

# The Sampler

## Co-Editors

Barb Stein

rstein01@atlanticbb.net

Britt Dolly

abrittd@gmail.com



## 2016

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## A New Path, For Certain

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and God will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6*

Last September the title for this page was: A New Path, Maybe. The process of getting input from everyone in the church with the CAT – Church Assessment Tool – was just getting started. On March 20 this year, many in the congregation gathered to learn about the results of those responses and continue the process of discerning God's will for this church.

Individually, I have also been trying to discern God's will for me. The clear message is to move on from this wonderful church and family of friends where I have labored for the Lord these past eleven years. A year ago, when I first proposed using a survey to help organize feedback about what changes this church needed, I never imagined God would speak so clearly to me about moving away for the time of change for this congregation.

The decision to leave Romney Presbyterian Church June 30 is a difficult one for me. I frequently use the sermon opening prayer phrase: Remind us once more about your loving plans for our lives and what is important including work we must do even when we have to move out of our comfort zones to accomplish your will. Little did I realize that I must literally move out of my comfort zone, this congregation, to continue being faithful to God's will for my life. That is not to say my comfort zone has been one of ease. Many difficult situations have been and still need to be ministered to, but with people I know and have learned to love. Rather like going off to college, the family will still be intact. I will just not be a daily part of the family life.

A colleague recently shared a new prayer with me. Lord, I have prayed Thy Will Be Done. Could you now help me be grateful? I take great comfort from what Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane just before he was arrested: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Yet, not my will but yours be done." Since our Lord and Savior admitted wanting something different, you and I can also express such a request, as long as we continue faithfully declare: Yet, not my will but yours be done.

God has great plans for all our lives. May we all faithfully open ourselves to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

*Pastor Barb*

## NEWS FROM THE SESSION

Session met on March 9, 2016, with the following report.

- Recommendations from the Trust Fund Committee concerning distribution of the earnings were approved by Session.
- Plans for the "CAT – Food for Thought" Fellowship Dinner to follow March 20, 2016, Worship Service were discussed.
- Pastor Barb announced her resignation effective the end of June, 2016.
- Congregational Meeting to consider and consent to the Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship is set for April 10, 2016.

### Financial Spotlight Year-to-Date

From pew—\$16,287 and Trust and Savings— \$8,293.55 = \$24,582.77

Total Expenses—\$31,584.58 Current deficit — \$7,001.81



## Celebrate With Singing

Save the date of Sunday, June 5, 2016 and plan to attend the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service at Romney Presbyterian Church. Bonnie Long is retiring as choir director again!!! We will be singing again "Creation Praise", the anthem commissioned in 2014 to honor Bonnie, which was first sung on November 16, 2014. A reception will follow.

### Food For Thought: Come in to be Filled

What a tremendous response to the session's call for more input to the *Vital Signs* report about the CAT – Congregation Assessment Tool! Five round tables of lively conversation shared ideas, concerns and hopes about the future of Romney Presbyterian Church. If you missed that opportunity, please let any session member know your thoughts on the following.

### COME IN TO BE FED. . . GO OUT TO SERVE

1. The congregation has already written about HOW we are fed: Music, fellowship dinners, Bible Study, Circle, etc.

In what additional ways are we still spiritually, emotionally, intellectually hungry?

2. Romney/St. Luke's gives generously to the church and to the larger community. How else might we serve God and community? Ways of outreach and inclusion?

3. We say we want change, and this desire is reflected in the findings of the CAT"

3% 1 person is satisfied and sees no need for change

29% 13 people want some change

32% 15 people want moderate change

37% 17 people want substantial change

In what areas do you feel change is needed? Not needed?

4. The CAT also describes St. Luke's/Romney Presbyterian as theologically conservative as well as settled rather than flexible in its approach to life. This suggests that we might have some resistance to change. If change is needed to revitalize the church and reach out to a younger population, how willing are you to make WHATEVER effort is needed? Some effort?

## Holy Week Worship

**Palm/Passion Sunday** began with the Choral Call to Worship *Echoing Hosanna* sung by both the youth and adult choirs. Musical celebration continued with palm waving and a procession around the church with Pastor Barb and the youth choir during the hymn *All Glory Laud and Honor*. The adult choir anthem was an uplifting arrangement of *All Glory Laud and Honor* and the youth choir sang *God Loves Us So* during the offertory. The service ended with a Responsive Prayer on Christ's Passion to set the tone for the coming tragedy of Good Friday.

**The Christian Seder with Communion** on Thursday had a full u-shaped table with many voices sharing the Passover story while all drank four cups of juice to celebrate the four 'I will' promises of God: Freedom, Deliverance, Redemption and Thanksgiving for fulfilling God's promises that allow us to be God's People.

**Easter Resurrection Sunday** included hosting the Romney Christian Ministerial Association Sunrise Service followed by breakfast and the regular town worship with more glorious music. The Adult choir opened with the choral Call to Worship *Festive Introit for Easter* and continued with the anthem *King All Glorious*. Jeannie Hampton, accompanied by Linda Shriver, sang *Open the Gates of the Temple* during the offertory. The congregation enthusiastically joined in singing the hymns, ending worship with *He Lives - Christ Jesus lives today. He walks with me and talks with me Along life's narrow way. You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart. May we all continue to live as Easter people every day of our lives!*



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### PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our members:** David Allen, Diane Crane, Marti Fisher, Anne Hill, Sally Kuykendall, John and Margritt Mason, Beulah Mayhew, Barbara and John Pancake, Joe Pancake, Penny Maphis, Ray Stein, Tim Walls

**Confirmation Class** of Katherine Corbin, Kaitlyn Hartman, Emily Pownell and Ella Staley and leaders Gayle Allen and Pastor Barb

**Missionary Support:** Mark Hare in Haiti and Kristi Van Nostran in El Salvador

**Our congregation extends its deepest Christian sympathy** to families and friends of our member Dorothy Kerns, and also Dr. George "Boots" Solan.

**Also:** Mary Margaret Barbe, Stewart Bigger, Patty Botkin, Ray Bowman, Dona Brown, Cheryl Buck, Gabrielle Clower, Boyd Corbin, Megan Corbin, Elsa Culler, Brandi Day, John Duncan, Sr., Landon Eversole, Ella Mae Frye, Harriett Griffith, Vicki and Carl Haines, Mary Alice Bonar Hannah, Shirley Heavner, Marguerite Henderson, Joann Hogbin, Mike Jenkins, Junior Kuykendall, Tammy Lambert, Alma Lear, Harriett Lewis, John McWhorter, Larry Moore, Stacey Morgan, Lexi Orndorff, Tony Patrick, all politicians, Maria Reppert, Landon and Nolan Rinker, Jeanne Robinson (Judy Buckbee's daughter), Steven Rogers, Reva Mae Smith, Barbara Steele, Zanna Stonebreaker, Michael Terry, Ashley Vestal, Joshua Wagner, Grant Walls, Emily Warner, Charlotte Wood, all serving in the military, unnamed requests

**CORRECTIONS** Church Directory; Ada McIntyre phone number is cell-304-261-3752 home-304-885-8849 and Larry Carroll phone number is 304-359-0788

*Recipe of the Month  
Butterscotch Dessert  
Submitted by Sheri Coleman*

1 stick butter, melted  
1 cup flour  
½ cup chopped nuts (I use pecans)

Mix together butter, flour and nuts and press into a 13 x 9" pan to form a crust. Bake 10 to 15 minutes at 350°F. Cool completely before adding layers.

1 8 oz. pkg. of cream cheese  
1 cup confectioners powdered sugar  
2 8 oz. containers of Cool Whip  
2 small pkgs. of instant Butterscotch Pudding  
3 cups milk

Combine cream cheese, confectioners sugar and 8 oz. container of Cool Whip and mix well. Spoon evenly over cooled crust. Mix instant pudding and milk according to package directions and spoon over dessert as the second layer. Spread the other 8 oz. container of Cool Whip on top. May sprinkle with nuts.

To lighten the calories and sugar content I use fat free cream cheese, sugar free Cool Whip, sugar free pudding and skim milk.

Romney Presbyterian Church  
100 West Rosemary Lane  
Romney, WV 26757

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Return Service Requested

Back issues of the Sampler are available on our Website [www.romneypresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.romneypresbyterianchurch.org).  
**Church Office Phone**—304-822-5083 **Email**-[office@romneypresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:office@romneypresbyterianchurch.org)