

## Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church

*A small Church with a big heart and a rich heritage*

PO Box 135 Gerrardstown, WV 25420



### New Full Time Pastor Called

It is with great pleasure that Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church's Pastor Nominating Committee announces its selection of a new full time pastor to serve as our spiritual leader upon the approval of the membership at our annual meeting, February 21, 2016 and a couple of other requirements of Shenandoah Presbytery. Rev. Karen Jo Greenawalt has accepted our call and will move into the Manse in mid June after the graduation of her youngest, Ethan, from high school. This will be Pastor Greenawalt's first solo pastor assignment having served as an associate pastor at a large Florida church for the last five years. Without exception, your PNC feels she is the perfect Pastor to serve our needs, help us grow and teach us the ways we can be better disciples of our Lord, Jesus. Please read her letter to us and see the photos of her and her family included in this newsletter.

Serving as our Stated Supply Pastor until Karen begins her service, Rev. John Cushwa is preaching two Sundays a month, moderating Session and congregational meetings, and performing all sacraments such as communion. He and wife Jeannie are blessings to us and we are most appreciative of their service.

### Session Reports:

**Clerk** – Thanks go to Bev and Bob Hughes who have served as our church representatives to the E(Eastern) P(Panhandle) M(Mission) C(Community) for several years, Roger and Mary Campbell have agreed to serve as their replacement, We want to thank both couples for their service to our church.

**Treasurer** – Overall weekly offerings were slight ahead of the 2015 forecasted amount. End of year review of the status of the budget revealed there was additional money available in the 'mission' allowance. It was agreed to double our contribution to the Back Pack program, \$480. Donations at Community dinners netted \$1263 for CCAP. See attached budget report for full listing of our donations and other expenditures.

**Leadership** – The Mission Study, completed in the spring of last year, now is in need of edits and updating. Charles Linton and Grace Weekley have agreed to work on revisions to the document to reflect new initiatives, improvements and edits especially of

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### Vision Statement

Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church embraces the challenges Jesus laid out for us as stated in Matthew 25: v35-36, 40. As a Christian community, we honor and praise the Living God and His Son, Jesus Christ through our worship, our warm and open fellowship, our bible studies, our missional initiatives, our membership growth through children and young adults and our generosity to those in need.

### Matthew 25. V35 - 36, 40

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.....and the King will answer them, ""Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

### Elders

Stephen Zurenda

Joe Sturm, Treasurer

Grace Weekley

Charles Linton

Judith Becker, Clerk



timelines. Please consider offering to help them in this project. This is one of those projects which benefit from input from many people.

**Worship** – Stephen reports the Pulpit Supply schedule is complete up to mid June when we expect Pastor Greenawalt to begin. The roster and dates indicating which pastor is preaching each Sunday will be found on the church bulletin board. The Session voted to increase our communion services to once each month instead of only once a quarter. Anyone wishing to have communion served to them in their home should contact Rev. Cushwa at 304-267-8189. This year, we will have our Maundy Thursday communion service, 3/24 at our Fellowship Hall followed by a meal. Watch for more details on this in March.

**Fellowship** – Please express your thanks to Tracy Oester for all the times she took responsibility to provide our lovely fellowship meals each month. Tracy's term of service with Session ended at the end of 2015, as did her oversight for this function. Going forward, we are going to change the process so that more members can help continue the fellowship meals with no one person having to do it all. So, starting in February, we are asking for volunteers to take a meal just once in a year. March will be covered by Harriet ~~Wark~~<sup>Kopp</sup> on Palm Sunday and April is being hosted by Janet Sherrard and Bev Hughes. Please consider taking any one of the months during the rest of the year. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board to indicate your choice. And this is a great way to team up with another person. Keep in mind, we certainly do want to keep it simple, with others bringing sides and desserts.

**Outreach and Evangelism** - Make it/ Take it children's program will resume in Spring. Anyone wishing to help, please contact Becca Sturm or Tracy Oester.

**Cemetery Report** – John Oester: The cemetery information is now available on the church's website:  
<http://www.gerrardstownpc.com>

**Buildings and Grounds** – Joe has been busy getting estimates from a number of people to get projects completed. The paving of the approach to the rear door of the church has been completed. On the to-do list is to build a restroom on the first floor, which will be useful to those with mobility issues. Also, the Session house needs work to make it ready for our new pastor to use as her office. Additionally, the parking lot spaces striping will be done in spring and the renovations to the Manse will commence at the beginning of May to make it ready for Pastor Greenawalt and her family. This last project will be with the supervision of Raffi Kavaldjian. Many of these projects are going to need some volunteer help, so please help out in any way you can.

**Pastoral Search Summary** – The search for a new pastor began early summer 2015. Becca Sturm, Charles Linton, Stephen Zurenda, Harriet Kopp and Judith Becker were the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee and were initially trained in the new Presbytery Pastor Call process by Rev. John Robinson. They constructed the MIF (Minister Information Form which outlined who we are and what kind of minister we were looking for). This was then approved and placed on PCUSA's website for all pastors looking for a new call to respond to. We received 60 PIF's (resumes) to review and sort according to our guidelines. That pared down list was contacted to assess the interest in our church and location. Next, a cursory phone screen helped us further winnow out other candidates. We invited those we had a high interest in to send us videos of them preaching which again shortened the list. The resulting last four were called and were interviewed in depth by the PNC. That brought us down to the last two whom we asked to make an onsite visit with us. Pastor Greenawalt agreed, the other candidate decided to accept another call. Then, Pastor Greenawalt and her husband, Tom visited us over a three day period, getting to know us and we to know them, giving them a chance to see the Eastern Panhandle, our church properties and allowing the Greenawalts and the PNC many opportunities to resolve questions and concerns. On her final day, she preached at a neutral church in Winchester which gave us another opportunity to evaluate her pulpit style and effectiveness. After the Greenawalts returned home, all of us on the PNC were in agreement we should make her an offer, which she subsequently accepted.

From this point on, the completing steps are for the membership to agree to call her to our church, for session to formally agree to the terms of call (which will follow the congregational meeting), for Presbytery to accept the terms of call, and for members of Presbytery to question her one more time. These last steps we anticipate will all be



positive. If there are any other questions about our new pastor or about the process to call a pastor, please ask them at our Congregational meeting this Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Other** – The church quilt made by members many years ago has been repaired and will be displayed. Anyone interested in making a new one, and perhaps forming a group to oversee the project, please contact any Session member.

**Agenda for Annual Congregational Meeting, February 21<sup>st</sup> immediately after Church Service:**

- Review of end of year reports
- Vote to increase Session members from five to six
- Vote to call Rev. Karen Greenawalt to be our full time pastor.

**Prayer List:** Amelia Sturm, Grace Weekley, Leonard McDaniel, Willard Sharp, Brent Bush (Rebecca Sturm's Father), Jill Becker Armogida. If you know of anyone else who should be on our list, please contact Sandy Sherrard.

**Coming Events:**

- Community Dinner – Fellowship Hall 4:30 – 6:30 – February 29<sup>th</sup> (Every last Tuesday of each month)
- Maundy Thursday Communion Service and meal
- Palm Sunday Service and brunch, infant care and Sunday school available
- 2nd Edition, National Christian Choir, March 13, 2016, Falling Waters Presbyterian; 4 pm; Tickets \$5. Call Kate Lewis Brown for reservation and information
- Easter Service 11 am – infant care and children's Sunday school
- April Miana Stewart Scholarship Run
- May - Renovations and clean up to prepare for new pastor's arrival