



# New Monmouth News

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Member of the  
Presbyterian  
Church USA

Synod of the Mid-  
Atlantic  
&  
Shenandoah  
Presbytery

**Deadline:**

Articles, news, thanks,  
announcements,  
Warm Fuzzies, etc.  
are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the  
month prior to the date  
of publication. Thanks

**Pastoral Perspective**

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. 1 Timothy 5:17*

Often called the “noble task”, the call of an elder (teaching elders or pastors and ruling elders) is a special calling.

Ralph L. Buchanan served New Monmouth from June 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978. He was a faithful pastor and leader. During his tenure at New Monmouth he was known for his creative sermons, evangelistic services, a bus ministry, the Bicentennial celebration, a new organ, and the beautiful stained glass windows.

I believe it is very fitting that we do as the scripture exhorts us to do and pay special honor to this man who has dedicated his life to the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In February, Ralph will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The grace of God has kept him pretty healthy though his century on this earth. He was diagnosed a few years ago with bone cancer, but he continues to have a positive attitude and outlook. A couple of months ago he had to have his hip replaced. He is currently recovering in the Bryan Center near his home in Spruce Pine, NC, where his daughter, Martha Smith, also resides.

Martha and I have been in touch with each other about a birthday party for Ralph. We even considered organizing a trip to the Bryan Center. Unfortunately, Ralph’s recovery has become a very important



Ralph L. Buchanan  
June 1, 1971-June 30, 1978

factor in that decision. Too much company for too long becomes very tiring to him.

I have a book entitled, *God Always Has a Plan B*. Since we will not be making the trip to see Ralph, we have developed a Plan B.

On January 29 we will have a Music Sunday. On that day we will video some of the worship service and we will also provide opportunities for people to send a video message to Ralph. For the two weeks following that service we will have the camera set up for those who wish to send a video greeting. If you are one of our shut-ins and are not able to come for one of these services, simply call me at 570-1921 and we will set a time to come to your home to take the video. If you prefer you make also bring or send a note to the church, and they will all be forwarded to Ralph as a special present.

As you know there is also a camp in North Carolina named “Camp Buc” in honor of Ralph. If you would like to give a gift that will honor Ralph, how about a donation to the camp which bears his name? You may do that any time before February 12. You may make the gift during worship or simply mail it to the church. Be sure to memo the check “Camp Buc.”

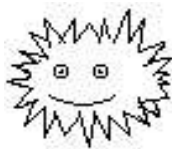
I hope you will help take this opportunity to say, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” to a wonderful pastor and friend of New Monmouth.

*Shalom,  
Martin*

### Thanks and Warm Fuzzies to:

Thank you to everyone who has been keeping me in prayer during my battle with Leukemia. It has not been easy and your support is greatly appreciated. -

*Garrett Moore*



I deeply appreciate the calls, cards, and prayers during my recent hospital stay. All my tests came out clear and I am now on some different meds. Thanks you one and all. - *Mabel Stokes*

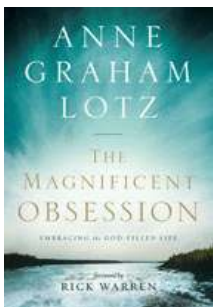
**Congratulations** to Alex Foresman, son of Janet Drake, who received the Alton Swink Outstanding Fire Fighter of the Year for 2011 from the Lexington Fire Department Company 9.

### Youth News

For information on meetings and other activities, you may email [janeen@welshconstruction.com](mailto:janeen@welshconstruction.com) or call 784-0246.



### Faithful Friends



The evening circle, Faithful Friends, will meet February 2 at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Teresa Thompson. This year's study is entitled "*The Magnificent Obsession, Embracing the God-Filled Life*" by Ann Graham Lotz. All women are invited. Bring a friend & join us.

The congregation is invited to a drop-in reception in honor of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mabel Hoover Stokes  
Saturday, February 25, 2012  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Duff Hall.  
(No gifts, please)

### Session Summary

Highlights of the January 13 session meeting:

- Agreed to having treasurer distribute giving statements to donors on Sunday morning to save on mailing costs.
- Tim Hodges elected clerk for 2012.
- Cheryl Cathcart elected treasurer for 2012.
- Karen Duff elected as principle representative & (Tim Welsh, alternate) to February 11 presbytery.
- Cemetery Committee has made public notice about clearing clutter from the graves. Rules have been displayed in a box on the cemetery site.
- Committee assignments were made as follows:  
*Christian Education - Lauren Welsh*  
*Commitment - Gary Swink & Tim Hodges*  
*Fellowship - Jennie Gaines, Nettie Conner & Lauren Welsh*  
*Property - Harold Hotinger & Tim Welsh*  
*Witness/Service - Karen Duff*  
*Worship - Cheri Knick*
- Trustees will bring a report to the March meeting.
- Received a report on a possible after school program for kids. More information forthcoming.
- PDA Cleanup buckets will be assembled to take to presbytery meeting at Mt Olive.
- Devotions were assigned for each month in 2012.
- Next meeting will be February 19, 2012.



### Pancake Breakfast

A pancake breakfast will be held February 12 at 9:00 a.m. Come out and bring a friend.

### Commitment Committee

Gary Swink

Actual financial performance for the year 2011 compared favorably to the budget. Thanks to the generosity of members, non-designated giving exceeded the budgeted amount by 4%. This was in addition to gifts designated by donors for special offerings, for roof repairs, and for the purchase of the organ. Operating expenditures were within budgeted amounts. At this point in time, pledges made for 2012 are below what we need to meet our 2012 Budget; however, there appear to be outstanding pledges. If you have not submitted a pledge for 2012, but wish to do so, please contact Cheryl Cathcart.



## From Our Cemetery

Committee -Michael Wilson

*The following public notice has been printed in the local*

*newspapers:* **SECOND NMPC NOTICE**

Notice to family or friends of individuals interred in the New Monmouth Presbyterian Church Cemetery. The Session of New Monmouth Presbyterian Church has adopted the following rules pertaining to decorations placed on graves in New Monmouth Cemetery:

1. Cut (natural) flowers may be placed on graves, stones, or grave markers for 10 days, after which they must be (or will be) removed.

2. Artificial flowers will be allowed between October 15 and April 15, after which they will be removed in preparation for the mowing season.

3. Floral arrangements or wreaths (natural or artificial) may be placed on graves for the Thanksgiving/ Christmas/New Year holiday season, November 1 - January 31. All such arrangements must be removed by January 31st.

4. No ornaments, statues, or lights of any kind will be permitted on and/or around graves, grave markers, or monuments.

5. Trees, shrubs, or plantings of any kind shall not be planted on any gravesite.

The above rules are effective immediately and any decoration not in compliance with these rules must be removed. Any item not removed by January 31, 2012 will be removed by cemetery personnel.

## Comedy Corner



"The board wants to know if this is coming off your conference time or your vacation."

## Challenges and Opportunities

A Pastoral Letter from our Acting General Presbyter

January 23, 2012

Dear Partners:



I am grateful for the opportunity that has been given to me to serve our Lord and Shenandoah Presbytery as Acting General Presbyter. Only God knows how long this term of service will last, as we continue to pray for the General Presbyter Search Committee in their work. We are praying for discernment, that the person(s) whom God

has chosen or will choose will be called to lead our Presbytery, and that together we will discern and embrace the future that God has in mind for Shenandoah Presbytery and for each of our congregations.

In the meantime, we should not just be standing still. We have a mission, we are engaged in vital ministries, and we are surrounded by both challenges and opportunities. I believe that God is calling us to meet these challenges and to faithfully engage the opportunities we are being given.

For this purpose, I also believe that God has already equipped us with everything we need to carry out God's mission. We have God's Word. We have a fellowship of believers in whose lives God is working and whose many gifts God is calling into service. We have other partners in our churches as well as nationally and internationally who can reveal to us many other ways in which God is working. And most importantly, true to Jesus' promise we have the living Christ in our midst, empowering us with the Holy Spirit to carry out the mission he gives us.

There is no greater adventure in all human experience than this: being in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, and being called and sent by God to serve God's purpose as we offer our gifts and surrender our wills to him.

I am thrilled to be your partner in this great adventure. I rejoice to see the many ways God is working in your lives and in the corporate lives of our congregations. For however long my term of service as Acting General Presbyter may last, I am honored and humbled to be your pastor.

With you in this great adventure,

Randy Webb

[Randy can be reached at [presbyter@shenpres.org](mailto:presbyter@shenpres.org), at Presbytery Office (540) 433-2556 Ext. 108, or Cell phone (540) 830-2353]

## New Monmouth Schedule & Birthday Calendar

### February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 29</p> <p>9:45 Fellowship Cl 10:00 SS 10:45 Prayer/Praise 11:00 <b>Music Sunday</b> 12:15 Property Com</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 30</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 31</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>6:30 Men's Ch 7:30 Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>7:00 Faithful Friends</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p><i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>9:00 Pancake Bkft 9:30 Praise Team 9:45 Fellowship Cl 10:00 SS 10:45 Prayer/Praise 11:00 Worship 12:15 Teens 12:15 Bells Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p><i>Ray Blouin Wayne Thompson</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>10:00 Circle  6:30 Men's Ch 7:30 Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p><i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. Presbytery meeting at Mt. Olive PC Hinton, VA</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>9:30 Praise Team 9:45 Fellowship Cl 10:00 SS 10:45 Prayer/Praise 11:00 Worship 12:15 Session 12:15 Teens 12:15 Bells Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p><i>Juanita Hostetter</i></p> <p>6:30 Men's Ch 7:30 Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p><i>Raymond Burner</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p><i>Lorene Weeks</i></p> <p><i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p><i>Helen Irvine Tim Welsh</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>9:30 Praise Team 9:45 Fellowship Cl 10:00 SS 12:15 Teens 12:15 Bells Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p><b>Newsletter Articles Due</b></p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p><i>Mary Bird</i></p> <p>7:00 Ruritan</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>6:30 Men's Ch 7:30 Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p><i>Stephanie Chittum</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p><i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p><i>Mabel Stokes</i> 2:00-4:00 90th Birthday Party for Mabel Stokes</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p><i>Brandon King</i> 9:45 Fellowship Cl 10:00 SS 10:45 Prayer/Praise 11:00 Worship 12:15 Teens 12:15 Bells Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p><i>Charlie Cathcart</i></p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>6:30 Men's Ch 7:30 Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Mar 1</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Mar 2</p> <p><i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Mar 3</p>

For corrections or changes, contact Martin at 570-1921 or email [martinstokes@comcast.net](mailto:martinstokes@comcast.net)