

# THUSE NEWS NOVEMBER 2017

## SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

*TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN*

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## STANDING AT YOUR POST

Pompeii was an ancient Roman city that was buried under tons of volcanic ash in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. The objects that lay beneath the city have been preserved for more than a millennium because of the long lack of air and moisture under the lava. During the excavation, plaster was used to fill in the voids in the ash layers that once held human bodies. This allowed archaeologists to see the exact position the person was in when he or she died. Some bodies were in the streets as if they had been attempting to escape. Some were found in deep vaults as if seeking security. Some were found in lofty chambers as if trying to get above the lava.

Where did they find the Roman Sentinel? He was standing at the city gate where he had been placed by the captain, with his hand still grasping his weapon. There, while the heavens threatened him; there, while the earth shook beneath him; there, while lava streams rolled, he stood at his post; and there, after all the passage of time, was he still found.

*May we as Christians stand to our duty in the post at which our  
Captain has placed us...*

*Author Unknown*

## MEET YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

This month we are going to begin featuring our Shut-In's as members of our Church family... Betty Skinner, Owel Spencer, Wilma Thompson, & Helen Boone are featured this month, with the others coming over the next few months.



Betty Skinner  
Worthington Nursing Home  
2675 36<sup>th</sup> Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26104  
Birthday: October 15th

Betty grew up on Gates Ridge near her cousin and good friend, Avana Thompson. Avana, now deceased, was a longtime member of SPUMC and is the mother of Kay Wilhelm and Peggy Davis. After Betty and Avana both married and had children, each had 2 daughters, they didn't see as much of each other. Betty always went back to Gates Ridge UMC with her nephew. After Avana and Betty were widowed, Avana kept inviting Betty to come to church with her, and once Betty did, she loved it and moved her membership to our church. They both rode the van and attended every service faithfully until they sold their homes and moved to Wyngate together where they shared a room. Not long after Avana passed away in 2016, Betty fell, and her daughters felt she needed the therapy and skilled nursing at Worthington Nursing Home where she currently resides. In addition to her 2 daughters, Betty has 3 granddaughters and 2 great granddaughters, and one grandson who is deceased. Betty appreciates her church family and always loved coming to church, and she enjoys receiving cards and notes.



Owel Spencer  
Willows Center  
723 Summers Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
Birthday: December 29th

Owel Spencer is a longtime faithful member of our church. Even though he is no longer able to attend church, he still loves and remembers his home church and always asks how many are at church each Sunday. He would definitely be in attendance if at all possible. He lives at the Willows now, where he moved several years ago to be with his wife, Willa, who already resided there. Willa passed away in 2016 and Owel continues to reside there. He has made many friends at the Willows with his warm smile and friendly personality. He attends church there every Sunday and continues to live out his faith in a special way. Last December, Owel turned 90 years old and former co-workers from the Parkersburg News came to the Willows and had a birthday party for him. They still love him and remember working with him, and they shared many stories about his employment years. His full name is Weldon Owel Spencer. At the Willows, they call him Weldon, and he has always been called Owel here at SPUMC. But he has a 3<sup>rd</sup> name given to him by Hugh Boone. Because of his love for biscuits, Hugh called him "Biscuit". Whatever name you choose to call him, he is truly a wonderful Christian man. Owel loves this church and is a great and positive testament to the church.



Wilma Thompson  
2611 Broadway Ext.  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
Birthday: July 30th

My late husband, Charles, and I have part of this church for many years. We started attending when Reverend Foster was here, and joined the church when Hugh Boone was pastor. I have one son, Charles, who recently passed away. He also attended SPUMC for many years until he entered the Service. I have a daughter-in-law, Robin, and 3 grandchildren – Matthew, Sarah, and Rebecca. I also have one great-grandchild, Jack.

I want to thank Pastor Jim and Jennifer and the church for remembering me and my family during the difficult times we have been through recently. I also thank the church for the beautiful Bible sent to the funeral for my son, Charles. I value your prayers and really enjoy receiving cards from my church family. I appreciate everything the church has done for me. Thank you all.

To God Be the Glory. I love you all.

*Wilma*



Helen Boone  
1904 Neal Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
Birthday: September 10th

I came to this church in 1974 when my husband, Hugh Boone, became the pastor here. We immediately fell in love with the church, and to this day, still feel the same way. It is Home!!! We were assigned to another church in 1980, but when Hugh retired, we came back to live in Parkersburg and started attending SPUMC again.

Hugh passed away in 2005. I have 2 children – Sue Morrison and husband Lee, who attend this church, and Doug Shafer and wife Melissa, who live in Kingwood, WV. I have 3 grandchildren – Kim, Amy, & Mark, and 7 great grandchildren. I also have 3 stepchildren, 1 deceased stepdaughter, and several step grandchildren.

When I am able, I am so happy and thankful to attend church and worship with all of you. And when I can't be there, I look forward to hearing from all of you through calls, cards, and notes. It helps to brighten my days and keeps me connected. Thank you, my church family, for everything you do for me.

God Bless you all

*Helen*

# SPUMC SHUT-IN MINISTRY

The Shut-In Ministry exists to keep in touch with our church family members who are no longer able to attend regularly. Even though they may not be here with us in our services, we want them to know that they are still a very important part of our congregation and are not forgotten. They have supported and helped keep the church alive for many years, and we honor and remember them for all they have done and for their continued love, dedication, and faithfulness to the church.

We have a card ministry which strives to have each shut-in receive a card or note from their church at least twice a month. We also send cards from the church on special days such as their birthdays and Valentine's Day. At Christmas and Easter, we fill gift bags with various items and goodies, along with cards from our congregation. We often hear that the favorite "gift" in the bags is the bundle of cards they receive. As they open them, we hope they know that each card represents someone who cares about them. Thanks to all who participate in this important ministry, and we welcome anyone interested in joining our team!

*Bonnie Dennis*

## OTHER SHUT-IN MAILING ADDRESSES & BIRTHDAYS

Mildred Hissam  
2214 Hampton Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
Birthday: October 19<sup>th</sup>

Maxine Custer  
5918 Wadesville Road  
Belleville, WV 26133  
Birthday: January 24<sup>th</sup>

Rolla Daugherty  
295 Lubeck Road  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
Birthday: September 2nd

Wanda Buckley  
Eagle Pointe  
1600 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
Birthday: March 9th

Bob & Roella Newbrough  
2802 Cleveland Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Bob's Birthday: January 3rd  
Roella's Birthday: July 3rd

# FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
July YTD	\$132,889.01	\$127,579.56	-\$5,309.45
August	\$ 16,035.13	\$ 16,395.58	\$ 360.45
September	\$ <u>18,997.46</u>	\$ <u>15,822.68</u>	<u>-\$3,174.78</u>
2017 Sept YTD	\$167,921.60	\$159,797.82	-\$8,123.78

For September year-to-date, we are showing a deficit of **-\$8,123.78** with expenses exceeding revenues in the general operating fund by that amount. There are 5 Sundays in the month of October which should help revenue during the month close the gap somewhat with church operating expenses.

*Larry*

## UNITED METHODIST MEN & WOMEN



**UMW** - Remember to keep looking for and saving "J" One Dollar Bills!!! Don't put them in the Collection Plate. Please give them to a United Methodist Women member. Thanks for your support!!!

**UMM** - \$768 was received from our Soup Lunch on 10/22 in the CFC. We will continue to collect donations for Old Man Rivers until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in December.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>* – Hunters Helping the Hungary... The offering plates will be at the back doors after service... Please give as you are able...

*Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>* – Veterans Dinner in the CFC at 6:00... All veterans are invited to come out to eat

*Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>* – Church Thanksgiving Dinner in the CFC after the Service

*Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>* – Charge Conference at 6:30PM

# BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. Who was Sarai's Egyptian maidservant? (16:1)
2. After Hagar learned she would have a baby, how did she feel toward Sarai? (16:4-5)
3. What did the Lord promise to Abraham? (17:8)
4. When God told Abraham that Sarah would have a son, what did Abraham do? (17:17)
5. When the 2 angels arrived at Sodom, who was sitting in the gateway of the city? (19:1)
6. What did the Lord rain down on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? (19:24)
7. What was Lot's wife turned into? (19:26)
8. How did God remember Abraham when He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah? (19:29)
9. What did Abraham tell the king about his relationship with Sarah? (20:2)
10. Why did Abraham lie about Sarah to the King? (20:11)

## INSPIRING STORY

His name is Bill. He has long hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, and old worn-out blue jeans. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. A very bright guy, but a little different. He became a Christian recently while attending college. Across the street from the campus is a very conservative church and one day Bill decides to go there and walks in wearing his normal attire. The service had already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat.

The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat anywhere. By now people are looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Bill realizes that there are no seats, so he just sits down right on the carpet (Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this church before).

About this time, the minister realizes that from way at the back of the church, an Elder is slowly making his way toward Bill. Now the Elder is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and is wearing a three-piece suit. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid sitting on the floor? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane.

All eyes are focused on him. The minister can't even preach until the Elder does what he has to do. And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill on the floor so the young man doesn't have to worship alone.

When the minister begins to speak, he says, "What I'm about to preach today, you will never remember. What you have just seen today, you will never forget. Be careful how you live your life. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read."