

The Messenger

Zion Presbyterian Church

Helvetia, West Virginia

Pickens Presbyterian Church

Pickens, West Virginia

May 2016

The beauty and busyness of springtime surrounds the Helvetia/Pickens area. Much appreciation to Glenn and Judy Haddix, Katharin Pross, and Mabel Marti Simpson, for their generous donations and continued support of The Messenger.

It is the intent to continue to publish The Messenger as long as articles of interest are submitted. Much appreciation to everyone who took time to write and submit articles to share with our readers. Please continue to submit news at any time. Please send items to me by mail, email, Facebook messages, or give me a call. Again, please let me know of any corrections in dates or mailing addresses. I also welcome comments and suggestions. I want to keep all information as accurate as possible.

Much appreciation to Bruce Cressler, the Helvetia Public Library librarian, for taking time to print the copies of The Messenger. Thanks bunches, Bruce!! I really appreciate your help!!

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ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We continue to have church services in Helvetia every Sunday. Much appreciation to Joe McInroy for scheduling pastors who serve

Zion Presbyterian Church each week. Church services are at 10:00. We also have Children's Sunday school twice a month at 9:15. The monthly Sunday school schedule is posted at the Helvetia Store. We are also planning vacation Bible School for this summer.

Everyone is very welcome to attend worship services with us each week.

HELVETIA CEMETERY

Once again, much appreciation to Dave Loudin and his family for donating their time to the continued upkeep of the Helvetia Cemetery. Each year the cemetery fund pays for supplies for ground maintenance, but Dave and his family work diligently mowing, raking, cutting brush and doing groundwork to keep the Helvetia Cemetery such a beautiful, serene place. If anyone would like to make donations for the continued care of the cemetery, please send any donations to Helvetia Church/ Helvetia Cemetery Fund. The boards of trustees for the cemetery are Dave Loudin, Vernon Hofer, Bill Malcomb, Bob Malcomb and Kevin Betler.

OBITUARIES

Dorthie Gay Peck McIe, age 81, of the Alexander Road, French Creek, died Wednesday, March 2, 2016, at her home. She was born on February 1, 1935, at Turkey Bone near Pickens in Randolph County, WV, a daughter of the late Arthur Cecil and Bessie Jane McCartney Peck. On June 6, 1955, she was united in marriage to Leonard H. McIe, who survives. Also surviving are three sons: Leonard McIe, Kenneth McIe and wife Kathleen, and Steve McIe and wife Becky, all of French Creek; one daughter Connie and husband Gary Cutright of Rock Cave; one brother Doy Peck of Medina, OH; foster brother Garth Perkey; foster sister Betty Casto; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by four brothers: Amos, Denzil, Hurlden (Chub), and Cecil; and one sister Victoria (Tincy) Mathewson. The funeral was held on Sunday, March 6, 2016, at 1:00 PM. Interment followed in the Canaan Cemetery.

Edward Thomas "Pete" Wasmer III, 51, of Parkersburg, passed away March 5, 2016, at the WV Veterans Nursing Facility in Clarksburg. He was the son of Edward Thomas Wasmer Jr and Patricia Ann Lawson.

Troy O. Sayre, 79, of the Reger Run Road, French Creek, died Thursday, March 3, 2016, at his home. He was born on Feb. 5, 1937, at Holly Grove, a son of the late Clee Ophus and Orpha Woody Sayre. On May 11, 1957, he was united in marriage to Lucille Pearl Tenney Sayre, who preceded him in death on Dec. 16, 2002. In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by two sons: Michael Troy Sayre and Steven Gregory Sayre; one daughter Barbara L. Collins; three brothers: Dana, Oscar and Ellis; and four sisters: Frances, Beatrice, Lena and Myrtle. He is survived by one daughter Donna Lea Lewis and husband Michael, of French Creek; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Mr. Sayre worked in the timber business all his life and was the owner of Sayre Logging Company. At the request of the deceased, there will be no services. A private interment was held at the Pleasant Dale Cemetery.

Luretta Eloise McDonald Winkler, a resident of Junior, departed this life at her daughter's home in Ohio on Tuesday March 29, 2016. She was born November 2, 1921, at Junior, the daughter of the late Gordan A. and Cloie Belle Daniels McDonald. In 1943 she was united in marriage to Clinton C. Winkler of Pickens, who preceded her in death on December 28, 1964. She is survived by two daughters; Kaye and her husband Paul Tracewell and Ruth Longwell, her sisters; Jean Hawkins and Jerrine (Gale) Brady, Gay (Arlen) Thorne of; Lola Bussey; Dixie (Robert) Pride; sisters-in-law Betty McDonald and Dorothy Winkler of Phillipi. She had four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews. Along with her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by three sisters; Helen Sturm, Dorothy Channell, and Betty Fitzwater, two brothers; Bradley and Paul McDonald, one infant sibling, and granddaughter; Michelle Lew Longwell. Mrs. Winkler attended the schools of Barbour

County. She worked as "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII assembling aircraft in Baltimore. She also worked at West Virginia Glass in Morgantown where she met her husband. After they married they moved to Pickens, West Virginia and she worked at the Pickens School as a cook until 1958, when they moved to Elkins, West Virginia. From that time on, she worked at Reidboard Bros and as a nurse's aide at the Memorial General Hospital. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary. On Saturday April 2, 2016 at 1:00 the funeral was conducted. Interment followed in the IOOF Cemetery in Pickens

Ellen Conrad Compton, 72, of Huntington, WV, passed away Thursday, March 17, 2016 at the Emogene Dolin Jones Hospice House, Huntington, WV after an extended illness. Funeral services were conducted at 10:00 am Monday, March 21, 2016 at the Reger Funeral Home. Burial was at 3:00 pm Monday at the Maplewood Cemetery, Elkins, WV. Ellen was born April 8, 1943 in Elkins, WV a daughter of the late Wilson H. and Mayme May Gimmel Conrad. She was a 1961 graduate of Elkins High School, attended Glenville State College. On October 18, 1970 she married Hubert P. Compton, who survives. They were blessed to be able to spend 45 plus years together, along with their children, son David Paul Compton and daughter Rebecca Ellen "Becky" Compton. In addition to her husband and children, survivors include a brother and sister-in-law Victor L. and Doris Conrad, a sister-in-law and brother-in-law Margaret and Bob Bounds, several nieces and nephews, and several great nieces and great nephews.

Charlotte E. Smith Cole, 75, of Fort Worth, Texas, formally from Pickens passed away Feb. 13, 2016. She was preceded in death by her father Preston and mother Wanda "Williams" Smith, of Pickens W. Va., her three sons Lyle Jr., Daniel and Joseph Eskew and one daughter Annette Eskew, of Buckhannon, W. Va., and one sister Maryreta Hall, from the state of Washington. She is survived by three sisters and a brother, Deloris "Doe" And her husband Bob Wise, of Romney, W. Va., Priscilla "Till"

Tunning, of Romney W.Va. and her brother David "Dave" Smith and Shirley "Sis" Carter, both from the state of Washington. She leaves behind her husband whom she shared 27 years with Pearson L "Skip" Cole, of Fort Worth, Texas, two daughters and one son: her daughter Tammy and her husband Gary Mowery, of Moorefield, W.Va., daughter Lisa Eskew of Fort Worth, Texas, son Ricky and his wife Carol Eskew, of Fort Worth, Texas and stepson Christopher and his wife Angela Cole, of Alliance, Ohio. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and eight-great grandchildren

Morris Dee Heater, 74, of French Creek, passed away Sunday, April 17, 2016 in the United Hospital Center of Clarksburg. Born June 19, 1941 in Czar, he was a son of the late Macel Thorn and Thelma Mildred Smith Heater. He is also preceded in death by his son, Jeffery Allen Heater; two brothers, Billy Joe Heater and Charles Vernon Heater. Survivors include his two sons, Kevin Dee Heater and wife Michelle, Christopher Shane Heater and wife Brandi all of Front Royal, Va.; one sister, Juanita Bunner, of Buckhannon, WV; one special nephew, Michael Heater and wife Paula of French Creek; nine grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; special friend, Tim Cogar and wife Marcia. Morris was a retired carpenter, was Methodist by faith, loved hunting and fishing, and was an avid gardener.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2016 in the Pine Grove Cemetery at Czar with Tim Cogar officiating.

Denzel "Denny" Clay Clark, Jr., 68, of Mt. Clare, WV passed away on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. He was born in Clarksburg, WV on November 18, 1947 a son of the late Denzel Clay Clark, Sr. and Lillian Ada Haslebacher Clark. He is survived by his wife of 44 years Laraine S. Lushinski Clark whom he married July 17, 1971 and who resides at their home in Mt. Clare. Also surviving are one son, Clay Christopher Clark and wife Sherri of Clarksburg, WV; one daughter, April Marie Santee and husband, Vernon of Grant Town, WV; four grandchildren, Cassidy and Cameron Clark and Hunter and Holden Santee; four step grandchildren, David, Danny, Cody and Cassius

Santee; three sisters, Elnora Ganoë of Clarksburg, WV, Sandra Hoffman of Brigantine, NJ and Donna Fournier and husband Mike of Martinsburg, WV and several nieces and nephews.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers-in-law, Tony Ganoë, Stanley Grooms, John Lushinski, Jr., and Tom Gawthrop and his mother and father-in-law. He was a 1965 graduate of Washington Irving High School and attended electronics school for two years in Baltimore, MD. He then volunteered in the United States Army having served in Vietnam where he was a recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He graduated from Fairmont State College with a Bachelor Degree in Accounting. He retired after 31 years as a self-employed Tax Consultant in Mannington, WV and was a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Stonewood, WV.

Kaspar Hunkeler passed away on February 26 at the age of 83. Kaspar grew up on a farm with seven brothers and sisters. He learned to swing the Swiss flag and later became an award winning Swiss flag swinger. While working in a car garage in Bern, Kasper was approached by Ambassador Bruggman to come to Washington, DC and be his chauffeur and butler. He worked in the Swiss Embassy in Washington, DC for the next 35 years. One of his greatest loves was Swiss folklore. He was a founding member of the Swiss Folklore Group of Washington, DC. The group performed all over the US, yodeling, singing, and dancing. Kaspar is survived by his wife of 63 years, Maria, and their four children along with their spouses, ten grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Kaspar visited Helvetia quite often and spent many hours visiting Bruce Betler. He donated Swiss costumes to the area and performed with the folklore group at Helvetia fairs through the years. He enjoyed coming to Helvetia and spending time with our local Swiss descendants.

Thank you, Sandy Burky for the information about our Swiss friend.

Also, many thanks to Anna Chandler and Henrietta Sanders for providing the information on the other preceding obituaries.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND NEWS

KULTUR HAUS HELVETIA

Kultur Haus Helvetia will have its annual community meeting and open house on July 10 at 1:00. The meeting will be held at the Kultur Haus. After the meeting there will be a picnic and music by local musicians. It is always a great afternoon for fellowship and fun. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend and enjoy the afternoon with community friends.

HELVETIA RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

In the previous issue of The Messenger, we were delighted to mention that the Helvetia Historic Square is getting a playground. This project is funded by private donations and grants. We mistakenly said that one grant donor is the Modern Woodmen of the World. We would like to correct our statement and let you know that the rightful credit for that grant goes to Modern Woodmen of America. Thank you so much, Lauren Brown, for making us aware of our mistake. Lauren works for Modern Woodmen of America as a Financial Representative. She works with organizations and people in areas of life insurance, retirement plans, investment products, and annuity products; as well as fraternal benefits such as scholarships and community grants. Helvetia Restoration and Development Organization members really appreciate all of Lauren's help. The organization and volunteers will proceed with playground planning and construction as weather permits.

Please remember that the Helvetia Restoration and Development Organization has a first Saturday of the month square dance each month. If you are visiting town, it is a fun way to spend the evening.

HELVETIA FARM WOMEN

Greetings from the *Helvetia Farm Women* whose active members now stand at

approximately 20. We welcomed 3 new members this year and invite all you ladies to join us at a meeting to see what we're all about. We're not just about work but FUN as well!

After *Thanksgiving dinner* and a very active month of Dec., Jan. thru Mar. is a "down time" for us, mainly due to weather. However, come April we're up and running with the *Helvetia Ramp Supper*.

As most of you know the *Helvetia Farm Women* are all about community service. In partnership with the *Hall Assoc.* our biggest event in the spring is of course the *Helvetia Ramp Supper* which takes place on the *last Sat. of April each year*. From the cleaning of the first ramp to the cleaning of the last dirty pot, the volunteers were exceptional! Many thanks go out to each & every one of you who donated your time & "sweat" to make it one of our best years in a while! We served approximately 400! A special shout out to Joseph & Elisa White who were our "ramp fryers". We received so many compliments on how very delicious they were, all of the food was exceptional as always. The profit as always goes back into community improvements & service.

At this time we don't have any scheduled events until *Helvetia Fair, Sept 10-11*. We are currently brainstorming on a new "fun outing" to explore some of the many fabulous adventures our beautiful state of WV has to offer. Will tell you all about it in the fall!

We are missing our ever efficient secretary, Natalie McInroy who is away caring for her Mom & Sis. We miss you Natalie & hope you will be home soon. Our thoughts & prayers are with you & your family.

The *Helvetia Farm Women's Cookbook*, which includes yummy (old & new) recipes from local cooks, is available for sale at the *Kultur Haus & the Hutte*. Proceeds as always go back into the community.

Have a great summer and take time to get out and enjoy the beauty & the bounty of the gifts

God has surrounded us with. Until next time.....*The Helvetia Farm Women*

By: Charlotte Chandler

PICKENS ATV RUN

The annual Pickens ATV Poker Run was held on April 9, 2016. Even though there was blizzard like conditions with outdoor temperatures falling into the teens, there still were 535 ATV riders. Many people camped out in the bottom near the depot. Some even stayed in tents. There were riders from Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio as well as various towns across West Virginia. Other than the weather causing lower than usual attendance and the bands cancelling because of the winter like weather, the event was successful. There are plans for another ride in the summer or early fall as requested by many participants. That date has not been set yet. This event is a lot of fun and a great fundraiser for the community organizations of Pickens.

By: Jaime Morgan Bragg, Event Organizer

PICKENS SCHOOL

In February each year, the Pickens School PTSO holds a book fair at the school. The book fair is held in the gym with colorful book displays set up for the students and parents to look at, and purchase books from for a week. Along with the books available at the school, books can be purchased online. Before the book fair begins, teachers and school library volunteers go online and put together a wish list for their classroom and for the library. Each year our school has gotten many books donated to classrooms and to the library from folks who make online purchases for the school. The school would like to express sincere appreciation to Anna Chandler, Kenny Spittler, and Karen Stadler for donating books again this year through online purchases. This year approximately \$2000.00 was the total book sale which gets

\$1137.97 worth of books for the school library. Since 2014 the school has gotten approximately \$3000.00 of books for the school. Many thanks to all the volunteers who help with the book fair each year and for all who purchase books for the children. Much appreciation to Velda Booth for being chairperson of the book fair and for spending hours organizing the event and unpacking and packing so many boxes of books each year with the help of other volunteers. Even with all the technology and electronic devices that students have, it is wonderful to see them enjoying the beautiful new books and sharing them with each other during library time.

PICKENS SCHOOL AUTISM CELEBRATION

On Sunday, April 24, 2016, Pickens School held its 2nd Annual AUTISM Celebration Walk/Run at the Pickens School walking trail. Participants were asked to get donors to give a lump sum or lap fee for each lap they walk around the walking trail. The Celebration raises funds for Pickens School's Special Education class. Without these funds, the Special Education class would not be able to purchase classroom equipment and supplies that are very useful and educational. Funds are limited to our Special Education class, so this event has been a tremendous help to them.

Both years we have been able to obtain donations from companies to purchase shirts for the walk. There is a limited amount of shirts left from both years, if anyone is interested in purchasing one. Please contact the School at 304-924-5525. There is also a concession stand and all items are donated.

Both years have been very successful and we are excited to keep this annual event going. Please mark the date on your calendar for next year's Celebration. It will be on Sunday, April 30th, 2017 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

PICKENS SCHOOL ARCHERY TEAM

The Pickens School Archery Team has wrapped up their 5th year! There were 15

archers on the Team during the 2015/2016 year. The Team attended tournaments at Shady Spring, Elkview, Buckhannon, and Pocahontas. We had winners, from different divisions, at all the tournaments.

Eleven of the 15 archers qualified to shoot at the WV State Archery Tournament in Charleston on March 26, 2016. At the State Tournament, two Elementary shooters (Brady Radcliffe & Britney Bond) qualified to shoot at the National Tournament in Louisville, KY.

The Team left Pickens School on Thursday, May 12, 2015 to travel to Louisville, KY. On Friday, Britney and Brady shot at the National Tournament and also shot in the National IBO 3-D Challenge. Before and after shooting, the Team took in the vendors and events that are set up at the KY Fair & Expo Center. On Saturday, the Team visited Kentucky Kingdom amusement park and had a wonderful time riding rides. The Team traveled back to Pickens School on Sunday, May 15th.

The Pickens School Archery Team has been able to attend tournaments and take the whole Team to the National Tournament through County Levy funds, fundraising, and donations. After this year, the Team will no longer have Levy funds, so all money will come from fundraising and donations. The Team was fortunate enough to receive the Snowshoe Foundation Grant during the 2015/2016 year which helped fund the trip to Nationals. Thank you to all the parents and supporters for all their help and dedication to the Pickens School Archery Team!!

Thank you, Velda Booth and Beki Parsons for Pickens School information.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Lars Lehmann, Morgan Rice, and “Berna” Stevens. They are the 2016 graduating class of Pickens School. Best wishes to each of them in their future endeavors.

Congratulations and best wishes to Micki Biggs! She is a 2016 graduate of West Virginia University College of Law.

THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW ANECDOTES FROM A READER

1 - Mr. Teuscher of Helvetia was a prosperous man who had one of the first cars in the area. Driving home one day he arrived at the gate and shouted 'Whoa!' which did not have the desired effect. He drove through the gate!

2 - Treasure - Freda May Hartmann Coleman had a piece of furniture that was passed down in the family. Grandson John Coleman found a secret compartment in it that had a marriage contract for Sarah Hartmann.

3 - Ghost story - Pinegrove Cemetery caretaker, Jim Heck shared that a ghost with the last name of Stackhouse walks railroad tracks and the area near the Shahan Cemetery (near Palace Valley). Supposedly you can hear the grinding of the coffee mill and then smell coffee alerting to the ghost being near.

4 - A reference has been found to a 'Peanut Supper' at the Haselbacher School. Can anyone provide information as to what a Peanut Supper was? (Thank you in advance!)

5 - Eleanor Betler shared a tradition of when making apple butter the old fashioned way - outside, over an open fire in a big copper kettle - to put either a silver half dollar or five copper pennies in the bottom of the kettle to keep the apple butter from sticking.

These anecdotes are from Anna Chandler. As she has written, “These may already be known to the readers, but I found them both interesting and in some cases amusing. I collect “tidbits”

and stories that I hear in the area. Many contain good history, some only a tall tale.” Thank you, Anna, for sharing some of your collection.

UP COMING EVENTS

Pickens School Graduation---May 28 1:00 PM

Helvetia Cemetery Decoration—June 12

Pickens Cemetery Decoration----June 19

Helvetia Music Bliss Festival Weekend –June
24-26

Kultur Haus Annual Meeting and Picnic-July 10
1:00 PM

Helvetia Fair-----September 10 and 11