

STORIED EVENINGS AT SPC: MUSIC, STORY & ART

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., July 9, 16, 23

The art of Ellen Burgoyne displayed in Fellowship Hall.

Personal stories: "Who and what made me who and what I am."

July 9—*Speaker: Rick Lemon, conservationist, former director National Conservation Training Center*

Music: Stephen Czarkowski, cello

Dessert: Chocolate

July 16—*Speaker: Dr. Suzanne Shipley, President of Shepherd University*

Music: Nancy Ellsworth, violin and Maggie Terry, piano

Dessert: Favorite Pies

July 23—*Speaker: Clifford Branson, Shepherdstown's native son*

Music: Dr. Mark Andrew Cook, jazz piano; Ryan Ellis, bass; and Richard Hopkins, drums

Dessert: Delicious Cookies

COMMUNITY BIBLE SCHOOL July 14–18, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Classes for age 3 through grade 8. All children from Jefferson County and their friends are welcome to attend. Children will learn Bible stories, enjoy a daily snack, sing great songs and make a Bible related craft. Volunteers are needed in lots of areas. If you can help for any amount of time, contact Suzanne Swartz, swartz@frontiernet.net, or Casey McDonald, SkyCowboy19@frontiernet.net.

SCHOOL BOOKBAGS AND SUPPLIES

Jefferson County Community Ministries (JCCM) has asked SPC to provide 30 bookbags for high school students. Today even more children need our help as their families struggle to provide the basic necessities of life. To participate, purchase a bookbag and provide the supplies listed below. Bring it to the church no later than **Friday, July 18**.

You will never know the child who will carry *your* bookbag proudly to school, but you *will* know that, because you cared, one child has been given a helping hand that could make a huge difference in that student's life.

- Age-appropriate bookbag (no Trapper-Keepers, please)
- 6 #2 pencils
- 6 black-ink pens
- 100 3x5 lined index cards
- 1 - 2" 3-ring binder
- 2 packs college-rule notebook paper
- 3 one-subject college-rule notebooks

Important: Remove all bar-code tags and put all supplies in a plastic grocery bag attached to the bookbag. Supply lists are in Fellowship Hall. Extra miscellaneous supplies are always welcome but **DO NOT** include with the book bags. (This ensures that each child gets the same supplies). Place extras in a separate plastic bag.

~Please return the enclosed form, *Suggestions for Nominations of Elders and Deacons*, by July 20.~

Spiritual Formation...

The gift of summertime always catches me unawares. At other times of the year, I may long for the taste of a tree ripened peach, the rainbow flashes of goldfinch, bluebird and oriole in my yard, the sound of the hummingbird fluttering by my ear, or the uncluttered spaciousness of a summer afternoon floating on the river. But the sheer delight of all of these creative wonders—and so many more—taken together just has to be experienced anew, year after delightful year.

Wisdom teacher Tilden Edwards writes that the human capacity for multi-leveled appreciation is precisely the gift that sets us apart from the rest of creation, a natural gift “meant to lead us to God.” Rather than trying to possess and cling to what we appreciate, he advises us to “relax our striving and let ourselves be possessed by the One who gives beauty. We can let the beauty lead us to that wondrous Presence.”

For Edwards, appreciation is not just inward focused, but participatory, ultimately releasing “the creativity in us that becomes a blessing for others as well as ourselves. It is astounding what is shaped through us: music, forms, colors, words, movements, scientific experiment and so on. We need to appreciate the marvel of this way we share God’s nature as creator and let it lead us to praise, and at its fullest to God’s co-creating with us, through us.”

Summertime is a good time to seek reminders that we’ve been placed in a world of unimaginable wonder, given the senses to experience it, and the invitation to join in co-creation. We need only “leave room for the silence that can free us for wonder” and make space for the season to enter us—through the taste of that juicy peach, the caress of a warm breeze, the bird and bug symphony that begins each day, the multicolored abundance of the summer landscape. Only God knows what wonders may emerge for and through us!

(See Tilden Edwards *Living in the Presence: Spiritual Exercises to Open Our Lives to the Awareness of God*, an excellent resource for exploring contemplative practice.)

—Ethel Hornbeck

Parish Assistant for Spiritual Formation

SPC Monthly Activities...

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger and non-perishables for JCCM (see list under **Notices: JCCM**). **Next: July 6.**

SUPPER GROUPS

• Moveable Feast, **Saturday, July 5**, 6:30 p.m. at Rie

Wilson’s, 304-876-6591; and **August 2, 6:30 p.m.** at Carole & David Scott’s, 304-876-2263

• TGIF, **Friday, July 18**, 6:30 p.m. at Karen Davison’s, 304-876-9191.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER Third Sundays, balcony, 7:00–7:30 p.m. **Next: July 20 and August 17.**

MEN’S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.; discussion 8:00–9:00 a.m. **Next: July 19 and August 16.**

TAIZE SERVICE First Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A Service of Prayer in song, silence and candlelight. **Next: September 3.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S CIRCLE first Thursdays. **Next: September 4.**

ROUNDTABLE WITH ETHEL HORNBECK Conversation and reflection with and around scripture, poetry and other selected texts. Third Thursdays, 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the balcony. **Next: Sept. 18.**

Notices...

SPC PARKING AREA was dedicated on June 8 with these words:

God of New Ways of Being,

We thank you for the vision, hope, faith and love that sustains us, from generation to generation.

By your grace and the good work of many hearts and hands, we now have this useful and beautiful space to make the entrance to your house of prayer less difficult.

We thank you for the trees, flowers, and grass that lend beauty and grace to this place and for all the flora and fauna that called and call this space home.

We are sorry that life was sacrificed for our benefit. May we in appreciation live more humbly and more gratefully with all your creatures and things.

May this church always be a welcoming place, a place of hospitality for all people.

We offer our prayer of thanksgiving in the way and in the spirit of Jesus. Amen

During the week the church staff will use the two “handicapped parking” spots. On Sundays and for scheduled programs during the week, those spots are for “handicapped parking” only.

PAPER RECYCLING BY 4-H GROUP at Christ Reformed Church, 8–9:15 a.m. Paper, cardboard, magazines, books. Place in paper bags, boxes, or tie securely. **NO PLASTIC BAGS.** **Next: July 5 and August 2.**

SHENANDOAH WOMEN’S CENTER for abused women and children is still temporarily closed due to some damage to the building. What they need

most is money to help pay for the repairs so they can re-open as soon as possible. Please send checks to: Shenandoah Women's Center, 236 W. Martin Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401.

JCCM (Jefferson County Community Ministries) has a low inventory of the following items and with increased needs anticipated for the summer when the kids are out of school, this is a call to action!

- Canned meats (Spam, beef stew, potted meat, small hams, chicken)
- Canned tuna and salmon
- Canned pasta (Spaghetti-o's, ravioli, etc.)
- Canned soups (esp. chicken noodle, vegetable, tomato)
- Canned carrots
- Pork & beans
- Potatoes (fresh, dried)
- Canned peaches
- Applesauce
- Small bottles of vegetable oil
- Granulated sugar
- Shampoo
- Baby food jars/tubs with lids
- Mid-sized jars with lids
- Clean large paper grocery bags
- Clean plastic grocery bags

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS The Funds Administration Committee of Presbytery announces they are accepting applications for the 2008-2009 College Scholarship Grants. The Guidelines and Application are online: <http://www.shenpres.org/ScholarshipGrants.html>. Applications must be postmarked by **August 19** to be considered.

FRIENDS IN ACTION The mission of Friends in Action is to help low-income families set and achieve self-sufficiency goals and create a better life for themselves and their children. If you want more information and/or would like to join a Friends in Action team please call me at 304-725-4172, or the program director, Teresa Warnick, at 304-876-8500.
—Verle Headings

Snippets of Old Shepherdstown

That which is forgotten returns to the circling wind.
~ Navajo Wind Chant

From the late 1790s to 1930s, many German Street stores—general; dry goods and notions; grocery, and the like—were open most days of the year, except Sundays (Blue Laws prohibited Sunday selling). Some were even open on Thanksgiving Day,

Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The reason that many were open on holidays was that the store was in the "frontroom" of the proprietor's residence. A tiny bell would "tingle" when the front door was opened, and soon the proprietor would appear from behind the split curtain that covered the doorway separating the store from the living quarters. When the owner became infirmed or died, the frontroom was "let out" to another operator. Hence the term "storefront" was coined. Until after WWII, locals referred to Main Street as Front Street. We even had two or three storefront churches on German Street. (German Street was officially named Main Street, in 1919. The 1964 graduating class of Shepherdstown High School petitioned the town council to change the name back to German Street, which it did.)
—Jim Price

Thank You....

Dear Wonderful Family of SPC,

I want to thank all of you who encouraged me on my recent Pilgrimage (spiritual retreat). Each one of you spoke from your heart to mine. As you have over the years, you showed me, once again, what this congregation is all about. Your love and sharing has sustained us through our joys and our sorrows. Thank you for your constant caring and support.
—Love, Janie Denchy

Dear Verle and Vivian Headings,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The computer that was sent to the Synod was received by great appreciation. We are so grateful for the donation of the computer that the Shepherdstown Church has made. The Synod's new executive secretary is using the computer for the service of the Synod administration work. May God bless you all.
—In Christ's love, Mersha

(Note: SPC recently donated a laptop computer to the Illubabor Synod in Ethiopia. Mersha visited SPC and stayed with Verle and Vivian.)

This is a little prayer dedicated to the separation of church and state. I guess if they are going to force those kids to pray in schools they might as well have a nice prayer like this: *Our Father who art in heaven, and to the republic for which it stands, thy kingdom come, one nation indivisible as in heaven, give us this day as we forgive those who so proudly we hail. Crown thy good into temptation but deliver us from the twilight's last gleaming. Amen and Awomen.*
—George Carlin

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SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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PARTY HEARTY TO (AND WITH) THE OLD-IES! Oldies Chris Duewel and Ed Zahniser invite all SPCers to help celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary with potluck refreshments at War Memorial Building on **Saturday, July 26** from 3 to 6 p.m. *No gifts, please.*

Keeping up with Members...

Brandon Dennison graduated from Shepherd in May with a B.A. in History and a B.S. in Political Science. (Ha! Ha! a B.S. in bs! [Brandon's words, not the editor]) He will be in Shepherdstown for the year living in a cabin on the Pritchard's farm and continuing on as SPC's youth leader. He also has a part time job with the Scotts-Miracle Grow Company as a merchandiser. Brandon loves being outside and reading, and trips home for Herd (Marshall University) games are always a great time. But what brings him the most joy is time with friends and family. Brandon says that his time at SPC has been the defining experience of his college era and he feels very blessed for that.

NEW MEMBERS were welcomed on Sunday, June 8. They were each asked these questions:

- Where were you born?
- Where did you live at age 12?
- What and where was your last church?
- What brings you joy?
- What is one of your favorite hymns?

Janet Brown

Born: Galveston, TX
Age 12: Richmond, VA where she grew up
Last church: St. Andrew in Purcellville, VA; moved there from St. John's Presbyterian, Houston, TX where she was DCE

Joy: Creation, in that I see something of the nature of God in each little and big bit of it
Hymn: *Once to Every Man and Nation*

Chris Cubby

Born: Syracuse, NY
Age 12: Huntington, WV
Last church: St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Annandale, VA
Joy: Family / friends / pets & the children (from immigrant families) with whom I work
Hymn: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* (Chris chuckled about the lack of gender neutral language.)

Suzanne Shipley

Born: Waco, Texas
Age 12: Lubbock, Texas, where I grew up
Last church: Faith Presbyterian Church in Baltimore for the past seven years
Joy: Quiet time with my husband
Hymn: *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

Financial Corner...

General Fund through June 29. Expected: \$137,500. Actual giving: \$125,280. Building Fund pledged for 2008: \$27,000. Submitted to date: \$14,610.

NEXTNEWSLETTER: September 2008. Announcements, articles or news on our members? Contact the office, 304-876-6466 or <office@spcworks.org>. Copy deadline **August 20**. *Let us know if you would like to get the newsletter on line. It will save us paper and postage.*

Visit www.spcworks.org on a regular basis for all the latest news, podcasts, calendar events and much more.