

Thuse News

South Parkersburg United Methodist
Church Newsletter

Sr. Pastor: The Rev. James Plyburn • 1813 Rayon Drive • Parkersburg, WV 26101
Jennifer Plyburn, DCE and Youth Ministries • 304-360-1373

Church Office: 304-428-1195 • Pastor Jim's Cell Phone: 304-360-3969 • Parsonage: 304-834-3521
Church email address: spumc1813@gmail.com • website: southparkersburgumc.org

JANUARY 2017

To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known

Pastor's Message

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the events of last month's Advent/Christmas Seasons a meaningful time and a blessing to many people. Our first annual Cookie Caper was a "sweet addition" to the season. The Christmas Program and Dinner was a great time of fellowship celebrating the birthday of the Christ Child. The Live Nativity presented by our youth on the church lawn prior to the Christmas Eve service set the mood for those coming to that special worship service of music, Holy Communion and Candlelight. Gathering on Christmas Sunday for worship in word and song truly captured the real meaning of Christmas – Jesus, There's Something About That Name! The entire season was a celebration of God's love. Many thanks to all who had a part in making it all happen.

As we enter this New Year, it is a time to reflect on God's blessings and seek ways to be a blessing to others in 2017. It is a time to look forward to new opportunities to work together to develop and implement new ways "To Know Christ and To Make Christ Known" – in our personal lives, our families, places of work, at school, in our community, and in the world. While many are making New Year's Resolutions, we are focusing on the "gifts" we can each give to Jesus in this New Year. Our children, youth, and adults have written their "gifts" on cards and placed them in a shiny red gift box on our altar. We will pray continually, for God to use us and our individual "gifts" to make His love known.

On January 21, 2017 we will be holding our annual planning and calendaring event. I am requesting that ALL persons involved in Christian Education Ministries, Outreach Ministries, and Worship Ministries, as well as the Board of Trustees, Staff Parish Relations Committee and Lay Leadership Committee plan to attend this event. We will gather at 10 A.M. in the CFC. Following a short devotion time, the ministry teams and committees will meet for a time of orientation and planning. Lunch will be provided at noon. Following lunch this year, we will hold a Church Council Meeting where we will hear reports from the ministry teams and committees and develop the calendar for the year. All members of the Church Council are encouraged to attend this meeting at 1:00 P.M. Our time together will conclude at 2:00 P.M. Please contact me if you need childcare provided and arrangements will be made.

Jennifer and I appreciate the Christmas gift from the church, as well as your individual gifts and your many expressions of love and support throughout the year. We look forward to another year of ministry together!

Blessings and Prayers,
Pastor Jim



LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST

HOMEBOUND:

Gerry Branch, Wilma Thompson, Maxine Custer,
Helen Boone, Claudia Adams

NURSING HOMES:

WILLOWS: Owel Spencer (room 209;
phone 304-480-3071

WYNGATE SENIOR LIVING: Mary Potts, Irene
King, Betty Skinner

CEDAR GROVE: 110 Nicolette Road (26104)

EAGLE POINTE: Iris Smith

PARKERSBURG CARE CENTER: Ralph Barnes

LOVE AND CARE: Wanda Buckley -
5368 Dupont Rd, Room 16

Ohio Valley Healthcare: Phyllis McCormick

National Leaders; College Students; Students & Teachers in our schools; Police Officers & Firefighters; SPUMC Children & Youth; Scouting Ministry; SPUMC Outreach Ministry; Caregivers of those in Nursing Homes; The Unsaved.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Joseph Harris (Navy, Ed & Linda's son)
1250 Auwai Drive; Wahiawa - HI 96786

Travis Schade (Coast Guard)

Maria Schade (Navy)

Dylon Potts

Ryan Dean

David Williams



Pray Without Ceasing

Finance Committee Update

Below is a summary of the total expenses and revenues in our Church's General Operating Fund through November of this year:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)</u>
Oct (Year-to-Date)	\$187,652.15	\$183,624.93	(\$4,027.22)
November	<u>\$ 28,962.51</u>	<u>\$ 16,892.42</u>	<u>(\$12,070.09)</u>
Nov Year-To-Date	\$216,614.66	\$200,517.35	(\$16,097.31)

We are reporting a year-to-date negative cash flow with a shortfall of \$16,097.31 of revenue received versus expenses incurred in the General Operating Fund as of the end of the month.

Larry

Backpack Blessings

NEEDS Volunteers to
Pack Bags and
Deliver Bags

Contact **Sam Sams**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

from *Jennifer Plyburn*

Happy New Year! I am excited about the many opportunities we have to share our “gifts” to Jesus in 2017! Our children and youth will be encouraged to BELIEVE as we study God’s word and learn how to think, act, and become more like Jesus. Classes are held at 11:00 A.M. for children of all ages, following the worship service each Sunday.

SPARK is our midweek gathering each Wednesday from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. for children in three age groups – Preschool (ages 3, 4, & 5), Younger Elementary (Grades K – 2nd), and Older Elementary (Grades 3rd – 5th). A nursery is available for children younger than 3 years of age. The Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Jim is held at the same time. It is our hope that families will participate on Wednesday evenings – bring your children to SPARK and attend Adult Bible Study. All adults are welcome! It is a new year and a new opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge. Please give Wednesday evenings a try!

YOUTH GROUP is our Sunday evening gathering for all youth in Middle School and High School in the CFC and Youth Room. Our Middle School Youth Group meets from 5:30 – 6:30 P.M. and our High School Youth Group meets from 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. A Snack Supper is provided from 6:30 – 7:00 P.M. for the combined youth groups with time for announcements, sharing, and prayer. Plans are being made for upcoming youth activities, outings, and service projects. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join us! Friends welcome, too!



KEEP SAVING THOSE “J”s!

Still saving J dollars even though we have purchased the refrigerator and ice maker!

Keep saving and give to Nancy or Phyllis!

Please **DON'T** put them in the offering plate. Thanks

