



*Max Meadows Musings*  
News From Our Churches  
Galena and Anchor of Hope  
Rev. Hugh Matlack, *Transitional Pastor*  
September 2020



### HUGH'S VIEWS

A few years ago, our denomination changed the description of “interim” pastor to a new term “transitional.” The idea was to honor the impact of change, how a church moved from one stage of life to another. For AOH and Galena, the recent history of change begins with Pastor Cindy’s retirement a year ago and will extend through my time here followed by a new relationship with a full-time installed pastor. In discussions with both sessions / elders, we have all affirmed our commitment to this process.

The good news is, Jo and I love living in Max Meadows and your house / our home on Danner Road! The good news is, we are not in a hurry and I am committed to helping us move forward to achieve our shared goals. We also agreed we live in uncertain times, because of the pandemic and how it has affected the ordinary life of our congregations. We are certainly experiencing plenty of ‘transition’ just in wondering what will happen next and how it will affect the ministry and mission of our churches.

Rather than try to push through a traditional interim process, we have decided to accept the reality of our uncharted territory and adventurous journey together. Our most pressing goal then is to thrive in the midst of our uncertain days, adapting as we can, being faithful while lacking an obvious roadmap. Once we have achieved a consistent ‘new normal’ allowing full or fuller participation by all can we begin again to focus on the steps necessary to work toward the pastoral search.

In the meanwhile, we are going to work together as best we can to the glory of God and the growth of the Kingdom. Amen!

**Everything** you need to know, **want** to know, **need to find out** –  
[www.anchorofhopeandgalenachurches.com](http://www.anchorofhopeandgalenachurches.com)

### BIBLE STUDY ON-LINE via Zoom

We are re-starting our weekly Bible studies, Wednesdays at 11 am and Thursdays at 7 pm. The studies are on-line via Zoom. Because of changes Zoom will be requiring, you will need a **password** and you will enter through a **waiting room**. It is not a big or difficult deal, but it will be just a little different, although also safer. Pastor Hugh will pass along the log-in data via email, on the website, and to anyone who asks for it.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of September, we will have a **preview** experience – we can talk about the studies we accomplished last spring and this summer, plus, any ideas and suggestions we have going forward. We have developed a strong sense of community and mutual support, so we are going to be adding some time to build on those strengths. Also, Pastor Hugh was thinking about having six weeks on then two weeks off – which will give us two complete cycles ending just before Christmas.

**By request**, we will be studying **women in the Bible** for our first six weeks, like Eve, Rachel and Leah, Miriam, Deborah, Lady Wisdom (Proverbs), Esther and others. We can pick and choose at the “preview” sessions. Join us!

### GALENA NEWS

For August, the congregation gathered a **Shower of Blessings** by collecting many needed supplies for the **Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands** in town. The Home has residents, adjusting as required to the protocols necessary for all to thrive and be safe. The donations were picked up on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. \$460 was received along with food, books, cleaning items and much more from the requested items. Thanks to all for their generosity.

Jane Davis, David Manley and Pastor Hugh have been working on proposals to give to the Session on technology upgrades so that we can be effective with the needs we have in ordinary times and these uncertain times. The church will be applying for a **mission grant** from the **Presbytery of Abingdon**. More later!

### **ANCHOR OF HOPE NEWS**

For the next few weeks, we will be working on preparing health and hygiene kits / bags to be given to the **Women's Resource Center**. We will have a list of necessary items for you soon. The bags of donations will be received Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.. Check with Anne Hager for more details on how you can help.

We will also be working with a local vendor to buy supplies in bulk to be given to the **Head Start** program on Apache Road in Fort Chiswell, which serves a very vulnerable population throughout our area. The needs are great and those in need are many.

We have also signed up several youth to read scripture on Sunday mornings. Enjoy!

### **EXTERNAL WIFI**

Both churches have or are considering installing **external wifi** outside the facilities. Internet access would be available inside, to the congregation while additional and separate hardware would broadcast broadband to the outside. Details are still being worked out. AOH is having Citizens – Floyd install on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup>; Galena is receiving the technology report this month of September and it includes the same design.

Here is the **value** – with so many children and youth going to school on-line, having access consistently with a wifi signal may be difficult. We would then be providing a legitimate and safe “hot spot” for them to use in their studies.

### **LET'S GET BETTER ACQUAINTED!**

As part of the transition process, Pastor Hugh would like to meet with people, hear their stories, answer any questions you have, get acquainted as best we can. Here are the options for meeting: while it is still warm, meeting outside like on the porch; or in an well-ventilated “three season-like room;” at the church; or on-line via Zoom. If in person, we will have to limit our time to 45 minutes (so the guidelines for safe interaction recommend).

We will also be asking ourselves three important questions (and Pastor Hugh will be writing down your thoughts): *Who are we as a church? What is God calling us to be and do? Who is our neighbor?* Those are good questions for any of us to ask about our faith; our pondering them right now is good in our transitional days; they set the stage for the next steps when more normal times return and we can discuss them in larger groups.

### **PEOPLE NEWS**

**Agnes Davis** died peacefully in her sleep Monday morning – our condolences and prayers to the Davis and **Goforth** families. Her service will be Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm at Wytheville, First Presbyterian Church. Further details are online: <https://grubbfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/547/Agnes-Davis/obituary.html>

We received **thank-you cards** from **Bailey Watson** and **Karlynn Goforth**, who were honored in late July for their graduation from FCHS and their service to Anchor of Hope church.

### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to Ann Manley, the 5<sup>th</sup>; Patsy Ramsey, the 12<sup>th</sup>; Caleb Cox, the 14<sup>th</sup>; Noreen Robinson, the 23<sup>rd</sup>; Donna Jackson, the 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

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