

THUSE NEWS OCTOBER 2017

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

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FAITH & WORKS

An old Scotsman operated a small rowboat for transporting customers. One day a customer noticed that the old man had carved on the one oar the word “*Faith*”, and on the other oar the word “*Works*”. Curious, he asked the meaning.

The old man replied, “I’ll show you.” He dropped the “*Faith*” oar and pulled on the “*Works*” oar. The boat went around in circles. Then he dropped that oar and pulled on the “*Faith*” oar. The little boat went around in circles in the opposite direction. After his demonstration, the old man picked up the “*Faith*” and “*Works*” oars and began pulling both oars together. The boat sped swiftly over the water.

The old man explained. “You see, that is the way it is in Christian life. Works without Faith are useless, and Faith without Works will also get you nowhere. But Faith and Works pulling together is both a Blessing for us and a Blessing for others” (Read James 2:14-26)

Brett Petrillo, Denver, Colorado

MEET YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

This month Bob and Kay Hoffman are featured as members of our Church Family...



Bob grew up on a farm at Rockport. When he was a teenager, after school he had chores to do as all kids do living on a farm. Afterward, there wasn't much "social life", but the kids enjoyed going to Limestone Methodist Church. He has many happy memories of times there. Bob joined the Navy in 1950. He was assigned to the Seabee Battalion as a Builder during the Korean Conflict. As they say, "join the Navy and see the world". For a country boy, this was a great experience and he was proud to serve his country. He was honorably discharged in 1954. Upon returning home, Bob became a carpenter, and made that his career. He got into the Carpenter's Local Union, and has worked on many schools, churches, banks and also in the industrial plants of Mid-Ohio Valley.

I was raised in town. First we lived in Fairmont, WV, then moved to Parkersburg when I was in the fourth grade. While in Fairmont, my parents took my older brother and me to the First Methodist Church. When we moved to Parkersburg, my dad was in poor health, and passed away when I was 15 years old. During dad's illness, my brother and I rode the bus to First Methodist Church here. They had activities for the youth which we really enjoyed. Soon after graduating from high school, I went to Mountain State College to learn secretarial skills. Not many people remember now, but back then, the school collapsed financially so I didn't graduate. Much later, after our daughter graduated from Marshall University, I went back to Mountain State College which had emerged as an excellent business school. Computers were the up and coming thing then, and I knew if I wanted a secretarial job, I'd have to know how to run a computer. This time I graduated and have worked as an Administrative Assistant in several offices in this area. I use computers not only for secretarial work, but have done extensive bookkeeping. (At one time I was balancing 5 bank statements a month.) For many years I was Financial Secretary and for 11 years was Treasurer at Edgelawn U. M. Church.

YOUR CHURCH FAMILY (CONTINUED)

Bob and I met through a mutual friend. Soon after we met, he went to California to work and lived with an aunt and uncle. Five months later he returned to Parkersburg. That's when we started dating. We were married December 16, 1955. We started dating on a Friday evening, so most of the time, for almost 62 years we've had a dinner date every Friday evening. After we got married Bob and I didn't attend church for a few years. We had one child, our daughter, Lois Rowe. She graduated from Marshall University, and was a Kindergarten and Pre-K teacher for Wood County Schools for 35 years until she retired. She was married, and has two daughters, Amanda Rowe and Emily Thorn. Amanda and Emily both graduated from Marshall University.

When Lois was born, we knew we needed to get back into church. We visited one or two churches, and felt like Edgelawn U. M. Church was where we should go. We started attending there in 1958. Although we'd been in church for years, neither one of us had accepted Jesus into our hearts. I was the first one who accepted Him into my heart in January 1967. A few short years later Bob accepted Him into his heart. We were both baptized in Worthington Creek, and have enjoyed serving Him ever since.

Bob and I have been Methodists all our lives—except for three years I attended Vienna Assembly of God. Then it was time for me to “get back to my roots”. Before we went to Florida for the Winter of 2007-2008, we discussed going to church somewhere together when we got back in the Spring. We agreed that's what the Lord wanted for us. The very first time we visited SPUM Church was on a Wednesday night. The people were full of the love of God—you could feel it. Everyone was so friendly, the Bible study was very informative and also, we found that we already knew a few of the members. The next Sunday morning we heard Rick Brown preach, we just knew this is where God wants us to attend church. Thanks to all of you who have made us feel so welcome. We joined SPUM Church in June of 2008.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

One of the projects the UMW work on is to provide Bereavement Baskets when there is a loss of a family member in our church family. This will touch all of us at one time or another. If you would like to contribute items to this ministry, it would be greatly appreciated!!! The baskets typically contain:

- Napkins
- Cups
- Bowls
- Paper Plates
- Silverware
- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Thank You Cards

Items may be dropped off in the basket labelled “United Methodist Women” downstairs by the Elavette. If you have any questions regarding these items, please see Ann Thorne, Karen Dent, or Phyllis Bradley for more information.

Karen Dent

RESPONSIVE READING MAGAZINES

Below is a summary of one of the articles describing what women in other churches do to be active, have fellowship, and help women, teens, and children as part of their mission. Our ladies meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the CFC. Come get involved & be a blessing to someone.

June Issue: The women in Janesville UMC in Janesville, Iowa have 4 Circles that do work for mission giving. They show love by action. The Rebecca Circle, consisting of 12 women, sponsored a “June Shower” for people in financial need or affected by disasters. They also had a “Baby Shower” where they raised \$3,000 worth of infant and toddler gifts for disaster relief. They also had a “Bridal Show” for women living in a safe sanctuary for survivors of domestic abuse

Sandy Sinnott

BITS & PIECES

- We collected \$2,360 for Hurricane Relief... Thank you for your support!!!... In addition to the Hurricanes impacting Texas and Florida, and the on-going fires out West, new natural disasters have struck Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, & Mexico. Additional support is now needed to help those victims recover from the catastrophic events impacting their lives for many months to come.
- Mark your calendars for SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH... From 4-8PM at Pettyville United Methodist Church, a program will be presented to educate us on drugs in our community and what can be done to address this critical issue... From 4-6PM there will be games, free food, and fellowship... From 6-8PM there will be a presentation by Rick Woodyard on the specifics of the nature and scope of the drug problem in our area. Please give serious consideration in attending this meeting and helping to make a difference in the lives of many young adults and children in our community
- The Church Finance Committee and Church Council met in September to discuss the current financial position of SPUMC and to review the initial analysis of the proposed 2018 Church budget. At present we are showing a 20 thousand dollar shortfall in revenue needed to support all the requests for funds next year. Stay tuned!!! We will be presenting more information to our church family over the next couple of months.

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. How many languages were spoken immediately after the flood (11:1)
2. Who was Abram's wife? (11:29)
3. How old was Abram when he left Haran with his wife, their people, and Lot? (12:4)
4. Why did Abram go to Egypt? (12:10)
5. What did Abram fear the Egyptians would do to him because Sarai was beautiful? (12:11,12)
6. Where did Abram live after separating from Lot? (13:12)
7. What did Abram seem to build everywhere he stayed? (13:18)
8. What did Abram give after being blessed by the priest? (14:20)
9. What did Abram keep for himself after rescuing Lot? (14:21-24)
10. What did God show Abram to illustrate the number of descendants he would have? (15:5)

INSPIRING STORY

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and left on his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. The old man gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring.