

# THUSE NEWS JANUARY 2018

## SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

*TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN*

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### **DON'T FORGET TO SMILE**

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she herself feared that the electrical storm might harm her child.

Following the roar of thunder, lightning, like a flaming sword, would cut through the sky. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little girl walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly, and with each the little girl would look up at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother's car drove up beside the child she lowered the window and called to her. "What are you doing? Why do you keep stopping?" The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty... God keeps taking my picture!"

*May God bless you today as you face the storms that come your way.*

## MEET YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

This month we are featuring Mildred Hissam who is a Shut-In member of our Church family. Mildred first came to our church as a toddler in the 1920's when it was built.



Mildred was born and raised in South Parkersburg and attended Rayon School. She was the only child of John and Gladys Hill. Her parents brought her as a toddler to South Parkersburg UM Church (formerly EUB) beginning in 1926, transferring from Epworth after they realized there was a church on Rayon Drive. It was just a basement at that time. The top floors had not yet been built. Mildred was converted at age 12, became a member and has attended here ever since.

Mildred's father, John, joined the church under Rev. Collins and took classes to learn to be a SS teacher - he taught the young boys. He attended faithfully as long as his health permitted. He was 97 years old when he passed away. Mildred's mother passed away on Thanksgiving Day at the age of 79.

Mildred remembers her parents bringing her to church during the depression when money was very scarce. Rev. Harrison (Pete's father) was pastor at the time and he "worked his heart out" trying to get enough money during those difficult times to build the sanctuary. Mildred's father was a trustee for many years and did a lot of the work on building the upstairs to save money for the Church. He bought one of the large stained glass windows.

The upstairs of the church was completed in two sections, initially just being the main sanctuary with two little side rooms. During construction, services were moved from the basement to a building on the corner of Rayon and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. Mildred was Sunday School secretary when it first opened upstairs. Sunday School was held first and then worship service. Mildred states that she was very shy and that it was extremely difficult for her to get up and read the secretary report as she was required to during morning worship.

**(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**

The Church was well attended during those times and every single person pitched in to help with fundraisers and to work at the church as they were able. They had numerous fundraisers - the most memorable for Mildred were the ice cream socials and chicken dinners. She remembers in particular one huge chicken dinner that was held in the top of the coliseum (downtown). Mr. And Mrs. Theodore Shepherd (Helen Riddle's parents) raised chickens and they furnished a lot of the chickens for the dinners. Mildred recalls scrubbing and cooking those chickens and then serving tables. She said women did not drive so all the men and women worked together. The men would have to drive the ladies to prepare the dinners and they would stay and work also.

They also made a lot of homemade ice cream and sold cakes and pies which were donated. They would have three or four ice cream freezers going at one time. These affairs were supported by the whole community and were always held someplace away from the church - the people didn't believe anything should be sold on the church property. They would usually set up in someone's yard and sell from there. She also remembers the Ladies Aide making quilts to sell. For 10 cents you could have your name embroidered on a quilt square. The church members during these times could not afford to pay the preacher his full salary so they would have "pound" parties for him, bringing him a pound of something they had made or grown on their own land.

The Friendship SS class was a very large adult class and the members of that class did a lot of the work around church. There was also the Live Wire class for youth - a mixture of boys and girls. Alvedere Hissam and Mildred were in the Live Wire SS Class. They were married in 1942 and then moved into the Hustler's class when it was formed about 1946. Alvedere went off to the service and Mildred traveled with him some (not as much as she would have liked). They were living in Wisconsin when she became pregnant with their first child, Shirley. Al insisted she go home to live with her parents. He thought she needed her mommy to take care of her since she was then 5 months pregnant. Less than two years later, their second and last child, Bruce, was born. Al came home from Germany and was supposed to transfer to the Far East but the war ended. They moved into the house where she lives now which Alvedere built in 1949. Alvedere worked as a crane operator for Union Carbide for over 40 years. He suffered through many illnesses and died in 1991 at the age of 70.

Shirley, their daughter, has attended our church since she was born and was active in the Girl Scouts when her mother was the leader. You can find her most Sunday mornings in the church nursery. She has 2 sons. Kevin, her oldest, works at Lowe's in Marietta. His wife Terri works at Camden Clark as a clerk in Oncology. They have a daughter, Kayla, who married this summer to Will Sanborn and they live in Tilton, NH. Shirley's 2<sup>nd</sup> son, Darrin, works as a mechanic for Karl's Auto. His daughter, Tiffany, is married to John Powell. They have 3 children - Brylynn Tice and Trenton and Noah Powell.

Mildred's son, Bruce, lives in South Hills with his wife Elaine. He is retired from GE Plastics and Elaine is a retired counselor from Belpre High School. Bruce's oldest son, Brett, is a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army and now works for the U.S. Army in security. Brett and his wife Jennifer along with their daughter, Maggie, live in Morgantown, WV. Bruce and Elaine's other son, Michael, is a lawyer with Bailey Glasser LLP in Charleston, WV. Michael, his wife Angie, along with sons Gabe and Archer reside in Parkersburg.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2017 REPORT

Presented below are projects initiated and completed by the Trustees in 2017. We would like to thank everyone who assisted in the project work – Trustee members, Church volunteers, & Outside Contractors.

- Replaced Parsonage Roof
- Replaced CFC Roof
- Replaced Church Roof
- Purchased Phone Tree
- Cleaned Furnace Room
- Repaired Garden Fence
- Replaced Church Hot Water Tank
- Trimmed Shrubs – All locations
- Removed Dead Trees on Property
- Replaced Switcher in Sanctuary
- Repaired Van
- Repaired Church Furnaces
- Repaired & Painted Plaster on Sanctuary Windows
- Replaced Garage Door Opener at Parsonage
- Replaced Electric Eye between Church & CFC
- Remodeled new nursery – Cabinets, Heater, TV, & VCR
- Remodeled Old nursery into New Meeting Room – Cabinet doors, Ceiling Tiles, Painted Room
- Stained Deck on CFC
- Replaced Leaking Vents in Church
- Replaced Outside Light at Back Door
- Installed Security Camera at Back Door
- Pressure Washed Steps & Bricks in Memorial Garden

*Rick Deem*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE 2017 REPORT

- We ended the year with a Surplus in the General Operating fund of just over one thousand dollars... This is the first year we have reported a positive net flow of funds since 2013.
- However, We did have to transfer \$22,000 from the Contingency fund to our checking account to pay bills last Spring. Our plan is to start paying back the contingency fund this year if we can generate enough positive cash flow during the year.
- In 2018 we will be planning to have several open meetings for members of the congregation to learn more specific information about the financial health of the church. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be scheduled early in the year.

*Larry Sexauer*

# STAFF-PARRISH RELATIONS 2017 REPORT

Happy New Year from Staff-Parrish Relations Committee. This year the committee will be focused on several different areas of the church such as the Pastor, Staff, Congregation and many other areas that are outlined in the Guidelines as well as the Book of Discipline. This is designed to help implement and guide the work of the ministry areas by addressing such topics as organizing tasks through the four quarters of the year, dealing with conflict and rumors, working with ordained, appointed and non-appointed staff, and relating to the congregation. With this we handle annual evaluations of the staff including the Pastor. Members of the committee are liaisons to the paid staff to help them with different tasks, give support and assist with the job descriptions set for the staff member.

This is just a brief overview of what the Staff-Parrish Relations committee will be going through and dealing with as the year progresses. As we all come together and work collectively as a team, we will be able to make decisions for the church much easier. Lets have another great year

*Jim Braden*

## THE BIG SALE



We will be Receiving items for the sale in the CFC from  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>** thru **THURSDAY, JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>**  
(Receiving hours to be announced)

BIG SALE is on **FRIDAY** and **SATURDAY - JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**  
*7:00AM to 4:00PM Each Day*

The Tice Family is coordinating the BIG SALE event this year, so contact Shirley with questions involving the sale.

# BIBLE QUIZ

The questions in this month's newsletter are from Exodus. After each question is the Chapter and Verse in parenthesis showing you where you can find, or check, your answers. Good Luck!!!

1. How long did the Feast of Unleavened Bread last? (12:15)
2. Which Feast was connected with Passover, and lasted 7 days? (12:17-20)
3. At what time of day were the firstborn sons and cattle struck dead? (12:29)
4. What did God place between the camp of the Israelites and the camp of the Egyptians? (14:19-20)
5. Where did Moses lead the Israelites after crossing the Red Sea? (15:22)
6. When the Israelites came to Marah, what was wrong with the water? (15:23)
7. Where did the Israelites go after leaving Marah? (15:27)
8. What desert lies between Elim and Sinai? (16:1)
9. When in the desert, what did the Israelites complain to Moses and Aaron about? (16:3)
10. What kind of meat did God give the Israelites to eat? (16:13)

# INSPIRING STORY

Early one morning an elderly gentleman went to the doctor's office to have some stitches removed from his thumb. The nurse checked his vitals and then informed him that the doctor had been delayed on his morning rounds at the hospital and that it might be 45 minutes or more before he could see him. The man nervously replied, "Anything you can do to hurry things up would be greatly appreciated."

The nurse, seeing that the man was obviously concerned about the delay, asked him if he had another appointment or urgent need to leave the office. The man replied, "I have breakfast with my wife every morning at the nursing home". The nurse asked, "Will it bother her if you show up a little bit late this morning?" The man replied, "No... The reason my wife is in the nursing home is because she has Alzheimer's disease and she hasn't recognized me for almost 3 years. The puzzled nurse then asked the elderly man, "Why do you have breakfast with her every morning?" The man smiled and softly said, "She doesn't know who I am, but I know who she is."