

# THE MESSENGER

Zion Presbyterian Church, Helvetia  
Pickens Presbyterian Church, Pickens  
January 2010

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Once again we send you *The Messenger*. In this issue we will try to let you know what is going on in our respective churches as well as the community. Again we would ask if anyone has any news to share, please send it to either of us any time. We intend to send another newsletter after school is out, most likely in July. If you notice any errors, please let us know about them so that we can make corrections. We also offer to send an electronic copy to anyone who sends us their email address and lets us know that they prefer to “go green”. Thank you in advance for news, comments, and suggestions.

Special thank you to Toots Betler Britton, Morgan and Jo Cressler, Alice Stankus, Charles Van Gilder, Margie Daetwyler, Anna Margaret Duke, and Mabel Simpson for donations to The Messenger.

Best wishes for a new year filled with good health, love, and happiness!

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## ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

The building project has been completed! Our beautiful church now has new windows in the vestibule and Sunday school rooms. The exterior doors have been replaced. Over one third of the exterior siding has been replaced. The building has been painted and roof repairs were done on the Sunday school rooms and the main church roof has been painted. The bell tower has been rebuilt and the church has been plumbed, for the water to be turned on when the public water project is completed this spring. The work was done primarily by construction companies owned by Stanley Hofer and Brian Betler. The workers were Brian, Stanley, and his son-in-law Marlin. Digging for the waterline was done by Alpha Plumbing and Heating, owner Butch Nicholson of Helvetia. MANY, many thanks to everyone who has donated money and time to this project. Financial support came from: Susan Betler Reynolds, Margaret Teuscher Smith, Lena Hofer Mealey, Ellen Stefanisn, Charlotte Betler Hughes, and Mildred Betler, and Maxine Fiorinni. Special thanks to H. Kevin Betler for overseeing the project, and to Sam Knotts, Zachary Knotts, Ronnie Smith, Leroy Gain, and Diane Betler, for their donated time. Plans are being made to continue making necessary repairs to the church.

We continue to have church every Sunday in Helvetia at 10:00 AM weather permitting. The church is

served by visiting ministers each week. We appreciate our regular pastors, David Schaffer, Rick and Barbara Accord, Charla Koerner, and Judith Gray. We also appreciate the continued work that Joe McInroy does to schedule a minister for church service each week.

### **MEMORIAL FUNDS**

The following people have made contributions to the following memorial funds.

#### ***Anna Margaret Duke Memorial Fund***

Patricia Karlen and Eleanor Mailloux

#### ***Karl Kempf Memorial Fund***

Ozella Smith

### **CHURCH CHIMES**

It is wonderful to hear the chimes as they echo throughout the village. We want to thank all those who donated so graciously to the project. A plaque has been made and will be placed on the chime cabinet acknowledging those who donated in 2009. The list is as follows: In Memory of Rev. Raborn, In Memory of Grietley Fuglister, In Memory of Rudolph and Virginia Zumbach, In Memory of Helen Sutton, In Memory of Gwen Burky, In Memory of Henry and Mary Betler, Anna Margaret Duke, Mabel Haslebacher, Ozella Smith, Lawrence Metzner, Susan Betler Reynolds, Rogers McAvoy, and H. Kevin and Diane Betler

### **HELVETIA CEMETERY NEWS**

Dave Loudin and his family have once again done a wonderful job keeping the Helvetia Cemetery looking beautiful throughout the summer. Not only have they kept it looking great, but also they have done some fundamental work to ensure that the cemetery property keeps from further erosion by the river. Dave and his family have spent hours putting

in a French drainage system, fixed the riverbank, did landscaping, regravled the roadway leading into the cemetery, and continued to do summer mowing. The Helvetia Cemetery Fund paid for materials needed for the projects, however Dave and his family donated trucks, a dozer, an excavator, and other equipment; plus many hours of labor to make the cemetery improvements. Many thanks go to the Loudin Family for all they continue to do to keep the Helvetia Cemetery looking beautiful.

### **PICKENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS**

Weather permitting, church services continue to be held at the Presbyterian Church in Pickens. Church officers wish to thank the Hicks Family and Opal Andrews for donations to the church.

### **PICKENS SCHOOL NEWS**

It is hard to believe that half of the school year is almost over. The students and staff have had a very busy few months. We are very glad to have two new teachers added to our faculty. Brenda Albright of Pickens is teaching special education, and Christine Sneberger of Helvetia is our Title I teacher in the mornings and teaches regular education for grades 3 through 5 in the afternoons. Our juniors and seniors are taking a Family and Consumer Science class as a vocational education class and we will be offering drivers education second semester again this year.

The Pickens School students and staff are very proud to be awarded the West Virginia Exemplary School Award again this year. 57 schools across the state were presented this award in Charleston in November.

We wish to thank the Hicks/Nestor Family for their continued work on the landscaping project. Each summer as part of their family reunion they spend time at the school planting shrubbery, flowers and putting down new mulch. All this makes the entrance to the school look beautiful.

If you have the opportunity to visit our school we welcome you. Please visit our website as well, and look at our Local School Improvement Council presentation that was out together by David Whip, our LSIC chairperson. You can also see last year's Senior-Alumni Banquet pictures. This year's banquet will be held May 8 at 6:00 in the school gymnasium. Our website is: <http://boe.rand.k12.wv.us/education/school/school.php>

**Pickens School Parent is National Gear Up Parent of the Year**

Betty Biggs was honored in San Francisco, California as a Gear Up Parent of the Year. Five parents from across the nation were selected for this award. Betty has been very active as a Gear Up parent for many years. She and her children Emily and Alexander attended the National Gear Up Conference in California in June where Betty received her award.

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Helvetia Appears on the Travel Channel**

Andrew Zimmern and his camera crew came to Helvetia in October of 2008 to film the preparation and cooking of a deer in an underground pit. Henry Rice and Willie Lehman were the local chefs. The episode of Bizarre Foods was broadcast on the Travel Channel in May of 2009. The Appalachian Foods

episode is repeated at various times on the Travel Channel.

**DEATHS**

*Catherine Mailloux* passed away October 20, 2008

*Gwen Burky* passed away March 7, 2009

*Rita F. Rodgers*, Born December 19, 1958, the daughter of William and Edith Scott Gould. Passed away July 20, 2009.

*Beatrice Fahrner*, Born May 26, 1914. Married in 1942 to Stewart Fahrner. Passed away September 15, 2009

*Audry Leichliter*, Born June 26, 1924, the daughter of William and Eva Tenney Tunning. Wife of Donald Leichliter. Passed away October 4, 2009

*M. Pete Koerner*, Born October 20, 1932 in Helvetia, the son of Paul and Myrtle Koerner. Married to Juanita for 53 years. Passed away October 7, 2009.

*Fred McClure*, Born October 3, 1921, son of Wade and Daisy McClure. Preceded in death by his first wife, Bonnie Arbogast McClure and survived by his second wife Junie Josephine Simmons McClure. Passed away October 10, 2009

*Richard Pugh*, Born March 18, 1933 in Helvetia the son of John and Lela Smith Pugh. Passed away October 17, 2009.

*Mabel Betler Haslebacher*, Born in Helvetia on December 9, 1920, the daughter of Anna Marie Haessig and Otto Fred Betler. Married to Karl Henry

Haslebacher for nearly 60 years. Passed away October 24, 2009

*Olive M. Summerfield*, Born November 17, 1932, daughter of Lonnie and Lena Daniels. Married to Ralph Summerfield on November 10, 1951. Passed away October 31, 2009.

*Henry H. "Dutch" Golden*, Born in Helvetia, September 18, 1913, son of Curtis and Eva Tallman Golden. Married to Nettie Maude Johnston. Passed away November 12, 2009

*Anna Margaret Duke*, Born in Pittsburgh on June 17, 1920, the daughter of Harley and Flossie Keitley Sutton. Married to Jullian Duke. Passed away November 18, 2009.

*Anton "Tony" Sneberger*, Born January 14, 1932 on Turkeybone Mountain, Pickens. Son of Mark and Polona Palvas Sneberger. Married Lena Smith Sneberger on June 1, 1954. Passed away November 23, 2009.

*Barbara Higginbotham* passed away November 23, 2009

*Lillian Clark*, Born in Pickens December 8, 1920, daughter of Louis and Rose Betler Haslebacher. Passed away December 12, 2009.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fasnacht** - Last Saturday before Lent. February 13, 2010.

**Pickens Maple Syrup Festival** - Third Weekend in March. March 20-21, 2010. <http://pickenswv.com>

**Pickens Ramp Supper** - Third Saturday in April. April 17, 2010

**Helvetia Ramp Supper** - Last Saturday in April. April 24, 2010.

**Pickens School Alumni/Senior Banquet**. The Saturday before Mother's Day. May 9, 2010.

**Helvetia Cemetery Decoration**. The Sunday before Father's Day Weekend. June 13, 2010.

**Pickens Cemetery Decoration**. The Sunday of Father's Day Weekend. June 20, 2010.

**Swiss National Holiday** - Saturday nearest August 1. July 31, 2010.

**Helvetia Fair** - Second full weekend in September. September 11-12, 2010.

**Helvetia Mountain Run** - Sunday of Fair Weekend. September 12, 2010.

<http://www.wvmtr.org/helvetia10k.htm>

**Helvetia Day** - Saturday nearest October 20th. October 23, 2010.

**Helvetia Town Meeting** - First Sunday in November. November 7, 2010.

**Thanksgiving Dinner** - Fourth Thursday in November.

#### FROM OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

##### **Annual Meeting**

The annual Helvetia Community Meeting was held Sunday, November 1 at the Helvetia Community Hall. There were approximately 30 community members in attendance. During the meeting Mary McNeal Hicks was honored for her many years of service as a member of The Little Meadow Health Center Board of Directors. Also during the meeting numerous community organizations gave reports. Helvetia Fair Directors and Helvetia Hall Directors were elected for the upcoming year. A committee was formed to work on the reestablishment of a voting precinct in Helvetia.

## **Helvetia History Will Be Republished In April**

The second edition of David Sutton's history of Helvetia will be published this year by West Virginia University Press. It has been out-of-print for 20 years now, so here is a chance to get the new edition for yourself or family members if you wish.

David had added a new introduction covering community events and milestones since 1960. The book will also be completely redesigned and include a new photo essay of some 44 photos taken in Helvetia from the 60's to the present time.

We expect the book to be ready in time for the Ramp Supper in April and be for sale both in the community and through the WVU Press website:

**wvupress.com** Publication price will be \$24.95

There will be a limited number of copies available through the Helvetia Restoration & Development Organization with the profits from this book sale going to help fund the Helvetia Archive Project. To reserve a copy please contact:

Natalie McInroy, Treasurer  
Helvetia Restoration and Dev. Org.  
PO Box 34  
Helvetia, WV 26224

## **Helvetia Folklore Group**

The group of Helvetians and scattered relatives that entertain with music and stories including yodeling, have named themselves the Helvetia Folklore Group. Members include Joe McInroy and Woody Higginbotham, who sing and play instruments, including the alp horn. The other group members would tell you that Joe is their hero, keeping them "in tune" as best he can.

Natalie McInroy, Joe's wife, sings and yodels alto, her ready smile and words of encouragement keep the members working. Vernon, Virginia, and Sandy Burky carry on their family's tradition of yodeling and playing old Swiss songs. Vernon plays fiddle in the style of his grandfather, and his daughter, Sandy, yodels, tells the old stories, and encourages the young folk to continue in the Swiss ways. Vernon's brother, Norman, who now lives in Pennsylvania, sings the old songs when in town for a performance or for family gatherings. Eleanor Betler and her daughter, Leslie White lead the soprano section. Leslie also helps coach new members in yodeling and does some solo pieces. Maggie Gain and Alex Chandler are the group's teenagers who add youthful beauty to the group when they can clear their busy schedules. Kristi and Bethany Daetwyler, daughters of Helvetia native Randy Daetwyler, sing with the group when they are able. Their home is in Fairmont where they attend grade school. The Helvetia Folklore Group has performed at the Randolph County Community Arts Center, West Virginia University, and other local and county festivities. Other members have come and gone, and the group welcomes newcomers who enjoy having fun and making joyful noises.

## **Birthday Celebration**

Opal Andrews celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 8, 2009 at the Riverbend Park in Elkins. Her daughter is Shirley Bohlen and her sons are; Howard, Roger, and Bill. Opal has ten grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

### **Betler Family Reunions**

The descendants of Henry and Mary Betler were fortunate to have two family reunions this year. The first reunion has held during the first weekend in August. It began on Friday evening with a wiener roast and music and singing. Saturday was the main event with over 60 people attending. Dinner was followed by an auction of items that were brought by family members. Leroy Gain was the auctioneer. Much laughter and fun was had by all. All money raised during the auction was donated in Memory of Henry and Mary Betler to Zion Presbyterian Church for the chimes. Each year the group has had tee shirts made for the reunion. This year a tee-shirt design contest was held. Several designs were displayed and the group voted on the most popular design. Next year's shirts will feature a design done by Mike Smith.

After an afternoon of visiting and fun, many members of the group attended the first Saturday of the month square dance. Next year's family reunion will again be held at the cabin during the first weekend in August.

The second family reunion was held the Friday afternoon after Thanksgiving. Many family members wanted to see Bruce since he was home from Germany for a visit. The family along with many friends and community members attended a covered dish dinner at the Helvetia Community Hall. Dinner was followed by visiting, music, and dancing.