

# THUSE NEWS

## NOVEMBER 2018

### SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

*To KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN*

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## PASTOR’S MESSAGE

As we move into the month of November (Hard to believe it is November already!) I am reminded to take the opportunity to say, “Thank You!” for the many blessings I have received. Let me begin by saying, “Thank You!” to everyone who showed their appreciation during the month of October with cards and gifts for Pastor Appreciation Month. It truly is a blessing to be appreciated.

I would also like to say, “Thank You!” to the Teachers of our Sunday School Classes who spend countless hours each week preparing lessons. We have many Children, Youth and Adult classes to help us fulfill our part of the mission of SPUMC to “Know Christ”. If you are not already participating in a Sunday School class, next Sunday would be a great Sunday to spend an additional 45 minutes at SPUMC learning more about God's love for you, before you head home or to the restaurant for lunch. Join a Sunday School Class. You will be “Thankful” you did.

Speaking of being “Thankful”, the annual Thanksgiving Dinner is almost here. I hope everyone is planning to attend morning worship on Sunday, November 18, 2018 and then join us in the CFC following worship for a time of food and fellowship. There are sign-up sheets in the sanctuary and in the Sunday School classrooms for you to let us know what you are planning to bring to the Thanksgiving Dinner, as well as opportunities to help with the dinner.

*(continued on next page)*

On Wednesday, November 28, 2018, I will begin our Advent Study at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Advent Study I have selected is “Because of Bethlehem” by Max Lucado. This Study “explores how the One who made everything chose to make Himself nothing and come into our world.” This four session study will continue on Wednesdays in December, the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Make plans now to join me each Wednesday for this study.

Finally, spend time each day counting your blessings and giving thanks to God for each and every one of them.

Thanks Be to God!

*Pastor Jim*

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY OUTDOOR PROJECT**

Have you noticed the newly fenced area between our CFC and the BP gas station? That is the final phase of a project that began as a “dream” or “vision” several years ago. Our children, youth and scout troops often use the area for recreation and activities, but rolls of temporary fencing were necessary to keep them from venturing towards the busy street. This space is easily accessible from inside our CFC and will be a wonderful outside extension to be enjoyed by all who use the CFC. Our children planted the young tree during Summer SPARK a couple of years ago. It has nearly doubled in size and will one day provide shade in the sunniest area of the lot. Mel Wermter made two raised planter beds and our scouts filled them with soil. Our SPARK group and Youth have planted seeds and flowers this past Spring, Summer, and Fall and plan to plant Spring flower bulbs soon. The picnic table was constructed by students at the Wood County Vocational Tech Center at PSHS and has been a great spot for youth snacks and devotions. The two blue benches are the result of nearly two years of collecting plastic lids and caps to be recycled as part of the ABC Bench Project. They represent many days and long hours of sorting, bagging and weighing to meet the requirements necessary for the project. 400 pounds of plastic lids and caps were transported to Evansville, Indiana, by Jim and JoAnn Whitlatch who returned with our two blue benches! THANK YOU, Jim and JoAnn! THANK YOU, Mel and Boy Scout Troop 17! THANK YOU, to the special member of our church family who believed in this project and provided the funds necessary for the fencing!



## SWEETAPPLE FARM

What fun to gather on the farm for a great time of fellowship with our church family!

Young and not so young enjoyed a beautiful Fall afternoon picking and painting pumpkins, making scarecrows, watching pig races, petting farm animals, chatting around the fire pit, making s'mores, drinking hot apple cider, and taking a hayride!



## FALL FESTIVAL

October came to an end with nearly 100 “kids” from ages 1 to 96 enjoying a great evening of food, fun, and fellowship in our CFC. Thanks to all who participated and helped in any way! It is always a joy to see our church family gather for special events and activities. THIS is what being a church family is all about!



## FALL WORKSHOP 2018

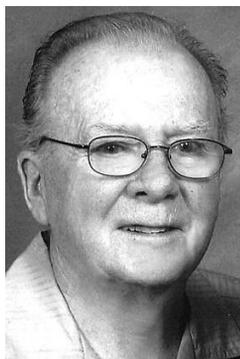
Two of our middle school youth and two of our high school youth will spend the weekend of November 16<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley, WV, for

Fall Workshop. This is an annual event for youth in our West Virginia Annual Conference who gather each Fall to worship, pray, and take a hands-on approach to life and faith through workshops. This year's theme is RUN THE RACE based on the scripture passage from Hebrews 12:1-2. Please keep Garrett, Micheal, Breece, and Ada in your prayers during this experience.



*Jennifer*

## IN MEMORY



In late September we mourned the passing of John Cecil Thorne Jr... We continue to keep Ann & her family in our prayers as she copes with the loss of Cecil, her husband of 61 years.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY NIGHT PARRISH SERVICE



The 5th Sunday Night Parrish Service was held outside under the stars at the Pettyville UM Church hosted by Rev. Jamie Sprague, Jr.. As the sun set and God painted a beautiful masterpiece of colors in the sky, Pastors Jim Plyburn and Thomas McDowell (Washington UM) played their guitars while leading the crowd in several hymns. Scripture was read and "Where is your Holy Ground?" was the topic of conversation with a large variety of answers from those attending being at the beach to a quiet spot at home. Afterwards, refreshments were served and everyone had a good time in fellowship with one another. The next 5th Sunday Night Parrish Service will be held on March 31, 2019 at South Parkersburg United Methodist.

## THE BIG SALE – JANUARY 2019

Believe it or not, our annual BIG SALE is less than 3 months away!!!... So as you are doing your "Fall Cleaning" in your basements, attics, & garages, please look for items that you can donate to the sale. This is a HUGE fundraiser for the church and your participation is greatly appreciated!...

## Stewardship Alert !

God loves all his children equally and bestows abundant gifts to all. However, He leaves us to individually make the choice of how to manage those “free Gifts of Love.”

*Physical Body ~ Time ~ Talent ~ Money ~ Environment ~ and most importantly, our Soul*

Church Council has officially given their approval for 2019 to be a year of transformational change in finances and ministry. Throughout the year we will PAUSE OFTEN and REPRIORITIZE as prudent.

Following is a checklist for good church financial stewardship that will be updated monthly in the Thuse News. God promises to bless us, the church, if we live in obedience to His Word. Church = every single one of you worshipping and ministering at 1813 Rayon Drive. Will you, \_\_\_\_\_, (fill in your name) pledge to stand with our 2019 leaders, to provide a ministry of transforming lives to make disciples of Jesus Christ? We need your help to exercise good stewardship in managing God’s “Gifts of Love,” starting first with finances, ours individually and the church’s as a whole.

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

- Pray for wisdom in being good stewards of God’s “Gifts of Love” – PAUSE OFTEN and REPRIORITIZE !
- The Finance Committee will submit a balanced budget for 2019 that is aligned with our current giving.
- A “stewardship buddy” will be named for the leader of each major expense category.
- Senior ushers will pass the Gold offering plates weekly to receive your undesignated tithes and offerings (**1<sup>st</sup> mile**). Please refrain from designating your tithes and offerings to specific causes. Likewise, please refrain from handing cash directly to ministry leaders. Place any additional gifts for General Fund budgeted items in the Gold plate without designation. Responsible leaders, along with “Stewardship Buddies” will earmark the extra gifts where most needed. This enables leaders to determine whether the 2019 budgeted giving/expense ratios are now correct.
- Junior ushers will follow the Gold (General) plates with the Silver (Second-mile) plates to receive any **2<sup>nd</sup> mile** gifts. Please participate in the Silver plate offering only as you are able. Specific opportunities will periodically be offered for the Silver plates. Current opportunities are “Hurricane Relief” and “Thanksgiving Cash Day.” Beginning in 2019, there will be various local ministry opportunities for 2<sup>nd</sup> mile giving, as our local ministries move outside the budget to be supported by our Silver plate offerings.
- All existing local ministries, along with several potential new ministries, will have an “evaluation of ministry” by the end of this year. The next initiative of the Stewardship Committee will be to evaluate ministry opportunities and propose a list for consideration. Prayerful evaluation will be involved in the final selection of local ministries offered by SPUMC for support in 2019.
- Implement, with the help of the stewardship buddies, use of our new “Reimbursement Check Request Form” and the specific guidelines printed on the form. See church secretary or treasurer for forms.
- Finance/Church Council will give diligent attention to reports from all church and church-affiliated accounts through monthly reporting to and through and from Stewardship Buddies.
- Realign our various funds, so a well-defined goal can be communicated to the congregation regarding establishment of recommended fund minimum balances.

*Submitted by: Kay Wilhelm*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Below are the monthly revenue and expense figures through the end of September. September was a 5-Sunday month and the financial performance improved significantly. The YTD deficit declined from over \$14,000 to under \$10,000 during the month. We also had a financially successful Ice cream social in September.

2018	EXPENSES			REVENUE	
	-- Includes 2nd mile events + Other			-- Includes 2nd mile events + Other	
Jan	\$ 16,334.26		Jan	\$ 12,579.15	
Feb	\$ 21,356.44		Feb	\$ 13,608.46	
Mar	\$ 17,718.46		Mar	\$ 20,956.33	
Apr	\$ 16,639.97		Apr	\$ 20,418.38	
May	\$ 16,508.02		May	\$ 15,066.55	
Jun	\$ 17,399.38		Jun	\$ 12,784.00	
Jul	\$ 20,791.75		Jul	\$ 19,689.82	
Aug	\$ 16,676.81		Aug	\$ 14,027.16	
Sep	\$ 18,013.07		Sep	\$ 22,445.86	
YTD Total	\$ 161,438.16			\$ 151,575.71	\$ (9,862.45)

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

### SPUMC General Operating Revenue & Expenses from the Beginning of 2015 thru September of 2018

Year	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Actual Revenue	Surplus/(Deficit) Spending
2015	\$ 222,230	\$ 216,939	\$ 196,289	<b>(\$20,650)</b>
2016	\$ 232,666	\$ 231,685	\$ 215,455	<b>(\$16,230)</b>
2017	\$ 218,954	\$ 215,466	\$ 216,541	\$1,075
2018 September Year-to-Date	\$ 212,649	\$ 161,438	\$ 151,575	<b>(\$9,863)</b>
	Note: \$212,649 is full year budget for 2018		Net Surplus/(Deficit) Spending since 2015	<b>= (\$45,668)</b>

Since the beginning of 2015, our church has spent more general operating money than we have collected by **\$45,688**. We cannot continue down this financial path. The Stewardship Committee is committed, with the help of everyone in the congregation, to balancing expenses with revenues going forward in 2019 and beyond...

# THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Please be aware our meeting day has **CHANGED**, it will be held on November 6th instead of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Please take note and plan to attend at 6:30 pm. **ALSO**, the UMW will continually collect items for the bereavement baskets. These baskets go into homes where a loss in the family has occurred. You can give items such as napkins, paper plates, cups, bowls, plastic silverware, tissues, hand sanitizer, "Thank You" cards, and baskets/containers to hold the items. Cash donations are also appreciated.

As chairman of the Responsive reading program if any lady has been reading Christian themed books this past year, I need your name and the number of books you have read. The United Methodist reading program has made some changes in the program. If you didn't attend the District or Annual meetings, then see me, Sandy Sinnett, about the changes. The reading program report needs sent in at the end of the year and I am sending out a reminder to start gathering up your lists before the hectic holiday season begins. A pamphlet describing the books will still be available, but the ability to purchase them have changed. The changes were made in an effort to reduce costs.

For almost 150 years, United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action. The purpose is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

This is the United Methodist view and reasoning why we are encouraged to read "seemingly boring books". I have shared my comments to the highest level that I could about the reading program. It is not an easy task to read these books, but it DOES expose us to subject matter that otherwise we would not have that opportunity. So as your chairman representative, I will understand why you don't read the selected books, however, I would encourage you to read your bible as often as you can and by however means you can. Let HIS word seep into your being and let it change you.

*Sandy*

## SPUMC SHUT-INS

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 will be a basket downstairs after Thanksgiving for collecting the cards. Thank you for your participation in this important ministry.

Don & Jerry Beeson	Mildred Hissam	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	Wilma Thompson

*Bonnie*

## BIBLE QUIZ

The questions in this month's newsletter are different than what we have asked in the past. This month they refer to 10 "Odd" things found in the bible. After each question, there are parenthesis showing you where you can find, or check, your answers. Good Luck!!!

1. Who is the only person in the Bible who is described as naturally bald? (2 Kings 2:23)
2. God struck this man dead for steadying the ark of the covenant after it nearly fell off an ox cart? (2 Samuel 6:1-7)
3. What fugitive was killed when his hair got tangled in a tree? (2 Samuel 18:9-15))
4. God once used a dead man to raise a dead man. Whose bones did the man who was raised touch? (2 Kings 13:20-21)
5. There is only one account of people laughing at a funeral. Who was the 12 year old girl's father? (Mark 5:22-24, 39-41)
6. Who is the only native of Africa who is named as an active participant in an account in Acts? (Acts 8:26-38)
7. Who dozed off and fell out a window to his death during Paul's sermon? (Acts 20:7-12)
8. In only one parable does Jesus refer to 2 places (Jerusalem and Jericho). Which parable? (Luke 10:25-37)
9. Who was the only High Priest deposed by a King? (Hint: Solomon was the King) (1 Kings 2:27)
10. What boastful king ended up living with animals and eating like them? (Daniel 4:31-33)

## DISCOURAGEMENT VERSUS PERSEVERANCE

If you're discouraged, think of Robert Mills. In 1836, his plans were chosen for the Washington Monument. But money didn't come in, and construction was delayed for years. Then engineers found the ground was too soft, so the site was moved. Saboteurs destroyed a prized block of marble, and donations dried up. Vandals defaced the monument, and construction stopped again. After Mills died in 1855, his monument was an ugly, defaced stump. But today visitors stand in awe of the world's tallest obelisk, and at its pinnacle are the words LAUS DEO, Latin for "Praise be to God."

In Ezra 4, the workers trying to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem grew discouraged, and the work stopped for many years. But God sent Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the workers, and the day came when their rebuilt temple became a pulpit for the Lord Jesus Christ. Rather than viewing problems as obstacles, we should see them as opportunities for praising the God who works things out for our good in His timing. Discouragement drains our spirits; perseverance accomplishes the job - especially when the cry of our heart is "Praise be to God!"

It is always hard to see the purpose in wilderness wanderings until after they are over.

Attributed to: *John Bunyan*

## HIS BROTHER'S HANDS

The following is a story that many believe is the source of a famous piece of artwork created back in the early sixteenth century. In a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with 18 children. Eighteen! In order merely to keep food on the table, the father and head of the household, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost 18 hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighborhood. Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of Albrecht Durer the Elder's children had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew full well that their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, also by laboring in the mines. They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and went off to Nuremberg.

Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose from his honored position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you." All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed and repeated, over and over, "No...no...no...no."

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look ... look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother... for me it is too late."

One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands," but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands."



# LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST

## Long Term Prayer List

Baker, Julia—leukemia—Mike Miller  
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  
Flinn, Ruth—Eleanor Wilcox Sister  
Fridley, Paul—leukemia—Ken Pritchard  
Fought, Loraine—cancer—K. Dent  
Fortney, Amy—T. Lewis  
Galland, Fred & Sue  
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  
Life, Butch—B. Stephens  
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  
Nelson, Sue—heart—L. Sexauer  
Nutter, Betty—lung cancer  
Ogden, Sherry—cancer—Tiffany Dowler  
Packmire, Steve—cancer—T. Jefferies  
Parsons, Gary—lung cancer—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  
Summerville, 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  
Uppole, Paula—Terry Nichols  
Walcutt, Larry—chemo—Melissa Hupp  
Watts, Myke—blood pressure—Patti Morgan  
Whitehead, Jeanette—lung—J. Whitlatch  
Whitlatch, JoAnn  
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