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**November 2015**

*To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known*

## Pastor's Message

If you are like me, it is hard to believe that it is November already and Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away. I have always loved Thanksgiving, not just for all the food, but for the opportunity to remember all the things I am thankful for. I am especially thankful for my wife of 33 years who loves serving Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior as much as I do. I am excited about the upcoming wedding of our youngest son, Jeremy, to Kristen Vaphides and the honor of performing the ceremony on November 15<sup>th</sup>. I am thankful to serve a congregation that is Christ-led and Holy Spirit-filled, and seeks to "Know Christ and Make Christ Known" on Rayon Drive for over 90 years. I am thankful for each of you and for the many cards and gifts Jennifer and I received during Pastor Appreciation Month in October. I pray that November will be a month of being thankful for all the many blessings God has poured out on us.

The United Methodist Men's group of SPUMC needs your help. We are having a Fundraising Luncheon on November 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the CFC to raise money to purchase coats for needy children in our community this Christmas. All men of the congregation are invited to help plan this event by attending a planning meeting on Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 P.M. at the church. Everyone is encouraged to support this fundraiser by planning to eat lunch in the CFC on November 8<sup>th</sup> following Sunday School.

Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Noon in the CFC. I hope you are planning to bring a dish or two and join your church family for a wonderful meal, fellowship, fun, and time to GIVE THANKS!

Blessings and Prayers, *Pastor Jim*



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## Mission Mystery Revealed! *by Cathi Wermter*

I am very humbled, blessed and excited to be part of a United Methodist Mission Team who will be traveling to Nicaragua on December 26<sup>th</sup> for eight days.

We will be involved in The Children's Christmas and other outreach activities in Ciudad Santino. This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year for this mission. There are many core team members who go every year and some who only get to go once or twice. I want to become a member of the team who go every year.

Each team member is responsible for their own expenses of \$2,300.00. I'd like to thank our United Methodist Women, the GFWC South Parkersburg Woman Club and others for their donations to help offset my costs. My travel expenses are covered for this year and I plan to open a savings account to start saving for next year once I have saved a little spending money for this trip.

In addition to trip expenses, the mission team, which is 20 strong this year, and many other mission supporters around the state of West Virginia raise money each year to support this mission. The mission work team purchase the school uniforms required for them to attend school and a small gift for over 200 school aged children each year.



*(continued on Page 2)*

# LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST

## THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

**Joseph Harris** (Navy, Ed & Linda's son)  
1250 Auwai Drive  
Wahiawa – HI 96786

## HOMEBOUND:

**Gerry Branch, Wilma Thompson, Maxine Custer,  
Kathleen Allman**

*General Conference Delegates 2016*  
*College Students*  
*Students & Teachers in our schools*  
*Police Officers & Firefighters*  
*SPUMC Children & Youth*  
*Scouting Ministry*  
*SPUMC Outreach Ministry*  
*The Unsaved*



*Pray Without Ceasing*

## NURSING HOMES:

**WILLOWS: Owel & Willa Spencer** (both in room 209—phone 304-480-3071; **Peggy Davis** (Room 216)

**WYNGATE SENIOR LIVING: Mary Potts, Irene King, Avana Thompson, Betty Skinner**

**THE HERITAGE (Assisted Living) :**  
ST. MARYS, WV: **Betty Deem**

**CEDAR GROVE: 110 Nicolette Road (26104)**

**EAGLE POINTE: Iris Smith**

**PARKERSBURG CARE CENTER: Jack Branch, Ralph Barnes**

**LOVE AND CARE: Wanda Buckley -**  
5368 Dupont Rd, Room 16

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## Mission Mystery Revealed *(continued from Page 1)*

They purchase food there and do a food distribution on the last day the team is in Nicaragua. Some households may have 12-14 people in the extended family. Each family receives enough food to last their household about three months, based upon the number of people and their ages. This distribution includes staples like rice, beans, flour, pasta, cooking oil and toiletries.

All of the school uniforms, toys, food and toiletries are purchased by the team from the local Nicaraguan economy. This is a huge boost (normally over \$10,000) to the economy and literally makes the year for many local businesses. An additional \$5,000 is raised to fund a small clinic for the area. This is a no frills clinic which also provides some basic screenings.

This is a multi-faceted mission which provides many other types of support to the people as needed. When it started 21 years ago they helped to build the church and later a classroom area. They have formed relationships with many of the people there and those folks and the team look forward to being together each December for a few days of work and fellowship.

Part of my own preparation for the trip has been researching Nicaragua. I want to share a few facts I have learned with you. In the last 45 years Nicaragua has suffered a major earthquake, a long civil war and devastation from Hurricane Mitch. Little wonder it is the second poorest country in the entire Western Hemisphere. The principle causes of death in

Nicaragua, which are largely preventable, are diarrhea, acute respiratory diseases, accidents and malnutrition.

Children are required to attend school until age 12, but many drop out to help to support their families by begging or offering to wash car windows. One out of every 3 children suffer chronic malnutrition and more than half of Nicaraguans live in extreme poverty which is defined as less than \$1 per day. Potable/ drinkable water is only available to about 62% of the population. These conditions make it difficult for kids to be kids.

Next month I will tell you what I needed to do to get ready to travel and share some more things that really resonate with me.

Please be in mission with us by praying for the members of the mission work team, the Church and the people in Nicaragua or by giving financial support. This mission is coordinated by Rev. Charles Hicks and the Calvary United Methodist Church of Ripley, WV.

If you wish to contribute to the mission, checks can be made to Calvary UMC with Nicaragua Mission on the memo line. If you wish to designate your contribution for something dear to your heart like medical, food, shoes, children's Christmas etc. please specify that as well. Otherwise it will be used where there is the greatest need. Mail to: Calvary UMC, 344 Church Street, Ripley, WV 25271 or put it in a clearly marked envelope in the offering plate.

# Phyllis's Phull Page...

## United Methodist Women TUPPERWARE FUNDRAISER

The United Methodist Women are conducting a Tupperware Fundraiser to assist in the purchase of an ice machine and a larger refrigerator for the kitchen in the CFC. Tupperware has a specific fundraiser catalog with customer's favorite items. The UMW will receive 40% back from the sales. Catalogs are located at the visitor's center in the basement of the church. You can make additional copies of the order forms. There is 6% sales tax but no shipping fee.

This fundraiser will continue through November 10, 2016. Please take a catalog, share it with your family and friends, take it to work, and help to raise money for these great improvements.

For more information, see Phyllis Bradley or Sarah Braden. Or call 740-315-5155.

## Paint Class

Time is... coming soon for our second paint class. We had so much fun painting our pumpkins, and I am sure we will have a lot of fun at our next one. Picture number 2 will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> and will be a winter scene and I will display it as soon as it is available. Again, we have room for 30 painters.

Hope to see you there!

## Josiah For President December 3, 2015

Can a plain man of faith....become the leader of America?

When former Congressman Mark Stedman throws in the towel on his presidential campaign, his only choice is to return to his home state and decide how to spend the rest of his life. Until he meets Josiah Stotlzfus, an Amish farmer from Pennsylvania.

Stedman learns more from Josiah in a few days than in his many years in office. He comes to the conclusion that someone with a little old-fashioned common sense, not a career politician, should be running the country.

Stedman determines to introduce a new candidate to America, pledging to do everything in his power to make sure Josiah gets elected.

But can a plain man of faith turn the tide of politics in a perfect storm scenario and become the leader of America? And, if so, what will he have to risk to do it?

Another trip to Amish country to see the musical Josiah for President at the newly named Ohio Star Theater. The trip will be December 3, 2015. Tickets are \$35.00 per person, and I currently hold 30 tickets for our group.

If you wish to attend the musical, please see Phyllis Bradley.

## VOTE FOR JOSIAH!



## Veterans Day Dinner

**November 10, 2015**

**5:00 pm**

**Christian Fellowship Center**

### *Menu:*

Soup beans and Corn bread

Sauerkraut and Wieners

Salads

and

Sweet Treats

Veterans, please bring some mementoes/pictures to display and share. We will have tables set up to showcase your memories.



# Christian Education & Youth Ministry Notes

## from Jennifer

Special thanks to all who supported our Oktoberfest evening on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> in the CFC. We counted 110 + children, youth, and adults who enjoyed an evening of good old-fashioned fellowship...eating together, playing games, painting pumpkins, making crafts, giving out treats, and trying to win a cake in the Cake Walk! There have been many requests for a repeat, so plan to join us next year!

**SPARK - Children in Kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** are invited to join us each Wednesday from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. for Bible study, crafts, and music. We will only be meeting TWO Wednesday evenings in November, due to holidays. *There will be NO SPARK on November 11<sup>th</sup> (Veterans Day) or November 25<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Break).* Please make a special effort to have the children at SPARK on November 4<sup>th</sup> to rehearse special music for Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> (Older Elementary sing in worship service) and November 18<sup>th</sup> to receive copies of music for our Christmas program! Sheila Mays will also be joining us to rehearse music with our younger preschool children (Ages 3, 4, & 5 year olds) for our Christmas program. Our Christmas program and dinner will be here before you know it! Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and please encourage your child(ren) to participate!

**YOUTH – 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> Graders** are encouraged to attend our weekly meetings and monthly activities. This school year, our youth have enjoyed a Scavenger Hunt on Blennerhassett Island, a hayride and corn maze at Sweetapple Farm, and a visit to Judgement House at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Gospel Mission. Join us each Sunday evening in the Youth Room in the CFC from 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. Friends are welcome, too! *Please note: There will be NO Youth Group on November 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Break)*

### FALL WORKSHOP 2014 – GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO LOVE

November 20 – 22, 2015

This is an annual youth event sponsored by the West Virginia Annual Conference of Youth Ministries held at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, WV. ALL YOUTH in 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> Grade are encouraged to register and attend! Registration forms will be distributed this Sunday and must be returned to the church office no later than this Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Youth may also register online at [springheights.org/fall-workshop](http://springheights.org/fall-workshop). Those attending will meet at our church at 5:30 P.M. on Friday evening and stop for dinner in Ripley. They will return on Sunday at noon...just in time for our delicious Thanksgiving meal! This is a youth event that they will not want to miss! See Jennifer Plyburn for more details!

## Happy 92 Mildred!



Mildred Hissam celebrated her 92nd birthday by walking 3 times around the basketball court in the CFC. Helping her celebrate were fellow walkers: Sandy Sinnett, Phyllis Walters, Billy Scott, Mary McCrady, Ada Franklin, Pauline Cline, June Hupp. Not pictured is June McNickle, who was the photographer. Thanks June for the pictures and info!

## Wrapping Up a Wonderful Study

Those participating in the Bible study “A Thousand Gifts” guided by Ann Voskamp have wrapped up the five sessions October 19th and 20th for now. Whenever you wrap something up, it means something is inside yet to be opened. Those participating in the study were asked to evaluate their experience. It was almost unanimous the participants wanted to repeat the process. It was discussed, and with the upcoming busy holidays and impending snowy days, it has been decided that early next year we will be re-introducing this bible study. \*Note: a reminder keep your student book if you plan to revisit the study. We still have student books available for those wishing to join the next session; it is a study you won't forget. Just ask those who participated.

“A Thousand Gifts” is a five session study guiding us through the many gifts that God provides us without measure. Ann helps us to see the little things to be grateful for along with the big more obvious gifts. It is truly a deep study that you will not be disappointed participating in.

Other studies that will be offered in 2016:

Are you struggling with your various emotions? While touring Florence, Italy, Lysa Terkfurt will teach us how to make wise choices in the midst of raw emotions. She will guide us through the study “Unglued”. It is six sessions in length.

As a woman we can relate with women of the Bible, or can we? Twelve different women, 6 from the old testament and 6 from the new will be studied. In this session of studies a group of women will teach us about their chosen subjects. The teachers are Jeanne Stevens, Jonalyn Fincher, Naomie Zacharias, Amena Brown, Lysa Terkfurt, and Elisa Morgan. Each will lead us through a journey of discovery about the biblical women, along with discovering who we are in Christ, and the instructor's personal struggles. Consider this study of “Twelve Women of the Bible” in 2016. Stretch and grow in the kingdom of God.

If you woke up someday and discovered you were not who you thought you were, what would you do? Here is a Bible study led by Christine Caine who realized just that. In the study “Undaunted” she discovers on her 33rd birthday that she was adopted. In this five session study, Christine dares us to do what God calls us to do.

Do you sometimes feel your prayer lines get disconnected or become weakened? As we have been testified to about the power of prayer, this six session study walks alongside us about prayer and the power thereof. Gari Meachem has experienced the ups and downs of prayer and is eager to help and enrich our lives as she discovered also. If this is where you feel God is nudging you then “Spirit Hunger” is for you.

Are you a control freak? Got to control everything and everybody? Karen Ehman has some solutions for you

and me. In her six session study, she guides us through the paths of allowing God to take care of things. “Let It Go” will help us to turn over control to the right person, God. Coming in 2016 for sure.

How would you carry on life, if you experienced something too grievous for words to explain? Let's see how Carol Kent has handled this moment in life. Her only child is spending the rest of his life in prison with no chance of parole. Carol walks us through this experience with the help of scriptures and allows us to deal with our own concerns. This is a six session study titled “Between a Rock and a Grace Place”.

These studies are short term both in length of video and days involved. It is the hope that you will look at the very short descriptions and prayerfully consider participating in one of or many of them. It is a way to grow stronger in your Christian faith and also get to know your sisters in Christ better.

All those who have participated so far have agreed to one underlying principle, ..... we do not share what is discussed in the sessions with others outside of the study. What is spoken remains there.

Finally, the main teacher in any study done in this church will have as its main teacher the Holy Spirit. He and He alone guides and directs our hearts. But don't think we don't laugh and cry as well...because we do. Any class taken in 2016 will be with the idea that you come as you are, bring your favorite drink, and most of all your translation of the Bible you are comfortable with. See what happens in 2016 with God's help!!!!

Keep these short synopses and when the time is right you can decide which study you are interested in. Have a blessed Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas. See you on the other side of the holidays.

Your Sister in Christ (and the facilitator only)

Sandy

## Interesting Blogs to Check Out

Katy Roberts submitted some information about an interesting BLOG written by one of her dear friends' son, David Kurtz. David is a former employee of the Bureau of Public Debt and also a former member of the Wood County Board of Education. He is now serving in the Peace Corps on the Caribbean island of Dominica. He shared his blog with McKinley students. It can be read at <http://tinyurl.com/q9saesm>.

Another member of his team on Dominica, Kate from California, has a blog about her experiences. It can be read at <http://karibbeax.blogspot.com>.

David Kurtz grew up attending Christ United Methodist Church. **Thanks Katy!**