

# The Remarker

First United Methodist Church



Princeton, West Virginia

A Place to Trust  
July - August, 2016



A Place to Become



Church in the  of Princeton  
Volume 45, Issue 4

## NEW Visitation Team

Princeton First United Methodist Church is no longer employing a “Minister of Visitation” but instead is looking at caring for our homebound members through a team of laity that have a heart for visiting and caring for those who cannot worship in person with us from week to week.

*All you need to be a part of this team is a caring heart, a willing spirit, and a desire to see God at work in the lives of those around us.*

An organizational and “I’m interested but want to know more” meeting of this team is being held on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. No one will be asked to visit more than two people each month and great effort will be made to match team members with those that they are comfortable visiting. We also would love to have those persons who are already visiting someone or more than one person to come and be a part of this team so that we know that every one of our homebound members is receiving care and attention!

**Once again – those interested in finding out more, those who are already visiting, and those who would like to start visiting are invited to come to Schell Hall on Sunday, July 24 at 6:30 pm to meet with Pastor Scott and make sure that this ministry of our membership is not overlooked!**



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# Visitation Team





## **Not Quite Home**

As many of you know, I love a good story. I especially love a good story that makes me think. This month, I want to offer one to you. It is written by a Jewish Rabbi and it is really meant to make us think about how we let others “control” our lives.

Keep in mind the following verse as you read this parable: “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

### "The Bridge"

There was a man who had given much thought to what he wanted from life. He had experienced many moods and trials. He had experimented with different ways of living, and he had had his share of both success and failure. At last, he began to see clearly where he wanted to go.

Diligently, he searched for the right opportunity. Sometimes he came close, only to be pushed away. Often he applied all his strength and imagination, only to find the path hopelessly blocked. And then at last it came. But the opportunity would not wait. It would be made available only for a short time. If it were seen that he was not committed, the opportunity would not come again.

Eager to arrive, he started on his journey. With each step, he wanted to move faster; with each thought about his goal, his heart beat quicker; with each vision of what lay ahead, he found renewed vigor. Strength that had left him since his early youth returned, and desires, all kinds of desires, reawakened from their long-dormant positions.

Hurrying along, he came upon a bridge that crossed through the middle of a town. It had been built high above a river in order to protect it from the floods of spring.

He started across. Then he noticed someone coming from the opposite direction. As they moved closer, it seemed as though the other was coming to greet him. He could see clearly, however, that he did not know this other, who was dressed similarly except for something tied around his waist.

When they were within hailing distance, he could see that what the other had about his waist was a rope. It was wrapped around him many times and probably, if extended, would reach a length of 30 feet.

The other began to uncurl the rope, and, just as they were coming close, the stranger said, "Pardon me, would you be so kind as to hold the end a moment?"

Surprised by this politely phrased but curious request, he agreed without a thought, reached out, and took it.

"Thank you," said the other, who then added, "two hands now, and remember, hold tight." Whereupon, the other jumped off the bridge.

Quickly, the free-falling body hurtled the distance of the ropes length, and from the bridge the man abruptly felt the pull. Instinctively, he held tight and was almost dragged over the side. He managed to brace himself against the edge, however, and after having caught his breath, looked down at the

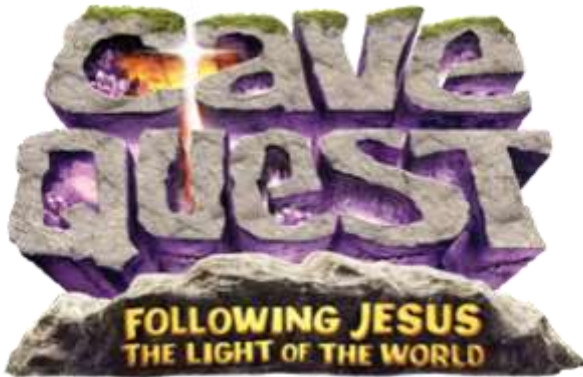


*Director of Children's Ministries*

*Barbara Ballard (304-920-8186)*

*Office Hours: Mon.: 9:00—10:00 AM; 11:30—12:30 PM, Tues.: 1:00—2:00 PM*

*Wed.: 12:00—2:00 PM office number: 304-425-0064*



Coming soon: July 17th—21st

\*T-shirts (staff and theme available) may be ordered for staff and children: Adults: S—#XL (6.59, \$8.59, and \$10.59)

Theme: child X-S—L (\$4.29); Adult S- #XL (\$8.39 and \$10.29)

## Children's Fellowship Time & Children's Choir

Wednesday night CFT &

Children's Choir will resume August 24th at 6:00 PM in the education wing

Children K thru 5th grade are invited to enjoy Bible lessons, crafts, games with

Miss Martha and Miss Marcia

Children's Choir with Miss Sherrie

(including Christmas play practice!) from 7:00— 7:25 PM





## July - August 2016

### Children's Back to School Backpack & School Supply Give-A-Way

Wed., Aug 3rd @ 5:00 PM

At the Fountain

Donations of School Supplies from the congregation are greatly appreciated and enable us to use the designated funds to purchase the backpacks.

Items needed: crayons, markers, pencils, spiral notebooks, gluesticks, and glue, notebook paper, erasers. We will prepare several MS/HS backpacks, if looseleaf notebooks, pens, etc. are donated.

**God Bless you for supporting this community mission project!**

### Sunday School Promotion Sunday

August 7th at 9:30 AM in Schell Hall

Sunday school classes are asked to bring a breakfast dish to share (both sweet and savory dishes are needed).

Thanks so much for supporting our Sunday School!!

Exciting news this fall: Age-level groupings!

Preschool—Kindergarten with Miss Martha

First—Third grade with Miss Sandy and Miss Karen

Fourth and Fifth grade with Miss Sherrie





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 4:00 -5:30 pm

Bible Study  
Wednesday's at 6:00 pm



# Refreshment Cart



Dates: July 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Aug.  
14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

## Wytheville Community Center



July 5<sup>th</sup> 1-7 PM



July 14-17<sup>th</sup>  
Snowshoe



August 14<sup>th</sup>!!!!!!



July 27 @ 12 PM

## **Library News and Stuff**



### **LIBRARY NEWS & STUFF**

Jerry Flanagan, Librarian

#### **MYSTERIES**

If you like a good mystery, please check out “The Psalm 23 Mysteries”, by Debbie Viguie’. She is a New York Times bestselling author. The titles from that series currently in the church collection are, “The Lord is My Shepherd”, “I Shall Not Want”, “Lie Down in Green Pastures”, “Beside Still Waters”, “Restoreth My Soul”, “In the Paths of Righteousness”, “For His Name’s Sake”, “Walk Through the Valley”, and “The Shadow of Death”. More titles in this series will be added soon.

#### **“THE LOST GOSPEL Q”**

“The search for the historical Jesus is one of the most important quests in religion today. *The Lost Gospel Q*, written by Jesus’ contemporaries and preserving his original words, brings you closer to the historical figure of Jesus than ever before. A sacred handbook for his earliest followers, *The Lost Gospel Q* is a window into the world of ancient Christianity.... *The Lost Gospel Q* is older than the four traditional Gospels, older than the Christian church itself. Based on sayings in Aramaic, Jesus’ own language, it was eventually incorporated into the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. And then it disappeared. Lost for 2,000 years, no copy of this gospel has ever been found. But for the past 150 years, historians and theologians around the world have been rediscovering the fragments. Working like archeologists, they have dug through the many layers of the New Testament to finally uncover the original Gospel upon which key elements of the Bible are based.” ( from the book *The Lost Gospel Q*)

This book can be found in the church library at 226 Los

#### **SUGGESTIONS**

If you know of books or other materials you would like to see purchased to be added to the collection in the Library Den (Children’s Library) or the FMC (Adult) Library, please place your suggestions on a piece of paper with the title “Library” into the offering plate or mail to FUMC Library at PO Box 304, Princeton, WV, 24740



**College News** - *submitted by Patty Flanagan*

Before anyone can imagine, fall term will be starting! Most colleges and universities are starting classes in mid August. This summer, some of our students have taken a break, some have gone on with summer term classes, and some have been preparing for the new life of a college student.

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS: There will be a gathering of all college students on Sunday afternoon, July 31 in Schell Hall for a Back to College Event. Look for a mailing soon that will include all the details but save the date on your calendars now.

ATTENTION CONGREGATION: Please pray for all of our students as they start a new year and offer special prayers for our new students as they begin their new adventure. The next Remarker will include a listing of all of our students and the schools they are attending.


  
*Come 'n Go*
  
*Baby Shower*
  
*For Evangeline (Vaughn) Painter*
  
*Saturday July 9th*
  
*From 2-4 in Schell Hall*
  
*Miss Abigail is registered at Walmart.com and Amazon.com*



## **TLC (Thread Loving Crafters)** - submitted by Kathryn Tucker

*This is a compendium from the TLC Facebook page and Kathy's latest email to the TLC group. Thanks, Kathy for allowing me to paraphrase - Editor*

The TLC Group received several new donations that have helped so much. And the items the crafters have created are stunning. Please visit the Facebook page to see pictures of these beautiful items. Better yet, stop by and get crafting!

Here are some of the places the TLC crafts are being utilized:

- Eleven adoption quilts have been donated to the Mercer County Children's Home Society.
- Security/comfort blankets are being made to be distributed to the Magistrates Office for the children of battered women who come in. Crafters - these can be either fleece or crocheted.
- We have about 70 sets of hats and scarves now. We need some medium to large hats and scarves. The length of the scarf should not be smaller than 36 inches, preferably 42 and up to 52 for the larger ones. As our numbers increase, Marcia will let us know what sizes are needed to prepare for the winter donation.
- Chris Meadows, Concord Bonner Scholar, is coming July 8th to pick up the 60 pillowcase dresses and 70 little boy shorts. His *Share the Love* campaign will deliver the clothes to Nicaragua.
- Blanket Day is in October - mark your calendar to participate with the Bonner Scholars to make blankets to be distributed to the homeless.
- We have made a donation of dish cloths and dish soap to the flood disaster relief
- A Quilt of Valor was presented to Elmer Bay.
- We are now making baby car seat afghans and blankets for the area hospitals in addition to the newborn and preemie hats.

In Kathy's own words:

I want to express how humbled and blessed we all feel because of the work that we do. We each pray for the people who receive our items. It is a blessing to each of us.

TLC meets every Friday from 10-2 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30





## Transitions

### In Memory:

Ernest Garland "Peg" Tolley

May 14, 2016

Helen Elizabeth Shapard

May 21, 2016

### Transfer to Another Denomination:

Sarah Allen –

Certificate of Transfer to First Baptist Church – Princeton April 22, 2016

## Attendance



### ATTENDANCE – May

Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship
05.01.2016	75	154
05.08.2016	105	196
05.15.2016	60	154
05.22.2016	76	156
05.29.2016	57	138

### ATTENDANCE – June

Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship
06.05.2016	70	168
06.12.2016	65	136
06.19.2016	64	139
06.26.2016	72	130

## **July Anniversaries and Birthdays**



July 01 – Jerry & Patty Flanagan

July 04 – Shawn & Melissa Forbes

July 07 – Timmy & Christa Fama

July 10 – Ken & Teresa Collis

July 11 – Jerry & Cathy Linkous

July 14 – Andy & Kelsey Sarles

July 15 – Ron & Shari Steenson

July 16 – Cory & Amy Williams

July 19 – Jim & Gail Burks

July 23 – Joe & Lisa Bowling

July 23 – Chuck & Brenda Lohr (50)

July 29 – Will & Pam Stafford



July 01- Jillian Biggs

July 02 – Leah Johnson

July 03 – David Graham

July 05 – Colton Fix

July 05 – Victor Lohr

July 05 – Jeff McNew

July 06 – Ethel McColgan

July 07 – Bridgette Pendleton

July 09 – Mathew Adkins

July 09 – Amy Williams

July 12 – Hylah Lohr

July 12 – Amanda Wenisch

July 13 – Ronda Veneri Clark

July 13 – Krista Fix

July 14 – Bus Brown

July 14 – Terry Childress

July 14 – Peggy Lytton

July 14 – Charles Seye

July 14 – Jamie Williams

July 15 – Doris Bradley

July 17 – Judi Carter

July 17 – Rick Graham

July 18 – Sandy Grim

July 18 – Lynn Veneri

July 19 – Larry Cook

July 19 – Louie Fields

July 20 – Judith Anderson

July 21 – Barb Ballard

July 21 – Tom Bay

July 22 – Lindsay Comer

July 22 – David Allen Dunn

July 22 – Kellen Henry

July 22 – Chris Hersman

July 22 – Scott Sears

July 23 – LydiaBeth Comer

July 25 – Rose Ann Burgess

July 25 – Nikki Mitchem

July 26 – Ryan Mendez

July 26 – Faye Pullins

July 31 – James Hawkins

July 31 – Rita Mitchem

July 31 – Sandy Veneri

## **August Anniversaries and Birthdays**



August 01 – Brian & Ann Struble  
 August 04 – John & Katie Pack  
 August 05 – Bob & Hylah Lohr  
 August 06 – Rusty & Kelly Howard  
 August 10 – Jamie & Laura Suroski  
 August 13 – John & Sue Backus  
 August 15 – Tony & Becky Veneri  
 August 19 – John & Valeda O'Dell (55)  
 August 26 – Jerry & Melody Jenkins  
 August 31 – Nathan & Evan Painter



August 01 – Bill Lewis  
 August 01 – Randall Veneri  
 August 03 – Bill Stafford  
 August 04 – Leslie Cline  
 August 04 – Patty Flanagan  
 August 04 – Tim Merritt  
 August 04 – Susan Stafford  
 August 04 – Brenda Thompson  
 August 04 – Stan Tucker  
 August 05 – Mary Ella Noel  
 August 06 – Jackie Davis  
 August 06 – Nancy Jones  
 August 06 – Skip Owen (95)  
 August 06 – Perry Stafford  
 August 07 – Logan Austin

August 07 – Tammy Hill  
 August 07 – Tonya Hill  
 August 07 – Adam Mendez  
 August 07 – Brayden Quesenberry  
 August 08 – Joni Veneri  
 August 10 – Jerry Evans  
 August 13 – Jenna Bowling  
 August 14 – Sharon Croy  
 August 14 – Shirley Evans  
 August 14 – Sarah Lynn French  
 August 14 – Kelly Howard  
 August 16 – Miles Vaughn  
 August 16 – Layne Veneri  
 August 17 – Fred Raines  
 August 18 – Amelia Brichford  
 August 18 – Edie Carr (91)  
 August 19 – Fred Bandy  
 August 19 – Nancy Clark  
 August 19 – Todd Craft  
 August 20 – Jane Jessee  
 August 21 – Tyler Comer  
 August 21 – Sarah Seye  
 August 22 – Carson Hamm  
 August 23 – Pam Stafford  
 August 24 – Carol Lani Arnett  
 August 24 – Edie Earls  
 August 26 – Jamie Suroski  
 August 27 – Elliott Bowling  
 August 27 – Elliott Brichford  
 August 28 – Darryl Morris  
 August 29 – Wayne Roahrig  
 August 29 – Allie Sears  
 August 29 – Landon Smith  
 August 31 – Bettye Sue Bolen



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

***Dr. W. C. Belcher,  
Florence (Inness) Belcher  
and***

***Jessie (Belcher) Howard  
gifts have been designated***

***by  
Judy (Belcher) Campbell  
Memorial Fund***

***Buryle Compton***

***and***

***Lynwood "Skip" Compton***

***gifts have been designated***

***by  
Joanna M. Fredeking  
Feeding Hungry Children Fund***

***Eunice H. Compton***

***and***

***Ozella K. Austin***

***gifts have been designated***

***by  
Ed and Mary Ruth Austin  
Mary's Cradle***

***Margaret Davidson***

***gifts have been designated***

***by  
Wilma Bowling  
Mary's Cradle***

***Frances Moody***

***a gift has been designated***

***by  
Gail Rector  
Arthur Moody Scholarship Fund***

***Helen Elizabeth Shapard***

***gifts have been designated***

***by  
Charlene M. Mattingly  
Carol Jo Meador  
Skip Owen  
Ed and Belinda Pendleton  
Gail Rector  
Don and Ramona Stanley  
Odell H. Huffman Scholarship Fund***

***Ernest Garland "Peg" Tolley***

***gifts have been designated***

***by  
Ed and Belinda Pendleton  
Memorial Fund***



## **Thank You Notes**

Dear Church family,

Words cannot express how much we appreciate the cards, calls, visits, food and most of all the many prayers offered for Helen Shapard and her family in her final months. The outpouring of love and support helped get us all through a difficult time. We thank Pastor Scott for his visits to the hospital, Glenwood and Ridge Care. Helen loved her Lord, her church, her many friends and her Earl Graham Sunday School Class members.

We thank the Bereavement Team for the delicious meal following her service. It offered the family and friends an opportunity to fellowship, as most had to return to their homes that evening. Helen had a special place in her heart for the Bereavement Dinner Ministry.

Helen was a very special lady, aunt, great-aunt, great-great-aunt, and a friend to us all. She was a blessing to each of us and is dearly missed.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,

***David, Ann, Lauren, Whitney, her many nieces and nephews and the Fredeking Family***

*Dear Church,*

*Thanks so much for your love and care in the death of my mother, Betty Farmer. The cards, e-mails, phone calls, flowers, memorial gifts, and prayers are especially comforting to me and the family.*

*I know that the life Mother lived will continue to point others to Christ.*

***Harry Farmer***

Dear Bereavement Team,

Thank you all for the delicious meal provided for us after Helen's funeral.

It was so nice to be able to come, sit down and enjoy a meal and fellowship with family. A lot of family departed and it enables us to visit for a while.

The dinners take a lot of preparation and we appreciated it very much.

Helen loved the Bereavement Committee ministry and how it serves families with losses.

Thank you for all of your efforts and most of all your prayers and friendship during this difficult time.

***Ann, David, Lauren and Whitney***

***Gail and Harold***

***Helen's entire Family and her extended family***





## **Thank You Notes, continued**

Dear Pastor Sears.

Thank you and your church members for honoring Elmer in such a special way on Memorial Day. The handmade quilt is a symbol of love and appreciation for all veterans, and we thank you for presenting it to Elmer. It was a lovely service.

Most sincerely,

**Norma [Bay]**

*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 Violette Oney.*

*Ladies, thank you so very much for your hospitality, generosity and kindness. The food was an extra delicious bonus.*

**Tony Oney and Family**

To the Bereavement Committee,

We deeply appreciate the warmth and support we felt as we walked into the church's dining hall after Daddy's funeral (January 20, 2016). The aroma of the delicious foods you had prepared, the lovely tables set with fresh flowers the warmth of your smiles and the peace that God was present – memories of the moment in time. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making that moment happen.

Bill Reynolds loved his church. He spent many hours there lovingly giving his time and talent. He was present with us on January 20<sup>th</sup>. There is no doubt.

Your kindness will always be remembered by our entire family.

Sincerely,

**Lucille, Jack, Peggy, Rod and Family**

Dear Friend,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your generous donation to the PikeView High School 2016 Project Graduation. The seniors that attended had a fun-filled evening and left with cash and prizes thanks to your generosity. We appreciate your support.

Thank you,

**PVHS Project Graduation Committee**



## **Thank You Notes, continued**

*With Special Thanks to All of You*

*“To know you is to know people who are kind, considerate, and thoughtful.  
To know you is to be grateful for the special things you do.”*

*For everything you've done...for being the special people that you are...  
Thank you very much.*

*We appreciate your hospitality!*

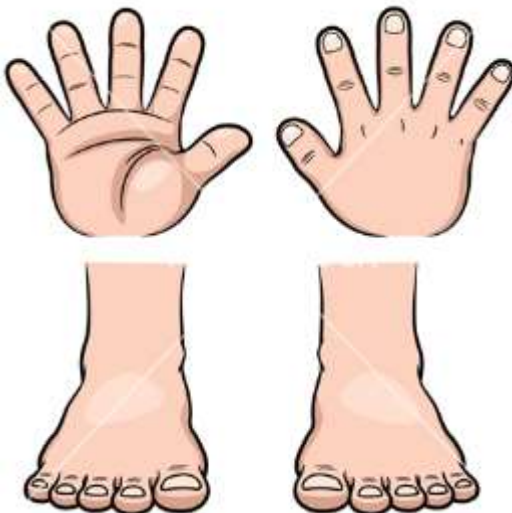
***Mt. Zion UMC your hospitality!  
t you are...I things you do." Appalachia Service Project Team***

Dear Church Members,

I would like to thank all of you that have sent me so many beautiful "get well" cards, some multiple times! You have given me much faith that I will get better and be back with you soon. And, thank you Pastor Scott, for your visits to the hospitals, and phone calls. They mean a lot to me.

After chemo therapy and a heart attack, it has been a rough time, but I know that the Lord is with me all the way, and you are always in my thoughts and prayers.

***Gail Burks***



We **ARE** **Jesus' Hands**  
& **Feet**



## **Not Quite Home, continued**

other dangling, close to oblivion.

"What are you trying to do?" he yelled.

"Just hold tight," said the other.

"This is ridiculous," the man thought and began trying to haul the other in. He could not get the leverage, however. It was as though the weight of the other person and the length of the rope had been carefully calculated in advance so that together they created a counterweight just beyond his strength to bring the other back to safety.

"Why did you do this?" the man called out.

"Remember," said the other, "if you let go, I will be lost."

"But I cannot pull you up," the man cried.

"I am your responsibility," said the other.

"Well, I did not ask for it," the man said.

"If you let go, I am lost," repeated the other.

He began to look around for help. But there was no one. How long would he have to wait? Why did this happen to befall him now, just as he was on the verge of true success? He examined the side, searching for a place to tie the rope. Some protrusion, perhaps, or maybe a hole in the boards. But the railing was unusually uniform in shape; there were no spaces between the boards. There was no way to get rid of this new found burden, even temporarily.

"What do you want?" he asked the other hanging below.

"Just your help," the other answered.

"How can I help? I cannot pull you in, and there is no place to tie the rope so that I can go and find someone to help me help you."

"I know that. Just hang on; that will be enough. Tie the rope around your waist; it will be easier."

Fearing that his arms could not hold out much longer, he tied the rope around his waist.

"Why did you do this?" he asked again. "Don't you see what you have done? What possible purpose could you have had in mind?"

"Just remember," said the other, "my life is in your hands."

What should he do? "If I let go, all my life I will know that I let this other die. If I stay, I risk losing my momentum toward my own long-sought-after salvation. Either way this will haunt me forever."



## **Not Quite Home, continued**

With ironic humor he thought to die himself, instantly, to jump off the bridge while still holding on. "That would teach this fool." But he wanted to live and to live life fully. "What a choice I have to make; how shall I ever decide?"

As time went by, still no one came. The critical moment of decision was drawing near. To show his commitment to his own goals, he would have to continue on his journey now. It was already almost too late to arrive in time. But what a terrible choice to have to make.

A new thought occurred to him. While he could not pull this other up solely by his own efforts, if the other would shorten the rope from his end by curling it around his waist again and again, together they could do it. Actually, the other could do it by himself, so long as he, standing on the bridge, kept it still and steady.

"Now listen," he shouted down. "I think I know how to save you." And he explained his plan.

But the other wasn't interested.

"You mean you won't help? But I told you I cannot pull you up by myself, and I don't think I can hang on much longer either."

"You must try," the other shouted back in tears. "If you fail, I die."

The point of decision arrived. What should he do? "My life or this other's?" And then a new idea. A revelation. So new, in fact, it seemed heretical, so alien was it to his traditional way of thinking.

"I want you to listen to me carefully," he said, "because I mean what I am about to say. I will not accept the position of choice for your life, only for my own; the position of choice for your own life I hereby give back to you."

"What do you mean?" the other asked, afraid.

"I mean, simply, it's up to you. You decide which way this ends. I will become the counterweight. You do the pulling and bring yourself up. I will even tug a little from here." He began unwinding the rope from around his waist and braced himself anew against the side.

"You cannot mean what you say," the other shrieked. "You would not be so selfish. I am your responsibility. What could be so important that you would let someone die? Do not do this to me."

He waited a moment. There was no change in the tension of the rope.

"I accept your choice," he said, at last, and freed his hands.

--From "FRIEDMAN'S FABLES" by Edwin Friedman, published by Guilford Press

## **Not Quite Home, continued**

Now, this story has many meanings, as most good parables do, but the two things I like to think about in this story are that the man with the rope tries to give away his cross and make someone else responsible for it. The main character, who frees his hands at the end of the story, has another “cross” to bear.

Many of us think that carrying another persons’ cross is our way of service, but this story points out the danger of that thinking. Sure, we can help along the way, but each of us has our own journey. We can’t get sidetracked by someone else unwilling to carry their own cross.

Likewise, as a church, we can become distracted by those who want us to solve their problems – especially if they happen to be fellow church members. Our calling as a church is much, much greater than that and we must carry our own cross, even as a church!

Pastor Scott

## **Support BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS by shopping at KROGER**



It's as easy as scanning your Kroger Plus Card. There is no additional cost to you and registering is easy.

Go to – <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>

Create an account, or Login if you already have an account

Register the account number on the back of your Kroger Plus Card

Designate Bible in the Schools by entering **90378**, or by simply doing a search in the organization box (*will come up as “Bluefield Bible in the Schools” but it is for all the schools in Mercer County*)

Must be renewed annually – Thank you for supporting Bible in the Schools



**Singular Selections** - a variety of nonrelated topics**Something to Celebrate!!!**

For the first time in a very, very long time, the West Virginia United Methodist Churches have seen an increase in both average attendance – from 40,563 in 2014 to 42,309 in 2015 – and in Professions of Faith – from 1,024 in 2014 to 1,128 in 2015! This is an incredible working of the Holy Spirit in our churches and should be something that we praise God for each and every opportunity that we have to do so! In 2016 we are praying that our Professions of Faith reach 2,400!!! Keep that in your prayers as you give thanksgiving as well.

**Wednesday Bible Study**

Starting Wednesday, August 24, at 6:00 pm in Schell Hall, the Adult Study Group will restart for the Fall. During these 10 sessions (from 6:00 to 7:25 each Wednesday) we will be studying “The Sin of Certainty” by Peter Enns. (This is a follow-up book to “The Bible Tells Me So” and was a very popular – if not agreeable – study time.) Pastor Scott is working on a Bible Study workbook to go along with this particular book so that we can spend an equal amount of time looking at Biblical passages as well as Enns’ thought on the “use and misuse” of Scripture in our day and time. If you are interested in this study, please call the church office and let us know. Also let us know whether you will need a copy of the book. Copies of the workbook will be available on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Confirmation Classes**

All youth ages 11-14 who have not yet become “full members” of First UMC, are invited to attend Confirmation classes this Fall. These classes will help young persons explore their faith, understand the history of the church and make a decision about whether to become a professing member of the church. We will be meeting from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm September 11, 18 and 25 as well as October 2, 9 and 16. It is important to be at as many session as possible. Please call Pastor Scott to reserve your spot! (Email invitations will be sent via parents during the month of July.)

New Members and Confirmands will be received on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Coffee with the Pastor**

Got a question about First UMC, Princeton? Want to know more about the UMC in general? Just like to have coffee before you head to worship?

You are invited to join Pastor Scott in Schell Hall at 9:30 am on July 24 and/or August 28 for “Coffee with the Pastor.” There is no agenda to these informal times of talking, sharing and prayer, so please, come and be a part of the Fellowship!

**And now for something completely different!**

Join us for a JUMPSTART to worship in the Gym July 14th at 9:30. All are welcome!



## Activity Calendar

Use the graphic link above to view the

[First United Methodist Church](#)

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