Craigsville Community VBS

Have you ever watched a pencil being pushed into a balloon without popping it? How about seeing dark watery liquid made clear? The Week of July 27th found Craigsville Presbyterian Church filled with the “oohs” and “aahs” of children as they watched these amazing experiments. Each year the Inter Church Council of Craigsville, an organization of 7 churches working together, in conjunction with the WRE program offers the community children an opportunity to enjoy VBS. This year our theme was Discovery which focused on using science experiments like the two mentioned to teach the children about God’s love for them. Sierra Atkins, a teacher in Bath County, led the children in their Bible lessons. Amanda Atkins helped with singing, Terry Atkins led recreation while Beverly Thompson served yummy snacks and Gwen Carr helped with arts and crafts.

A GREAT time was had by all even despite torrential downpours that kept us inside for the first two nights! We’re already looking forward to next year when we can enjoy more fun and fellowship as we learn about God!

Submitted by: Beverly Thompson

NEWS FROM MT. HOREB PREBETERYAN

What happened to summer, and how did we get all the way to the end of August? Somehow, the summer has managed to become a memory, and here we are looking forward to all the activity which usually makes up the fall season at Mt. Horeb. This year, we are having a formal installation of our new Coordinating Team officers on Sunday, August 30th, and this will be followed in short order by the first major project of the new Church Year; our annual serving of the New Hope Ruritan Club dinner on Thursday, September 3rd.

Both the Hope and the Joy Circles are geared up for their first meetings of the new year, and we are all looking forward to our Bible study entitled "Come to the Waters". Just looking through our study book, it is evident that this will be a very interesting year in our quest for Biblical knowledge. Each circle has its own special projects, and some of these are already underway. We try not to let the grass grow under our feet for too long!

Our biggest project for Fall, however, will be our annual apple butter boiling. We will be peeling apples on Thursday, October 15th, and making the apple butter on Saturday, October 17th. Approximately 400 quarts will be filled with delicious apple butter by the end of the day. It is a lot of work, but also a great time of fellowship and fun.

We wish all of you a "Happy Fall", and hope that you will enjoy whatever it is you are planning to do in the months to come. The best part of any endeavor is working together in Christian love. God bless!

Submitted by: Johanna Bailey
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CALENDAR FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
Shenandoah Presbytery 2015-2015

September 12, 2015
Big Event at Massanetta Springs

November 7, 2015
CT Meeting with all Moderators at Tuscarora

February 6, 2016
CT Meeting at Sunnyside Blue Ridge Room

April 9, 2016
Spring Gathering at Massanetta Springs

May 7, 2016
CT Meeting at Sunnyside Blue Ridge Room

June 9-12, 2016
Mid—Atlantic Synod Summer Gathering at Massanetta Springs

August 6, 2016
CT Meeting at Sunnyside Blue Ridge Room

September 10, 2016
Big Event at Massanetta Springs

PWCT meetings begin at 10:00 AM in the Sunnyside Blue Ridge Room, in the Sunnyside Highlands Building in Harrisonburg, Virginia, unless otherwise stated.

Spring Gathering Registration begins at 9:00 AM. Meetings will start at 9:45 AM.
Massanutten Presbyterian Introduction To The New Bible Study and Annual Pot Luck Meal

Presbyterian Women of Massanutten Presbyterian church had their annual Pot Luck Meal and Introduction to the New Bible Study for the year led by our Associate Pastor Rev. Ann Pettit. We are so excited about our new study, Come To The Waters. Rev. Pettit is standing in back on right side with long hair in picture below.

Massanutten Presbyterian Woman Peggy Reinhold

“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and Lo, I am with you always to the end of the age.” Peggy Reinhold ended a recent publication regarding Stamps for Missions with this most appropriate life Bible verse. In an interview with Peggy, I found myself getting side-tracked in her fascinating tales of life in the Congo. I wondered how her family lived for twenty-five years in such a primitive third world country. Peggy needed to remind me that her accommodations were not what was important, but rather obedience to God’s call. So, let’s backtrack and find out what circumstances led Peggy to a life of mission.

Peggy was born in 1924 in Clearwater, Florida, the first of her family to be born in Florida when her parents resettled from Iowa. During her youth, the YMCA and the Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church were the centers of community activity. The Directors of Christian Education helped the young people study the Bible as well as to survey community needs and opportunities, as they joined with youth in other churches in the Synod of Florida. That is precisely where she met her future husband from St. Petersburg, Florida.

Unfortunately, college seemed impossible when Peggy’s father died graduation week. After a year of working and saving, scholarships and prayers, it seemed that God was watching over her as she entered Florida State College for Women. She graduated in 1946, but God’s call to mission service meant graduate school was necessary. This again seemed impossible until her
Presbytery offered her scholarship to the Assembly’s Training School in Richmond. While there, she discovered that Bob Reinhold was a student at Union Theological Seminary just across the street, and they renewed their friendship. Peggy’s “field work” was at the Seventeenth Street Mission, working with elementary school African-American children. Peggy feels that God was once again providing experiences which prepared her for missionary work. It all came together when Bob said that he felt called to go to the Congo. Peggy was quietly jubilant as she knew that God had planned it all. They were married during Christmas of 1947 in Peace Memorial Church. Peggy completed her M.A. in English Bible and worked at Second Presbyterian Church’s community center while Bob completed his Seminary degree.

In 1949, they were commissioned as missionaries to the Belgian Congo, and sent on their way to Belgium. There they learned French and obtained accreditation from the Belgian government to head up schools in the Congo. There were no state schools, only church schools, and prior to this time only Catholic schools had been sanctioned. Now with accreditation and government subsidy for books and supplies, attendance at schools soared.

Peggy and Bob were assigned to Moma station among a very primitive tribe. It was difficult to get used to seeing scantily clad people, with witchcraft and unusual customs, while also trying to learn the native language of Tshiluba. Yet, these children were eager to learn and walked many miles, while barefoot, in order to reach the on-site lodging where Peggy was the principal.

During these Congo years, Peggy and Bob welcomed five children (Bill, Tim, Beth, Ruth and Martha) Peggy homeschooled the children through fourth grade at which time they attended a school for missionary children. They were home at Christmas, Easter sometimes, and summer always. To them, that was the only real sacrifice of missionary work. And every three to five years, the family was given a home (U.S) assignment. Bob and Peggy always visited their families and supporting churches, spoke in church conferences, had physical, dental and eye check-ups, surgeries, etc. and gathered supplies to take back to the Congo. The children entered into their grade levels with no trouble because Central School followed the U.S. grade level requirements.

After twenty-five years, the Reinholds felt that God was leading them to return to the United States. They left dedicated pastors, new churches, qualified teachers, healthier people and lifelong friends. I asked Peggy what she learned from her years of mission work. She replied, “I learned friendship, generosity, commitment. I learned that prayer is as necessary as the air we breathe, and that God’s promises are sure.”

In the states, Bob accepted a pastorate in Bristol, VA for five years, then another in Paris, Missouri, before retiring in Bristol. Bob helped Central Presbyterian church as the shut-ins pastor while Peggy continued service as an elder and was given a lifetime membership in P.W. Subsequently they moved to Dublin, VA on Claytor Lake. The couple often either taught about mission work or arranged the missionary speakers for summer conferences. You may actually have attended one of Peggy’s workshops on missions at Massanetta Springs.

In America, they still wanted to help the church in the Congo with Christian Education needs. However, the church’s old printing press needed replacement parts to make it operational. They needed supplies of paper, ink, silk screen, etc. To respond to these needs, “Stamps for Missions” was born. Used stamps were collected, prepared and sold to stamp companies. Individuals and churches began to join the project. For thirty years, Stamps for Missions has subsidized the purchase of Bibles; created and printed color pictures of Bible stories; sponsored continuing education events for lay pastors; helped two pastors achieve doctorates in Theology; printed and distributed hymnbooks in Tshiluba; paid for pastor relocation and even surgeries and medicines. Every penny received from the sale of stamps goes to the Congo work.

Bob died in 2001 and since Peggy’s arrival at Sunnyside Presbyterian Retirement Community
in 2007, a group of interested folks have been meeting weekly to work on stamp preparation. Peggy summarizes, “You never know what a stamp is worth in friendship, in reconnecting with old friends or making new ones, in supporting the work of the church. Stamps can be that reminder to pray for the people in the Congo and for your response to Christ’s command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.”

Ghanaian Presbyterian Women’s Fellowship meets in NYC to share hopes, dreams

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ENCOURAGES IMMIGRANT WOMEN TO “FIND THEIR VOICES” AUG 25, 2015

Ghanaian Presbyterian Women’s Fellowship Gathering

KRISTENA MORSE — NEW YORK

“For many new immigrant women, the only places they may find leadership opportunities are in their women’s groups, which are often very insular,” said the Rev. Terri Ofori, chaplain at Bloomfield (N.J.) College and chaplain to the Synod Commission of the Northeast. “I want the women that I’m speaking with to understand that they have the power to change that. That they have more power than they may realize and that their voices need to be heard across the church.”

Ofori delivered her message as part of the keynote address at the 14th annual Ghanaian Presbyterian Women’s Fellowship Gathering meeting Aug. 7-9 in New York City. The gathering brought together more than 300 African immigrant women from across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbyterian Church of Canada for three days of worship, workshops, fellowship, and to address the business needs of the organization.

“I want to encourage these women to seek God about their gifts and to utilize the platform of the women’s gathering for leadership development,” she added. “I also want them to see the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding as a historic document and a chance for these groups to expand beyond their traditional reach.”

Another important piece of the gathering was one that is near and dear to the hearts of many of the attendees—collecting funds to support mission work across Ghana.

“Each year, these women come together to raise money for a cause or causes that touch their hearts,” noted Emily Boateng, the national president of the Ghanaian Presbyterian Women’s Fellowship. “Much of our work and financial support is focused on education, and this year, the women who attended the gathering raised $6,300 through our silent auction, which will help provide funding needed to purchase and develop textbooks for schools across the Afram Plains district. Unavailable or poor school infrastructure in some parts of the region has led to some of the highest school dropout rates in the area. Being able to help provide some of the resources this area needs is so important to so many of us and is such a tremendous blessing.”

The Ghanaian Presbyterian Women’s Fellowship held its inaugural meeting in 2000 in Toronto, Canada. Shortly after the conclusion of that meeting, a fellowship group was established in Virginia. To date, there are seventeen fellowship groups that make up the Ghanaian Presbyterian Women’s Fellowship.

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More information on the Ghanaian Presbyterian Women’s Fellowship is at www.gpwfweb.org. To learn more about the work of African Emerging Ministries in the PCUSA, please contact Sam Atiemo at 502-569-5476.
A VISIT TO AMERICA’S OLDEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CONTINUOUS USE

In 2006 an article appeared in the Baltimore Sun paper about the Rehobeth Presbyterian Church celebrating the 300th birthday of America’s oldest Presbyterian Church building in continuous use which was completed in 1706. I was representing the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Women on the CCT and was working on the History Committee. We were adding to the Timeline so this article was of interest. I had attempted to visit the church but confused it with the Rehoboth Presbyterian Church in Rehoboth, Delaware. I discovered that my good friend Lois had grown up near Rehobeth, MD and knew exactly where the church was located. So at 7 A.M. on Thursday, June 4, 2009 we headed for the lower end of Maryland on the Eastern Shore.

The church is located near the Pokomoke River, the deepest river for its width in the U.S. It carries barges and large vessels to an inlet in the Chesapeake Bay and was one of the three major ports on the east coast during colonial times.

Colonel William Stevens, a rich land owner gave the land for the church grounds. They thought they needed a church in the little community of Rehoboth, Somerset County, Maryland but didn't know what denomination it should be. They decided it should be a Presbyterian Church having the government being in the hands of the people rather than the hierarchy as in the Church of England. Rehoboth was the original spelling. The Federal Post Office made a mistake in the spelling and the community decided it best to have the different spelling to eliminate confusion with Rehobeth, Maryland.

Francis Makemie, the father of the Presbyterian Church in America, built the brick church near the Pocomoke river. The brick used for Makemie’s home and the church were bricks used as ballast in a ship. The church now has bricks from the Makemie home and I was given two of the bricks. Women built the manse.

All of this information we gleaned from the minister, the Rev. David Parke who met us in his fire company tee shirt telling us that he was more than the Presbyterian minister to this tiny community. He had been in Salisbury earlier in the day taking down a ramp from a home to be used by someone else who might need one.

Rev. Parke told of one member of the church who, on his death, gave $20,000 to each church in Somerset County. It was understood that the remainder of the estate would go to the Rehobeth Presbyterian Church. The remainder of that estate was $200,000 plus a race horse. For a period of time they did not report the horse and his winnings to the Presbytery. This presented a problem, the horse kept winning so they had to sell the horse.

Then there was the story of the pet deer which they named Bambi. One day two hunters shot a doe only to discover she had a baby. There was no choice but to take the baby home. It was raised and became quite a pet around the church. It frequented the Fellowship Hall when groups gathered. The time came when Bambi became too large to be considered a playmate in the Hall so they installed screen doors to lock out Bambi. Bambi wasn’t happy about that and proceeded to smash the doors open in order to join the group inside. Bambi spent the remainder of his life at the zoo.

The church is quite industrious with mission projects, youth programs and projects for the community. They give scholarships to youth who are not necessarily church members but who are involved with their youth programs. They have computers available for anyone to use. The Youth have created a wonderful time line in the Fellowship Hall starting with Creation. It is an ongoing project. It is interesting to see how the church’s history fits into the history of the world.