

# The Remarker

First United Methodist Church



Princeton, West Virginia

A Place of Trust



A Place to Become



Church in the  of Princeton

May/June 2015

Volume 44, Issue 3

## A New Small Group Opportunity

Chuck Knows Church –  
*The Committee*

Small groups are a proven way to improve spiritual growth and create a sense of trust and community. Being part of a small group helps the church feel personal and provides a comfortable place to share your faith and become an integral part of the church family. The fellowship between members of a small group grows quickly and can last a lifetime.

Larry Cook will facilitate this new small group using Chuck Knows Church's *The Committee*, a humorous and touching video series that examines the struggles of the congregation of the fictitious Park

Grove Church as they look toward a preferred future. The characters will seem familiar, since we can see ourselves in one or more of them. Using real world topics, *The Committee* is sure to provoke discussion about improving our own church and its mission in the community.

We will be looking to hold the small group gathering on either Sundays at 5:00pm or Thursdays at 6:30pm. If enough interest is shown, we will facilitate both times. The small groups should begin meeting on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact the church office or email Larry Cook at [larrycook.wv@gmail.com](mailto:larrycook.wv@gmail.com) if you are interested in becoming a member of this small group study.



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**VBS 2015**  
**June 22-26**



## **Not Quite Home**

Two months ago, as I wrote this column for our newsletter (and for my blog) I wrote about people who focus on the “holyjustpurelovelyworthyofpraise” things of their lives and especially of the church. I invited readers to let me know about some of those things in hopes that I would be able to share them.

Alas...I have received only one. I invite you again to think about those things that have been or are special “grace moments” in your life or our life together as a congregation and share them with me through a note or email. I really do want to share these. It is important for us to share these, lest we get caught in the negative. We must always look for hope.

It is also important for another reason. Since I wrote that last article for “The Remarker” I had the opportunity to go to a workshop that featured pastors from some congregations in southern Georgia who were doing quite interesting things in their United Methodist Churches and seeing great things happen through the Spirit. I took a lot out of that workshop but two words that I will be sharing over and over again with our congregation are “trust” and “become”.

Trust is one thing that I hope we build and offer to the community around us in our worship and in programs that are open to everyone. I hope that our worship time invites everyone to learn to “Trust Jesus,” to “Trust Our Church with Their Spiritual Journey” and to “Trust Other People in the Congregation.”

As people begin to join our congregation now, I will be inviting them to join me for a class on what it means to “become” a member of First UMC, Church in the Heart of Princeton. They will learn that we expect members to “Become Praying Members,” to “Become Worshipping Members,” to “Become Tithing Members,” and to “Become Missionaries.” Before becoming members, they will be required to sign a covenant outlining how they will live out these “become” statements as members of First UMC over the next year.

The best part – these classes will also be open to our present members and I hope and pray that many of you will come and be a part of them when they are offered and sign your own covenants of membership as well. Every year – probably in January – we will ask all members to fill out these Covenants for the year as well.

Do you see why the hope filled stories are so important to this process? In remembering them and sharing them with others, we directly build into the processes of building trust and helping people become disciples of Jesus Christ. As we focus and share those grace filled and hope filled moments that we have experienced, we open to the door to allow others to look for that grace and hope as well. Nothing will build trust faster. Nothing will help us all become better disciples.

So, once again, I invite you to send me those “holyjustpurelovelyworthyofpraise” things that you have noted in your life or in our congregation! Let’s let words of hope and grace fall freely from our congregation that others might trust and become!!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Scott



*Barbara Ballard, Office Hours: Mon. 10-12, Tues. 1-2 & Wed 12-2, Cell (304-920-8186)*

*Sarah Johnson Office Hours: Tues, Wed & Thurs 12:30 - 2:30, Cell (304-952-1416)*

*Office Number: 304-425-0064*

*Church e-mail: [fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com)*



**Mother's Day**



**Brunch**



**Sunday May 10**



**9:30-10:30AM**



**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
IN SCHELL HALL**



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
TO ATTEND!**



## Children's Sunday School Schedule

9:30 fellowship & snack

9:45 Choir Chimes with Vicky

10:00 Sunday School lesson, games & activities

Children's Sunday School



## Children's Worship Bulletins™

Our Morning Worship Service **Children's Bulletins** have a slightly new look. They have been personalized for FUMC and now come with a Secret Code. Children and parents can enter their **SECRET CODE** to unlock games and fun activities @ <http://games.childrensbulletins.com>. Why don't you give it a try?



## May & June 2015

### **Attention Volunteers!!!**

If you volunteer with children or youth at First United Methodist Church please come to our Annual Safe Sanctuary Training. We have important new information to share with you regarding our Safe Sanctuary policy. You have two opportunities to attend this training:

**Sunday, May 17 at 12:10 pm in Schell Hall**

or

**Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 pm in Schell Hall**

*\*\*If you are unable to attend one of these trainings, and you volunteer with children and youth at FUMC, please contact Sarah Johnson to arrange for a make up training session.*



Surprising adventures incredible music

### **VBS 2015**

**June 22-26**

**Volunteers still needed for  
Crafts, Imagination (science)  
Station, Decorating, Games and  
Crew Leaders!!**

**See Barb or Sarah for details.**

**The Coolest Week of the  
Summer!**

New friends, Amazing experiments,  
Glacier games, Lip-smacking snacks,

**If you are not available to work  
every day of VBS, that's fine,**

Contact the Office of Christian Education or Church office to order your  
VBS T-shirt.

*Orders & payment due asap as supplies are limited!!!*



## May & June 2015

Several people have requested the recipe for the cream cheese fruit pastry that was served at our Sunrise Service Breakfast, so here it is:

### **Crescent Cheese Rolls**

By Valeda Odell

Spread 1 can crescent rolls in 9x13 pan. Beat 2 packages cream cheese with  $\frac{3}{4}$  c sugar, 1 egg yolk & 1 tsp vanilla. Spread over rolls, dot with your choice of jelly. Put another can crescent rolls over cheese mixture, spread remaining egg white over & bake  $350^{\circ}$  for 30 minutes. Glaze: mix 1 c powder sugar & milk to make glaze.



**Library News - And Stuff - Submitted by Jerry Flanagan, Librarian****LIBRARY NEWS & STUFF**

Jerry Flanagan, Librarian

**A GOOD BOOK TO READ...**

*WHAT DO YOU DO WITH AN IDEA?*, by Kobi Yamada

What do you do with an idea? Especially an idea that's different, or daring, or just a little wild? Do you hide it? Walk away from it? Do you pretend it isn't yours? This is the story of one brilliant idea and the child who helps to bring it into the world. As the child's confidence grows, so does the idea itself. And then, one day, something amazing happens.

This is a story for anyone at any age, who's ever had an idea that seemed a little too big, too odd, too difficult. It's a story to inspire you to welcome that idea, to give it some space to grow, and to see what happens next. Because your idea isn't going anywhere. In fact, it's just getting started.

This book can be found in the church Library Den.

**MARCH-APRIL CD WINNERS**

And the winners of the drawing for CD #1, *A Musical Tribute to C.S. Lewis*, are: Ramona Stanley, Jerry Bailes, Patti Smith, Vicki Horton, Kaitlyn Artrip, Manuel Rodriguez, and Debbie Massie.

The winners of CD #2, *VeggieTales: 25 Favorite Sunday School Songs*, are: Melody Jenkins, Carol Bailey, Jerry Bailes, Ann Struble, Brandon Beachler, Marshall Lytton, Manuel Rodriguez, Ramona Stanley, Vicki Horton, and Kaitlyn Artrip.

CONGRATULATIONS!!



**Transitions****Certificates of Transfer to another United Methodist Church:**

Martha Drusilla Ferguson

– Certificate of Transfer to Virginia Avenue United Methodist Church, Bluefield, VA –

February 13, 2015

Evelyn McClung

Certificate of Transfer to Pineville United Methodist Church, Pineville, NC –

March 13, 2015

**Deaths:**

Emil “Buster” Smith, Jr.

March 07, 2015

Gaye Goode Gunter

April 08, 2015

Kathleen Fuller Greene

April 12, 2015

Daniel Ray “Danny” Thomas

April 17, 2015

Elwood Edward “Wood” Vaughn, Jr.

April 20, 2015

**Stewardship & Attendance****ATTENDANCE – March 2015**

Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship
03.01.2015	62	158
03.08.2015	71	165
03.15.2015	62	173
03.22.2015	54	157
03.29.2015	84	192

**STEWARDSHIP FEBRUARY 2015**

BUDGET	\$23,771.27
BUILDING/CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$1,175.00
RESTRICTED	\$37,789.58

**ATTENDANCE – April 2015**

Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship
04.05.2015	62	207
04.12.2015	62	146
04.19.2015	70	174
04.26.2015	67	175

**STEWARDSHIP MARCH 2015**

BUDGET	\$38,646.50
BUILDING/CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$1,275.00
RESTRICTED	\$4,341.42



**News**  
From the  
3rd floor



Rebecca Schaeffer  
Director of Youth  
[rdschaeffer@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:rdschaeffer@suddenlinkmail.com)  
(304) 425-0064 - Office  
(276) 245-9455 - Cell

**Office Hours**  
Sunday 2-8:30  
Monday 10:30-4  
Tuesday 10:30-4  
Wednesday 11:30-8  
Thursday 10:30-12:30



**Youth Night**  
Sunday's 5:15 - 6:30 pm

**Bible Study**  
Wednesday's at 6:00 pm



May 12<sup>th</sup>



**Coffee & Food cart**

**Ministry**



See summer schedule for  
dates



May 17<sup>th</sup>

**After church**



**May Birthdays and Anniversaries**

May 01 – Gene Fields

May 01 – Austin Smith

May 01 – Brittany Smith

May 01 – Andrew Vaughn

May 02 – Jim Austin

May 02 – Gina Moore

May 03 – Kathy Dooley

May 04 – Ella Sarver

May 07 – Tierney Quesenberry

May 07 – Kelley Rose

May 08 – Buddy Fry

May 09 – Laurel Comer

May 11 – Lauren Smith

May 12 – Nathan Elmore

May 13 – Sibyl Keesee (93)

May 15 – Clarence Bowman

May 15 – Brittney Jade Dilley

May 15 – Frances Moody (93)

May 15 – Iva Smith (98)

May 15 – Shawn Forbes

May 16 – Sarah Johnson

May 17 – Cheryl Merritt

May 20 – Justin Crump

May 20 – Matthew Lewis

May 20 – Megan Massie

May 20 – Ron Steenson

May 22 – John Robinson

May 23 – Giff Coulbourne

May 24 – Steve Comer

May 24 – Rebecca Johnson

May 24 – Alison Lester

May 25 – Shanley Quesenberry

May 25 – Barbara Robinson

May 26 – Litz Walthall

May 27 – Joanna Thompson

May 29 – Connie Brichford

May 30 – Ethan Dilley

May 31 – Kenton Dilley



May 01 – Harry &amp; Wanda Farmer

May 01 – Ben &amp; Sandy Gay (50)

May 08 – KD &amp; Sally Hill

May 12 – Seth and Ashley Vaughn

May 13 – Ray &amp; Sherrie Price

May 16 – David &amp; Sarah Johnson

May 22 – Aaron &amp; Tammy Hamm

May 23 – Larry &amp; Sharon Croy

May 25 – Bill &amp; Cindy Lewis

May 25 – Nate &amp; Becky Rowe

May 26 – Ed &amp; Margaret Horton (69)

May 30 – Jerry &amp; Jean Bailes (69)



## **June Birthdays**



June 01 – Ella Biggs

June 01 – Will Horton

June 01 – Duane Thurmer

June 03 – Travis Collis

June 04 – Bonita Belcher

June 04 – Tanner Veneri

June 06 – Buddy Tolley

June 07 – Mende Lewis

June 08 – Brandon Boyles

June 09 – Matt Linkous

June 10 – Lori Comer

June 10 – Betsy Horton

June 10 – Jaden Lewis

June 12 – Jennette Elmore

June 13 – Alden Presley

June 13 – Carrie Schaeffer

June 14 – Catessa Howard

June 15 – Stephen Linkous

June 15 – Randy McCormick

June 16 – Bob Ballard

June 16 – Larry Croy

June 16 – George Erps

June 16 – Johnathon Repass

June 17 – Jerry Flanagan

June 17 – Ramonia Kessinger

June 17 – Tony Veneri

June 18 – Cindy Damewood

June 20 – Gail Rector

June 21 – Sharon Hollingshead

June 22 – Gavin Forbes

June 24 – Linda Kennedy

June 25 – Kathy Haynes

June 25 – Michael Lewis

June 25 – Parker Rimbach

June 26 – Jordan Snidow

June 26 – Nicholas Whittington

June 28 – Suzy Bell

June 29 – Terri Fredeking

June 29 – Addison Sarver

June 29 – Kaitlin Struble

June 30 – Jake Robinson



June 01 - Adam & Alston Sarver  
 June 02 – Fred & Naomi Raines (59)  
 June 04 – Sam & Janet Thurmer (60)  
 June 06 – Matt & Lauren Imrich  
 June 07 – Bill & Lucille Reynolds (74)  
 June 08 – Bucky & Paige Price  
 June 08 – Don & Ramona Stanley  
 June 09 – Kelley & Debbie Massie  
 June 10 – Michael & Stephanie Bowling  
 June 10 – Randy & Ali Mabry  
 June 10 – Bill & Jan Wilson (56)

June 11 – Mike & Rhonda Clark  
 June 16 – Tim & Debbie Farabaugh  
 June 16 – Ted & Debbie Gillespie  
 June 16 – Norman & Nancy Jones  
 June 17 – Otis & Edie Earls (63)  
 June 17 – Robbie & Krista Fix  
 June 18 – Steve & Lori Comer  
 June 20 – Jeff & Cathy McNew  
 June 21 – Larry & Martha Cook  
 June 23 – Aaron & Katie Knotts  
 June 24 – Stephen & Brittany Cook  
 June 27 – Marshal & Peggy Lytton  
 June 28 – Bob & Barbara Robinson  
 June 29 – Jason & Jessica Pritchett



## College News

As difficult as it is to imagine it's college graduation time again. Following are students from our church family that will be graduating in May. As you note their accomplishments and plans, please continue to keep them and their families in your prayers.

Chelsea Hollifield, daughter of Jeff and Elizabeth Hollifield, will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science-Sociology from Concord University. She plans to continue her education at Concord pursuing a Masters degree in Health Promotions.

Matthew Kessinger, son of Jeff and Romona Kessinger, will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and will attend Virginia Tech in the fall starting on a PhD in Chemistry.

Megan Hersman, daughter of Chris and Twyla Hersman, will receive a Masters of Art Management from Columbia College in Chicago. She plans to pursue employment in the marketing area of her field.

Alison Lester, daughter of Randy and Mona Lester, completed her Juris Doctor from Wake Forrest School of Law and plans to pursue employment in the District Attorney's office after passing her BAR Exam at the end of June.

A huge "Congratulations!" to all of these students!!



## **Update from the Feeding Hungry Children Project**

As many of you know, this program is sponsored by our church and provides child friendly weekend food during the school year to needy children, who have been identified by their teachers. Within the past few weeks, we received a request from a teacher at Silver Springs to consider serving her school which is a Mercer County pre-school site. She explained that the teachers had seen “signs” throughout the year t

hat there was a need but they had been moved to actively seek help when, after our recent two week winter storm break, some of the little ones were “shoving food in” at breakfast so fast they were choking. So, we now serve 4 area schools...Princeton Primary, Mercer, Straley, and Silver Springs. At the end of the school year, it is our practice to send an evaluation to the schools in order to take a look at the program from their perspective. As we start to evaluate, one thing is certain..... we have so very many thanks to offer and the Remarker seemed to be a good place to start. So it is with tremendous gratitude and love that we say THANK YOU:

First and foremost our thanks and love is extended to our Heavenly Father who placed this need on our hearts and has richly blessed our efforts. Those who have been in the process from the beginning can tell you how it has blessed us to see God grow it.

And we must express gratitude to each other.....those on the team from the beginning and those who have responded and caught the fire since. There is much to be done and many people have discovered where they fit and where God can best use them and their talents in the process.

When we think about team work, our team has expanded to include many people in the congregation who continue to donate money and food that keeps this program going. You know who you are and you have our gratitude.

We are thankful for the anonymous blessings of a teacher at Princeton High School who frequently sends a significant donation.

Thanks to two Concord College classes who have collected monetary donations, collected food, and helped package. The latest class went beyond packaging and collecting food and money. They also secured books at the appropriate reading levels for inclusion in our bags. They involved staff and faculty members, the Student Government Association, Follett Bookstore, and the Student Reading Council.

Thanks to the youth of our own church who raised money and collected food, during their 30 for 70 Famine recently. Then, after not eating for about 15+ hours, they helped package food for delivery.....without complaint or without eating anything.

We are a joyful group and if you feel led to join us in any capacity, please let us know how you might feel led to help. We continue to seek your prayers and support and are thankful for all of the ways this congregation has blessed and served the children in our community.



**In Honor and In Memory of**

***In Honor of My  
10 Grandchildren and 4 Great-  
Grandchildren***

*a gift has been designated  
by*

Jerry H. Childress

***Mary's Cradle Safe Cribs***

***Margaret Davidson***

*a gift has been designated  
by*

Wilma Bowling

***Safe Cribs for Mary's Cradle***

***Clement E. "Clem" Crowe***

*a gift has been designated  
by*

Mary Katherine Duncan

***Memorial Fund***

***Clyde and Ina Farley***

*a gift has been designated  
by*

Judith Fleming

***Youth Scholarship Fund***

***Mrs. Kathleen Fuller Greene***

*a gift has been designated  
by*

Terry and Jerry Childress

***Odell H. Huffman Scholarship Fund***

***Mrs. Gaye Goode Gunter***

*a gift has been designated  
by*

Family of Gaye Goode Gunter

Carolyn R. White

***Arthur Moody Scholarship Fund***

Terry and Jerry Childress

Family of Gaye Goode Gunter

Swantner & Gordon Insurance

The John Rowland Sunday School Class -

Union United Methodist Church

Connie and Bob Warren

Carolyn R. White

James D. Wood

David and Betty Moxley

***Odell H. Huffman Scholarship Fund***

***David Lewis***

*a gift has been designated  
by*

Buddy and Suzy Fry

***Higher Education Grant Fund***





**In Honor and In Memory of , continued**

**Farley Edmund “Bud” Musick, Jr.**

*a gift has been designated*

*by*

Calista B. Farrington

**Library Fund**

**Daniel Ray “Danny” Thomas**

*a gift has been designated*

*by*

Carol L. Hill Arnett

Edward and Mary Ruth Austin

Elmer and Norma Bay

Glenna Belcher

Nancy and Richard Chambers

Terry and Jerry Childress

Anonymous Donor

Jerry Douglas

Margaret Edmunds

Ted and Debbie Gillespie

Joe and Barbara Hampton

Ed and Margaret Horton

Dr. Norman and Mrs. Nancy Jones

David and Ellen Knight

Bob and Hylah Lohr

Neil Lohr

Kelley and Debbie Massie

Owen McKay

C. Kay Monohan

Nancy O’Neal

Rosanna Reaser

Rev. Clifford and Mrs. Mary Ann Schell

Joan Suiter

Karen Thorn

Tony and Becky Veneri

Susan & Rusty Whittaker

Wilma Bowling

Ruth Boyles

Allen and Nancy Burks and Family

Renewal Sunday School Class

John and Judi Eanes

Steve and Lynne Hill

Emerson and Diana Okes

Bridgette Pendleton

Gail Rector

Rodney and Judy Williams

Jim and Barbara Wood

**Feeding Hungry Children**

Buddy and Suzy Fry

**Higher Education Grant Fund**

Terry and Geraldine Childress

Dr. Norman and Nancy Jones

David and Ellen Knight

Don and Ramona Stanley

**O’Dell H. Huffman Scholarship Fund**

Marshall and Candy Thomas

**Bereavement Fund**

*Continued on Page 17*

**In Honor and In Memory of , continued*****Elwood Edward “Wood”  
Vaughn, Jr.***

***a gift has been designated  
by***

Edward and Mary Ruth Austin

Terry and Jerry Childress

Anonymous Donor

Duane and Kathy Dotson

Tim and Christa Fry &

Buddy, Suzy and Lelia Fry

Joe and Barbara Hampton

Dr. Norman and Mrs. Nancy Jones

Kelley and Debbie Massie

Nancy O’Neal

Richard and Mildred Street

Karen Thorn

Tony and Becky Veneri

Ruth Boyles

Renewal Sunday School Class

Margaret and Ed Horton

Bridgette Pendleton

Franklin and Carole Thomas

***Feeding Hungry Children***

**From the pastor’s blog...**

For those of you who do not regularly read blogs or do not have internet access, the following poem was part of a “daily” challenge in which I took part. The challenge was to write an acrostic poem with internal rhyme on the theme of “trust.” I share it with you because it shows something of great importance to me.

**Trust**

Constant posturing, self-need driven bickering  
Only leaves us all bleeding, endlessly needing.  
Misusing our Book as a hook – to injure other’s belief -  
Marking those who are in and those shrouded with sin.  
Unless the flood of *our* blood ceases, quickly decreases  
No *body* will share, even dare to come needy.  
I will be me and not part of we.  
One trusting no one is perfectly done –  
Never to sup, sip the cup filled with love.

*As a member of and a leader within the United Methodist Church, when I hear the word trust it brings about many very positive images. However, our current denominational mood might well be seen by some as one of mistrust or lack of trust of one another. This saddens me. The most important part of this poem to me is the acrostic (the first letter of each line of the poem) that calls us to something greater.*



## Thank You's

*Staff and Congregation of FUMC,*

*Thank you so much for the lovely basket sent to the funeral home at the loss of our loved one. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated so much.*

*Thank you,*

*Jeff & Ginny Boyles*

Dear FUMC Family,

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." (Philippians 1:3) We have been tremendously blessed by the outpouring of support during Danny's illness and death. Your cards, phone calls, flowers, food, prayers and hugs are appreciated more than you will ever know. Thank you for being such wonderful friends!

With sincere gratitude,

Mary Ann Thomas, Stephanie, Christa, Mary, Jason and family

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you so much for all your prayers and expressions of love and concern both while I was taking care of my father and since he passed away. I feel blessed for many things in my life, but none more than this: I feel surrounded and supported by a great community of believers at FUMC. (Like the song says, "The church is not a building, ... the church is the people.")*

*With much love,*

*Kristi Lewis*

**To our Church Family -**

**Thank you for the beautiful expressions of love shown to our family at Wood's passing. The food, prayers, cards, hugs and tenderness reflect the Christ-like best of this our church family. We continue to feel your prayers holding us up and we are so very grateful for your love.**

**In humble gratitude,**

**The family of Elwood E. (Wood) Vaughn, Jr.**

Dear United Methodist Ladies who prepared the meal for the family of Daniel R. Thomas:

We would like these ladies to know how much we appreciated the meal which was provided after the service celebrating Danny's life. The food was delicious and it meant so much to us to be able to gather together as a family with such a nice meal prepared for us.

Please use our small donation ..... in memory of Daniel R. Thomas to help provide food for other families .....

God Bless,

W. Marshall Thomas

& Candyth Rorrer Thomas



## **AN INVITATION TO 40 DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER** **LEADING UP TO THE 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The practices of fasting and prayer have long been spiritual disciplines recommended to the followers of Christ. This year as we prepare together – heart, mind, and spirit – for our annual conference session, I invite you to join me in 40 days of fasting and prayer.

Beginning May 1 and leading all the way up to conference, the calendar on the next page will give you scriptures upon which to focus and people, groups of people, for whom to pray. Generally on Sundays you will be praying for those who will be participating in our annual conference session. On Mondays we will be praying for the actions of our annual conference. On Tuesdays we will be praying for outreach ministries and mission. On Wednesdays we will be praying for ministries that take place within our local churches. On Thursdays and Fridays we will generally be praying for persons who tend to feel that they are on the edges of our faith communities and/or not welcome in our churches. On Saturdays we will pray for persons or ministries experiencing transition or change. And, during the dates of our actual conference session, I invite you to pray every day for the Spirit of God to move among us during worship and business that God's word would be proclaimed and Christ's presence experienced in real, tangible ways. On our website and in our email news, various persons from the Conference will be writing short devotionals to go along with the prayer calendar.

Now, about fasting. We cannot fully understand what it means to be Christian unless we wrestle with and experience what it means to be empty of ourselves so that we can be filled with Christ. John Wesley's Covenant Prayer includes this line, "Let me be full; let me be empty. Let me have all things; let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal." I believe these lines were penned out of Wesley's regular practice of fasting. He was known to fast twice every week. "The point of fasting is not about a legalistic restriction of food. Rather, it is about finding ways to submit even one's most basic human desires to God in order to experience the fulfillment of a life with Christ that takes us beyond our circumstances" (*Fasting* by Ashlee Alley pg. 12). So, in this 40 days of prayer, I also invite you to fast. There are numerous ways to participate in fasting. If you don't know what to do about fasting, I would invite you to study this spiritual discipline. [Converge Bible Studies](#) offers a study on fasting. Marjorie Thompson's *Soul Feast* has a wonderful chapter on fasting.

I hope that you will accept this invitation. I believe it will help all of us together to be prepared to listen for the voice of God and experience the presence of Christ during the 2015 West Virginia Annual Conference.

*Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball*

**Forty Days of Prayer and Fasting May 2015**

May 01	II Corinthians	Parents who find themselves in desperate situations
May 02	I Corinthians 10:31	Spring Heights
May 03	Luke 6:27-28	WV Cabinet
May 04	James 1:1-27	Our Obedience to Christ
May 05	Acts 14:23	Our Mission Projects
May 06	Acts 13:3	Ministries within our Local Churches
May 07	Matthew 6:28	Those with HIV/AIDS
May 08	John 14:8	Those who feel excluded by the Church
May 09	Isaiah 58:6	Native Americans
May 10	Psalms 28:1-9	Bishop Deborah Wallace-Padgett
May 11	Joel 2:12	Our Decisions
May 12	Matthew 17:21	United Methodist Women
May 13	Matthew 9:37-38	Our Faith Sharing
May 14	I Corinthians 7:5	Children who find themselves in desperate situations
May 15	Romans 14:6, 17	The discarded and ignored
May 16	Psalms 69:10	Those preparing for Baptism
May 17	Luke 5:33-35	George Howard – Conference Teacher
May 18	Ezra 8:23	Election of Our Delegation
May 19	Joel 1:14	Food Pantries
May 20	Deuteronomy 9:18, 25	Sunday School
May 21	I Corinthians 15:50	Home Bound Persons
May 22	Matthew 9:37-18	Our Witness
May 23	Acts 13:2-3	Those who have passed since last Annual Conference
May 24	Matthew 4:1-11	Pastors in the Annual Conference
May 25	James 1:5	Congregations in the Annual Conference
May 26	Philippians 3:8	Burlington Family Services
May 27	Isaiah 58:9	Youth Groups
May 28	Luke 4:2	Military
May 29	Mark 9:29	Seniors
May 30	Jonah 3:5-10	Retirees
May 31	Ephesians 5:16	Our Attitudes



**Forty Days of Prayer and Fasting June 2015**

June 01	Psalm 35:13	Conference Choir
June 02	Mark 9:29	United Methodist Men
June 03	Ezra 10:6	Family Ministries
June 04	Acts 10:30	Those who have never accepted Christ
June 05	Romans 1:1-32	Children's Conference
June 06	Matthew 6:1-34	Ordinands
June 07	Colossians 3:12-17	Our Laity
June 08	Daniel 9:3	Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball
June 09	Nehemiah 1:4	Conference Staff
June 10		
June 11		Annual Conference Begins
June 12		
June 13		
June 14		



## MUSIC Notes

*“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.”*  
Psalm 96:1-4 (NIV)

We all experience times in our lives when we feel that more things are wrong than right. We watch loved ones go through experiences, and we cannot offer the consolation that we feel gives true comfort. At these times it is hard not to question the purpose of events in our lives. We are afraid to speak what we feel, or perhaps we are too emotional to convey what is going on inside. Our church and my family has experienced some of these times recently with the loss of two important men. While the music at each service was very different, it served as a testament to who both men were and provided comfort to friends and family during their time of loss.

At these times music conveys what our words cannot express. We are so blessed to have thriving music programs and a number of musicians at our church. We are very blessed that our congregation has so many who gladly offer their time to ensure the continuation of our music programs. I am very thankful that we all realize what a vital part music plays in worship and dealing with the varied events in our lives. Whether it be instrumental or vocal, or a combination thereof, we have music ministry for everyone right inside of our church doors.

Between Scott's sermons on Resurrection, the scripture above, and events happening in society, I have thought much about how I present myself among everyone I come in contact with. Am I truly to presenting myself as a Christian to all I come in contact with? I can be a less than perfect spouse. I am often so tired from work and teaching my students that there is little energy for my own children. I am not always the friendliest person when I am running errands. But, I know that I am redeemed by the blood of Christ, and for that I will sing his praises every chance I get. Through a closer relationship with God, I will become a better spouse, a better mother, a better teacher, a better person. His plan for me is better than any plan I can arrange. Plus, according to my husband, I could learn to let someone else be in control!

Isn't that we are all striving for? Let Him show us the way, guide our path...and never forget we have been given mercy and grace through his ultimate sacrifice. My hope is that through special music that is offered this summer, we will have a more intimate look at what individuals are feeling spiritually, and in turn, it may help someone else with a struggle they are facing.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your support this past year. I never knew what I was missing in my life until I accepted this position and became active in our church. Your friendship and love has meant so much during what has been one of the busiest, most trying, and most fulfilling years of my life.

I pray for a restful and wonderful summer for us all!

-Ashley Vaughn



## **Updated Church Website**

Sometime in May, we will be launching our updated website. Our website will be responsive and can be easily viewed on any device – from smartphones to desktop computers. The new site has easy to use drop down menus with updated information about our church. It is always stressful putting something new out into the world and we don't expect it to be perfect. If you find any misspelled words, broken links or any issues in viewing the site, please contact the website administrator at [webadmin@princetonfumc.org](mailto:webadmin@princetonfumc.org)



## **Activity Calendar**

**Use the graphic link above to view the**

**[First United Methodist Church](#)**

**[Activity Calendar](#)**