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# ***THE GOOD NEWS***

A Monthly Newsletter

February 2012

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## SESSION

Margaret Bolt, *Clerk*  
John Garlow  
Suzanne Glock  
Linda Grandon  
Michael Hohn  
Judy Lightner  
George Lilley  
Bill Mathias  
Barry McMillan  
Chris McClelland  
Patrick McGinley  
Marilynn Slaughter

## DEACONS

Brenda Ely  
Kathy Fisher  
Laura Gross  
Linda Hagerty  
Stacey Harper  
Kaye Leinaweaver  
Scott Lyon  
Beth Madison  
Michael Nikolaus  
Floyd Phillips  
Lorna Phillips  
Richard Schreiber  
Shirley Schreiber  
Rae Jean Sielen  
Judy Werner  
Nancy Whyte  
Amy Zeiders

## STAFF

David Allum, *Custodian*  
Jamie Perdue, *Secretary*  
Larry Gary, *Sunday Sexton*  
Kristine A. Haig, *Co-Pastor*  
Janna Kisner, *Minister of Music*  
John W. Sonnenday, *Co-Pastor*  
Johanna Velickoff,  
*Administrative Assistant*  
*to the Pastors & Bookkeeper*

Presbyterian Child  
Development Center  
Sharon Portaro, *Director*

## **Snow**

**Snow,  
blessed snow,  
comes out of the sky  
like bleached flies.  
The ground is no longer naked.  
The ground has on its clothes.  
The trees poke out of sheets  
and each branch wears the sock of God.**

**There is hope.  
There is hope everywhere.  
I bite it.  
Someone once said:  
Don't bite till you know  
if it's bread or stone.  
What I bite is all bread,  
rising, yeasty as a cloud.**

**There is hope.  
There is hope everywhere.  
Today God gives milk  
and I have the pail.**

**Anne Sexton,  
*The Awful Rowing Toward  
God.*  
© Houghton Mifflin,  
1975.**



## Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday – February 5th

No, that is not a typo or a spelling error. Yes, Sunday, February 5th will be the Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday here at FPC sponsored by the youth of our church.

On Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and getting a hot meal.

In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, and have mobilized youth across the country to raise more than \$71 million for people in need. Our church will join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Our youth will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2011, \$10 million was collected by almost 18,000 groups of Souper Bowl of Caring participants for local charities. And our church was one of those groups. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by our own youth—none of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others.

Our youth will hold soup pots at the doors after worship on February 5th. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping money in the soup pot and bringing some canned food that will go to the local food pantries.

For more information on the Souper Bowl of Caring you can visit [www.tacklehunger.org](http://www.tacklehunger.org).

Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please help support their efforts.





The creative arts have been an integral part of worship since, well, forever. And now, imagine the sanctuary of First Presbyterian in Morgantown as a palette for the expression of our own creativity -- from the rafters, on the walls, in the windows.

It might be a banner on the chancel. It could be a massive paper cut hanging from the ceiling. It could be a painting. It could be ... anything.

The Worship Committee would like to tap into the creative abilities within our congregation and invites those interested in helping to join others in a meeting after morning worship on Feb. 19th to discuss the possibilities and how you may be able to help fulfill this vision.

Please let Worship Committee chair Marilyn Slaughter know if you'll be willing to join us. Also, if you have some ideas about others who should be included, or if you can't come but are willing to contribute some ideas, please share those as well.

## Looking for summer options for renewal?

Consider attending the 2012 Worship & Music Conferences

Montreat Conference Center, NC.

June 17-23 (Week I) or June 24-30 (Week II)

“In God’s Abundance, Living, Moving, Being”

For everyone committed to worship in the church – pastors, musicians, choir members, worship committee members, children and youth.

Join the 1,250 folks who attend this conference! In addition to a wide-range of conference options, Montreat has wonderful hiking, Friday Night Barn Dances, and amazing Worship Services.

Janna Kisner and her husband, Jeff, will be attending Week I of the Worship & Music Conference. Sharon Palmatory attended Montreat Worship & Music conferences on several occasions during high school. She highly recommends the experience to any current FPC youth who would like to enrich their spiritual lives through music performance, drama and visual art.

For more information visit <http://www.montreat.org/current/2012-worship-music-conferences>.



## Soup and Bread Luncheon Coming Soon!

By Linda Hagerty, Sec. Empty Bowls Board

Empty Bowls Monongalia is gearing up for its annual soup and bread luncheon to combat local hunger. This year's luncheon will be held on **Saturday, February 25th** at the Hazel and J.W. Ruby Community Center at Mylan Park from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

As a program that began at First Presbyterian six years ago, FPC members can take special pride in the success that the Empty Bowls event has had. Five years ago, the founders of this event decided that in order to grow to its full potential, the program would need to have community wide sponsorship. So, a nonprofit board was formed and board members were recruited from across the community. More churches, more volunteers, and more businesses donate soup, bread, cookies, pottery, and their time each year. Over the past five years, funds raised have grown- beginning with \$4,000 in 2007, to \$21,000 in 2011.

The basic premise has remained the same: guests get to choose a handmade ceramic bowl, crafted by WVU pottery majors, local potters and area school children which they may take home with them. At the luncheon they may enjoy a choice of hot soup, bread and homemade cookies and the pleasure of greeting many friends from the community. The bowl can be kept as a reminder of the meal's purpose to fight hunger. Proceeds from the event are donated to feeding programs and food pantries in Monongalia County. The board of Empty Bowls Mon invites you again to participate as a volunteer, a cookie baker, or to attend and enjoy the event with friends and neighbors.

Tickets are \$15 and children 10 and under eat for free (children eating for free do not receive a pottery bowl). Tickets may be purchased and volunteers signed up in the parlor after worship with Linda Hagerty during February. Tickets may also be bought via email at [information@emptybowlsmon.org](mailto:information@emptybowlsmon.org), by phone at 304-692-4823, or visit us on the web at [www.emptybowlsmon.org](http://www.emptybowlsmon.org).

Peace Church BETA  
Waging Peace in a Time of Empire  
Convocation of Peacemakers  
April 26-29, 2012  
Stony Point Center, Stony Point, NY



Join peacemakers from across the county to fellowship, plan, and organize:

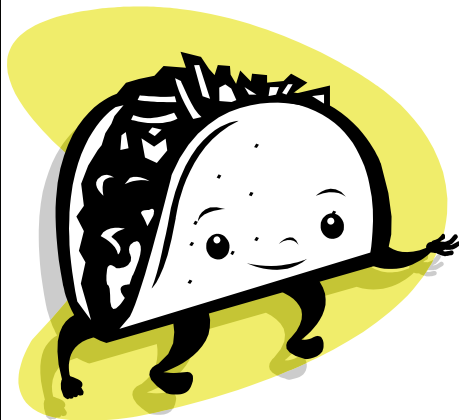
- The PC(USA)'s discernment to become a Peace Church
- Israel/Palestine
- General Assembly Advocacy
- Anti-racism
- Preventing Gun Violence
- Columbia Accomplishment and Advocacy

This is not a normal conference, but a working meeting for peacemakers, organizers, and activists from across the church to plan together for effective advocacy and action.

\*Scholarships are available: To inquire about a scholarship, please email [ppfwitness@gmail.com](mailto:ppfwitness@gmail.com)

Beta?

"Beta" is a term used in software development to indicate that the software is still in testing—it's not a final release, and not all questions have been answered. We chose this term to indicate the status of the PC(USA)'s discernment in embracing nonviolence as church policy—what will it look like for the PC(USA) to become a peace church? What questions are yet to be answered?



## Taco Bar Luncheon

On Sunday, February 5, 2012, the Deacons will be serving a Taco Bar luncheon after church and before the Annual Congregational Meeting. The menu will include hard and soft taco shells including gluten-free shells, fillings (hamburger with taco seasoning and black beans), a variety of toppings, celery and blue cheese, and dessert. As an alternative we will also be serving macaroni and cheese.

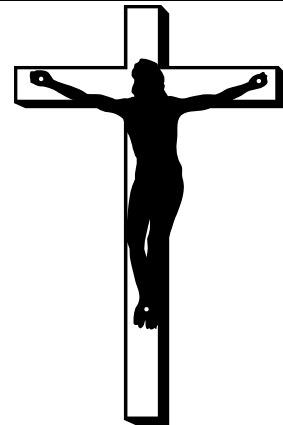
We look forward to seeing you there!



Members of the Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for decorating The Mitten Tree so beautifully. Gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and underwear (a total of 205 items) were shared with PCDC, The Shack, and Mountainview Elementary School. Thank you for making sure that the recipients of these items will be warm during the cold winter months.

- At the present time, the Mission Committee wishes to continue its hygiene project for those who attend the Pancake Breakfast. As you travel, please collect from the motels the sample shampoo, lotion, and soaps that you do not use and place them in the white Styrofoam container in the parlor.

Adult Education Lenten Class  
February 26 – April 1  
Sunday mornings 9:30 a.m.



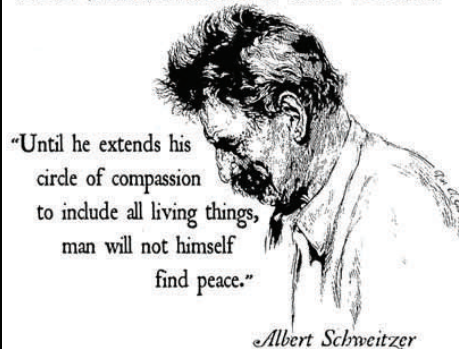
The Rev. Steve Lightner will lead this class using the book entitled

**24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**  
by Adam Hamilton

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. This book will guide us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life to help us experience and understand more fully, the significance of Jesus' suffering and death.

Books will be available.

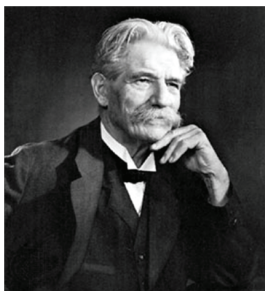
**REVERENCE FOR LIFE**



From the Loft:

Please read and share the announcements in this newsletter about "The Words of Albert Schweitzer and the Music of J.S. Bach" which will be presented here on Sunday afternoon, February 26 at 4:00. Thanks to Gertraud Irwin who has prepared a review of the life of Albert Schweitzer who has been an inspiration to so many people. Please alert and invite your community friends in the medical field, historians, theologians, musicians, humanitarians, environmentalists, and philosophers.

I hope you can come!  
Janna Kisner



Organist, Theologian, Medical Missionary,  
Philosopher and Humanitarian



One of the Greatest Composers  
and Organists of all time

## **Save the Date:** **Sunday, Feb. 26 at 4 PM** **Words of Albert Schweitzer and the Music of Bach**

AN ORIGINAL MULTIMEDIA MUSICAL DRAMATIZATION  
A perfect Blend of Historical Images, Music and Drama

Music of Bach  
**Organist, Dr. William Haller**  
on the First Presbyterian Church 1979 Schlicker Pipe Organ

The drama, through a sustained narrative, interspersed with first-person recollections takes the audience through Dr. Schweitzer's legendary life and his devotion to the music of J.S. Bach. The words of Schweitzer presented by three readers, the music of Bach played on the 1979 Schlicker Pipe Organ, 275 images on the screen, are matched in a perfect blend of Historical Images, Music, and Drama.

Public Welcome  
Free Will Offering

Co-Sponsored by the American Guild of Organists  
<http://www.tennesseeplayers.org/sbproduction.html>

### **ALBERT SCHWEITZER** **Organist, Theologian, Physician, Philosopher, Humanitarian**

Albert Schweitzer (1875 – 1965) was born in the province of Alsace-Lorraine, which was then a part of Germany. He spent his childhood in the village of Gunsbach, where his father was a Lutheran pastor. The medieval parish church in Gunsbach was shared both by the Lutheran and Catholic congregations. Young Albert grew up in an unusual environment of religious tolerance which deeply influenced his belief that true Christianity should always work towards unity.

After graduating from high school, Schweitzer studied organ with Eugen Munch, organist of the Lutheran cathedral in Mulhouse, Alsace. At the age of 18, he played for the famous French organist Charles-Marie Widor in Paris, for whom J.S. Bach's organ music contained a mystic sense of the eternal. Widor, deeply impressed by Schweitzer, agreed to teach the young organist without fee. It was the beginning of a great and influential friendship. Until his eighties, Schweitzer was recognized as a distinguished concert organist, who performed in churches and concert halls throughout Europe and the world. In addition, he became a prominent music scholar who, upon Widor's urging, wrote an insightful study on the figures and motifs in Bach's Chorale Preludes. Later on, he published a biography about Bach, first in French and later published a revised version in German. His interest in the restoration of historic pipe organs let him to write a pamphlet, titled "The Art of Organ Building and Organ Playing in Germany and in France."

From 1893 to 1899, Albert Schweitzer studied theology at the University of Strasbourg while, at the same time, continuing with his musical education. In 1899, he obtained a doctorate in philosophy and received his licentiate in theology in 1900.

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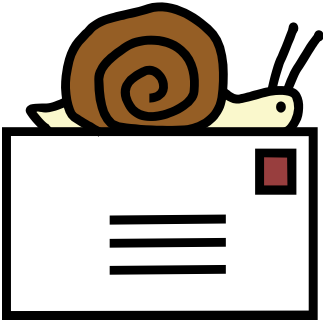
He began preaching at St. Nicholas Church in Strasbourg and served in various high-ranking administrative posts in the Theological College of St. Thomas at the University of Strasbourg. In 1906, he published *The Quest for the Historical Jesus*, which established his reputation as a theological scholar. The book is a review of all former work on the historical Jesus as well as Schweitzer's own interpretation of the life of Jesus.

Ever since his early twenties, Schweitzer knew that eventually he wanted to spread the Gospel not by preaching or by scholarly pursuits alone, but also by practical labor. In 1905, he answered the call of *The Society Of The Evangelist Missions Of Paris*, who looked for a medical missionary. However, he was rejected because of his "incorrect" Lutheran beliefs. Despite protests from his family and friends, he decided to return to the University of Strasbourg to study medicine. Seven years later, in 1912, now armed with a medical degree, he made a proposal to go as a medical doctor, not as a medical missionary, and to work at his own expense in the Paris Missionary Society's mission in Lambaréné, in what is now Gabon, Africa (then a French Equatorial Africa). After initial hesitation, the members of the Missionary Society accepted his proposal. Schweitzer's ideal was to spread the Gospel by example of his Christian labor of healing, rather than by preaching about it. Before his departure, he married Hélène Bresslau, daughter of the Jewish historian Harry Bresslau,. She shared his deep desire to serve the less fortunate and became his indispensable helpmate in Lambaréné.

In the first nine months, Schweitzer and his wife examined 2000 patients, some traveling hundreds of miles to reach them. After raising enough money, they built and equipped a hospital near the existing mission post. A year later, World War I broke out and the Schweitzers', Germans in a French colony, were put under supervision by the French military in Lambaréné, where work continued. In 1917, they were taken to France and interned until the end of the war. Released in 1918, Albert Schweitzer spent the next six years in Europe, preaching in his old church, giving lectures and concerts, and writing the first two volumes of his great project on Philosophy of Civilization, which had occupied his mind since 1900: *The Decay and Restoration of Civilization* and *Civilization and Ethics*.

Schweitzer returned to Lambaréné in 1924 and, except for short periods, spent the rest of his life there. With funds earned from his royalties, personal appearances, concerts, and donations, he expanded the hospital grounds to over 70 buildings, which by the 1960's could care for more than 500 patients in residence at any one time. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952 for his philosophy of "Reverence for Life," expressed in many ways, but most importantly in founding and sustaining the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné.

Schweitzer considered his philosophy of "Reverence for Life" his greatest contribution to the world. He believed Western civilization was decaying because it had abandoned affirmation and respect for life as its ethical foundation. According to him, most philosophers of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were concerned with "ordinary ethics", which only "seeks to find limits within the sphere of human life and relationships." Schweitzer, on the contrary, advocates for "the absolute ethics for the will-to-live," which, "must reverence every form of life, seeking so far as possible to refrain from destroying life, regardless of its particular type." Not only do we have a fundamental desire to live, but so do all other forms of life. According to Schweitzer, we never can fathom the mystery of life because it is beyond our capacity to understand. But we can live in harmony with God or the "Creative Will" by serving and respecting others, including non-human forms of life.



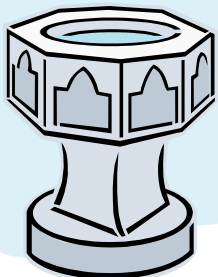
Jacque Albright, daughter of Ann Mathias, has left for a 6 month tour in Afghanistan. Correspondence can be sent to her at:

Jacque Albright,  
651 AEG/EAES,  
APO AE 09347



## February Birthdays

|                     |    |                   |    |
|---------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Fisher, Kathy       | 1  | Haddox, Amelia    | 12 |
| Mathias, Ann        | 2  | Gross, Rick       | 15 |
| Parsons, Whitney    | 2  | Trovato, Lucas    | 15 |
| Burtner, Sabrina    | 3  | Sonnenday, John   | 16 |
| Summerson, Mary Lou | 3  | Talbott, Judd     | 16 |
| Angelozzi, William  | 5  | Griffin, Cynthia  | 17 |
| Dailey, Eric        | 6  | Robison, Susan    | 17 |
| Weems, William      | 6  | Lyon, Andy        | 18 |
| Zeiders, Hannah     | 6  | Wildman, Winifred | 21 |
| Lilley, George      | 7  | Dial, James       | 22 |
| Mooney, Carole      | 7  | Trovato, Ellen    | 22 |
| Cochrane, Robert    | 10 | Angelozzi, Shelby | 27 |
| Moats, Chris        | 11 | Madison, Beth     | 27 |
| Moats, Leslie       | 11 | Van Voorhis, Joan | 27 |



## February Baptism

Evie Harper  
02/13/2005



## February Church Calendar

Access our online church calendar here:

<http://goo.gl/tcDOY>