

**THE MESSENGER**  
**Zion Presbyterian Church, Helvetia**  
**Pickens Presbyterian Church, Pickens**  
**SUMMER 2012**

**A message from the editors**

Once again we are bringing the news from Helvetia and Pickens. If you have any news that you would like to include in the Messenger, please send us a note or an email. If you notice errors, please let us know that as well, so that we can print corrections.

A special thank you goes out to folks for their financial support to the The Messenger fund.

We hope that everyone who receives this newsletter is having a wonderful summer filled with many blessings. God bless each of you and your loved ones.

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**Zion Presbyterian Church News**

Church services continue to be held at the Helvetia Church every Sunday. Thanks to the dedication of Joe McInroy who works diligently to find ministers to come and deliver a wonderful sermon each week. Those pastors include, Rev. Charla Koerner, Rev. James Morley, Rev. Rick Accord, Rev. David Schaffer, Rev. Hood, and various other supply ministers. Rev. Barbara Accord continues to serve as mediator of the session. We are very grateful for those who serve each week. If you are in the area visiting family or friends

any weekend, make attending Zion Presbyterian Church or Pickens Presbyterian Church, or any of our local churches, part of your visit. It is truly a blessing. Church services are held at 10:00 AM at Zion Presbyterian Church in Helvetia and 11:30 at Pickens Presbyterian Church.

Zion Presbyterian Church in Helvetia now has five new members. Maxine Metzner and Betty Daetwyler Biggs were baptized by Rev. Charla Koerner, and Diane Betler reconfirmed her faith. All three became members of the church on April 15, 2012. Also Charlie and Charlotte Chandler are members of Zion Presbyterian Church now as they have transferred their membership from Morgantown.

**Pickens Presbyterian Church**  
**News**

Weather permitting, church services continue to be held at the Presbyterian Church in Pickens. Church officials wish to thank all those families and friends who continue to attend, support, and contribute to the church.

**Helvetia Cemetery News**

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; and Treasurer, H. Kevin Betler.

## Memorial Funds

The Zion Presbyterian Church and the family of Jack Sanders would like to thank the following people for their donations to the church as a memorial for **Jack Sanders**.

Woody Higginbotham, Dora Winkler, Wilma Burke, Nancy and Richard Karas, Henry and Helen Mae Sassi, Gary and Naomi Eator, Kenneth Spittler, Billy and Betty Chapman, Mary Miller, Dennis and Cindy Henry, Mrs. Cleo Jackson, Rodney and Dorothy Gwin, Jack and Joan Betler, Lisa and Bruce Parks, Rusty Leichliter Family, James Broadberry, Alice Phillips, Shirley and Bernard Griffin, Dennis Helmick, Joan Malcomb Ester, Carol Hill, Donna Gilaky, Karen Sherlen, David and Donna Nazelrod, American Legion Auxiliary, Kenneth Nazelrod, David and Polly Hull, Delores and Robert Williams, Irvin and Patty Daniels, Steve and Mary Ann Karlen, Jim and Vada Smith, Eleanor Betler, The Umbright Family, Mary M. Broce, and an anonymous donor.

The Zion Presbyterian Church and the family of Howard Metzner would like to thank the following people for their donations to the church as memorial for **Howard Metzner**.

The Umbright Family, Nancy Smith, Jim and Marilyn Coplin, Margie Daetwyler, David and Donna Nazelrod, Norma Moore Stalnaker, Barbara Ward, L' Amy Arbogast, Thomas and Videa Ross II, Ozella Smith, Hilda Rose Kempf, Lawrence Metzner, Eleanor Betler, Evelyn, Herman, and Alvin Burky; and Katherine Harris.

## Pickens School

On May 19, 2012 Pickens School celebrated its Eighty-third commencement. Guest speaker for the event was Amie Fazalare, Director of the Gear Up Program

at Fairmont State University. The graduating senior was Kristina Ann Crislip of Helvetia. Kristina is the daughter of James and Theresa Crislip. Best wishes to Kristina for a bright, successful, and happy future!

The annual Senior-Alumni Banquet was held on May 13, 2012 in the school gymnasium. The fifty year class was honored. Approximately 140 people attended the banquet. Instead of a guest speaker, members from various classes shared memories of going to Pickens School. A special thanks to the board of directors who work each year to make this event possible, Pickens Volunteer Fire Department for preparing the food, and to Bud Farrar, and his "Good Times" karaoke company for volunteering to provide music and entertainment.

The students and staff of Pickens School had a wonderful Christmas surprise given to them by the Nestor-Ross-Morgan family. Each student and staff member received a Christmas gift. The students and staff gathered in the gym and each were presented gifts. The excitement of the children opening their gifts and sharing the experience was very uplifting.

Community members gathered to work on the Pickens School Athletic field. Previously, community volunteers and friends worked digging ditches and laying drainage pipes purchased by the school's PTSO, to remove the swamp area from the field to the right of the school building. Carter-ROAG Coal Company brought in equipment and leveled the ground and put in a quarter of a mile gravel walking track around the school. On June 9, several parents, students, and friends raked, picked rocks, fertilized and seeded the area. After the recent rain, the grass has been growing

nicely, and now the area can be used by the students and community members as a place to play ball. A special thanks to everyone who helped in June, or to those who contributed to the project in any way, making this recreational field usable for the community and students.

The Pickens School community wants to extend congratulations and best wishes to John Coleman as he begins his retirement. John drove school bus for over 30 years for Pickens School students. He was also a member of the school Local School Improvement Council. Good Luck and Best Wishes, John!

### **Helvetia Receives Traditions**

#### **Award**

Helvetia the small Swiss Village in Randolph County received the Traditions Salute Award, 2011. The Traditions Salute Award annually honors a person or group that has demonstrated a passion and commitment toward the enhancement of West Virginia folk culture through education and public resources. Helvetia received the award for its dedication to maintaining its German Swiss traditions, food, and folkways. The award was presented at the Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center on the campus of Fairmont State University on October 27, 2011.

### **Kultur Haus Helvetia**

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. Plans to keep the post offices in Helvetia and in Pickens for at least the next two years have been made. The general store is open daily and has two part time employees. The other hours are worked 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 three 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.

On June 3, the Kultur Haus held their first 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. One dire need is a new roof since the current one has several patched but leaking leaks. 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, however; Kultur Haus is currently working on paperwork to obtain their own tax detectable status.

### **First Annual Music Fest**

Helvetia celebrated its first annual. "Follow Your Bliss" Music Festival on Father's Day weekend in June. Phil Mc Avoy along with help from friends organized the event. Eight bands played throughout the weekend. The Helvetia Farm Women sold refreshments at the Helvetia Star Band Hall. The good music and beautiful weather made it a fun event for all who were able attend.

**Engrossing history of Helvetia  
reissued after 20 years.**

David H. Sutton's fascinating history about the development of the town of Helvetia, Helvetia: The History of a Swiss Village in the Mountains of West Virginia, which was originally published in 1990, was out of print and hard to get until this past year when it was republished by West Virginia University Press. The book is available for sale at the Hutte Restaurant, the Helvetia Public Library and at Kultur Haus Helvetia.

**Other news and celebrations from  
family and friends**

Lisa Koerner and Chris Perry were married on August 27, 2011 in Mansfield, Ohio. Lisa is the daughter of Chesley and Brenda (Summerfield) Koerner of Helvetia. She is the granddaughter of Rev. Ralph Summerfield of Blue Rock and the late Mavadell Summerfield; and Elwood Koerner of Helvetia and the late Shirley Koerner.

The Burky Family Reunion will be held on the weekend of July 19-21. Family and friends will enjoy music, food, and fellowship.

The Betler Family Reunion will be held the weekend of August 4. The descendants of Henry and Mary Betler will gather at the Betler Farm and enjoy fellowship, food and music.

The family and friends of Lauren(Gainer) Devall celebrated Lauren and her husband expecting their first child, a baby girl, in October with a baby shower. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of visiting, eating, telling stories, and oohing over the cute baby gifts at the Mailloux home in Helvetia.

Dustin Greenway and Melody Cummins will celebrate their wedding in Helvetia in September.

Maggie Gain and Jordon Brown were engaged over the holidays at Christmas time.

Erika Betler and Jeremy Bodkins were engaged in New Orleans last December over Christmas break. Jeremy also graduated from WVU in May with his Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree.

We know that there is news of many other reunions, weddings, graduations, babies and engagements of family and friends. Please let us know so that we can share the good news with our readers.

**Deaths**

**Jack Sanders**, passed away September 10, 2011. Born July 15, 1938, the son of Orville and Mamie (Henline) Sanders. Married to Henrietta (Betler) Sanders in April 1960.

**Randall Howell**, 51 of Beverly passed away September 14, 2011. Husband of Evelyn (Burky) Howell.

**Arnold Tenney Sr.**, 83 of Helvetia passed away September 19, 2011. Born January 9, 1928, the son of the late Dave and NoraMae (Daniels) Tenney.

**Betty L. Cutlip**, of Buckhannon passed away September 19, 2011. Born in Pickens on February 22, 1953, the daughter of Paul and Elizabeth Bender Williams.

**Howard E. Metzner**, 83 of Helvetia passed away October 16, 2011. Born October 31, 1927, the son of Arnold and Della (Vogal) Metzner. Was married to the late Violet (Cogar) Metzner.

**Johnny J. Roth**, 88 of Buckhannon passed away October 26, 2011. Born January 20, 1923, the son of John and Mary (Kettle) Roth. Was married to the late Beulah (Huffman) Roth.

**Patricia Wasmer**, 64, of Lake Shawnee, passed away November 12, 2011. Born July 22, 1947 the daughter of the late Ross and Arweda (Nicholson) Lawson. Survived by her husband Tom Wasmer.

**James W. "Pappy" Hull**, 93, of Pickens, passed away December 3, 2011. Born June 16, 1918 in Pickens, the son of William M. and Roxie (Cogar) Hull. Was married to the late Willa (Tunning) Hull.

**William M. "Giggles" Winemiller**, 53 of Helvetia, passed away December 24, 2011. Born April 24, 1958, the son of the late Omer "Bill" and Katie (Sneberger) Winemiller.

**John Joseph Sneberger**, 56 of Helvetia passed away January 20, 2012. Born on October 8, 1955, the son of John Edward and Marian M.(Steffick) Sneberger.

**Edith (Scott) Gould**, 93 of Beverly, passed away February 26, 2012. Born on November 14, 1918 at Czar the daughter of the late Perry and Annie Jane (Smith) Scott. Was married to the late William Gould.

**Rev. Charles, Francis "Frank" Long**, 84 of Mill Creek passed away March 1, 2012. Born on January 27, 1928, the son of the late William and Myrtle (Phipps) Long. Married to Luene (Currence) Long.

**Clevie Davidson**, 81 of Buckhannon, passed away April 17, 2012. Born on September 1, 1930 in Pickens, the daughter of the late William and Cleva (Wilson) Davidson.

**Kevin D. Betler**, 49 of Helvetia, passed away July 8, 2012. Born March 30, 1963. Son of Delbert and Geraldine (Smith) Betler. Kevin served as a Deacon at Helvetia Presbyterian church and was on the board of directors for the Helvetia Cemetery.

**Michael E. Williams**, 38, of French Creek, passed away July 11, 2012. Born October 2, 1973 in Buckhannon, a son of the late Paul and Elizabeth Bender Williams.

### Up Coming Events

Swiss National Day - August 4, 2012

Helvetia Fair – Sept. 8-9, 2012

Helvetia Day – Oct. 20, 2012

Helvetia Town Meeting – Nov. 4, 2012

Thanksgiving Dinner – Nov. 22, 2012

Feast of Sankt Nicholas – Dec. 1, 2012

Fasnacht – Feb. 9, 2013

Maple Syrup Festival – March 16-17, 2013

Helvetia Ramp Supper – April 27, 2013

Pickens Alumni Banquet – May 11, 2013