

# THUSE NEWS

## DECEMBER 2018

### SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

*To KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN*

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## A CHRISTMAS GIFT

George worked for the Post Office and his job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day just before Christmas, a letter landed on his desk simply addressed in shaky handwriting: 'To God'. With no other clue on the envelope, George opened the letter and read:

Dear God,

I am an 93 year old widow living on a pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had \$180 in it, which was all the money I had in the world and no pension due until after Christmas. Next week is Christmas and I had invited some of my friends over for Christmas lunch. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with. I have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. God; can you please help me?

George was really touched, and being kind hearted, he put a copy of the letter up on the staff notice board at the main Sorting Office where he worked. The letter touched the other postmen and they all dug into their pockets and between them they raised \$170. Using an official Post Office envelope, they sent the cash on to the old lady, and for the rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of the nice thing they had done.

*(continued on next page)*

Christmas came and went. A few days later, another letter simply addressed to 'God' landed in the Sorting Office. Many of the postmen gathered around while George opened the letter. It read,

Dear God,

How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your generosity, I was able to provide a lovely luncheon for my friends. We had a very nice day, and I told my friends of your wonderful gift - in fact we haven't gotten over it and even Father John, our parish priest, is beside himself with joy. By the way, there was \$10 missing. I think it must have been those fellows at the Post Office.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Four of our youth and one guest attended Fall Workshop at Cedar Lakes the weekend of November 16th.



## VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Baker Neal received a Quilt of Valor on Veterans Day in honor of his service to our country. Sandy Sinnett nominated him for this honor and Evie Epler created the beautiful patriotic quilt. The presentation was made during the morning worship service on Veterans Day, November 11th. The children of the church and our United Methodist Men and Women also presented each veteran with a card and special gift.



## IN MEMORY

In November we lost 2 very special women of our church – Wilma Thompson and Mildred Hissam... We continue to pray for their families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones...



Wilma L. Thompson went to be with her Lord and Savior on November 7, 2018 at the age of 85



Mildred Virginia Hissam went to be with her Lord and Savior on November 17, 2018 at the age of 95

## SHUT-IN CHRISTMAS CARDS

This is the list of our shut-ins and those who are not able to be with us in church as often as they would like. These people enjoy getting cards and letters from their church family all year, but especially during the upcoming Holiday season. Those listed below will have their cards delivered, so no addresses or stamps are needed. If you wish to send cards to others who are listed in the bulletin, you will need to address and mail them on your own.

Please help make Christmas a little brighter for our shut-in church family and those who are unable to attend regularly. There is a basket downstairs for collecting the cards. Thank you for your participation in this important ministry.

Don & Jerry Beeson	Bill Longwell	Cheryl Phillips
Helen Boone	George McNemar	Betty Skinner
Wanda Buckley	June McNickle	Owel Spencer
Maxine Custer	Roella & Bob Newbrough	Ross Terrell
Betty Hardman	Dale & Bonnie Palmer	

*Bonnie*

# Stewardship Alert !

## Stewardship Committee Members

*Jan Barnes, Jerry Baum, Jim Braden, Anna Deem, Stephanie Gibbs, Michaela Hupp, Pastor Jim Plyburn, Sam Sams, Larry Sexauer, Kay & Brent Wilhelm, Ex officio – Tammy Lewis – non-attending*

- ❑ Thank you congregation! The SPUMC contingency fund for our new A/C unit is REPAID IN FULL !!
- ❑ The January 2019 BIG SALE proceeds are earmarked for our church General Operating Fund.
- ❑ Memorial funds in the amount of \$4,616 will be used toward purchase of a professionally installed security system for the church and CFC. Estimates are currently being gathered by the Trustees. During the month of December, there will be a Silver plate 2<sup>nd</sup> mile giving opportunity to pay the remaining balance for the system. Details on exact balance needed will be communicated as soon as the estimates are received.
- ❑ The 2019 Outreach Ministries line up to be supported outside the SPUMC budget by 2nd mile giving into the Silver plates are listed below. A brochure, explaining each ministry, will be distributed prior to year-end. There are opportunities for both volunteers and/or 2nd mile giving.
  - January – Latrobe Street Mission and Women’s Care Baby Bottles
  - February – Grace of God Food Pantry and Souper Bowl
  - March – Young Life
  - April – UM Conference Missions
  - May – SPUMC Youth to Summer Church Camps
  - June – High on Hope
  - July – Backpack Blessings
  - August – Thrive
  - September – Backyard Friends and Loads of Love Laundry
  - October – Women’s Care Center
  - November – Old Man Rivers and Hunters Helping Hungry
  - December – Open
- ❑ A 2019 Balanced Budget has been approved by Church Council.
- ❑ Please submit all 2018 reimbursement requests to church treasurer by December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by: *Kay Wilhelm*

## MATTHEW 25:37-40

Ruth went to her mail box and there was only one letter. She picked it up and looked at it before opening, but then she looked at the envelope again. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address. She read the letter:

Dear Ruth:

I'm going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon and I'd like to stop by for a visit.  
Love Always, Jesus

Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. "Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer." With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. "Oh my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner." She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Five dollars and forty cents. "Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least!" She threw on her coat and hurried out the door. A loaf of French bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk...leaving Ruth with grand total twelve cents to last her until Monday. Nonetheless, she felt good as she headed home, her meager offerings tucked under her arm.

"Hey lady, can you help us, lady?" Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans, she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags. "Look lady, I ain't got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us. Lady, we'd really appreciate it." Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad and frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to. "Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to Him." "Yeah, well, okay lady, I understand. Thanks anyway."

The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley. As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart. "Sir, wait!" The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them. "Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest." She handed the man her grocery bag. "Thank you lady! Thank you very much!" "Yes, thank you!" It was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering. "You know, I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one." Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulders. Then smiling, she turned and walked back to the street...without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest.

Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door, and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox. "That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day." She took the envelope out of the box and opened it.

Dear Ruth:

It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal and thank you for the beautiful coat.  
Love Always, Jesus

## BIBLE QUIZ

The questions in this month's newsletter are from the Book of Acts... After each question, there are parenthesis showing you where you can find, or check, your answers. Good Luck!!!

1. Who wrote the Acts of the Apostles?
2. What man is the Acts of the Apostles addressed to? (Acts 1:1)
3. After His resurrection, how many days to Jesus appear to the Apostles? (Acts 1:3)
4. After his resurrection and while appearing to the Apostles, about what did Jesus speak? (Acts 1:3)
5. As Jesus was taken up to heaven, 2 men in white apparel suddenly appeared beside the Apostles. How did those men address the Apostles? (Acts: 1:11)
6. When returning to Jerusalem and going to the upper room, who else joined the Disciples in that room? (Acts 1:14)
7. How many disciples were in Jerusalem after the Ascension? (Acts 1:15)
8. Who stood up in the midst of the Disciples and spoke after they had returned to Jerusalem from Mount Olivet? (Acts: 1:15)
9. How did they choose the replacement for Judas? (Acts 1:26)
10. Who took Judas's place as one of the 12 apostles? (Acts 1:26)

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- **Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** – SPRC Meeting at 6:00PM...
- **Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup>** – Advent Study at 6:30PM...
- **Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** – UMW/UMM Dinner at Columbo's at 5:30PM...
- **Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** – Christian Friends Class Party/Dinner at Western Sizzlin at 6:00PM...
- **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Program in the CFC at 6:30PM...
- **Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Parsonage Open House from 3:00PM to 5:00PM...
- **Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Service at 6:00PM
- **Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** – Happy Birthday Jesus!!!
- **Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** – THUSE News Deadline...

# LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST

Baker, Julia—leukemia—Mike Miller  
Baker, Oren  
Baker, Oren—cancer  
Beatty, Jeff & Daughter—Garry Gumm  
Beeson, Don & Jerry  
Beha, Shelly—heart cond.—T. McCauley  
Bennett, Michelle—cancer—B. Terrell  
Bradley, Raymond—cancer—R. Bradley  
Branch Family  
Brandjes, Robert—cancer—B. Pratt  
Burdette, Jenifer—cancer—P. Bradley  
Butler, Kevin—mass in stomach—V. Shuman  
Carpenter, Trenton  
Cosner, Brenda—heart—A. Dotson  
Cunningham, Alan—leukemia—Mike Miller  
Curtis, Allison—cancer—B. Swiger  
Daggott, Carter—brain cancer—M. Hupp  
Davis, Carrie—stroke—B. Pratt  
Deem, Betty—lung cond.—A. Dotson  
Deming, Marsha—cancer—Jennifer Hupp  
Dent, Kara  
Dick, Ashley  
Dodd, Curtis—cancer—Pat Tucker  
Durst, Erica—MS—Brad Lewis  
Ellison, Karen—cancer—Randy Bradley  
Enoch, Jessie (5)—leukemia—K. Lucas  
Estep, Jody—cancer—Kathryn Miller  
Estep, Rick—cancer—Kathryn Miller  
Flinn, Ruth—Eleanor Wilcox Sister  
Fridley, Paul—leukemia—Ken Pritchard  
Fought, Loraine—cancer—K. Dent  
Fortney, Amy—T. Lewis  
Galland, Fred & Sue  
Gilmore, Eddie—cancer—Beth Baker  
Grimm, Andrea—colon cancer—J. McNemar  
Gross, Donna—T. Jefferies  
Hickman, Sandy  
Hickman, Sonny—cancer—Steve Stanley  
Hobbs, Darlinea—breast cancer—B. Rowe  
Hoffman, John—cancer—Kestersons  
Holt, Glenn  
Hudson, Sharon—stroke—Jill Youell  
James, Teresa—cancer—T. Jefferies  
Jones, Donda—cancer—A. Sexauer  
Jones, Glenda—at the Willows—B. Terrell  
Kidd, James—Worthington—Mike's Dad  
Leach, Stella—dementia—Lynn Leach's Mom  
Leasure, Barb—Judy Jonas  
Levine, Baby Nolan—needs surgery—Jan Kinder  
Lipscomb, Jodi—cancer—A. Sexauer  
Lowther, Rev. John—cancer—St. John UMC  
Lucas, Shelly—cancer—J. Whitlatch  
Luck, Greg—cancer—T. Jefferies

Matthess, Hunter—leukemia—B. Lewis  
Mays, Vic—Jill Youell  
McCloy, Willard—dementia—Dawn Ruble  
McCoy, Randy—cancer—A. Baum  
McDonald, Eldean—hospice care—M. Hupp  
McNemar, George  
McNemar, Ralph—cancer  
Metz, Dennis & Nora  
Miller, Carder—dive accident—Jennifer Plyburn  
Moeck, Norm—blood disorder—M. Adams  
Morrison, Bill—CHF—Kestersons  
Morrison, Tammy—breast cancer—Jill Youell  
Nutter, Betty—lung cancer  
Ogden, Sherry—cancer—Tiffany Dowler  
Packmire, Steve—cancer—T. Jefferies  
Parsons, Gary—lung condition—A. Deem  
Parsons, Pat—parkinsons—R. Deem  
Phillips, Paul—prayers to walk—M. Miller  
Poling, Duane (Beaver)—Marie Williamson  
Pope, Ed—cancer—S. Hupp  
Radabaugh, Doris—Judy Jonas  
Reese, Carol—brain tumor—Pat Tucker  
Roberts, Gary—cancer—A. Baum  
Roberts, Jennifer—Brad Lewis  
Robinette, William Ted—ALS—M. Moyers Dad  
Sink, Danny—leukemia—Mark Adams  
Sprouse, Ashley—brain tumor—C. Barnes  
Stanley, Dirk—Steve Stanley's Brother  
Stanojevic, Bessie—Pat Tucker  
Stallman, Mary—heart—Pat Tucker  
Summervill, Jim—Terry Jefferies  
Tanner, Adam—cancer—Hoover  
Tennant, David—leukemia—J. Braden  
Tice, Kelly  
Tice, Kim—cancer—Mike Miller  
Tucker, Richard Sr.—cancer—P. Tucker  
Turrill, John—cancer—Melissa Hupp  
Walcutt, Larry—chemo—Melissa Hupp  
Watts, Myke—blood pressure—Patti Morgan  
White, Fred—cancer—Mitch Morgan  
Whitehead, Jeanette—lung—J. Whitlatch  
Whitlatch, JoAnn  
Withum, Mary—fibrosis of the lungs—Nancy Russell  
Wigal, Cole—B. Terrill  
Wilson, Vivian—tumors—Jennifer Plyburn  
Wolfe, Donna—cancer—J. McNemar  
Wolfe, Gary—tumor—J. McNemar  
Wolfe, Terry—lung cancer—N. Russell  
Wood, Gary  
Yoak, Tom—cancer  
Zimmer, Dorothy—Judy Jonas