“Home for Christmas: Tales of Hope and Second Chances”
Explore the Advent themes of hope, love, joy and peace through real life stories of struggle and triumph by Justin Coleman. We gather Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00, Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, & 17. Childcare is provided and the kids will have a culinary Advent adventure with Judy, Emily & Chris: “Baking Through the Bible at Christmas.” See Kerry for a book and tell Judy if you plan to bring your children. (more on page 2)

Nov. 30 — Parents’ Night Out and Kids Ornament Creation
Our 2nd PNO happens from 5:00 to 8:00 on this Friday evening. After supper we will be helping the children make ornaments to share and decorating the Chrismon Tree. Thank you, Dana Eichlin, for planning, securing materials and leading us in our ornament creations and to all who have volunteered for the evening so parents can have some adult time!

Dec. 1 — Bridgewater Christmas Parade at 10:00 a.m.
Be a Star! Sign up on the kiosk or talk to LeeAnn West or Kerry Foster. If you can help with float construction, see Carroll Chewning. You are also invited to view the parade on this Saturday morning from the front porch. Invite someone to join you!

Dec. 2 — First Sunday of Advent
The Advent Wreath and Chrismon Tree will be in the sanctuary. The Choir will sing and the Lords’ Supper will be celebrated

Dec. 9 — Second Sunday of Advent
Music by both Adult & Children’s Choirs and a brief Congregational Meeting to elect Elders. Deadline for ordering poinsettias.

Dec. 16 — Third Sunday of Advent
Stay after worship for a carry-in soup and sandwich lunch followed by caroling at Bridgewater Home. There is a sign-up on the kiosk. You won’t want to miss this fun afternoon! Also, this is the last day to bring items for the Our Community Place Mitten Offering and the Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands Supply Drive. (more on pages 2 & 3)

Dec. 23 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Choir will present “Sing, Oh My Love,” a collection of seasonal anthems during 10:30 worship. The Children’s Choir will also share and the Christmas Joy Offering will be received. (more on pages 3 & 4)

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Worship
Our traditional service of Lessons and Carols with candlelighting begins at 7:00 p.m. George Anderson is playing the organ. Come and bring your family and friends.

Poinsettias will be part of our decorations again this year. If you’d like to share a plant in honor or memory of someone, find an order form in the bulletin or contact the church office by Dec. 9. $6 each. Take home after Christmas Eve worship.

Insiders this issue:
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Bldg & Grnds 5
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Community 7
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Member Care 2
Mission 3
Office News 8
Outreach 4
Pastor’s Page 5
Resource 6
Session 6
Spiritual Life 4
Volunteers 4

All on ONE NIGHT
Thursday, Dec. 20th
Committees:
6:30 to 7:30
Session:
7:30 to 8:30
If you are interested in any area of mission, worship, fellowship, member care, stewardship, outreach, youth, Christian education, the facility or property—COME.
So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another.
—Romans 12:5
A Note of Appreciation:
“Thanks so much for all the thoughts, prayers, emails, texts, visits, etc. during Mike’s recent health issues and hospital procedure. We are so blessed to be a part of such a caring church family. We truly appreciate all of the outreach to us both.

Mike & Martha Bocock

A Note of Congratulations:
Emily & Mike Heatwole are grandparents (again)! Lincoln Paul Elgert was born November 18, 2018. He has two big sisters, Olivia & Piper. His parents are Corinne & Billy. Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS KENDALL!!
We are overjoyed to celebrate with Kendall West, as she receives her degree from Bridgewater College in December. Join us as we recognize Kendall during worship on the 16th.

Here, in her words, is a summary of her experiences, while a student, at Bridgewater.

In the past three and a half years I have spent my time studying Health and Physical Education at Bridgewater College. I have had the opportunity to grow and develop by courses, field experiences, and working on campus. One of my favorite experiences was working with the Bridgewater Retirement Community during morning fitness. I had the chance to teach and work alongside the elderly who came to participate. Recently I was opened to the chance of becoming a Certified Health Education Specialist and am currently studying for the exam in April. Overall I am happy with my career choice and loved attending BC! -Kendall

Kendall, we are very proud of you and your accomplishments. We wish you every blessing as you begin your career and find opportunities to share your faith with those you “touch”.

Update:
The new Church Directory should be published in January. If you didn’t have a new photo taken, talk to Judy Rees. If you need to update your contact information, talk to Sally in the church office. Thanks for participating!

Singing and Sharing:
Be sure to put our Soup & Caroling event on your calendar. It is Dec. 16th after worship and we hope everyone will do both (but if you can only do half that’s okay!) Find a sign-up on the kiosk to indicate what you can share for the meal. We plan to head to Bridgewater Home about 1:00 to share the joyous sounds of Christmas.

CRISTIAN EDUCATION

More about Monday Evening Advent Bible Study:
“Home for Christmas:
Tales of Hope and Second Chances”

I have books and Christian Education is asking that participants contribute to the cost of the books and supplies. Author Justin Coleman has captured the stories of formerly incarcerated or gang-affiliated people as they find work and opportunity through Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, CA. This ministry reaches into the world of poverty and gangs, bringing the message of Christ to those whom the world may have forgotten.

So, if you can, come and join us!
Merry Christmas,
Kerry

“Baking Through the Bible at Christmas”
During the Bible Study, the children will have a culinary Advent adventure with Judy, Emily & Chris. Each week has a baking activity & story. Parents, please let Judy know if your kids are coming.

Taste and see that the LORD is good. How happy is the person who takes refuge in him!
(Psalm 34:8 CSB)

(I can’t wait to see and taste the gingerbread manger! -Sally)
A Heart (& Cars!) Stuffed with “Thanksgiving”
By Tom Mizell

Expressing appreciation...

~ To all that provided food and shopping funds for Thanksgiving meals for the 10 families at Wilbur Pence Middle School. Your generosity provided a cornucopia of nourishing and delicious food to 46 adults and children. May we remember these folks in our prayers as we enjoy the blessings of this time of Thanksgiving and days ahead;

~ To Mary Kay & Gary Adams, and Suzanne Mizell for helping to pack the meals in boxes;

~ To the Delivery Team that helped load and safely transport turkeys and all the tasty foodstuff. By early Monday morning Bill Florence, Carroll Chewning, Kerry Foster and myself delivered over 20 boxes to the school. Each family also received a beautiful Thanksgiving wreath created by our children during Sunday School. Certainly a loving touch of kindness;

~ To Mike Heatwole who had volunteered. Instead he was excused to go enjoy the blessings of a new grandson;

~ To MJ Chewning who helped maintain order in the kitchen as the men emptied the turkeys from the freezer. She also took some photos and videos of the loading process. Some are shared on page 8 and check out the BPC Facebook page for more!

The Indescribable Gift

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly “indescribably gift,” as well as the gifts of church leaders - past, present and future.

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930’s the offering is shared by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (50%) and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges (50%).

The Assistance Program provides critical financial support through emergency grants, income and housing supplements and crisis funds to retired and active Presbyterian Church workers and their families.

The Schools provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. The three institutions are:

• Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico where 98% of graduates go on to college;

• Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas which boasts 100% college acceptance rate of their diverse international student body;

• Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama which as been ranked among top tier school in U.S. News and World Report for more than a decade.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Dec. 23rd. Note that there is a designated envelope for each of the special offerings of the PCUSA in your box of weekly envelopes.

Reminder: Deadline is Dec. 16 for.....

The OPC Mitten Offering
Our Community Place in Harrisonburg offers services and meals to homeless and marginalized persons.
We are collecting cold weather coverings for ADULTS. Larger sizes are preferred & they serve more men than women. Hats must be new. Gently-used (clean) gloves, scarves, socks, boots and coats are appreciated. Find a box for your donations in the Fellowship Hall.

The PCHH Supply Drive
Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands is a residential facility for boys and girls who have experienced abuse and neglect. They also offer an independent living program for young men, 17-21.
Sharing these basic living essentials frees funds for other programs and individualized needs. There are no restrictions on packaging, but items should be new. Find a list on the kiosk and a box for items in the Fellowship Hall.

BACKPACKS
Watch the bulletin for needs. We want to pack some extra items over the holiday break that begins December 20.
More About the Cantata — a “preview” performance!

Our Choir devotes a lot of time to preparing their weekly music. The Christmas Cantata calls for an additional rehearsal and this year, it is getting a matinee showing!

After dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 22 in our sanctuary, the Choir will travel to Bridgewater Home to share the cantata with the residents. And You Can Attend!

If you can’t do Sunday, come to the 2nd Floor Assisted Living Activities Room for the 10:45 performance. Please, share this event with a Village or Home resident!

Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Ushers</th>
<th>Greeters</th>
<th>Acolytes</th>
<th>Nursery</th>
<th>Lay Leader</th>
<th>Flowers/Highlight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cheryl Fairchilds</td>
<td>Christopher Burke</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Betsy Glendye</td>
<td>David Rees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Scott Skinner</td>
<td>Henry Elkins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jessica Eichlin</td>
<td>Barbie Farquhar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Carla Enterline</td>
<td>Olivia Edwards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Steven Burke</td>
<td>Martha Bocock</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tom Mizell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Steve Humphreys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Tom Mizell</td>
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</table>

Flowers - To share flowers call the church office or sign the poster on the information kiosk in the fellowship hall. We love homegrown blooms, too!
A Note from the Pastor

Do not hold this against me, but as soon as FM 93.1 began to broadcast Christmas music, I started listening to it when I am driving. Not all the time, but a lot of the time. (If you are not aware, they began on November 1, I think!).

There is a secular carol titled “Last Christmas” (performed by Wham, released Dec., 1984) with this main lyric:

“Last Christmas I gave you my heart,
But the very next day you gave it away.
This year, to save me from tears,
I’ll give it to someone special.”

On Thursday, November 8 of this year, I heard it while driving somewhere. I began to think about “giving your heart only to have it given away (or broken as the carol goes on to say)” and connected the song to December 25 of any year: Imagine giving your heart, over and over again, only to have the person you gave it to “give it away/break it!”

I think in Christ we see God giving away His Heart; and in the lives of so many people, we see them give that precious gift to someone else, rejecting the One who gave it to them.

Then, come every Christ-mas, the same gift will always be given everyone, “the keepers and giving-it-away-ers.”

In the secular carol, they seek out another to fall in love with; it seems that over and over again Christ chooses to fall in love with us, no matter our response. The secular word for this is “stupidity,” the theological word is “Grace.” Sadly, we know that “stupidity” in humanity has no limits; thankfully for us, God’s Grace also has no limits! That is our hope, always and always!

Yet, its rejection has consequences. Depending on your childhood stories of faith, or your current understanding of life and death, those consequences all lead to separation from God. It may be a literal “hell,” or “forever wandering,” or something no one wants to do. The Christmas message, the Biblical message, the Christian message is this:

God so loved the world, that through the gift of His Son, Jesus the Messiah, King and Christ, all who believe will be loved (saved) and God’s role in all of this is that all the world shall be loved (saved, redeemed).

(my paraphrase of John 3: 16-17)

So, my sisters and brothers,
“this Christmas, God is giving us His Heart in Christ, and everyday forever more, we are blessed by His Grace”

(you can YouTube this to get the music and adapt my words to the melody if you’d like!).

Merry Christmas!
Kerry

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Fall Clean-Up Summary from Building & Grounds

You would think that scheduling a fall clean-up date would be easy. Pick a Saturday after you were sure all of the leaves would have fallen to the ground! Well, Merrill and I certainly thought most of the leaves would be off the trees by November 17, and most of them were. What we did not anticipate was that they would be knocked off the trees by a day’s worth of sleet and freezing rain. So, on a very cool Saturday morning an energetic group found themselves not only raking leaves, but patches of ice. Fortunately, between the labor of raking wet, icy leaves and rising temperatures, we warmed to the challenge of removing four pick-up loads of leaves, plus some limbs and branches. Steve Humphreys, Mike & Emily Heatwole, Tom Mizell, Judy & David Rees, Carroll & MJ Chewning, Merrill Simon, and Kerry (spiritual leaf leader), raked, and raked, and raked. LeeAnn & Kendall West went to work doing some much needed pruning. Kendall also brought Erik from Bridgewater College’s Eco-Action Club. Thank you Erik for all of your work.

David Rees’s faithful blue farm pickup hauled two loads of limbs and leaves to the Chewning’s property. Carroll and MJ took a load of their own home with them. One load went to the landfill. I learned later that Merrill and Jacob had already spent a day raking leaves earlier in the week, so our worked was already lightened thanks to their efforts. Merrill and Jacob also worked on installing gutter guards to prevent the gutters from getting clogged.

Tom Mizell also worked on removing the spider webs from around the outside of the building while others chipped away the ice from the ramps so that the entry ways would be safe for Sunday worship. We also made use of Tommy Glendye’s ladder to investigate the lighting in the sanctuary. If you have been thinking that your vision during church has diminished, it might be due to the 19 light bulbs Steve counted that are burned out. We will be working to replace these in the coming week.

During all of this work, I listened to lots of reminiscing, stories being told, and lots of laughter. I know that not everyone is able to join in on every church occasion, but I am thankful to those who were able to help on Saturday. We do many things as a church and there are lots of opportunities to get involved. I encourage you to find at least one activity during the year and join in. We really do enjoy each other when we get together outside of worship, which just adds to our unity during worship!

Sincerest thanks,
Merrill Simon
Jon DeVier-Scott
The Session has called a Congregational Meeting at the end of worship on Sunday, December 9, 2018 for the purpose of electing Elders. The Church Officer Nominating Committee will present the following slate of candidates:

**Elder Class of 2021:**
- Bev Carver
- Anne Elkins
- Kendall West

To complete the Elder Class of 2020:
- Gretchen Collins (2-yr term)

---

### The Church’s Finances
-prepared by Bev Carver, Disbursement Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Totals as of 10/31/2018</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$87,281.76</td>
<td>$105,732.10</td>
<td>$18,450.34</td>
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### Balances as of Oct. 31, 2018

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Operating</th>
<th>Business IDA</th>
<th>Payroll</th>
<th>Tax</th>
<th>CDs (matures)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$15,610.26</td>
<td>$72,350.98</td>
<td>$1,113.85</td>
<td>$722.05</td>
<td>$10,107.38 (1/29/2023)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$10,150.17 (10/06/2022)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A Word from Our Resource Committee

First, a word of thanks to the Ad Hoc Committee for Budget Ideas. Kerry suggested we form the committee, and it turned out to be very helpful in providing input to the Session during our development of the 2019 budget. So, thank you Bill Florence, Gretchen Collins, Pat Humphreys, Dick Wurst, and Bev Carver.

At our congregational meeting on November 18, we presented to you the budget for 2019 as approved by the Session, and you approved Kerry’s Terms of Call portion of that budget. Thank you for the trust you have placed in us.

2018 will be another year in which our giving to the general fund will be less than our expenses, about $15,000 is our current estimate of the year end deficit. As in the past, we are drawing money from our Memorial Fund to support our operating budget. Our goal, and hopefully yours, is that our general giving will fully support the operating budget, and that the Memorial Fund will remain available for its intended purpose – to pay for out-of-the-ordinary, unexpected expenses, such as emergency repairs to the church building or special projects, such as a capital improvement or non-emergency repair.

I like the way Kerry put it in the Stewardship Brochure that was emailed to you on November 17 and included in our November 18 Sunday bulletin: “Let us all consider the budget in this brochure as our ‘2019 Capital Campaign’. Let us build a solid financial footing so that we may be the covenanted, blessed children of God.”

I also like the line that says “Since creation is a daily, ongoing experience, so then is stewardship.”

As we live our lives of stewardship, let us together build that ‘solid financial footing’ for our wonderful little church.

**The Resource Committee,**
*Carroll Chewning, Chairman*

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**Sally says:**

Look for 2019 Weekly Offering envelopes on Dec. 2

Last day to make a donation to be credited for 2018 is Sunday, Dec. 30

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**The Session has called a Congregational Meeting** at the end of worship on Sunday, December 9, 2018 for the purpose of electing Elders. The Church Officer Nominating Committee will present the following slate of candidates:

**Elder Class of 2021:** Bev Carver, Anne Elkins, Kendall West.

**To complete the Elder Class of 2020:** Gretchen Collins (2-yr term)

---

We thank the 2018 Church Officer Nominating Committee for their work:

**Retiring Elders**
- Tom Mizell & LeeAnn West

**Laypersons**
- Mary Kay Adams
- Gracie Florence
- Tommy Glendye

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**The Session**

**-Class of 2018-**
- LeeAnn West (Outreach)
- Tom Mizell (Mission)
- Linda West (Spiritual Life)

**-Class of 2019-**
- Jane Crockett (Clerk of Session)
- Jon DeVier-Scott (Building & Grounds)
- Carroll Chewning (Resource)

**-Class of 2020-**
- Judy Rees (Member Care & Education)
- Merrill Simon (Building & Grounds)

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**Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**The Presbyterian Church (USA)**
## December 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stewardship Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:00 Children's Choir (S)&lt;br&gt;9:30 Sunday School&lt;br&gt;10:30 Worship</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td><strong>FEED</strong>&lt;br&gt;UKIRK&lt;br&gt;7:00 Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td><strong>Dec. 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;10:00 PARADE!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Sunday of Advent&lt;br&gt;9:30 Sunday School&lt;br&gt;10:30 Worship&lt;br&gt;Communion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>6:30—8:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Advent Bible Study</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>7:00 Choir</strong>&lt;br&gt;Last day to order hymnals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Sunday of Advent&lt;br&gt;9:00 Children's Choir (S)&lt;br&gt;9:30 Sunday School&lt;br&gt;10:30 Worship&lt;br&gt;Congregational Meeting&lt;br&gt;Election of Elders&lt;br&gt;(Poinsettia Order Deadline)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>6:30—8:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Advent Bible Study</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>2:00 Memory Café</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:00 TOPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Sunday of Advent&lt;br&gt;9:30 Sunday School&lt;br&gt;10:30 Worship&lt;br&gt;Soup Lunch &amp; Caroling</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>6:30—8:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Advent Bible Study</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td><strong>7:00 Choir</strong>&lt;br&gt;ONE NIGHT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Sunday of Advent&lt;br&gt;9:00 Children's Choir (S)&lt;br&gt;9:30 Sunday School&lt;br&gt;10:30 Worship — Cantata&lt;br&gt;Christmas Joy Offering Received</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>Christmas Eve</strong>&lt;br&gt;Worship&lt;br&gt;7:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td><strong>Office closed</strong>&lt;br&gt;Note: newsletter deadline due Jan. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Sunday after Christmas</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td><strong>Office closed</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:00 TOPS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td><strong>7:00 Choir</strong>&lt;br&gt;Office closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FH=Fellowship Hall; S=Sanctuary; JL=Journeyland; O=Office; COB=Church of the Brethren.<br>All meetings held at the church unless otherwise noted.

### The Miracle of Christmas through Music & Dance – Get the Spirit!

**What: Massanutta Springs Dinner/Concert**<br>When: Saturday, Dec. 1st at 6:00 p.m.<br>Where: Massanutta Springs historic Hotel<br>Who: concert by the Massanutten Brass Quintet<br>How much: Reservations required by 5:00 p.m. on Mon., Nov. 26th. Tickets are $20/Adult; $13/Child Youth; FREE children under 3. Call 540-434-3829.


**What: InMotion School of Dance presents “The Heart of Christmas”**<br>a new, original production featuring “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

When/Where: ~ Saturday, Dec. 1, 4:00 at Montevideo Middle School; ~ Sunday, Dec. 2, 3:00 at B’water Church of the Brethren. How much: Admission is free Dancers will take a Love Offering to support New Community Project's "Give a Girl a Chance" program which helps women and girls around the world have a decent chance for a decent life through education; “Girls just wanna...Go to school!”
The office is closed if Rockingham County Schools are closed for snow.

Holidays: Kerry & Sally with both be out of the office December 24, 25, 26 & 31 and January 1st.

We will be checking email and phone messages. Kerry’s cell is listed .. Right over there!

The Spotlight is a monthly publication of
Bridgewater Presbyterian Church
Sally Smith, Editor
540-828-2442
Pastor: Kerry Foster
540-448-2034 (cell)
kfosterbpc@verizon.net

“To Know Christ and to Make Him Known”