

# THE MESSENGER

Zion Presbyterian Church, Helvetia  
Pickens Presbyterian Church, Pickens

July 2009

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Once again it is our intent to send you *The Messenger* two times a year. According to our records, *The Messenger* has not been sent since December 2005. We are not going to even try to go back and fill you in on all that has happened during the time between then and now, but hope to briefly let you know what has happened and move forward and send you more recent news from the community, families and friends. We would ask that if anyone has news or items to share, please send them to either of us at anytime. When you receive *The Messenger*, and notice any errors, please let us know of those as well so that we can make corrections. In the spirit of “going green” some of you may wish to receive an electronic version of *The Messenger*. If you would prefer an email copy of *The Messenger* we would be happy to send it to you. Thank you in advance for news, comments, and suggestions.

Diane M. Betler  
[betlers3@hughes.net](mailto:betlers3@hughes.net)  
HC 70 Box 15  
Helvetia, WV 26224

Woody Higginbotham  
[wwoodman71@verizon.net](mailto:wwoodman71@verizon.net)  
HC 76  
Helvetia, WV 26224

## ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

At the annual congregational meeting held after church on January 11, 2009, church office elections were held. The results are as follows.

ELDERS: Joe Mc Inroy, Alvin Burky, and H. Kevin Betler

DEACONS: Jim Smith and Kevin D. Betler.

TRUSTEES: Donna Knotts and H. Kevin Betler

It is good to have Kevin D. Betler agreeing to serve as a Deacon, since his father, Delbert Betler, served as a Deacon for so many years.

At the annual congregational meeting it was decided to make church renovations this summer. Presently, renovations are being done. The project includes: fix leaky roof in Sunday school rooms, replace rotten siding, replace windows in the Sunday school rooms and the vestibule, repair bell tower, replace Sunday school room exterior door, and paint the exterior of the building. Anyone wishing to donate to this project can make donations to: Zion Presbyterian Church, attention Building Fund.

The church chimes are making a joyful noise! After discussion at the annual congregational meeting it was decided to replace the church chimes. Woody, Joe, and Kevin researched and found a company that would replace the chime unit at the lowest cost. Incidentally, it is the same company that had installed the chimes over 30 years ago. The speakers in the bell tower along with the cabinet in the vestibule did not need replacing. The new unit cost \$7430.00. Anyone wishing to donate to the chime project can make donations to Zion Presbyterian Church, attention: Church Chimes. A plaque will be attached to the cabinet listing all donors. Since some components of the old system are still being used, we will list the original donors to the chimes. The list now includes:  
In memory of Rudolph Zumbach, In memory of Helen Sutton, In memory of Gwen Burky, Rev. Raborn, Grietley Fuglister, Rogers McAvoy, and H. Kevin and Diane Betler.

### **PICKENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS**

Thanks to everyone who sent donations to the Pickens Presbyterian Church.

### **HELVETIA CEMETERY**

The Helvetia Cemetery continues to look beautiful thanks to the Dave Loudin family. Dave and members of his family come to Helvetia several times during the summer and donate their time to mow and make improvements to the cemetery. Any expenses needed for upkeep come from the Helvetia Cemetery Fund. We wish to thank Dave and his family for their

continued dedication to the upkeep of the Helvetia Cemetery!

### **LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS**

The renovation project at the Helvetia Community Hall is near completion. Last summer Governor Manchin visited our community. While here, he asked about ongoing or upcoming community betterment projects. Before this, officers of the Helvetia Community Hall had begun research on the hall renovation project and had funded and installed a new septic system.

Funds that were used on the project were: \$15,000.00 grant from Sen. Clark Barnes, \$50,000.00 grant from Governor Manchin, and, \$5000.00 grant earmarked by Del. Bill Proudfoot before his untimely death, which is forthcoming from his replacement Del. Mike Ross.

Local contributions were made by: Helvetia Farm Women CEOS, Helvetia Restoration and Development Organization, Helvetia Folk Dancers, Helvetia Fair Association and Rogers Mc Avoy.

Renovations include: the new septic system, men and women's restroom upstairs, men and women's restrooms downstairs, new exterior doors in the dining area and new porch area downstairs which make the downstairs handicapped accessible, storage rooms, a handicapped accessible ramp coming into the main entrance doors, and new electrical wiring. The part of the project that is not yet completed is decorative railing on the ramp. As with any project in our area, many hours of volunteer work was donated by people who wanted to see the project completed. Thanks to all who

worked so hard on this much needed project!

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The Czar and Helvetia areas are currently in the process of getting public water from The Adrian Public Water District. Completion date for this is projected to be at the end of October. Kevin D. Betler has worked very hard to make this much-needed project possible.

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The Pickens Volunteer Fire Department will soon have a new building for their fire trucks. The older building is being painted and the project looks great. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to make this project possible.

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#### Helvetia Archive Project Update

From: Eleanor Betler

The Archive received funds from a private grant foundation which financed the creating of a working space that houses the archives. It is the one-room school that is attached to the Helvetia Public Library. A computer, scanner and printer and the computer programs necessary to record and make copies of the photos and memorabilia have been purchased. Museum quality storage is being used and lights with magnifiers are installed. These were a welcome addition to the developing project.

In the summer of 2008, West Virginia University allowed us an intern for 300 hours. Michelle Thompson-Shaffer spent the summer recording collections as our intern. Her knowledge and expertise was a great help. Woody

Higginbotham of Helvetia also worked many hours scanning materials. Eleanor Mailloux continues to support the archives by turning over items she has collected over the years. Lawrence Metzner has been the guide at the Helvetia Museum for at least three years during the Community Fair the second full weekend of September. Eleanor Betler is in contact with museum and archive professionals and keeps the archive project moving whether working at the library or on her computer at home. Henrietta B. Sanders has collected photos for many years and generously helps the archives with photo identification and her time.

The photos of professional photographer, Uriah Shock, who lived on a Helvetia farm, were developed by WVU and put online in the West Virginia Collection in 2008. These pictures were made from glass negatives donated by his grandson, Bill Brady, who spent summers in Helvetia and now lives in Ohio. Many of these photographs are taken in Lewis and Webster counties, where Uriah Shock had photographic businesses. Bill intends to donate more negatives to the collection. Helvetia now has about 500 photos from the early days that can be viewed by going to WVU Libraries, then to West Virginia Collection History Onview, type in Helvetia then Aegerter or Shock and you will be able to view the photos of these two Helvetia photographers. If you can identify any of the people or places pictured, please note the identifying number of the photo and let us know. [elbetler@yahoo.com](mailto:elbetler@yahoo.com) or E. Betler, HC 76 Box 200 Helvetia, WV 26224

We have been given pictures of Confirmation Classes from a few years. If you have one you would like to share, please send it and if possible add identifications and the year it was taken. We can look up, in church records, information on the class joining the church that year.

Thanks to the many relatives of early Helvetia families who have given or loaned photos and who have identified old photographs for us. All help is appreciated.

### **MARRIAGES**

On July 29, 2006 Jessica Ann Fender and Andy Sutton Cecchini were united in Holy Matrimony in a private ceremony at the Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

### **BIRTHS**

Jim and Vada Smith have been blessed with six new great- grandchildren.  
Landon – 5/6/06-son of Stefanie McNeal  
Kelea – 7/6/06- daughter of Jessica Hart  
Indiana- 9/07/07-son of Mark McNeal  
Brooke – 5/02/08-daughter of Jessica Hart  
Walker – 10/19/08-son of Kimberly Smith  
Finnigan – 5/30/09 –son of Mark McNeal

Other births:  
Lilly-Ana Grace Betler was born on 5/21/08, daughter of Scott and Lori Betler

Ryan William Leichliter was born on 9/18/08, son of Rusty and Julie Leichliter

### **DEATHS**

James. D. Zickefoose – 2/28/06  
Mary F. Anderegg – 3/21/06  
Donald E. Simmons – 4/02/06  
Harry V. Booth – 4/27/06  
Paul J. Williams – 5/10/06  
Mark A. Sneberger – 6/10/06  
James C. Brown – 6/19/06  
Howard F. Burky 6/19/06  
Charles T. Warner – 7/16/06  
Delia E. Smith – 8/08/06  
Delbert D. Betler – 9/05/06  
Shirley A. Griffith – 9/18/06  
Monna G. Sayre – 10/13/06  
Cecil C. Dulaney – 11/15/06  
Louise Hicks – 11/26/06  
Bill Dulaney - 1942-2006  
Clyde Long – 1/10/07  
Helen Burky Bryan – 1/28/07  
Donald “Snork” Lowther – 2/05/07  
Earl G. Marti – 3/14/07  
Josephine Morgan – 6/28/07  
Thad Howes – 8/26/07  
Pearl Conrad – 9/27/07  
Connie Nestor Duke – 10/01/07  
Paul R. Bunner – 1/12/08  
Helen Sutton 4/17/08  
Nell Gaston – 5/16/08  
Keith Spittler – 6/27/08  
Phillip W. Barb – 7/18/08  
Francis Merkli Ramey – 8/20/08  
Harry Bunner – 8/21/08  
Bette Sutton Hicks - 1929-2008  
William R. Gobeli – 2/01/09  
Beradine Van Gilder 2/20/09  
Violet Mace Blosser 3/08/09  
John Bunner – 3/21/09  
Lester M. Helmick – 5/24/09  
Forrest Gail Hardman – 7/02/09  
Jean Tacy Smith - 1932-2009  
Vesta Tiffner - 1910-2009  
June Williams Tacy - 1930-2009  
Jean Fisher – 1928-2009  
Jean Williams Jarrett – 1940-2009  
Betty Dodrill Devol – 1950-2009

## **PICKENS SCHOOL NEWS**

Since you have last received *The Messenger*, we have a new building at Pickens School. The first graduating class from the facility was in 2007. The 2009 graduating class had two members. They are Natasha Hudok and Joseph Crislip. If you have not visited our school, please come see us when you are in the area. We love to show off our wonderful students, staff and school. If you would like to visit our website, the address is:

<http://boe.rand.k12.wv.us/education/school/school.php>

Please take time to view our Local School Improvement Council report that is on our site. It is a great portrayal of our school, and was wonderfully put together by Dave Whipp, our LSIC chairperson. Thanks again, Dave!

The Pickens School annual Alumni-Senior Banquet was held on Saturday, May 9. Approximately 150 people attended the dinner that honored the 50-year class and the graduating seniors. The guest speaker was Margaret Hull, who was an elementary teacher of the 50-year class. A wonderful evening of reminiscing and visiting was had by all. Next year's banquet will be held at the school on Saturday of Mother's Day weekend.

Pickens School staff and students would like to thank the Hicks/Nestor Family for all they continue to contribute to our school. For the past two years during the annual Hicks Family reunion, family members have done landscaping at the school and this spring, the family donated three picnic tables. All

members of the school community really appreciate what the Hicks Family has done to make our school more beautiful.

## **FROM OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**

We thank Debby Morgan for sharing the following:

Morgan Marie Stewart was born on April 8, 2008, daughter of Tony & Angie "Morgan" Stewart. Morgan is the granddaughter of Stephen and Debby "Nestor" Morgan and the great granddaughter of the late Clinton & Mabel Hicks Nestor. Tony, Angie & Morgan live in Columbia, MD.

Connie Nestor Duke, 57 years old, passed away on Oct 1, 2007 after a three-month battle with lung cancer. She leaves behind a family who loved her dearly and misses her more than words can say... Husband -Nathan, son - Greg, grand daughter - Olivia (the joy of her life), Brother - Don, Sisters- Margaret, Deb & Terry and many nieces & nephews.

All 4 of Clinty & Mabel Nestor's children (Don, Connie, Deb & Terry) family members (17 in total, went to Salzburg & Oberndorf, Austria in July 2007 to visit their sister, Margaret Bogenhuber and her husband Peter and their families. It was a 10 day trip and a wonderful time of sight seeing and spending time together as a family. It was a great trip with lots of memories that will last us all a lifetime.

Derika Renee Nestor was born on Sept. 23, 2008. Derika is the daughter of Ryan and Destiny Nestor, the granddaughter of Don and Judy Nestor and the great granddaughter of the late Clinton & Mabel Hicks Nestor. Ryan, Destiny & Derika live in Morgantown WV.

Betty "Dodrill" Devol, 58 years old, died after a short illness on June 16, 2009 in Parkerburg. Betty was married to Gail Devol. She was the daughter of the late Jim & Virginia "Sassi" Dodrill

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Morgan and Jo Cressler share the following:

Frances Merkli Ramey, 81, of Fort Myers, Florida, formerly of Alexandria, VA passed away Wed. August 20, 2008. She was born to the late Henry John and Martha Lewis Merkli on November 18, 1926 in Helvetia, West Virginia. Frances led a diverse life. As the wife of the late Lt. Colonel Kenneth Ramey, she traveled and was instrumental in his career as a decorated Air Force Officer. She also pursued a successful career in Real Estate in Northern Virginia, owned and operated a Beauty Salon on the Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. Upon retirement, Frances and Kenneth relocated to Florida to be close to their children. Frances was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Kenneth Ramey. Her children survive her, Kenneth B. Ramey (Debra Culver) Suzanne Loftus (Jack C. Loftus) and Martha

Shultz (Gary) of San Antonio, TX. Two brothers and their wives. Henry Merkli (Jeanine) and Edward Merkli (Martha) who reside in Virginia. A first cousin, Mary France Hicks of Helvetia, West Virginia. She leaves behind her Uncle and Aunt Morgan and Jo Cressler of Florida, six grandsons and six granddaughters and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her mother. Martha Lewis Merkli Kelly and father Henry J. Merkli. Frances Ramey's final resting place is at Arlington National in Washington, D.C. She was laid to rest with her husband on October 3, 2008

#### MESSENGER DONATIONS

Clyde and Judy Miles  
Mary L. Pafford  
Lester and Betty Van Gilder  
Vernon and Virginia Burky  
Grade Logsdon  
Anthony and Alice Stankus  
Norman P. Stalnaker  
David and Patty Phillips  
Maxine Fiorini  
Eleanor Mailloux  
Jack and Henrietta Sanders

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Swiss National Holiday** - A Saturday near August 1. August 1, 2009.  
**Chicken Supper** - Third Saturday in August. August 15, 2009.  
**Helvetia Fair** - Second full weekend in September. September 12-13, 2009.  
**Helvetia Mountain Run** - Sunday of Fair Weekend.

September 13, 2009.  
<http://www.wvmtr.org/helvetia10k.htm>

**Helvetia Day** - Nearest Saturday to October 20th. October 17, 2009.

**Helvetia Town Meeting** - First Sunday in November. November 1, 2009.

**Thanksgiving Dinner** - Fourth Thursday in November

**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 or fourth 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 8, 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.

### **CHURCH SERVICES**

Church services begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Zion Presbyterian Church in Helvetia.

Church services begin at 11:15 a.m. at the Pickens Presbyterian Church in Pickens.

We invite and welcome anyone wishing to attend any of the services to

please come. Whether you are a local resident or someone visiting, both the Zion and Pickens congregations would love to have you.

Hope to see you soon!

### **Helvetia Public Library**

Bruce Cressler has been serving as our librarian since March of this year. Bruce's background is primarily in various biomedical engineering management functions, however he served as the editor of the Webster Echo and Webster Republican newspapers from 1975-1980.