

The Remarker

First United Methodist Church

Princeton, WV

A Place to Trust ♦ A Place to Become ♦ Church in the Heart of Princeton

MAY – JUNE 2017

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 3

Romans: Good News for All!

Our next Wednesday evening Bible Study will begin on July 19th at 6:00 pm in Schell Hall. For this study we will be looking at the New Testament Book of Romans. This study will explore how the gospel was proclaimed in the early church and how this makes a difference in our understanding of Good News for us and for others!

Whether you realize it or not, the Book of Romans has a special place in United Methodist history. In order to introduce Romans, we will have a "sign up" night for the Bible Study on Wednesday, May 24th at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. For this sign-up time we will celebrate Aldersgate Day by hearing a reading of Luther's Preface to the Book of Romans.

Aldersgate Day is celebrated on May 24 (or the Sunday closest) to commemorate the day in 1738 when John Wesley experienced assurance of his salvation. Wesley reluctantly attended a group meeting that evening on Aldersgate Street in London. As he heard a reading

from Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, he felt his "heart strangely warmed."

Wesley wrote in his journal that at about 8:45 p.m. "while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Charles Wesley only a few days before had also had a conversion experience in the same place. The building where the meetings took place no longer exists. Aldersgate Street has been shortened by common Methodist usage to simply Aldersgate. The word has come to represent both the place and the experience. Come and join this new Bible study being prepared by Pastor Scott for our congregation.

Come and hear why the Gospel truly is Good News for All!

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NOT QUITE HOME

Thoughts from Pastor Scott

There are many things about the early church that are not to be admired. Even a casual reading of James, either or the Corinthian letters or Galatians will show you that the early Christians had their struggles.

We often think of the Book of Acts as being a “history” book on the early church. To a point, that is quite true. However, the book of Acts tells us the early Christian view of how the movement that formed around the death and resurrection of Jesus *as they looked back on those events*. It was not a newspaper account but more of a reflection some years after the events. The book also shows us some of the things that were apparently valued early on by Christians. Perhaps if we were to think about it in our terms, they talked about “the good ole days.” Take for instance Acts 2:42-46:

“The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. **Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes.** They shared food with gladness and simplicity.” (Emphasis added)

There are many things in this passage a pastor could choose to speak about. Signs and wonders, sharing meals, sharing “everything”...are just a few of the wondrous things that the early Christians looked back upon with fondness. But the one that caught my eye is the very one that I think many of us look back on in fondness even to this day – “every day, they met together.” Of course, for us a reflection back on the good ole days would say, “every week, they met together.”

Something has fundamentally changed in our culture and in our churches. At one time we highly valued attendance each and every week with the congregation of our membership. But that is no longer the case. Now, we are not surprised when people are in worship once a month or even less. Now, we take it for granted that people will not always be in worship and we look back fondly on the days when the pews were filled every week because everybody was there.

Strangely, we still use the same membership vows we did decades ago: “We covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.” Is it time to petition General Conference to add “whenever possible” after the word presence?

Now, I realize that some people are going to take this little article the wrong way. They are going to see it as the “preacher giving people a hard time about being in church.” Those who attend every week will applaud. Those who don't will wonder who exactly I am thinking about. Well, **I am not, I repeat, I am not thinking of any one in particular.** I am pointing out a trend about church attendance that is quite scary to me. It's scary to me because it means that the “whole team” is not here all the time. If a sports team attempted to practice or play with only 60% of their team each week, they would have to forfeit most games. (Not to mention that coaches just would not allow this lack of commitment.) If a television show attempted to use just 60% of their characters each episode, because everyone couldn't show up for the filming, well, their stories would never be told.

Our current trends in church attendance scare me because I think that when you lower the bar of expectations for members, people will have a tendency to meet that expectation. When you raise it, well, they will do everything in their power to meet those as well.

However, I refuse to give in to fear and instead have hope! Hope that comes from serving the resurrected Savior! Five years from now, I would like to look back and say, “Wow...remember when we only needed one service for everybody to attend? Remember when it wasn't so crowded? Remember when some people didn't have to stand during the last service of the day?”

Yeah...that's what I want to look back and say...

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott Sears

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL SHARE THE MESSAGE SUNDAY MAY 14TH



UNSELFIE

#SelflessInASelfieWorld

Created by:

Sue Smith, Gina Boe, & Brian Hitt



College News (Submitted by Patty Flanagan)

It's graduation time!! The following students in our church family are completing higher education degrees this spring.

Alex Bay, daughter of Kim and Tom Bay, is graduating from Virginia Tech with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. She is in the process of determining where she will practice.

Lori Comer, wife of Steve Comer, is graduating from Marshall University with a Doctorate in Education (EDD), majoring in Educational Leadership with an area of emphasis in Curricular Administration. She plans to continue in her current position as principal of Princeton High School.

Chelsea Hollifield, daughter of Elizabeth and Jeff Hollifield, is graduating from Concord University with a Masters of Arts in Health Promotion. She will continue her current full time employment at Concord University but has already applied for several positions in her field.

Catessa Howard, daughter of Kelly and Rusty Howard, is graduating Magna Cum Laude from West Virginia University with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She has decided to complete her Post Graduate Year 1 residency at Indiana University Health in Indianapolis next year.

Seth Vaughn, husband of Ashley Vaughn, is graduating from Concord University with a Regents Bachelor of Arts degree and hopes to move into a Mercer County special education teaching position in a transition to teaching program.

Layne Veneri, Son of Joni and Brent Veneri, is graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from West Virginia University and will be continuing his education there this fall in the School of Dentistry.

Please congratulate these students and their family members as you have opportunity, and pray for them as they make future plans.



30 For 70 (Submitted by Brandon Roland)

First United Methodist Church's 30 for 70 is an annual event where participants raise awareness and funds for the Feeding the Hungry Children Ministry. The participants began fasting around 1 PM on Friday, March 31st. The event began at the church at 5:30 PM, and the fast ended at 7 PM on Saturday, April 1st with Holy Communion.

Throughout the weekend, participants are grouped into teams. They play games, compete in a scavenger hunt, raise money for Feeding Hungry Children and collect canned food and clothing items for Bluefield Union Mission. On Saturday, the competition pauses for the teams to focus on local mission projects. Each team volunteered at Bluefield Union Mission, packaged weekend bags for FHC, and delivered lunch to one of our church's homebound members.

This weekend is the perfect mixture of fun and service. All who participated learned a great deal about our community and how we can help combat hunger in Mercer County. We were also able to fellowship with one another and grow closer to God through Bible study and service.

This year, we had 5 teams made up of youth and adults (25 participants). They collected over 1,200 canned food items and over 1,000 pieces of clothing for Bluefield Union Mission, and \$2,645 for the Feeding the Hungry Children Ministry. After sharing about the weekend during Sunday's service, we had several other church members donate and pushed the total dollar amount raised to \$3,000! In 2015 the group raised \$1,100 and in 2016 the total raised was \$1,500.

I pray that this trend continues! While this began as a youth event, my hope is that teams representing the entire congregation join us in the future. If you would like more details on how you can be involved please let us know.

Feeding Hungry Children (Submitted by Patty Flanagan)

This school year ends May 25th. The Feeding Hungry Children Project Team will come together for a pot-luck Brunch at 10:00 Saturday, June 10th, in Schell Hall to enjoy end of the year fellowship. We will review the yearly evaluations from school staff, look at successes and concerns from this past school year, and plan for the next school year. If you are interested in learning more about the group and what happens during the school year, please join us! We have great fun!



Thread Loving Crafters (Submitted by Kathy Tucker)

We are continuing work on bears and blankets for children attending the Victory Junction camp. We recently delivered 30-40 hats to the hospital in Greenbrier with another 60 hats ready for delivery to Bluefield and Welch.



We are already looking forward to the fall for the scarves and hats to send home to the students in the Feeding Hungry Children program.

Thanks to Sandy and Barbara, we have replenished our prayer shawl supply. Do you have a special someone who needs one of these blessings?

Princeton Cooperative Parish News (Submitted by Janet Vaughn, Princeton Parish Representative)

Did you know that as members of the Princeton Parish, we sponsor a Parish House? In 2016 nearly 6,000 people were served by this project. The Parish House supplies food and clothing for those in our community who are in need. The house is open every Thursday from 12:00p.m. to 2:00p.m. Once a year, our church is responsible for replenishing those needs. This year our month is MAY. We will have a plastic bin in the lobby for food donations. If you want to contribute SUMMER clothes, please call Janet Vaughn at 304-910-6214. Volunteers are always needed, as well food and clothing.



There will be a Parish Curb Appeal Day held at the House on May 6th starting at 8:00a.m. The house is located beside Kee Street UMC. Please let Janet Vaughn know if you are able to help with some yardwork, even for just an hour.

In addition to the Parish House, the Cooperative also provides a Community meal every third Wednesday of the month at Kee Street at 5:00p.m. All churches in the Parish are encouraged to sponsor one of these meals. The average attendance is around 75. This would be a great service project for Sunday Schools, Youth or any other willing group.

The United Methodist Churches included in the Princeton Parish are: Stinson, Kee Street, Painters Chapel, James, Lerona, Brown, Bethel, Spanishburg, Concord, Pisgah, Mt. Horeb, Oakvale, Sandlick, Wesley, Mt Olivet, Rock and First.



Library News & Stuff (Submitted by Jerry Flanagan, Librarian)

Need help finding a book or finding the church library or finding 261.5 Gla? Send an e-mail to jpflanagan@hotmail.com with your questions or see Jerry Flanagan in church. I can also get the book from the church library and get it to you on Sunday morning.

LISTING OF NEW BOOKS

How We Got the Bible by Timothy Paul Jones, PhD. There are chapter titles like, "How did the Old Testament get from God to you?" and "Who created the New Testament Canon?" This book can be found in the church library at 220.1 *Jon*.

Your Teenager Is Not Crazy by Dr. Jeramy and Jerusha Clark. "Teenagers are like bubbles. If you touch them too hard, they will pop. If the bubble pops, all their anger is let out on you. If you continue to guide the bubble and lead it in the right direction, out of harm's way, it will continue to bubble and grow." Some chapter titles are: "You don't understand", "Leave me alone", "But why?", "What's wrong with my friends?", "Why are you freaking out?", "I can't take this!", "I'm starving", "I hate my life." Appendices A, B, and C have to do with substance abuse, self-injury and suicide. This book can be found in the church library at 248.8 *Cl*.

You Are What You Love; the Spiritual Power of Habit by James Smith. "You've caught a vision. God has gotten bigger for you. You've captured a sense of the gospel's scope and reach – that the renewing power of Christ reaches "far as the curse is found." You have come to realize that God is not just in the soul-rescue business; he is redeeming all things (Col. 1:20). The Bible has come to life for you in ways you've never experienced before. It's almost like you're seeing Genesis 1 and 2 for the first time, realizing that we're made to be makers, commissioned to be God's image bearers by taking up our God-given labor of culture-making. It's as if someone gave you a new decoder ring for reading the prophets. You can't understand how you ever missed God's passionate concern for justice – calling on the people of God to care for the downtrodden and champion the oppressed. Now as you read you can't help but notice the persistent presence of the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. Now the question is: What does this have to do with church? " (From the preface) This book can be found in the church library at 264 *Smi*.

It Takes A School; the Extraordinary Story of an American School in the World's #1 Failed State by Jonathan Starr. "An against-the-odds story of an American hedge fund manager who moved to a breakaway region of Somaliland and created a unique school, Abaarso, whose students have come to achieve success beyond anyone's wildest dreams. It takes a school is

the story of how an abstract vision became a transformative reality, as Starr set out to build a school in a place forgotten by the world. It is the story of a skeptical and clan-based society learning to give way to trust. And it's the story of the students themselves, including a boy from a family of nomads who took off on his own in search of an education and a girl who waged a hunger strike in order to convince her strict parents to send her to Abaarso. Abaarso has placed forty graduates and counting in American universities, from Harvard to MIT, and sends Somaliland a clear message: its children can compete with anyone in the world." This book can be found in the church library at 373.096 Sta.

75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know; the Fascinating Stories Behind Great Works of Art, Literature, Music, and Film by Terry Glaspey. "Some of the greatest artists have taken their inspiration from their faith. Now you can discover the stories behind 75 masterpieces of art, literature, music, and film – and the artists who created them. From the Roman catacombs to Rembrandt, from Bach to U2, from John Bunyan to Frederick Buechner, author and historian Terry Glaspey unveils the absorbing true stories behind these masterpieces and shares the faith-filled details you might have missed." This book can be found in the church library at 261.5 Gla.

Attendance for March-April 2017

ATTENDANCE – March 2017				
Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship	Online	TOTAL
03.05.2017	78	164	33	197
03.12.2017	87	149	30	179
03.19.2017	67	139	17	156
03.26.2017	71	160	0	160

ATTENDANCE – April 2017				
Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship	Online	TOTAL
04.02.2017	77	148	24	172
04.09.2017	75	175	20	195
04.16.2017	17	168	19	187
		101 – Sunrise Service		
04.23.2017	63	132	20	152
04.30.2017	69	172		

News
From the
3rd floor



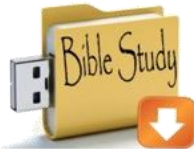
Rebecca Rowe
Director of Youth
rdschaeffer@suddenlinkmail.com
(304) 425-0064 - Office
(276) 245-9455 - Cell

Office Hours
Sunday 1:00 – 8:00 PM
Monday 3:30 – 8:30 PM
Tuesday 3:30 – 8:30 PM
Wednesday 2:30 – 8:30 PM
Thursday 2:30 – 8:30 PM



Youth Night
Sunday's 4:00 -5:30 pm

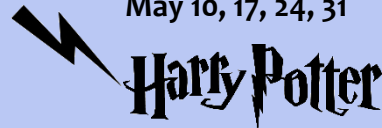
Bible Study
Wednesday's at 6:00 pm



MAY & JUNE YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Bible Study Dates:

May 10, 17, 24, 31



SNL Dates:

May 7, 21, 28

June 11 & 25



To all those who were a part of the last supper scene for the sunrise service – Wes McKinney, Corey Mann, Stephen

Linkous, Sarah Linkous, Jerry & Cathy Linkous, Brayden Quesenberry, Cole Hollifield, Danny McNamara, Rebekah Weaver, and Bob Davis. You were all great! *This is my bread*

Refreshment Cart



Dates: May 28th / June 11 & 25th

This is a great opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ to our community!



Youth Prayer Breakfast will be Sunday May 7th @ 8:30 AM. Be sure to join us for a

great time of food, fellowship and prayer! Followed by an awesome time at Jumpstart. **The youth will be preparing the meal as a thank you to all those who have served us this year!**

Youth Retreat

May 19-21st

The youth will be headed to Sevierville, TN to get away and spend the weekend growing closer to God and figuring out our TATTOOs – yes, I said tattoos. Intrigued????? Feel free and encouraged after the event to ask a youth who attended what it was about.



FUMCIES

May 7th at 4-5:30 pm.
Formal attire welcomed!

Graduation Sunday



May 21st, during worship service. We will be recognizing and honoring our class of 2017 graduates!



Barbara Ballard, Director of Children's Ministries

Office Hours: Mon. 9-10 AM, 11:30 -12:30 PM, Tues. 1-2 & Wed 12-2

Cell (320-920-8186); office (304-425-0064)

Email: fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 14th

In Schell Hall

9:30-10:30 AM

Chef Bill Lewis' team

Featuring Steve Koriath and

Wayne Barth

will, once again, provide
delicious breakfast fare, as we
remember and honor our mothers
and grandmothers.

Everyone is Welcome!!!



VBS 2017

Sunday, July 9th - Thursday, July 13th

6:00—8:00 PM

Both youth and adult volunteers will be needed for Preschool supervision, Daily Dramas, Games, Crew Leaders and Assistants. Decorating opportunities will also be available.

See Barb about your area of interest.

*If you are not available to work every day of VBS, that's fine, we will work with your schedule!

May Anniversaries and Birthdays

May 01 – Harry & Wanda Farmer
May 01 – Ben & Sandy Gay (52)
May 08 – KD & Sally Hill
May 12 – Seth & Ashley Vaughn
May 13 – Ray & Sherrie Price
May 16 – David and Sarah Johnson
May 23 – Larry & Sharon Croy
May 24 – Randy & Rhonda Adkins
May 25 – Bill & Cindy Lewis
May 25 – Nate & Becky Rowe
May 26 – Ed & Margaret Horton (71)
May 30 – Jean & Jerry Bailes (71)



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 – Shirley Halsey
May 11 – Lauren Thompson

May 12 – Nathan Elmore
May 16 – 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 23 – Giff Coulbourne
May 24 – Steve Comer
May 24 – Rebecca Johnson
May 25 – Alison Lester
May 25 – Shanley Quesenberry
May 25 – Barbara Robinson
May 26 – Litz Walthall
May 27 – Joanna Thompson
May 29 – Connie Brichford
May 29 - Makenli Roberts

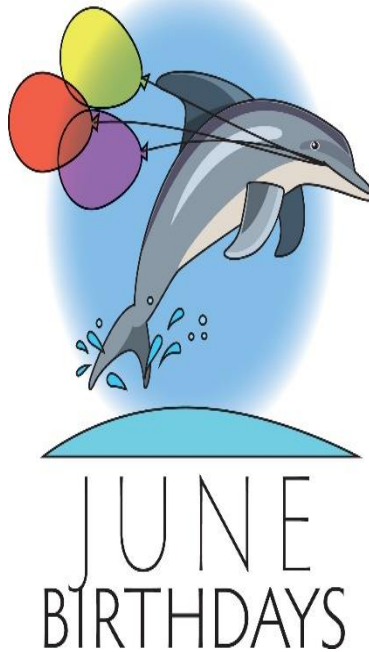
June Anniversaries and Birthdays



June 01 – Adam & Alston Sarver
June 04 – Sam & Janet Thurmer (62)
June 06 – Matt & Lauren Imrich
June 07 – Brandon & BJ Roland
June 08 – Bucky & Paige Price
June 08 – Don & Ramona Stanley
June 09 – Kelley & Debbie Massie
June 10 – Michael & Stephanie Bowling

June 10 – Bill & Jan Wilson
June 11 – Mike & Rhonda Clark
June 16 – Ted & Debbie Gillespie
June 16 – Norman & Nancy Jones (61)
June 17 – Otis & Edie Earls (65)
June 17 – Robbie & Krista Fix
June 18 – Steve & Lori Comer
June 20 – Jeff & Cathy McNew
June 21 – Larry & Martha Cook
June 27 – Marshall & Peggy Lytton (58)
June 28 – Bob & Barbara Robinson
June 29 – Jason & Jessica Pritchett

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 Cook
June 07 – George Haway
June 08 – Brandon Boyles
June 09 – Matt Linkous
June 10 – Lori Comer
June 10 – Betsy Horton
June 13 – Patrick Conner
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 18 – Rusty Howard
June 20 – Gail Rector
June 22 – Gavin Forbes
June 23 – Jacob Flanigan
June 24 – Linda Kennedy
June 25 – Kathy Haynes
June 25 – Michael Lewis
June 26 – Jordan Snidow
June 28 – Suzy Bell
June 29 – Terri Fredeking
June 29 – Paelinn Haway
June 29 – Addison Sarver
June 29 – Kaitlin Struble-Jones

THANK YOU NOTES

We want to let you know we received the beautiful memorial volume you sent us. Your thoughtfulness and kindness is very much appreciated. The book is very beautiful.

Samantha Clark

We thank you....We want to let you know we received the beautiful memorial volume you sent us. Your thoughtfulness and kindness is very much appreciated. The book is very beautiful.

Scotty Meadows

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Gifts have been designated

IN MEMORY OF

Hylah Lehr

by Ben and Sandy Gay

to Missions "Choirs"

IN MEMORY OF

Mr. & Mrs. Kidwell

Mr. & Mrs. Topping

by Roger Topping

to Missions "Choirs"



**Click the image below to view the
First United Methodist Church Calendar.**

