

THUSE NEWS SEPTEMBER 2017

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Genesis 8:22. This is part of the promise God made with Noah after the flood, and God stays true to God's promises. Even the recent Solar Eclipse was the result of God's promise. He set the sun, earth and moon in the sky and established the orbits in an orderly way so that we would enjoy and celebrate the seasons and, yes, the eclipses. While there were many different reactions to the solar eclipse last week, my reaction was this, "God is still in control of God's creation".

God made another promise to everyone who believes in Jesus as the Savior, the Messiah, God's Son. That promise is eternal life; the opportunity to spend eternity in the presence of the Creator, God the Father, the Savior, God the Son, and the Sustainer, God the Holy Spirit. I pray that you have accepted the free gift of salvation that God offers, and that you know Jesus Christ as your Lord, Savior and Friend.

And remember, God is still in control!

Blessings and Prayers,

Pastor Jim

MEET YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

We are going to start highlighting members of our Church Family in our monthly newsletter... This month Kay & Brent Wilhelm are featured...



I've been with this man for 57 years! And what a trip it has been. We've been blessed with great parents and siblings, loving kids, extensive travels, long careers, and the best Church Family ever! Don't get me wrong, we've had our share of struggles over the years, but the good far outweighs the bad – there have been serious illnesses more than once, spending 3 months in bed carrying our first child, lost jobs a couple of times, living on the bare minimum more than once ... but God has blessed us through it all! We have learned that following Christ first and foremost and always looking for some good in every situation makes for a blessed life.

Brent and I met in 1960. His parents had a service station and general store where the South Parkersburg Pizza Hut is now located. His mother and dad were Miona (long-time active member of SPUMC) and Harold Wilhelm. Both are deceased. He has one sister, Barbara, who is married to Larry LeMasters. Barbara and Larry live in Vienna, attend the New Hope Baptist Church, and both are retirees of DuPont. My mother and dad (both longtime active members of SPUMC) are also both deceased. My sister, Peggy Davis, and her husband, Jim, along with their daughter, Paula, and her children, Sydney (and her daughter Oliva) and brother, Garrett, all attend SPUMC and live in Belpre, OH. Peggy, Jim and Paula are all long-time members also.

I was 15 years old and finishing my sophomore year at Parkersburg High School when Brent and I started dating. Brent was my first "real" boyfriend. He graduated from PHS in 1961 and went away to WV University in Morgantown the following year. We wrote letters to each other daily (no cell phones and not allowed to make long-distance phone calls back then) and he came home most weekends. Summers we spent all our free time together. Our parents only lived a block and a half from each other. Brent worked at his parent's station and part-time at Heck's as a teenager. I worked at Fort Pitt Shoes, beginning at age 16. I would walk from PHS down to 4th and Market St. to the shoe store to work after school. I graduated from Mountain State Business College with a 2-year secretarial degree and went to work for Marbon, later sold out to Borg-Warner, and then to GE Plastics. I retired from GE in Dec. 2000, with 38 years service. Brent worked at the WV State Road Dept., then at Amax Specialty metals in the Lab. When Amax closed in 1976, he went to

work for Villers' Motors. When Villers closed, Astorg Mercedes Benz hired him, where he retired in 2002 with 26 years service.

Rev. Bill Angel married us here at SPUMC on May 8, 1965. Two years later our first son, Michael Brent, was born. When Michael was 9 years old, his little brother, Kris Eric, came along. Michael lived in Morgantown, and worked as Director, Office of International Students and Scholars, WVU for many years. He met his wife, Candace, there where she was also employed by WVU. They were married in Costa Rica in November, 2011. They both left WVU in 2016, and were hired by the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. Michael is Associate Vice Chancellor International Programs at UNCW. He speaks numerous foreign languages and travels extensively throughout the world for the university. Candace is Director of Graduate Programs, Cameron School of business UNCW. Kris lives just outside Washington, DC and is Program Control and Finance Manager for Computer Sciences Corporation. CSC is contracted by the US Dept. of Defense and maintains their computer infrastructure.

South Parkersburg UM church has been an integral part of our lives the entire 57 years we've known each other. We met and spent our dating years here; we were married here; both our boys grew up and were baptized here; all four of our parents and my grandmother were buried by SPUMC pastors, and Brent and I are still here! We have both been active members since we first started dating in 1960. I worked as church secretary for a little over 10 years. Brent has held several leadership positions at SPUMC and taught Sunday School for many years. We've seen so many changes over the years, but they've been all good experiences. The diverse pastors who have shepherded us have tremendously blessed our lives, and the personal friendships built over the years will be treasured forever. Our lives are so much richer as a result of being Christians and longtime members of the Family of God that gathers here on Rayon Drive.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

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

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)</u>
June YTD	\$112,639.78	\$106,363.18	(\$6,276.60)
July	<u>\$20,249.23</u>	<u>\$21,326.38</u>	<u>\$1,077.15</u>
2017 July YTD	\$132,889.01	\$127,689.56	(\$5,199.45)

There were 5 Sundays in July which helped collections achieve just over a \$1,077.13 surplus over costs during the month. However, as of the end of July we are showing a shortfall of cash received versus expenses incurred of (\$5,199.45) year-to-date in the General Operating Fund.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

JENNIFER PLYBURN

BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!
BACK TO **SUNDAY SCHOOL** TIME!
BACK TO **SPARK AND YOUTH GROUP** TIME!

It's been a great summer and a great break from school, except for Vacation Bible School! The CFC, church building, and parking lot were full of HEROES during Vacation Bible School in July. Our theme was **HERO CENTRAL – Discover Your Strength in God!** Children of all ages (Birth to 90+ years old!) gathered to learn about Bible heroes and heroes in our community. **G-FORCE Strength Unit** provided an amazing closing program sharing testimonies and feats of physical strength proclaiming the power of Jesus Christ. During the week, several children and adults made a personal commitment to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We shared in a celebration of Baptism the following Sunday and look forward to several more in the coming weeks.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES are available for all ages following worship every Sunday. Classes begin at 11:00 A.M. and conclude at 11:45 A.M. There are four adult classes held in the church building and a new DVD discussion group in the downstairs classroom in the CFC. Children's classes are held in the church building. A Nursery is available for children under 3 years of age. The youth class is held in the Youth Room upstairs in the CFC. *Are you attending one of these classes? Are your children and/or grandchildren attending their class? I hope the answer is YES! I believe this is one of the most important times to gather with your church family and grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ! Please make these additional 45 minutes part of your Sunday routine each week! You will be amazed at how quickly the time passes and how much you will enjoy this time of fellowship and learning! Just do it!!!*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY (CONTINUED)

Summer SPARK and Youth Group activities were held every other week throughout the summer, but are ready to resume regular weekly schedules in September.

SPARK will begin on Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30 P.M. in the CFC for children ages 3 years old through 5th Grade. Age-appropriate Bible lessons, activities, crafts, small snack, and music will be a part of our mid-week program. This group is growing and needs some additional youth and adults to participate in this vital area of children's ministry. Volunteers willing to assist one Wednesday a month are encouraged to contact me as soon as possible!

YOUTH GROUP will begin regular weekly meetings on Sunday, September 10th at 6:30 P.M. in the CFC and Youth Room. All youth in Middle School and High School are invited to participate in this weekly time of fellowship and sharing. Friends are welcome, too!

CHURCH PICNIC AT SWEETAPPLE FARM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

(This just happens to be Pastor Jim's birthday! There WILL BE birthday cake and ice cream!)

This beautiful farm is located at 149 Sweetapple Road in Vincent, Ohio, just 15 minutes from the Dupont/Blennerhassett Bridge. We have a shelter reserved with a fire pit for making s'mores and singing, or just gathering for good fellowship. Bring your favorite picnic foods to share! We will eat at 1:30 P.M. and a Hayride is scheduled at 4:00 P.M. There are other fun activities (FREE) you may wish to enjoy, as well as the Corn Maze, Paint a Pumpkin, Make a Scarecrow, (additional cost per person).

Plan now to join your church family for an afternoon of good food, fun, and fellowship on the farm!

BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. Who is believed to have written the Book of Genesis?
2. What did God create on the 1st day? (1:3-5)
3. What did God create on the 6th day? (1:24-31)
4. From what did God create man? (2:7)
5. Of what tree was Adam & Eve not to eat? (2:17)
6. What did Adam & Eve immediately realize after eating the forbidden fruit? (3:7)
7. Who were Adam & Eve's three sons? (4:2, 25)
8. What is the meaning of the name "Noah"? (5:29)
9. Who shut the door of the Ark? (7:16)
10. What did Noah build after exiting the Ark? (8:20)
11. What did God set as a sign of the covenant that He would never again flood the earth? (9:13)
12. The ark rested on what mountain? (8:4)

INSPIRING STORY

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the old man's bedside at the hospital. "Your son is here," she told the dying man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened.

Heavily sedated because of the pain of the severe heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand and the Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night the young Marine sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally the nurse suggested that he move away and rest awhile, but he refused. Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious to her and of all the night noises of the hospital – the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, and the cries and moans of other patients.

Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son's hand all through the night. Along towards dawn the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited.

Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her.

"Who was that man," he asked.

The nurse was startled. "He was your father," she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also know that he needed his son, and his son just wasn't there. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, and knowing how much he needed me, I stayed."

The next time someone needs you... Just be there... Stay...