

The Messenger

Zion Presbyterian Church, Helvetia
Pickens Presbyterian Church, Pickens
Spring, 2014

Contents

The Messenger	1
Church News.....	1
Helvetia Cemetery News	2
Pickens School.....	2
Helvetia Farm Women's Club.....	2
Helvetia Restoration and Development Association.....	3
Star Band News.....	3
Helvetia Public Library.....	3
Kultur Haus Helvetia	4
Swiss Village/Hutte	4
Coat of Arms.....	4
Modern Woodmen of America	4
Betler Family Reunion.....	5
Weddings	5
Births.....	5
Deaths	5
Arnold Betler Family Cemetery.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	8

The Messenger

The Messenger provides news on Helvetia, Pickens and the surrounding areas. Content is provided by our readers. Please send your contributions to Dave@HelvetiaWV.com or

Dave Whipp
PO Box 44
Helvetia, WV 26224

E-mail copies are available from betlers3@frontier.com and print copies from

Diane Betler
HC 70 Box 15
Helvetia, WV 26224

Past issues are available at:
HelvetiaWV.com/Places/Church/Index.html

Church News

Even though the congregations at Zion Presbyterian Church and Pickens Presbyterian Church aren't large each Sunday, we continue to have church services in Helvetia each Sunday morning at 10:00, and most Sundays in Pickens at 11:30. We are very grateful to Joe McInroy who diligently works to find pastors to come and deliver a wonderful sermon each week.

We have been blessed to have Rev. Charla Koerner, Rev Rick and Rev. Barbara Accord, Rev. Morley, Rev. Arbuckle, and other ministers. If you are in the area visiting family or friends any weekend, make visiting Zion Presbyterian Church or Pickens Presbyterian part of your visit.

Zion Presbyterian Church and *The Messenger* would like to thank Dorothy

Shaw, Kay Cotrill, Alice Phillips, Lena Mealey, Anthony and Alice Stankus, and others who have made donations to memorial funds, the cemetery, the church building fund and to *The Messenger*.

Helvetia Cemetery News

Dave Loudin and his family have continued to work to make Helvetia Cemetery a beautiful place. They work to keep the mowing done, ground leveled out, gravel placed in the roadway, and many other hours of cemetery improvements. Much appreciation goes out to Dave and his wife Lynna, for their continued work in making the Helvetia Cemetery such a beautiful place. Also many thanks to those who continue to make donations to the Helvetia Cemetery. Your donations go towards fuel, equipment, and landscaping needs.

The cemetery board of directors are: Dave Loudin, Vernon Hofer, Bill Malcomb, and H. Kevin Betler. Bob Malcomb is now a board member to fill the vacancy due to the death of Kevin D. Betler. Officers are: President, Dave Loudin; Vice President, Vernon Hofer; Secretary, Bill Malcomb; and Treasurer, H. Kevin Betler. The board will continue to oversee the cemetery funds and cemetery improvements. Presently the board is in the process of planning a survey of the area and to map lots for future use.

Pickens School

Pickens School has the enrollment of 40 students. This year our middle and high school students are taking foreign language classes through WV Virtual School. The high school students are also taking health, science, and music classes online. This year, senior class members are: Alexis Chandler, the daughter of Chuck Chandler and Kim Dulaney; and Clarrysa Kelley, the daughter of Jerry and Dawn Kelley. These students will be graduating on May 24, 2014 at 1:00. Everyone is invited to attend graduation.

Christmas Surprise

The students and staff of our school had a very special Christmas surprise. On December 20, Don and Judy Nestor represented the families of Frank and Terry Nestor Ross, Debbie Morgan, and Don and Judy Nestor in presenting each student and staff member with a Christmas gift. The students and staff of our school wish to express sincere appreciation to the Ross, Morgan and Nestor families for all they continue to do for Pickens School.

Check out more information about Pickens School on our website:

<http://boe.rand.k12.wv.us/pickens>

Helvetia Farm Women's Club

The Helvetia Farm Women's Club is still very active. We meet on the 3rd Wed. of each month at the home of a member who volunteers to host the meeting. Here are some of the activities we are involved in.

We had dinner & attended a show at the American Mountain Theater in Elkins.

In the spring we hosted an "International Dinner." Our members and community folks, brought a dish representing a foreign country. We also displayed items and flags from many different countries. Everyone enjoyed it and we hope to repeat it next year.

Every year we help sponsor our annual Ramp Dinner. We help with preparation, cooking, serving & clean-up.

We also participate in the annual Helvetia Fair and donate time and money to various community projects throughout the year.

In October we treated ourselves for our hard work by going to visit the Greenbrier Resort. What a beautiful, grand place! We all enjoyed it very much and didn't want to leave.

Recently we prepared the turkeys and trimmings and decorated the hall for our annual community Thanksgiving dinner. This event is a wonderful time for sharing

fellowship and thankfulness with family & neighbors.

On Dec. 7th, we got together at the Community hall to assemble goodie baskets for shut-ins in the community. The farm women baked the cookies & also donated baskets and all of the other various goodies. The baskets were then delivered by club members.

The Feast of St. Nicholas in Dec., which we usually help with, had to be canceled this year but we hope we can resume it again next year with the help of the community. It is an age old, Swiss tradition at Christmas time and it has been a wonderful event for adults and children alike for several years. Thanks to Sandy Burky for getting it started & hosting it year after year and to Peter and Patricia, a wonderful Swiss couple who come and make it extra special by baking and teaching us how to make traditional Swiss cookies but most importantly how to make Grättibanz!!

We celebrated our annual Christmas party and "secret sister" gift exchange at the home of Nancy Gain in Dec.

We cordially invite any women in and around our community to come join us or just visit to see what we're all about. We welcome new members.

The Helvetia Farm Women's Cookbook is coming out in the spring and it will sell for \$10. Anyone wanting one please contact Eleanor Betler.

Helvetia Restoration and Development Association

The Helvetia Restoration and Development Association meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Helvetia Library. It sponsors several events during the year: Swiss National Day and Fasnacht which help keep our Swiss Heritage; and Helvetia Day, the day we celebrate the founding of Helvetia . We also sponsor the first of the month square dances. The money made from these

dances goes into our Maintenance Fund. Currently we are working on fixing up the Museum which is in need of repairs and the Star Band Hall, too. We are also planning to set up the museum so it can be left open on weekends for tourists who would like to see it. If anyone has information or stories about the artifacts in there, we would appreciate it if you would send them to Eleanor Betler.

Star Band News

The Star Band is still very active. The band plays for square dances at the Helvetia Community Hall the first Saturday of each month. If you happen to be in town come join us. The dances begin at 8 p.m. and go 'till 11 p.m. The band also plays for our annual Festivals: Ramp Supper, Helvetia Fair, Helvetia Day, Swiss National Day, Fasnacht and the Maple Syrup Festival.

The band Members are: Joe McInroy, Woody Higginbotham, James Sayre and Bill Talbott.

Helvetia Public Library

Nestled away in the remote southwest corner of Randolph County, West Virginia, our library raises eyebrows of many visitors from far away. Breaching its rustic exterior through a doorway displaying a prominent sign, "WiFi Hotspot", it is not uncommon for tourists---after two pirouettes---to say: "Wow, this is a real library!"

With over 3,200 volumes of various printed media, four broadband internet workstations dedicated to walk-in public use, a continually expanding collection of contemporary movie DVDs, and direct or remote access to over 125,000 eBooks in both textual and audio formats, if our patrons can't find what they want within our facility, we will get it for them by way of inter-library or intra-library loans from around the world.

Kultur Haus Helvetia

The community non-profit, *Kultur Haus Helvetia*, continues to serve the community and be a place of interest to tourists. This is the building that houses the Post Office, General Store, Fasnacht Mask Museum, and Alpen Lodge.

The General Store is open daily; however during the winter months between Christmas and the Maple Syrup Festival, Kultur Haus Helvetia is closed on Sundays except Fasnacht weekend. There continue to be two part time employees while other work including building projects, and general maintenance are done by volunteers. It is a 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 kitchen, living room and dining room are all available for use during stays at the Alpen Lodge. 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.

On July 7, 2013, the Kultur Haus held its second annual open house. Approximately 30 people stopped by. 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 who would like to make a tax deductible donation to the non-profit organization can send it to Helvetia Restoration and Development, earmarked Kultur Haus. The building desperately needs a new roof. The roof leaks right above the checkout counter as well as other places

throughout the building. Various patching attempts have been made to stop the leaks to no avail. Any donations regardless would be greatly appreciated to save the building. If you are in town stop by the Kultur Haus. It is a great place to purchase local products and you can enjoy the Fasnacht masks that are on display throughout the store area.

Swiss Village/Hutte

Over the past year, Swiss Village and The Hutte Restaurant have made some improvements to the Beekeeper Inn, including a new roof, painting the exterior, and shoring up floor beams. Additionally, the Hutte now offers wireless Internet to its patrons. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and read your emails. Our winter hours are in effect until spring (12 p.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Sunday). Facebook users, please check out our page which is listed under “Hutte Swiss Restaurant.”

Coat of Arms

Coat of Arms, a newly local video post-production business, is owned and operated by Clara Lehmann and Jonathan Lacocque. Over the past year, Coat of Arms performed post-production projects for clients like Jaguar, Land Rover, Vanderbilt University, local filmmakers, and several international corporations. Support Coat of Arms by purchasing a pack of our uniquely designed playing cards available online at www.CoatofArmsPost.com or at the Hutte Restaurant. Also, Clara Lehmann wrote a poetry book entitled "A Waltz with Words" that will be available in February 2014. Many of the book's poems and illustrations are inspired by local people and events.

Modern Woodmen of America

Lauren Brown has started working for the largest fraternal financial service organizations in America. She will be helping individuals, families & small businesses with their financial & retirement planning. She will also be looking into

opening a Modern Woodmen of America chapter in the Helvetia & Pickens area as the organization is dedicated to the communities they serve in. Please visit www.modern-woodmen.org for more information or feel free to contact her at 304-613-0307 or by email at Lauren.D.Brown@mwarep.org.

Betler Family Reunion

The children of Gene and Pauline Betler had a Christmas family get together the weekend before Christmas at the home of Kevin and Diane. The highlight of the weekend was a Geo Cache treasure hunt organized by Gene Betler Jr. He hid cache boxes throughout the area at places of significance to the Betler Family. Each box held a story and a picture also with directions to the next container. The last box of the hunt held coins designed by Scott and Gene. It portrayed the Betler family crest on one side and a picture of Helvetia Church on the other. Everyone who did the treasure hunt received a coin. Everyone had a wonderful time. Throughout the weekend, 35 family members and friends enjoyed each other's company, good food, great stories and much love and laughter.

Weddings

Betler/Bodkins

Dr. Erika Margaret Betler and Dr. Jeremy Ryan Bodkins were married at Stonewall Resort on June 1, 2013 with Dr. Marvin Parli officiating the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of H. Kevin and Diane Betler of Helvetia, and the granddaughter of the late Gene and Pauline Betler; the late Margaret Koerner; and the late Raymond and Leah Cowger. She is a 2012 graduate of WVU School of Medicine and is a Family Medicine resident physician at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. The groom is the son of Tommie and Terry Bodkins of Elkins, and the grandson of Fay and the late Don Bennett; and the late Les and Juanita Bodkins. He is a 2012 graduate

of WVU Physical Therapy School of Medicine and is employed at Country Roads Physical Therapy in Fairmont.

Keim/Summerfield

Lauren Elizabeth Keim and David Bradley Summerfield were married July 13 at Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church in Elkins with the Rev. John Koerner officiating the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Jeffrey Keim and Lisa Day and stepfather Philip Towey. The bridegroom is the son of Randal and Ivy (Koerner) Summerfield and grandson of Elwood Koerner. The couple will make their new home in Grovetown, GA.

Births

Chance Kristopher Roy Gain

Ben Gain and Machenzie Miller announce the birth of a son. Chance Kristopher Roy Gain. Born 1/20/2014 at 9:45 am. He weighed 5 lbs. and 4oz. and is the Grandson of Leroy and Nancy Daetwyler Gain.

Lexie Jolynn Gain

Silas and Crystal Gain announce the birth of a daughter. Lexie Jolynn Gain, Born 9/4/2013 and weighed 7 lbs. and 4 oz. She is the Granddaughter of Leroy and Nancy Daetwyler Gain.

Isabella Marie Harris

Isabella Marie Harris was born on 1/19/14 to Brittney (Betler) & Will Harris.

Lucy Tournay and Sophia Eleanor Lacocque

Twin girls were born to Jonathan and Clara (Lehmann) Lacocque on November 27 2013. The proud grandparents are Dan and Jody Lehmann and Jerry and Heidi (Maillioux) Arnett.

Deaths

Ralph Bailey

Ralph Leslie Bailey, 93, a resident of Helvetia, passed from this life April 20,

2013. Ralph was born Oct. 5, 1919, in Czar, a son of the late Orel Leslie Bailey and Stacie Freda Koon Bailey. He was preceded in death by his wife, Violet Lorraine Zirkle Bailey and two children, Terrance Bailey and Victoria Mills; and one sister, Velna Golden.

He is survived by six children, Jewel Jessmer and husband, Ed, of Alliance, Ohio, Sherrel Bailey and wife, Charity, Darrell Bailey, all of Helvetia, Ranaee Janis and husband, Rick, of Chapin, S.C., Crystal Summers and husband, Scott, of Cartersville Ga., and Anthony Bailey and fiancé, April, of Buckhannon.

Mildred Betler

Mildred May Hofer Betler, 96, of Nutter Fort, March 6, 2013. She was born Oct. 25, 1916, in Helvetia, the second of six children to the late Ernest and Henrietta Hofer. She married Raymond Betler, Oct. 4, 1941. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Raymond; and her siblings, Wilma Hofer, Genevieve Hofer, Margaret Wegman and Ernest "Fred" Hofer, as well as her son, Michael, and daughter, Eileen.

She is survived by her sister, Lena Mealey of Elkins; her children, Charlotte Hughes and husband, M. William "Bill," of Lewes, Del., Susan Reynolds and husband, Charles, of Hollywood, Md., Nancy Maunz and husband, Michael, of Clarksburg; daughter-in-law, Betty Scott and husband, Max, of Easton, Md.

Arthur Gobeli

Arthur B. Gobeli, 87, of Helvetia, passed away Aug. 29, 2013, at his home. He was born April 23, 1925, in Helvetia, a son of the late John and Clara Koerner Gobeli. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Rose Hosaflook Gobeli, whom he married Nov. 6, 1948; and a son, William Roger Gobeli; an adopted son, Junior Gobeli; and an adopted daughter, Francis Shields.

Arthur is survived by his son, Benjamine A. Gobeli of Philippi and two brothers, Johnnie Gobeli and Donald Gobeli both of Baltimore, Md.

Lulu Belle Jones

Lulu Belle Jones, 77, of Pickens, passed away Dec. 28, 2013. She was born Sept. 27, 1936, in Suncrest. Preceding her in death were her parents, Birten and Josephine Byrd Tharp; husband, Herbert W. Jones; son, Jesse L. Jones; and brothers, Howard Tharp and Esker Tharp.

Lulu is survived by two daughters, Lois (Josh) Small of Beverly and Christine Belle (Don) Crider of Missouri; and three sons, Shawn Jones of Pickens, Lyndon (Carry) Jones of Hacker Valley and Owen (BJ) Jones of Pickens.

Brenda Kay Koerner

Brenda Kay Koerner, 56, a resident of Helvetia, WV, passed away July 28, 2013. She was the daughter of Rev. Ralph Summerfield of Mill Creek and the late Olive Daniels Summerfield and was married to Chesley Koerner who survives at Helvetia. Also surviving are one son, Daniel Koerner and wife Jessica of Rock Cave; a daughter Lisa Koerner Perry and husband Chris of Columbus, OH; three brothers, Gary, Randy, and Roger Summerfield all of Blue Rock; and a special friend, Leah Bryant.

Willard Mauller, Jr

Willard Lance "Bill" Mauller Jr., 68, a resident of Elkins, passed from this life Oct. 30, 2013. Bill was born Wednesday, Oct. 31, 1945, a son of the late Willard Lance Mauller Sr. and Ruby Frances Louk.

Bill is survived by three children, Josef Hans Mauller and wife, Jennifer, of Virginia, Tania Kelly and husband, Greg, of Minnesota, and Davin Mauller and wife, Katherine, of Virginia; one brother, Mike Mauller and companion, Jeanette Scott, of Valley Bend. He was preceded in death in

2004 by his longtime companion, Grace Blake.

Eva Florence Morgan

Eva Florence Morgan, 70, of Pickens, died Feb. 28, 2013. She was born Dec. 10, 1942, the daughter of the late Charles Robert and Virginia Mae Tuning Kelley. She was united in marriage on Sept. 6, 1957, to her husband, Joseph T. Morgan, who survives.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by one daughter, Rhonda Jeffries and husband, Don, of Buckhannon; four sons, Kevin Morgan and wife, Alisha, of North Carolina, Joey Morgan and wife, Rachel, of French Creek, Stephen Morgan and wife, Debby, of Buckhannon, and Rick Morgan and wife, Joyce, of Buckhannon. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Charles Boyd Kelley and John Robert Kelley.

Mabel Ramey

Mabel Glenna Ramey, 91, of Pickens, died Feb. 23, 2013. She was born Feb. 22, 1922, in Upshur County, a daughter of the late George and Olive Plum Beavers.

On Nov. 1, 1969, she married John J. Ramey, who survives. She was preceded in death by one brother, Dallas Beavers; and three sisters, Guilse Wilfong, Rolena Wilkins and Mateel Booth.

Gladys G. Rupp

Gladys G Rupp, 99, of Canton, went home to be with the Lord on Nov. 15, 2013.

Gladys was born in Pickens, West Virginia to the late Upton and Annie (Kinneson) Mace. Gladys was preceded in death by her husband, Howard L. Rupp.

Davy W. Sayre

Davy W. Sayre, 60, died September 26, 2013. He was the husband of Deborah Lewis Sayre and the son of the late Dana O. and Monna G. Conrad Sayre. He is survived by his son, Jason Sayre Browning of Buckhannon and daughter, Tracy Reed of

Buckhannon; two brothers, Guy C. Sayre and Arthur C. Sayre; and one sister, Diana H. Patterson.

Edna Marie Schott

Edna Marie Schott (nee Coleman), 89, passed away on April 20, 2013. Edna was born June 9, 1923 and raised in Pickens, WV. She was preceded in death by parents Cecil and Freda Coleman, two husbands Ray Avery and Chuck Schott, and two brothers Gordon and Robert Coleman,

"Smoke" Toms

Charles Edward "Smoke" Toms, 77, of Pickens, died Dec. 13, 2013. He was born Aug. 3, 1936, in Pickens, a son of the late Charles Burner and Mary Elizabeth Wasmer Toms. Surviving are two brothers, Nelson O. "Squint" Toms of Weston and David R. Hull of Helvetia; three sisters, Hannah Sutton of Lost Creek, Donna Cogar of French Creek and Connie Harper of Harrisonburg, Va.

Charles Wasmer

Wasmer, Charles O. "Monk," 85, of Weirton, W.Va., passed away April 21, 2012. He was born Aug. 27, 1926, in Pickens, W.Va., the son of the late Clarence and Lena Rupp Wasmer. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Lois Wasmer Hannah. Surviving are his wife, Lorene Galford Wasmer, and sons Gary (Joanne) Wasmer and William (Mary) Wasmer all of Weirton, WV

Arnold Betler Family Cemetery

This cemetery is being developed on the Betler family farm on Karlen Road. Currently it holds the graves of Kevin D. Betler, James Christopher Brown, Thelma Gae Betler Oesch, and Wilbur C. Oesch.

Upcoming Events

Check HelvetiaWV.com for updates.

Dare To Be Square

May 31st – June 1st

A weekend for aspiring and advanced callers, dancers and musicians in a small Swiss town in the mountains of West Virginia! Workshops will be held with Mack Samples, Lou Maiuri, Will Mentor, Phil Jamison, Michael Ismerio, Janine Smith, Ellen & Eugene Ratcliffe and many others. There are two beautiful dance halls! One hall will be designated to beginning calling and one hall will offer advanced and regional square dance styles. There will be many caller open mic sessions! Evening Dances will feature the Iron Leg Boys and the Full Moon Boys.

\$40 early bird price, \$50 weekend price.
Nightly Dances \$5.

<http://mountaindancetrail.org/364-2/>

Annual Events

- **Fasnacht.** Last Saturday before Lent. March 1, 2014.
- **Pickens Maple Syrup Festival.** Third Weekend in March. March 15-16, 2014.
- **Pickens Ramp Supper.** Third or fourth Saturday in April.

- **Helvetia Ramp Supper.** Last Saturday in April. April 26, 2014.
- **Pickens School Alumni/Senior Banquet.** Saturday before Mother's Day. May 10, 2014.
- **Helvetia Cemetery Decoration.** Sunday before Father's Day Weekend. June 8, 2014.
- **Pickens Cemetery Decoration.** Sunday of Father's Day Weekend. June 15, 2014.
- **Follow Your Bliss Fest.** June 20-22, 2014.
- **Swiss National Holiday.** Saturday closest to August 1 (usually). August 2, 2014.
- **Helvetia Fair.** Second full weekend in September. September 13-14, 2014.
- **Helvetia Mountain Run.** Sunday of Fair Weekend. September 15, 2014.
- **Helvetia Day.** A Saturday near October 20th.
- **Helvetia Town Meeting.** First Sunday in November. November 1, 2014.
- **Thanksgiving Dinner.** Fourth Thursday in November. November 27, 2014.