

THUSE NEWS

DECEMBER 2018

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

To KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

Sr. Pastor – Reverend James Plyburn
DCE & Youth Ministries – Jennifer Plyburn
Church Office: 304-428-1195
Parsonage Phone: 304-834-3521
Pastor Jim's Cell: 304-360-3969
Jennifer's Cell: 304-360-1373
Church Email: spumc1813@gmail.com
Website: southparkersburgumc.org



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 2nd 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 28th.

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