

# Berryville Presbyterian Church

[www.berryvillepresbyterian.org](http://www.berryvillepresbyterian.org)



February 2017

## A Girly Coat and a Smile of Dignity

Who knew that “a girly coat” could make such a difference, but watching her try it on it was obvious that it did. She was a participant in the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS). She came seeking a little bit of warmth and a little bit of safety, the clothing was a bonus. Her eyes lit up as she looked through the sweaters and found a few in her size, “and they’re pretty” she exclaimed to a friend. There were a couple of tops to go along with the sweaters. But the coat, oh how she smiled when she found the coat among the others hanging on the makeshift rack. She had been wearing a guy’s coat and it was kind of beat up at that. But this coat was made for her and it fit just right. Her day had been made. She had a new coat, though the coat wasn’t new at all. But that didn’t matter to her. She had a girly coat and to her that was a reason to be thankful, a reason to be joyful, a reason to smile.

I wonder if the person who donated that girly coat to our collection for WATTS had a sense of what the gift would or could mean? I am not sure that I would have. I donated a few items clearing out some space in my closet. They were things I had not worn for a while, things I did not have much use for, so I packed them up and placed them in the pile, not really thinking about what would happen next. But what can happen next can be real and profound. The young

woman found in the coat not just a bit of warmth to make her comfortable, she found a bit of dignity, self-worth and self-esteem. The value of these far surpassed the value of the coat that was given. I wish you could have seen her smile so you would understand just how easy it can be to make someone smile the smile of dignity, self-worth and self-esteem.

Friends, this is what Christian Ministry looks like at its heart. It generally is not in the big things and the grand gestures that lives are touched and transformed. It is in the little things and the small gifts that are given without much thought for what will happen next, that the love of Christ and the power of God are shared. It is in the girly coat hanging on the rack that the love of Christ and the power of God was shared. May we take seriously both our call and our ability to share the love of Christ and the power of God, and may we know the smile that waits on the other side.

Blessings and Peace  
Jonathan

## Mark Your Calendars!

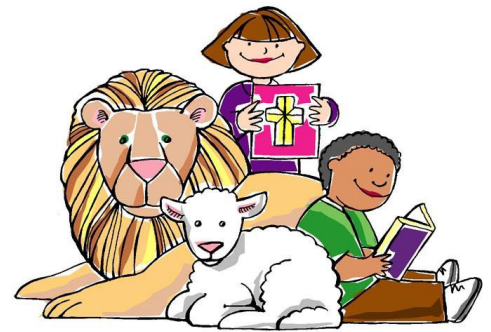
- **Men’s Breakfast February 4<sup>th</sup> @ 8a**
- **Book Club February 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7p**
- **March Signpost deadline February 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **Community Supper at DMUMC, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 5:50p**
- **Women’s Circle February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 10a**
- **Ash Wednesday Service March 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7p**

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The new year is upon us! Happy New Year to all! We are getting back into the routine of Sunday School and are eager to resume class time. Our preparations for Christmas kept us very busy during Advent, so settling into classes is feeling great. Please join us anytime, we would love to share our eagerness with you!



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**30 Hour Famine:** Once again our Youth will be participating in the World Vision 30 Hour Famine. Our target weekend is February 24 and 25. The group will Fast for 30 Hours and join in a variety of activities designed to raise their awareness of the struggle that lasts for much more than 30 Hours for so many around the world. Please assist them in making a difference in the lives of other by sponsoring them in their efforts to help.



*And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ~Matthew 6:16-18*



The BPC Youth Group strikes a pose while out shopping for our Christmas Families

## DID YOU KNOW?

**The Light of Christmas Shines:** As part of our Christmas giving, \$2,028 was collected for the ICARE Program. This comes to 644 days of meals provided! Thank you for your generosity in the season of joy.



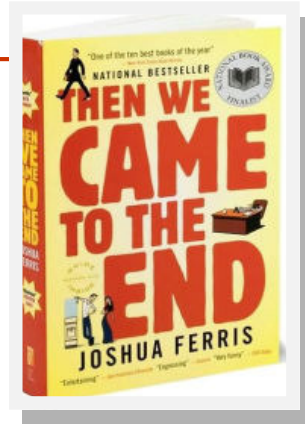




The Season of Lent, our time of preparation for Easter, begins this year on Wed., March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will mark the beginning of Lent with a traditional Ash Wednesday prayer service that will include the imposition of ashes and an invitation into a time of confession and repentance. It is only when we name our need of these, we are freed to receive God's answer to them. Please plan on joining us at 7:00 p.m. as together we embark on a Holy Lent.

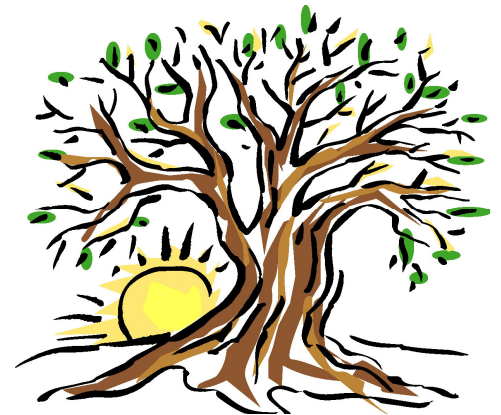
## Book Club

Our book club met on the 18th of January. We talked about the book "The Aviator's Wife" by Melanie Benjamin. It was a really interesting historical fiction about Mrs. Charles Lindbergh. Our next book is "Then We Came To The End" by Joshua Ferris. We will be meeting in February for anyone who would like to join us. For information, call Cathy (955-4765) or the church office.



## Indulge for Lent?

Rather than sacrificing something for Lent — especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate — Patty Kirk, in *Guideposts* magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God's presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas:



On a bright sunny day Margaret Barthel took her scooter out for a spin. Just goes to show you are never too old for toys!



- Spend time outdoors, sensing God's magnificence.
- Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus' promise that when you care for others, you care for him (*Matthew 25:31-46*).
- Pray for the "little things," coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace.
- Watch attentively for God's answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
- Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you "sacrifice" the tendency to wallow in worry.

## **Berryville Presbyterian Church**

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### **Sunday Church Schedule**

8:30 am Worship  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Fellowship  
11:00 am Worship

**Church Office Hours: M-F, 9am-2pm**

### **Staff & Leadership**

Rev. Jonathan Bunker, *Pastor*

[jonathan@berryvillepresbyterian.org](mailto:jonathan@berryvillepresbyterian.org)

Beth Rogers, *Administrative Assistant*

[beth@berryvillepresbyterian.org](mailto:beth@berryvillepresbyterian.org)

Marie Mawby, *Music Director/Organist*

Katy Cox, *Bell Choir Director*

### **Session**

Stephanie Lederhouse, *Clerk of Session/Worship*

Cathy Dickey, *Christian Education*

Emily Braithwaite, *Christian Education*

Betsy Arnett, *Long-Range Planning*

Jim Green, *Stewardship*

Marna Swisher, *Witness*

### **Deacons**

Nancy Duke, *Service*

Mindy Lindsay, *Finance*

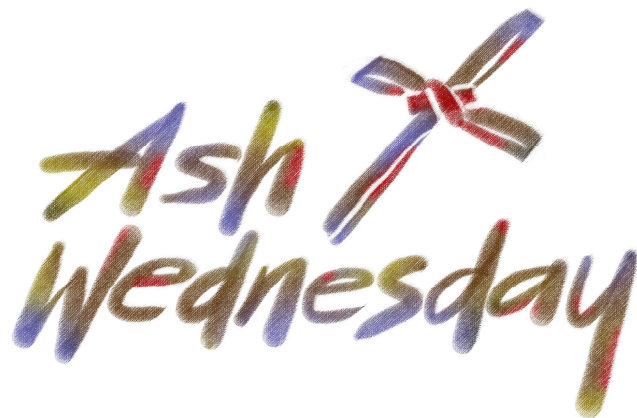
Philip Shenk, *Property*

Camilla Welsh, *Fellowship*

Charles Wakeley, *Ushering*

Sue Windisch, *Technology/Security*

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Join us for Worship on  
Ash Wednesday, March 1st  
at 7:00 p.m.

Articles for the March issue of "Signpost" are due in to the Church Office  
February 16th