

# The Remarker

First United Methodist Church



Princeton, West Virginia

A Place to Trust  
January - February, 2016

A Place to Become

Church in the  of Princeton  
Volume 45, Issue 1

## Find a place to become at First UMC



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**Got an idea  
for a new  
ministry?**

**Talk it up!!!**



**Feeding Hungry Children**



## **Not Quite Home**

*From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.*

*Philippians 4:8 Common English Bible*

Pastoral ministry is filled with ups and downs. There are the heights of watching someone give their life to Christ for the first time, rededicating their life to Christ, and even watching someone's eyes light as they hear God calling them to participate in a particular ministry. There are the high times of watching children truly in love with God and seeing more experienced adults hold on to faith with every ounce of energy they can muster. There are the wonderful times of seeing a church come together in prayer or ministry and watching a person have their life changed forever by the love of a congregation.

There are also some low times...listening to people complain about something that seems trivial to me (although I know it is not trivial to them). Seeing brothers and sisters part company over disagreements about things we cannot know for certain until we meet with Christ. It is difficult to watch people slowly back away from their community of faith and have no understanding of why they are doing this. And sometimes the hardest thing of all to witness as a pastor is someone who is neither excited about their faith or really ready to search for something new. Yes, I think that is the hardest...watching someone just wither away.

Over the past few months I could have focused upon some negatives if I had chosen to do so. There are always plenty of them to focus upon.

But something tragic happened to me and I was forced to see how un-Christian it would have been for me to focus my thoughts upon these things. As most of you already know, my Dad died.

I know from experience with so many people that losing a parent is a life changing event. I've seen it time and again but this time I experienced it. And in the midst of that experience what I saw was the overwhelming love of Christ being poured out by congregations and colleagues. This congregation – A Church in the Heart of Princeton – has given and continues to give me the space that I need to grieve and heal. You have been caring beyond mere words. Your prayers have lifted my spirits. Other congregations I have served reached out with notes, calls and well wishes. My colleagues, such as our District Superintendent, Dr. Joe Kenaston, have also been there to support me and my family. I cherish Dr. Kenaston's willingness to spend a Sunday preaching in my place to allow me to have my final Sunday with my Dad. (I also must say that this congregation did a wonderful job welcoming Dr. Kenaston and thanking him for his help. I especially appreciate Dr. Norman Jones' note of appreciation given to our Superintendent!)

The writer of Philippians is absolutely right. We must focus upon those things that are admirable, holy, true, just and pure. It has been in focusing upon those things that I have truly seen a way towards healing and hope that I need during these days of loss and grief.

Now, don't get me wrong...I still have high hopes and vision for this congregation. We are still



## Director of Children's Ministries

**Barbara Ballard**, Office Hours: Mon. 9:00–10:00 AM; 11:30–12:30 PM, Tues. 1-2 & Wed 12-2, Cell (304-920-8186)

Office Number: 304-425-0064

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

Once again, we'd like to express our great appreciation to all who came out this Christmas season to support our all-church Christmas carry-in dinner. There were about 140 in attendance!!! The donations of scores of covered dishes and the beautifully decorated tables provided a festive atmosphere for the Cantata, Drama, and Rosebud and Childrens' Choir performances.

Special thanks to Kent Thompson, Ruthie Broyles, Bridgette Pendleton, Sarah Johnson, Marcia Anderson, Pam Sears, Janet Vaughn, Becky Helmick and Bob Ballard who arrived early and/or stayed late to help with set up and clean up and ensured the meal was ready to go at 6:00 and clean-up was done in record time. Also, to Pastor Scott, Dave Johnson, and Adam Sarver and everyone who worked quickly to tear down the tables and chairs to prepare the gym for the Upward practice the following day.



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND SING  
CHRISTMAS  
CAROLS**

## Children's Fellowship Time For all K-5th graders

Winter Term resumes January 6th  
Wednesdays 6:00—7:00 PM

\*Immediately followed by

**Children's Choir  
With Miss Sherrie  
7:00—7:25 PM**

For all K-5th graders  
Friends are welcome!



Miss Martha returns with her fun and exciting storytelling and Miss Marcia will also be back with lots of fun crafts, and art activities in the Surprise Shoppe!!! Children are encouraged to invite friends to join us for this session's times of learning, fun, and fellowship, as we experience "Close Encounters with the Messiah". We will learn about the sweeping story of Jesus from Old Testament prophecies to the resurrection, and, once again, hear about living in Jesus' time, through the eyes of the Bible characters who experienced Jesus' miraculous life first-hand.



Miss Sherrie will continue to provide fun musical experiences, as she prepares the choir for regular performances during worship. The first performance will be in early February, with more to follow during the spring months, one which includes drama!

# January & February 2016

Here is the much requested festive cookie recipe from Shirley Evans:

## Oatmeal Cranberry White Chocolate Chunk Cookies

2/3 cup butter, softened	1 teaspoon baking soda
2/3 cup brown sugar	1/2 teaspoon salt
2 large eggs	1-1/4 cups Craisins dried cranberries
1-1/2 cups old-fashioned oats	2/3 cups white chocolate chunks or chips
1-1/2 cups flour	

Preheat oven to 375\* F. Using an electric mixer, beat butter and sugar together in a medium mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Add eggs, mixing well.

Combine oats, flour, baking soda and salt in a separate mixing bowl. Add to butter mixture in several additions, mixing well after each addition. Stir in dried cranberries and white chocolate chunks. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire rack. Makes approximately 2-1/2 dozen cookies.

Shirley was also the "Mystery Chef" who made the wonderful pineapple/ cream cheese dessert (called "Pretzel Salad") for the Christmas dinner. She also shared that recipe with us so, please let me know if you'd like a copy.

Many thanks to those who provided delicious soup to feed our live nativity cast, church family and community guests this year: Barbara Hampton, Becky Veneri, Ruthie Boyles, Sandy Gay, Vicki Horton, and Bob Ballard. Also, we are grateful to the many folks who donated wonderful cookies and lots of soda, Ruthie, who came early to be a life-saver in Pam Sears, who ensured that the replenished. Kent Thompson and Mar-up was efficiently accomplished. All appreciated on that very cold and snowy



getting the refreshments set up, and food and drinks were constantly re-tha Cook made sure that was clean-of these giving spirits were greatly ap-evening.



News  
From the  
3rd floor



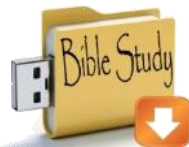
Rebecca Schaeffer  
Director of Youth  
[rdschaeffer@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:rdschaeffer@suddenlinkmail.com)  
(304) 425-0064 - Office  
(276) 245-9455 - Cell

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 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Bible Study  
Wednesday at 6:00 pm



# Youth Prayer

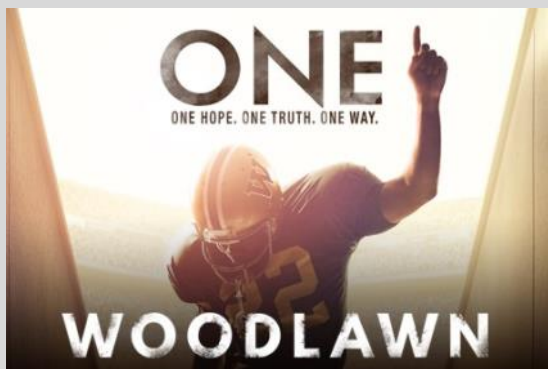


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Jan. 12 & Feb. 16



## Youth Bible Study



From Death to Life  
Romans 6:13

 **UPWARD**  
**Volunteers** still Needed



## **Transitions**

### **Birth:**

**Andrew Fama**

Reed Andrew Sarles

December 07, 2015

*Son of Stephen Andrew and Kelsey Jade Craft Sarles*

*Grandson of Todd and Ginger Craft*

*Great-Grandson of Glenna Belcher and Carolyn Craft*

### **In Memory:**

Mrs. Mildred D. Hoge

November 15, 2015

Mr. Robert L. "Bob" Betker

December 3, 2015

Mrs. Virginia Ila "Ginny" Whittington Shapard

December 31, 2015

### **Transferred to Another United Methodist Church:**

**John Wayne Robinson, Tamara Ellen Knight Robinson, Ashli "Katie" O'Dell Knotts**

**Rainelle United Methodist Church**

**November 20, 2015**

### **Baptismal Membership Transferred to Another United Methodist Church:**

**Aurora Elizabeth Knotts, Audriana Isabelle Knotts**

**November 20, 2015**

### **Transferred to Another Denomination:**

**Robert E. "Bob" Henry, Jr. and Leslie C. Henry**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Upper St. Clair, PA**

**November 20, 2015**



## College News

It is not Spring but there was big graduation news at the end of 2015. Three of our college students received degrees after completing the fall semester.

Kristine Price, daughter of Ray and Sherry Price, graduated from Bluefield State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management and a Minor in Accounting. She plans to work on her education one more semester to add a degree in Accounting.

B.J. Roland, daughter of Ray and Sherry Price and wife of Brandon Roland, graduated from Bluefield State College with a Bachelor degree in Business Administration with Concentrations in Management and Marketing. She plans to continue her current employment as she pursues a position in Human Resources.

Sahara Stanley, daughter of Don and Ramona Stanley, graduated cum laude from Marshall University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and Minors in Public Health, Chemistry, and Psychology. She has been accepted in a graduate program at Marshall pursuing a degree in Public Health.

Please congratulate these young people and let them know how proud we are of their accomplishments. Also, continue to keep them and our other students in your prayers.

## Library News and Stuff - submitted by Jerry Flanagan, Librarian

### DRAWING



The winners of the November-December drawing for a book called, *ON THIS HOLY NIGHT; THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS*, are: Lee Elmore, Vicki Horton, Nancy O'Neal, Ramona Stanley, Debbie Massie, Karen Thorn, Cory Williams, Norman Jones and Kay Presley.

CONGRADULATIONS!!

### *War Room*, by Chris Fabry

Tony and Elizabeth Jordan have it all – great jobs, a beautiful daughter, and their dream house. But appearances can be deceiving. Their world is actually crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. While Tony basks in his professional success and flirts with temptation, Elizabeth resigns herself to increasing bitterness. But their lives take an unexpected turn when Elizabeth meets her newest client, Miss Clara, an older, wise widow who challenges Elizabeth to start fighting for her family instead of against her husband. From the award-winning creators of *Fireproof* and *Courageous*.

This book can be found in your church library.



## January Anniversaries and Birthdays



January 02 – Daryl & Mary Frances Morris  
 January 05 – Mike & Kathy Quesenberry  
 January 07 – Mike & Ronda (Veneri) Clark  
 January 12 – Gene & LaVerne Fields  
 January 15 – Terry & Peggy Wells  
 January 18 – Tom & Kim Bay



January 02 – Brent Veneri  
 January 03 – Brad Veneri  
 January 04 – Anna Burger (91)  
 January 04 – Judy Fleming  
 January 04 – Claudia Repass  
 January 06 – Anna Lee Greer  
 January 05 – Matthew Kessinger  
 January 05 – McKenzi Olonko  
 January 07 – Joshua Olachea  
 January 08 – Owen Biggs  
 January 09 – Jordie Veneri  
 January 10 – Ashley Vaughn  
 January 11 – Shyanne Smith  
 January 11 – Sahara Stanley  
 January 12 – Ruth Lively (92)  
 January 13 – Harry Montgomery (94)

January 13 – Lindsey Warf  
 January 14 – Lynsey Artrip  
 January 16 – Will Stafford  
 January 16 – Janet Thurmer  
 January 18 – Tori Craft  
 January 18 – Chase Pilkins  
 January 18 – BJ Roland  
 January 18 – Bill Wilson  
 January 19 – Brandon Beachler  
 January 19 – Kelly Beachler  
 January 20 – Chris Knight  
 January 20 – Erin Sears  
 January 21 – Amy Olachea  
 January 23 – Rhonda Thurmer Clark  
 January 24 – Glenna Belcher  
 January 24 – Jonathan Williams  
 January 26 – Harold Russell  
 January 26 – Ramona Stanley  
 January 27 – Zach BenChaabane  
 January 27 – Debbie Massie  
 January 27 – Becky Schaeffer-Rowe  
 January 27 – Zach Struble  
 January 28 – Lee Elmore  
 January 28 – Nick Warf  
 January 29 – Alex Bay  
 January 29 – Allison Beachler  
 January 29 – Teresa Collis  
 January 29 – Kay Presley  
 January 30 – Madison Knight  
 January 30 – Sarah Shaffer  
 January 31 – Gail Burks  
 January 31 – Christa Fama



## **February Anniversaries and Birthdays**



February 02 – Chris & Twyla Hersman  
February 24 – Tim & Cheryl Merritt  
February 26 – Alden & Kay Presley



February 01 – Bob Davis  
February 02 – Ken Branch  
February 02 – Katy Pack  
February 03 – Lauren Graham Imrich  
February 03 – John Mark Mendez  
February 03 – Karen Thorn  
February 04 – Vicky Bradley  
February 04 – Andrew Flanagan  
February 05 – Ann Graham  
February 05 – Bill O’Neal  
February 06 – John Johnson  
February 06 – Savannah Knight  
February 07 – Heather Austin  
February 07 – Lisa Bowling  
February 07 – Debbie Gillespie  
February 07 – Ellen Knight  
February 08 – Wilma Bowling  
February 08 – Peggy Edmunds  
February 08 – Matt Steenson  
February 09 – Greg Bostic

February 09 – Dan Farley  
February 09 – Jerry Linkous  
February 10 – Bob Grim  
February 10 – Alice Smith  
February 11 – Jamey Biggs  
February 11 – Danny McNamara  
February 12 – Alan Cook  
February 14 – Wayne Haga  
February 14 – Malik Seye  
February 15 – Rita Hill  
February 16 – Carman Ball  
February 17 – Cindy Bailey  
February 17 – Wanda Farmer  
February 17 – Aaron Hamm  
February 17 – Stephanie Thompson  
February 18 –William Michael Clark  
February 16 – Cambel Fix  
February 18 – Rodney Smith  
February 19 – Madison Austin  
February 19 – Kira LeBlanc  
February 20 – Norman Jones  
February 21 – Sandy Heinrich  
February 21 – Bill Huffman  
February 22 – Sandy Gay  
February 23 – Eva Gates (96)  
February 23 – Jaycee Pritchett  
February 24 – Terry Graham  
February 25 – Jamie Belcher  
February 26 – Jeremy Wenisch  
February 28 – Betty Costello  
February 29 – Ginny Boyles



**In Honor and In Memory of ...**

**IN HONOR OF**

**THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

**gifts have been designated**

**by**

**JOHN AND CAROL JOHNSON**

**General Fund**

**Higher Education Grant Fund (YSF)**

**Feeding Hungry Children Fund**

**IN HONOR OF**

**DR. WILLIAM BROWN**

**AND**

**IN MEMORY OF**

**MARGUERITE ANN HINTY BROWN**

**gifts have been designated**

**by**

**BROWN & DURHAM, DDS, PS**

**Feeding Hungry Children Fund**

**IN MEMORY OF**

**Robert L. "Bob" Betker**

**a gift has been designated**

**by**

**Marshall and Peggy Lytton**

**Arthur Moody Scholarship Fund**

**by**

**Edward and Mary Ruth Austin**

**Arthur Moody & Odell H. Huffman Schol-  
arship Funds**

**by**

**Steve and Faith Dickie**

**Bereavement Fund**

**by**

**Terry & Jerry Childress**

**Odell H. Huffman Scholarship Fund**

**by**

**Joe & Marge Dickie**

**Jerry and Patricia Flanagan**

**Tender Mercies Ministries**

**by**

**Gail R. Runnels**

**Memorial Fund**

**Shirley J. Casali**

**a gift has been designated**

**by**

**Nancy Shelton Donovan**

**Feeding Hungry Children Fund**

**by**

**Casali-Wood Family Foundation**

**Dr. Steven and Mrs. Kelly Belz**

**Mirto A. Corte**

**Bill and Teresa Croy**

**Mary N. Davis**

**Corrie J. Grado**

**Marshall and Petty Lytton**

**Charles and Betsy O'Brien**

**James O. Roberson**

**Janet and Mark Wood**

**Feeding Hungry Children Fund**

**Kelly and Helen Clay**

**a gift has been designated**

**by**

[Continued on Page 11](#)



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

Mary Katherine Rader  
**Feeding Hungry Children Fund**

P. Lee  
**Chancel Choir Fund**

**Kelly and Helen Clay**  
**a gift has been designated**

**by**

Mary Katherine Rader  
**Thread Loving Crafters**  
**(Textile Ministry)**

**Jack Sears**  
**a gift has been designated**

**by**

Bradley S. and Stephanie J. Bennett  
Ted and Debbie Gillespie  
**Mission of Peace for WV Participants**

**by**

Ed and Mary Ruth Austin  
**Feeding Hungry Children Fund**

**Rosa Haga**  
**a gift has been designated**

**by**

Michael W. Haga  
**General Fund**

**Mary Gillespie Sutton**  
**a gift has been designated**

**by**

Jack and Carol Stafford  
**Thread Loving Crafters Ministry**  
**(Textile Ministry)**

**by**

Marshall and Peggy Lytton  
**Odell H. Huffman Scholarship Fund**

**Odell H. Huffman**  
**a gift has been designated**

**by**

Geraldine and Terry Childress  
**Odell H. Huffman Scholarship Fund**

**Gaye Gunter**  
**a gift has been designated**

**by**

United Methodist Women  
**Feeding Hungry Children Fund**

**Sibyl Kellen Keese**  
**a gift has been designated**

**by**

Sally P. Putnam, Christy P. Nichols, Deirdre

**Virginia Bess Micheal**  
**a gift has been designated**

**by**

United Methodist Women  
**Feeding Hungry Children**



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

***Judy Owen Stone***  
***a gift has been designated***  
***by***  
Jerry and Patty Flanagan  
***FMC Library***

**Not Quite Home, continued**

pressing forward to average 180 people in worship each week. If even one tenth of the people who reached out to me during my time of need would find someone outside of any congregation in need of that same support, we would surpass that goal.

Because I am focusing on these things, I am still pressing us forward to fully participate in the mission and ministry of our denomination by paying 100% of our Conference Apportionments. Although our goal for this year is to be 10% closer to that participation level, I truly believe we can surpass it with little sacrifice on our part.

By keeping my vision aligned with that which is admirable, holy, true, just and pure as the writer of Philippians reminds us, I also will press forward toward the vision of our congregation being a place where people “Trust and Become...” How will we know we are becoming that? By continuing to see growth in the number of Professions of Faith in our congregation. In 2015, six people professed their faith in our congregation. The WVAC had a goal of five people for 2015 and again for 2016. OUR goal for 2016 is ten people and I know, I know that we can reach that as the people of faith who reached out to me in my time of need also identify people OUTSIDE our congregation who need the same love that I received. It is true...If you want to see someone give their life to Christ, then be the very love of Christ to that person!

Once again, Pam, Erin, Allie and I all thank you for being so faithful during our time of need. I will miss my Dad terribly – his faith was an inspiration to me. But what I will focus upon is the admirable, holy, true, just and pure faith you have shared with us to see us through this time.

Peace,

***Scott Sears***

Pastor Scott



## **Thank You's**

We want to let you know we received the beautiful memorial volume you sent us. Your thoughtfulness and kindness is very much appreciated. Thanks so much for the beautiful book in remembrance of James Randolph Conley.

*Vicky Hayner*

*During a time like this we realize how much our friends really mean to us...Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered by the family of **Bess Micheal**.*

*Dear First United Methodist Bereavement Committee,*

*On behalf of the entire Micheal family we would like to thank you for the wonderful food and comfort you provided after Mom's (Bess Micheal) funeral service. It was a welcome ending to a very difficult day. God bless you for everything you did for us and will continue to do for others at such a difficult time.*

*Best regards,*

*Barbara and Ed Micheal*

Dear Bereavement Team,

What a marvelous dinner you prepared and served to the family of our beloved Virginia (Shapard). Coming in from the chill of the mausoleum to the warm and friendly atmosphere you created in Schell Hall helped dispel some of the pain of our loss. The tables were beautifully decorated and the dinner so perfectly delicious; we felt honored by your tireless efforts. Please know that we appreciate all of this very much.

Our heartfelt thanks to each of you for such a wonderful expression of your love and concern.

With love and gratitude,

*The Shapard Family*

*The Graham Family*

*Dear Church Family,*

*Brian and I want to express our sincere gratitude for the cards, calls, thoughts and prayers we received after the death of Brian's brother, Kevin.*

*It is hard to make sense of this tragedy, but with your compassion and caring we feel truly blessed to be part of this great fellowship.*

*Blessings to you all,*

*Brian and Ann Struble*

**Thank You's continued**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for joining us in the Celebration of Life of our beloved Virginia Shapard, and for your prayers, telephone calls and cards. Thank you, Rev. Sears, for your telephone calls and visits, prayers and support in our loss. Thank you, Linda Hawkins, for your beautiful vocal selection. Thanks to the warm and friendly Bereavement Team for the wonderful dinner they served.

Although Virginia was away for the last seven years of her life, she kept abreast of the news of the church she loved by the bulletins and REMARKER you so graciously sent her. Thank you so much for keeping her informed – she always read and re-read all of them.

With love and gratitude,

The Shapard Family

The Graham Family

**Attendance**

ATTENDANCE –December 2015		
Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship
12.06.2015	83	183
12.13.2015	85	180
12.20.2015	87	198
12.24.2015	7:00 pm	141
12.24.2015	11:00 pm	30
12.27.2015	53	134
12.31.2015	New Year's Eve	32

ATTENDANCE –November 2015		
Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship
11.01.2015	93	172
11.08.2015	78	184
11.15.2015	78	184
11.22.2015	71	152
11.29.2015	59	159
11.29.2015	Hanging of the Greens	184



**WOW! What a difference a year makes. In one short year the TLC ministry has exploded. Little did the participants know that they would develop skills they never knew they possessed to create works of art for a variety of projects. Numerous donations were accepted from church members, family, and friends to enhance this ministry. Here are some of the projects we have accomplished this year.**

Over 500 newborn hats for the Princeton and the Bluefield Region Medical Centers

Blanket Day, which brought together church members, community members, and students from Concord University

130 hat and scarf sets for the Feeding Hungry Children Ministry and needy hat distribution

Cancer Hats

Quilts of Valor for 2 church members

Quilts and afghans for church members fighting cancer, illness, or living in independent or assisted living

Afghans and quilts for local nursing homes for those not receiving Christmas gifts.

Fleece tied blankets, afghans, and quilts for Mary's Cradle, The Children's Home Society, and the Bluefield Union Mission

Pillowcase Dresses and Boy Shorts for overseas Mission

150 dishrags paired with dish soap for the Tender Mercies Food Pantry.

**TLC is already planning for 2016. Here are some of the projects. New ideas are always accepted.**

Newborn hats

Hat and scarf sets

Pillowcase dresses and shorts for overseas missions

Fleece tied blankets

Afghans

Quilts

Feminine hygiene kits for girls in underdeveloped countries

Blanket Day- to be held in the fall

Sewing kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief

Cancer Hats

A beautiful table decoration for the Christmas Cantata (shhhh,)

**TLC meets every Friday from 10:00-2:00 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 5:30 until choir practice.**



## Activity Calendar

Use the graphic link above to view the

[First United Methodist Church](#)

[Activity Calendar](#)