in mechanical engineering after serving as a Navy submariner for over six years. Anna is becoming certified in elementary and middle school education after teaching in Guam for four years.

## **Births**

### **Ruby Rosalea Fillo**

Alex and Maria (Cecchini) Fillo of San Antonio, Texas welcomed their first child, a daughter named Ruby Rosalea, on November 19, 2013. Proud Grandparents are Les and Ida (Dulaney) Cecchini of Cross Creek, PA and proud Great-Grandparents are Charles and Rosa Lea (Sutton) Dulaney of Pickens.

### **Brianna Lynn Greenway**

Dustin and Melody Greenway announce the birth of their daughter, Brianna Lynn Greenway. Brianna was born September 16, 2014 and weighed 8 lb. 5 oz., 21 1/2 inches long.

Dustin is the son of Michael and Dorothy Greenway of Helvetia and grandson to late Wilbur and Doris McNeal of Helvetia.

## **Deaths**

### **Leslie**

By Alex Chandler

If there was ever an angel on this earth, it was Leslie Betler White. It is people like her that truly embody the true spirit of our Lord and Savior. She was called home to be with her Lord, her two sons, and her father, in January of this year.

Everyone in our small community was touched by Leslie, and it impacted all of us when she passed, but there are still parts of Leslie with us. She loved music and had a powerful, soprano voice. She could always be found singing no matter where she was, and music is her greatest gift to us. Leslie

began teaching me to sing at a very young age, and I spent many days and evenings with her at her small home on hilltop taking notes and practicing alongside recordings with Leslie. Her voice made so many people happy, and she once told me that the happiness of others was the reason she sang so much.

I had the blessing of visiting Leslie in the first few weeks of January, and she left me three things that I must do. One of these was that I must always sing, regardless of the situation. No matter who asked me, I had to sing, not for them, but for her. A few short weeks later, I was asked to sing at Leslie's funeral, and it was the most trying performance I have ever been a part of, but I sang, and after the ceremony, I was approached by many people who said they could hear Leslie through me.

Music is still a huge part of the Helvetia-Pickens community, and even though Leslie is gone, she left this gift with us. I am sure Leslie still sings often, only now with the angel choir, but sometimes when I sing or listen to other people in our community, I feel that she is there, humming or dancing beside us.

### **James Betler**

James Leslie "Les" Betler, 67, passed away Wednesday, June 25, 2014, in Fauquier Hospital in Warrenton, Va. He was born Dec. 12, 1946, in Helvetia, the son of the late Henry Otto and Mary Louise Dulaney Betler.

He was preceded in death by a son, Jeffrey; brothers, Gene and Howard "Bud" Betler; and sisters, Margaret Louise Betler and Margie Conrad.

He is survived by his first wife, Betty Bunner Carr; son Eric (Cynthia) of Helvetia; daughter, Vickie (Sam) Lampkin of Greensboro, NC; his second wife, Monica Rotruck Betler; son, James of Warrenton, VA; daughter, Theresa of Dale City VA;

brother Effis "Jack" (Joan) of New Bern, NC; sisters, Vada (Jim) Smith of Helvetia, Henrietta Sanders of Starsburg, VA, Mary Ann (Steve) Karlen of Charles Town and Dolores (Bob) Williams of Goochland, VA; brother-in-law, Ralph Conrad of Morgantown; sister-in-law Eleanor Betler of Helvetia; numerous nieces and nephews; and special friend Charline Thompason and family of Warrenton VA.

### **Cecelia Black**

Cecelia "Celia" Hardman Black, 89, of Buckhannon, died Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 at Holbrook's Nursing Home in Buckhannon. She was born April 28, 1925 in Pickens, a daughter of the late Ottomore and Elsie Peck Bachman. On March 8, 1946 she married John W. Hardman who preceded her in death on Feb. 16, 1985.

In addition to her parents and first husband, she was preceded in death by her second husband, Owen Black; three sisters, Hester Heck, Virginia Nethken, and Tressie Shiftlett; and three brothers, Dennis Arnold, Joseph, and Arthur Bachman. She is survived by one sister, Nellie Thorne of Ohio; one brother, Randolph Bachman of Brooks Hill; and two sisters-in-law, Lucie Miller of Charleston; and Getha Bachman of Virginia.

### **Virginia Burky**

Virginia Luetta Fincham Burky, 84, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Monday, July 14, 2014 at her home in Mill Creek. She was born Monday, November 4, 1929 in Adolph, a daughter of the late Kermit Quinten Fincham and Flora Wegman Fincham. On October 23, 1948, in Oakland, MD, she was married to Vernon John Burky who survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Denise Burky Kramer and husband Harry of Elkins, and Sandra Burky of Pickens; two brothers, John Fincham and wife Bessie of Glen Burnie, MD and Truman Fincham and wife

Nancy of Hedgesville; three sisters, Arlene Lanham and husband William of Quiet Dell, Sharon Bonnett and husband Gary of Rock Cave, and Charolette Carr and husband Rodney of Fleming, OH; three granddaughters, Kadra Casseday and husband, Adam, Karly and Kary Kramer; and one great-grandson, Vernon Roy Casseday. Preceding her in death besides her parents were four sisters, Verna Culbertson, Nancy Mathes, Alma Cave and Olive Farrar and two brothers, Gatewood and Paul Fincham.

### **Norene Casto**

Norene Virginia Casto, 77, of Pickens passed away Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2014, at the United Hospital Center in Bridgeport. She was born June 17, 1937 in Alexander, a daughter of Emory Troy and Pearl Reger Shingleton. She is preceded in death by her parents; a son, Russell Casto; and two brothers, Rich Shingleton and Robert Singleton.

Virginia is survived by her husband, Kenneth K. Casto, whom she married on Nov. 8, 1953; three daughters, Ruth Ann Bennett of Pickens, Sandra Casto McDowell and husband Jeff of Buckhannon, and Janet Atwell and husband Roger of Rock Cave; nine grandchildren, Tena Huffman, Jeanie Walkowika, Travis Bennett, Carl Bennett, Susan Lutz, Lori McDowell, Jason Atwell, Justin Atwell and Cody Atwell; three brothers, Troy Shingleton and wife Jan of Farmington, CT, David Shingleton and wife Marianne of O'Fallon, MO, and Ronnie Shingleton and wife Sandy of Heaston Ridge.

### **Randal Conrad**

Randall Dean Conrad - November 4, 1940 - December 11, 2014. Randall Dean Conrad of Pickens, West Virginia passed away at the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center on December 11, 2014.

Randall is preceded in death by his father Ordie O. Conrad, Sr. and mother Agnes Conrad; brothers Ordie O. Conrad, Jr. of North Carolina and James E. Conrad of Silver Springs, Maryland; and sisters Grace M. Price of Ohio and Juanita M. Sutton of Virginia. He is survived by his sons Timothy W. Conrad (Maria) of Waldorf, Maryland and James D. Conrad (Dianna) of Pickens, West Virginia; sisters Monna G. Markley of Waldorf, Maryland and Betty L. Johnson of Laurel, Maryland; brother William G. Conrad of West Virginia, and many nieces and nephews.

### **Josephine L. Cressler**

Mrs. Josephine "Jo" Leslie Cressler, 91, of Melrose, Florida, passed away Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 at Willey Manor (Park of the Palms) in Keystone Heights, FL, following an extended illness.

She was born in Wauchula, FL, on July 9, 1923 to the late Frank and Annie (Newland) Leslie. Mrs. Cressler had served in the United States Navy during World War II in the communications office with the Seventh Naval District Headquarters in Miami, and prior to her retirement she was a clerk for the United States Postal Service in Webster Springs, WV.

Survivors are her husband of 69 years, Morgan Cressler (formerly of Helvetia) of Melrose, FL, and their three children, Susan Okun of Little River, SC, Bruce Cressler of Helvetia, WV, and David Cressler of Atlantic Beach, FL. Also left behind are her three grandsons, David Cressler Jr., Ben Cressler and Zach Okun, as well as many much-loved nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Faith Presbyterian Church, Melrose, FL, with Pastor Terry Robertson officiating. Graveside service was at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL, with military honors.

### **Bernard Daetwyler**

Bernard A. Daetwyler passed away peacefully January 4, 2015 at age 91 at the Presbyterian Home in Lexington, SC, where he had resided since 2001. He was known affectionately to his friends as 'Daet'.

He was born in Norton, WV, the son of the late Eugene Carl Daetwyler and Anna Vogel Daetwyler. He met Martha Kilgore Leonard, native of Spartanburg County, in 1943 at Winthrop College where she was a student and he was an Army Air Corp cadet. They married 21 December 1946, following World War II.

### **Benjamine Gobeli**

Benjamine Arthur (Ben) Gobeli, age 65 of Philippi, WV, passed away Wednesday, March 11, 2015 in the United Hospital Center in Bridgeport, WV. He was born October 27, 1949 in Buckhannon, WV, a son of Arthur B. and Helen Rose Hosaflook Gobeli. Preceding him in death are his parents and brother, William Roger Gobeli.

Ben is survived by his son, Christopher Adam Gobeli of Sylva, NC; daughter, Pamela Christina Bailey and husband Sean of Salem, WV; 3 granddaughters, Linzy Brooke Stuart, Alexis Rose Stuart, and Bristol Marie Bailey; grandson, Elijah Bailey, and Uncle Johnny Gobeli of Baltimore, MD.

### **Doris McNeal**

Mrs. Doris E. McNeal, age 89 years, a resident of Helvetia, passed away Wednesday morning, June 3, 2015 at her home.

She was born August 22, 1925 at Akron, OH, a daughter of the late Carl McCulty and Heddy Elliott McCulty. She was married to Wilbur P. McNeal who preceded her in death. She is survived by four sons, Coy McNeal and wife Vernie of Valley Bend; Philip McNeal and wife Connie of Oak Hill, WV; Carl McNeal of Buffalo, WV; and Jeff McNeal of Helvetia; and three daughters,

Patricia McNeal of Steven City, VA; Dorothy Greenway of Helvetia; and Heddy Housel of Sistersville, WV. Sixteen grandchildren and several beloved great grandchildren also survive. Also preceding her in death was one son, Wilbur Stephen McNeal and four sisters.

### **Stephen Morgan**

Stephen M. Morgan, age 93, of Port Orange, Florida, died Sunday, September 21, 2014, at the Halifax Health Hospice of Volusia Flagler in Port Orange.

He was born on April 2, 1921, in Hemlock, WV, a son of the late Perry Lister and Nellie Edith Hicks Morgan. He is survived by his wife Brenice G. Jones Morgan of Port Orange; son Michael Stephen Morgan of Port Orange; granddaughters: Jennifer Coffey, Erin Teuton, and Heather Daniel; seven great grandchildren; and three brothers: Perry Morgan and wife Betty of Aliquippa, PA, Joseph Morgan of Pickens, and Alfred Morgan and wife Joann of Manassas, VA. He was preceded in death by two sisters: Kathleen McCrae and Lorena Farrar; and five brothers: Gale, Elmer, John, and Archie Morgan; and infant Elbert Morgan.

### **Kenneth Nazelrod**

Kenneth Neal Nazelrod, 65, a resident of Elkins, passed away on June 12, 2014 at the Hospice Care Inpatient Center in Elkins following a brief illness. He was born in Elkins on May 13, 1949. Ken was the son of the late Gene D. and Pauline (Louk) Betler.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Diane Nazelrod Evick Swecker and Sandra Jean Betler.

He is survived by four brothers, David Nazelrod and wife Donna, Elkins; Gene Betler, Jr. and wife JoAn, Fort Gay, WV; H. Kevin Betler and wife Diane, Helvetia; and Scott Betler and wife Lori, of Elkins. Also surviving is one sister, Sheila Louise Eppard and husband Johnny, of Strasburg, VA.;

several nieces and nephews, and special friends, Pam (Gardner) and Frank Hughes.

### **Henry Dale Sassi**

Henry was born Feb 3, 1940 in Pickens, Randolph County, West Virginia, and went to be with Our Lord Jesus Christ on Dec 13, 2014. He was the son of John Ross and Ada L. (Armentrout) Sassi.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Helen Mae Kelley Sassi; son Jon D. Sassi (Valerie) of Parkersburg; daughters Leslie Kristan Geede (Randal) of Wisconsin, and Kelly L. Craft (Robert) of Parkersburg; fourteen grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and sisters Mary L. Balzano of Parkersburg, and Sue Miller (Gary) of Buckhannon, WV. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister Virginia Dodrill, and brother in laws Jim Dodrill and Louis Balzano of Parkersburg.

### **John "Marty" Smith**

John Moritz "Marty" Smith III, 63, of Pickens passed away at 1:21 am on Thursday May 8, 2014 in the Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown following a courageous journey with Diabetes.

He was born in Baltimore, MD on February 4, 1951 a son of the late John Moritz Smith Jr. and Vivian Shirley Miles Smith who lives in Williams Port, MD. He first married Eleanor Huffman who lives in Martinsburg. Then on October 9, 1993, he married the former Cecelia Coleman and they celebrated 20 years of marriage together.

His caring, fun loving spirit will be carried on by his son, John Moritz Smith IV and companion Amy Mereson of Martinsburg; stepson, Terry Gordon Young and wife Elizabeth of Chambersburg, PA; stepdaughter, Carol Michelle Young of Green Castle, PA; 10 grandchildren; brother, Jeffrey Alan Smith and wife Debbie of Hagerstown, MD; sister, Deborah Ann Cline

and husband Howard of Falling Waters; and his beloved chocolate lab, Trooper Smith.

### **Aloysius “Jasper” Tunning**

Aloysius “Jasper” Tunning, age 61 of Pickens, WV, passed away Sunday, July 5, 2015 in the Tygart Center in Fairmont, WV. He was born December 7, 1953 in Buckhannon, WV, a son of the late Denver W. and Beatrice A. Conolley Tunning.

Jasper is survived by 2 sisters, Jane Frances Stewart and husband Eddy and Alesia Cool all of NC; 2 brothers, John Tunning and wife Debby of OK; and Robin Tunning of Pickens; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

### **John Wasmer**

John Gale “Jack” Wasmer, 79 of Street, Maryland and Pickens, West Virginia passed away on April 15, 2015. He was born in Pickens June 22, 1935, the son of John & Nell Wasmer.

He was the beloved husband of the late Elizabeth Joyce Wasmer (Nee Buettner), devoted father of Gail Madison and her husband Keith, Lisa A. Wasmer and her fiancé Paul Tillas; loving grandfather of Joshua, Matthew and Jonathan Morris, Tyler Vass and his wife Jennifer; also survived by several great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews; dear brother of Buck Wasmer and Mary Waybright; and faithful companion of 40 years to Louann Krupinsky.

### **Leslie Betler White**

April 24, 1963 - January 22, 2015

Leslie Betler White, 51, a resident of Helvetia, was called home to be with the Lord on Thursday, January 22, 2015. She was at her home surrounded by her family.

Leslie was born in Elkins on Wednesday, April 24, 1963, a daughter of the late Howard "Bud" Betler and Eleanor Louise Prysock Betler of Helvetia. On February 14, 1983 in Pittsburgh, PA, she was married to

James D. White who survives. They had celebrated thirty one years of marriage.

Also surviving Leslie is her son Joseph W. White and his wife Elisa of Elkins; two brothers, Bruce Betler (Father Otto OSB) of St. Ottilien Germany, Brian Betler and wife, Angel of Lanexa, Va.; one sister Mary Alice Ricottilli and husband, Stanley of Valley Bend; nieces and nephews, Shane and Julie White, Seth and wife, Kristi, Hannah and Clay Betler, grandnieces, Kylie and Khloe Betler, and grandnephew, Charles White.

Preceding Leslie in death are her two sons, Brian and Daniel.

## **Helvetia Cemetery News**

By Diane Betler

Dave Loudin and his family continue to dedicate time to the Helvetia Cemetery's upkeep. They keep the grass mowed, ground leveled, roadway to cemetery kept, and landscaping done. After surveying and map making, the Helvetia Cemetery now has an area for new gravesites. To find information about how to acquire a gravesite at the cemetery, contact church trustee, H. Kevin Betler. Helvetia Cemetery Board of Director members are President, Dave Loudin; Vice-President, Vernon Hofer; Secretary, Bill Malcomb; Treasurer, H. Kevin Betler; and member, Bob Malcomb.

## **Arnold Betler Family Cemetery**

By Anna Chandler

The family cemetery on the old home place of Delbert Betler has been named the Arnold Betler Cemetery in honor of Delbert's father Arnold Betler. The cemetery has been added to Findagrave.com to honor the four individuals who rest there; Kevin Darrell Betler, James Christopher Brown, Thelma Gae Betler Oesch, and Wilbur C Oesch.

## **Events**

Check [HelvetiaWV.com](http://HelvetiaWV.com) for updates.

## Pickens Maple Syrup Festival

By Tonia Tiffner

Every year during the third full weekend in March, Pickens holds its annual Maple Syrup Festival. This year was the festival's 31st year. The festival was once again a huge success as thousands of people flooded our tiny town over the two day period. There were some familiar faces of returning vendors and crafters and several new ones also.

We tried to have a variety of crafters and vendors so that all who attended the festival would find something to interest them. This year for the kids we had games, a face painter, a rock wall to climb, a bounce house, horse rides, and llamas to see. For the adults, we had everything from goodies to eat, to jewelry, to candles, to handmade fishing poles, to primitives, to art work, and so on.

Once again there was a chain saw artist, much entertainment at the Opera House, the museum was open to tour, a woodchoppers demonstration, a square dance Saturday night, of course pancakes and sausage to eat on both days, and a ham and bean dinner Saturday evening. Pickens School students work hard on artwork to be displayed in the depot.

An added feature this year was the horse rides in the field next to the parking lot. A fantastic couple brought their horses from Beckley and charged \$3 for a ride down the field and back on Saturday. All money they collected they in turn donated to Pickens School.

We want to thank all of those who worked so hard volunteering their time both before and during the festival. We could not hold the festival each year without all the help from our volunteers. Also, thank you to all those who make it out to attend the festival and support the community and the crafters and vendors because without you all, there

would not be a festival. We are already looking forward to the 32nd annual festival in 2016!

## Follow Your Bliss Music Festival

By Diane Betler

So Happy!! Even with all the raindrops, the 4th Annual Follow Your Bliss Music Fest was a great success!!! The Kultur Haus stove fund made \$805.00 from food sells and donations!! A heating stove needs to be purchased for the General Store/Fasnacht Mask Museum. There is a coal/wood stove in that area now, but since the post office changed it hours and doesn't open until 10 and the store closes at 5 it is hard to keep the place heated when it gets...

This annual event to honor the memory of former Helvetia resident Rogers McAvoy is organized by his son Phil. The proceeds each year go to local charities such as the Kultur Haus and to Hospice Care.

## Annual Events

- **Fasnacht.** Last Saturday before Lent. February 6, 2016.
- **Pickens Maple Syrup Festival.** Third Weekend in March. March 19-20, 2016. **Pickens Ramp Supper.** Third or fourth Saturday in April.
- **Helvetia Ramp Supper.** Last Saturday in April. April 30, 2016.
- **Pickens School Alumni/Senior Banquet.** Saturday before Mother's Day. May 7, 2016.
- **Helvetia Cemetery Decoration.** Sunday before Father's Day Weekend. June 12, 2016.
- **Pickens Cemetery Decoration.** Sunday of Father's Day Weekend. June 19, 2016.
- **Follow Your Bliss Festival.** June 24-26, 2016.
- **Swiss National Holiday.** Saturday closest to August 1 (usually). August 1, 2015.
- **Helvetia Fair.** Second full weekend in September. September 12-13, 2015.
- **Helvetia Mountain Run.** Sunday of Fair Weekend. September 13, 2015.
- **Helvetia Day.** A Saturday near October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Helvetia Town Meeting.** First Sunday in November. November 1, 2015.
- **Thanksgiving Dinner.** Fourth Thursday in November. November 26, 2015.