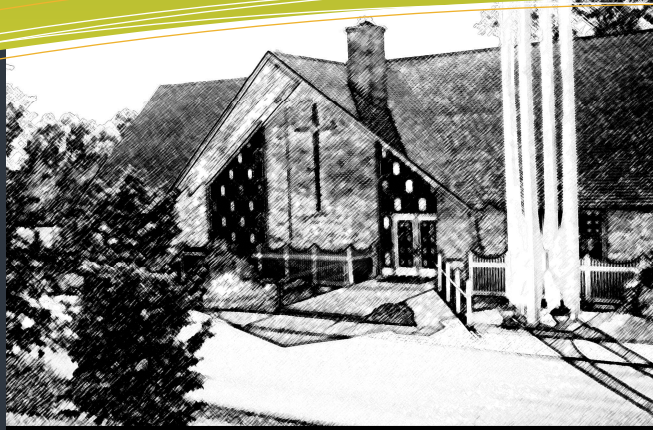


Humor For The Hard Times

"If you are elected the chair of a committee, you should probably begin each meeting with that old Scottish prayer, 'O Lord, grant that we may always be right, for Thou knowest we will never change our minds.'"

Bob Reed



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Church of the Good Shepherd Pastor's Ponderings

A recent Upper Room devotion pointed out that a cure for seasickness was to get out of your cabin, go to the rail and gaze at the horizon. It apparently works because it moves attention from inside to outside and changes our perspective from self to world.

I thought of that when Michelle Moon brought one of our Little Shepherd students to "see pastor Bert" when she was having trouble listening to the teachers. Getting out of her "cabin" and whatever inner turmoil she was experiencing, the little one found a new perspective that dramatically changed her mood.

I need that, too, when life makes me sick. Nothing does it better than worship, when I see a horizon beyond myself and catch a glimpse of the eternal.

See you in church.

COMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

October 2

5:30 Pie Social

October 3

7:30 Trustees Meeting

October 10

Columbus Day Church
Office Closed

October 13

7:30 Faith IQ Class

October 16

3:00 Parish Charge Con-
ference

October 18

5:00 Nurture Committee
Meeting
6:30 Finance Committee
Meeting
7:30 Administrative
Council Meeting

October 20

7:30 Faith IQ Class

October 26

7:30 Holy Humor
HWednesday

October 27

7:30 Faith IQ Class

October 30

All Saints Day Worship
12:00 Bread and Soup
Sale



October Birthdays

October 01

Rich Poling

October 02

Gary Sinsel

Ryley Bolyard

October 03

Jason Robinson

October 04

Zachary Swiger

October 05

Rob Mayle

Josh Coffman

October 07

Tom Mason

October 10

Sebie Jenkins
Denver Chambers

October 11

Lance Marshall

October 15

Chris Kines

October 18

Janie Skinner
Brittany Coughlin

October 19

Robert McCartney

Don Harman

October 22

Troy Bolyard

Cody Rucker

October 23

Claiborne Kunce

October 24

Cody Drainer

October 25

Drake Toothman
Gary Foster
Lorretta Corrothers

October 26

Chloe McKinney
Dave Patterson

October 27

Laurie Smith

October 28

Jerry Sturm

October 29

Kirsten Brown
Shelby Bolyard

October 30

June Upton
Steve Kines
Crystal Finch Bays

October 31

Ronald McBee
Kaelyn Drainer

October Anniversaries

October 1st

Lisa and Paul Faulkner

October 6th

Peter Brown and Monica Wolfe

October 8th

John and Shirley Shay
Michelle and John Moon III

October 10th

Cheryl and Joedy Lambert

October 14th

Frank and Jean Faulkner

October 15th

Mary Beth and Mike Drainer

October 19th

Rebecca and Reuben Gillispie

October 23rd

Linda and Ronald McBee

October 24th

Andy and Debbie Grinnan





Spotlight on the Flock

Conversations with Carla

"Bill is currently writing a family history from a daily diary he has kept for fifty years."

This month I talked to Sally and Bill Harman. Bill grew up in Grafton with his brother Bob, and Sally grew up in Charleston. They met at WVU when they were taking classes. They both graduated with Civil Engineering degrees and Bill also has a Master's in Transportation Engineering.

After Sally graduated she returned to Charleston to work for a year. She worked for a consulting company for the Interstate that was being built at the time. This was part of the Urban Planning Department with the State Department. Bill's father wanted him to come home to work at Harman Brothers that later became Harman Construction, so they moved to Grafton. Bill and Bob also owned Greenbrier Aggregates where they sold crushed limestone. They sold the businesses in 1998.

After returning from Charleston, Sally worked at WVU, as the owner's representative while the Comer Building was constructed. She al-

so worked at Fairmont State as their representative on new projects that were being built there. The Taylor County Board of Education called her to work as a substitute teacher and she did that as well for ten years.

They have three children: Catherine, Rebecca and James. They have six grandchildren, four boys and two girls.

Bill is currently writing a family history from a daily diary he has kept for fifty years. He is putting that together with news articles and photos for their children. He has also compiled Sally's favorite recipes into a cookbook for their children and he also enjoys golfing. Sally knits, does wood-working and watercolors, and makes baskets.

At Christmas they always have orange rolls and Egg strata casserole. The casserole would bake while they opened their presents and would be ready to take out of the oven to enjoy when they were finished. Their children still carry on this tra-

dition. They both enjoy the Christmas Eve service and their children attend with them when they are here. They have Thanksgiving dinner with Bob and Patsy.

I wondered how they became interested in recycling cans (they have donated the money to Good Shepherd for many years). James started recycling cans when he was about twelve years old and wanted to earn some spending money. One time one of James's friends was with them when they took the cans to Rager's to turn in for money. The friend thought it was really a hoot. After James got fifteen dollars for the cans, his friend didn't think it was so funny and started collecting cans himself. One year they collected enough cans to earn almost one thousand dollars.

Bill started out attending St. Paul's United Methodist Church, which was one of the churches that merged to become Good Shepherd. Bill taught a Sunday school class that went through the whole Bible. After they

went though the Bible one time they wanted to start again.

They both said that Psalm 23 is their favorite Bible passage. Bill said that he memorized it when he was young. They both felt that the passage has a calming effect and tells the entire story. It is a help in difficult times since it offers hope, support, and guidance. Bill also likes Christmas hymns; Silent Night is his favorite.

Bill and Sally said that Good Shepherd is special to them because they reared their children here. There are also a lot of great people in the church and a feeling of family. Pastor Bert is a very good influence in the church. He started here when the church was going through a difficult time and brought us through it.

BREAD OF LIFE

We have no one to cover the fourth Sundays at the Bread of Life Mission. Second Sundays are now being covered by the Well Church and Good Shepherd still does first and third Sundays as well as Wednesdays. If you are able to work on fourth Sundays please let us know in the church office, 304-265-1705.

MILITARY

The Nurture Committee is going to be sending Care Packages to our soldiers. We are currently in need of beef jerky, hard candy, crackers (peanut butter or cheese), raisins (small boxes), and sunscreen. Five new boxes will be going out soon. If you have additional names, contact Leah or Carla at 304-265-0572.

JERUSALEM MARKETPLACE

Kids—ages 5-11—can explore the culture of Jesus' world at Jerusalem Marketplace. We will meet each Sunday evening in October from 6:00 to 7:30 pm to experience Jerusalem as it was when Jesus rode in on a donkey, when He shared the Passover with His disciples, prayed in the garden, was arrested and then crucified and finally when He rose from the dead. We will explore through music, play, crafts and study of the scripture. Make plans to join us now! If you have questions, please see Adrienne.

A REMINDER

Please sign the registration pads that are located in the pew slot next to the main aisle. This helps the church to assess who is not attending church and enables us to see if assistance is needed to those not attending. Thank you!

OX ROAST

As the children return to school, the weather begins to get chillier, and the leaves start turning beautiful shades of red and gold, our thoughts begin to wander to beautiful Camp Mountaineer and the smell of mouth-watering beef cooking in the pits. Yes, it is time again for the Fall Ox Roast! On Sunday, October 9, 2011 from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., the Mountaineer Area Council will host the Fall Ox Roast. Advanced tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$11 for adults. Buses will provide transportation to and from parking lot to dining hall. Please see Arnold Kuhl for tickets.

A Note of Thanks

Dear Pastor Bert and Good Shepherd friends, Thank you for your visits and cards while Carl has been recovering. The prayer blanket is very special to Carl and is used every day. We thank all those who made the blanket and tied it with prayer.

Sincerely,
Cindy & Carl Steenstra

Dear Ladies and Gentleman who provided the meal, your special ways and generous heart make a beautiful difference. Thank you so much. I attended Bud Wood's funeral and the family was told the church had prepared a meal. I want to say thank you for your kindness and generosity in preparing and serving the meal!

God bless you all,
Jack & Diana Oswald
Beckley, WV

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Nursery workers need to arrive at 10:30 to receive children. Guidelines are posted in the narthex and outside the nursery door. Weeks can be traded with other volunteers if a conflict arises.

*October 2—Julie Reneau and family
October 9—Sheryl Isner and Sandy Coltelli
October 16— Cheryl Lambert and family
October 23— Shelley Elsey and family
October 30— Judy Dawson*

WHAT'S YOUR FAITH IQ?

Do you want to know the basics of Christian faith? Do you want to explore questions like "Why do we worship?" and "Why do we claim the Bible as our guide to living?" and "How can I trust God more?" Then join us on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. starting October 13. No faith required—questions welcome and encouraged.

GIVE US YOUR INPUT

If you have read Spotlight on the Flock, please let Carla Powell know what you think and any suggestions you may have. Thank you for your help.

JOIN THE GOOD SHEPHERD FITNESS GROUP

The Tygart Valley Wellness Center has offered the church a group rate (\$22/month) if we get four people or more to join as a group. Call Carla Powell at 304-265-0572. Get fit and save money!

UNITED METHODIST 101

What's a Methodist? Are they really united? Answers to these and other questions can be found in an online course offered by United Methodist Communications. There are four interactive modules and it's free! For this and other opportunities go to <http://training.umcom.org>

HOLY HUMOR HWEDNESDAY

October 26 will be the next date for healthy, holy humor. Last month we ranked cartoons (2 winners appear in this newsletter). The activity led to laughter about what's going on in our lives, as God smoothed the rough edges and showed us joy. Join us—7:30 p.m., October 26.

New Addresses

Many of you remember Rev. Richard Wright, who pastored here when three churches merged to form Good Shepherd. His new address is

Richard & Leanna
Wright
1215 Hulton Rd.
Room #367
Oakmont, PA 15139

As many of you know Abby Reynolds and Carol Rowe have moved to Florida. Their new address is
450 Oak Shadow Way
Wellington, FL 33414



"I had extra padding added for when you poke me in the ribs during the sermon."

From JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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www.glasbergen.com



"Yes, the disciples followed Jesus... but not on Twitter."

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Richard Germain (See Exodus 14) 04-04-2011

A TYPICAL CARDIO REGIMEN BACK IN EGYPT

Kim & Jason by Jason W. Kotecki

Get comics free by e-mail: www.KimandJason.com



(c) Copyright by Jason Kotecki. www.KimandJason.com

Is This an Ending or a Beginning? Yes.

Rev. Carol Crawford Rowe

People who relocate from time to time, for employment, national service, ministry, health, or many other reasons, understand the trauma and joy of the experience called MOVING. Abby has experienced it thirty-two times, and this is only my fourteenth. Sometimes I almost envy those who live a lifetime in the house where they were brought as babies...and yet...there is excitement and anticipation that they, in the blessing of their stability, never know.

This moving experience was particularly interesting for me because we were preparing to live in our twenty-one foot long motor home, with its built in, ship-like compartments and "everything in its place" requirements. That meant that much had to be left behind, distributed or destroyed. But even more daunting was the distance, the pending separation from loved ones and dependable friends. Only twice before have I experienced the tug on my heart that this move brought – when my daughter and her family moved to Florida eleven years ago, and when my son and his family moved to California several years later. Or perhaps it was also experienced when each of my husbands moved permanently to the Heavenly shore.

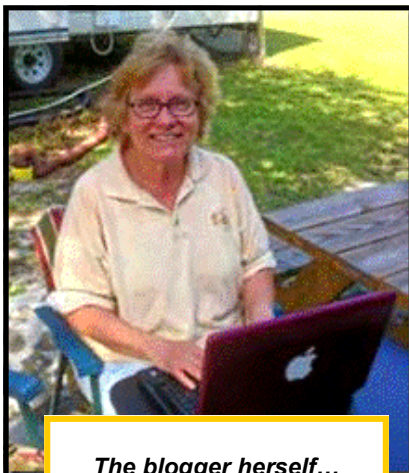
I feel sometimes like Charley Brown in Snoopy Come Home, when he cries out: "I hate good-byes. What I need is a few more hellos!"

That is the sorrow and the joy of relocation. I think of my grandmother, who left her homeland in Europe at the age of nineteen, never to see her family again. Mail was two to three months in crossing the ocean, so the news was always old when it arrived, and the writer may have been deceased by the time the reader received it. Today, we are connected in so many ways, so the pain is alleviated by email, texting, phone calls, all instant connections available, even here in Lion Country Safari Campground, a beautiful living area attached to an animal preserve and recreational park.

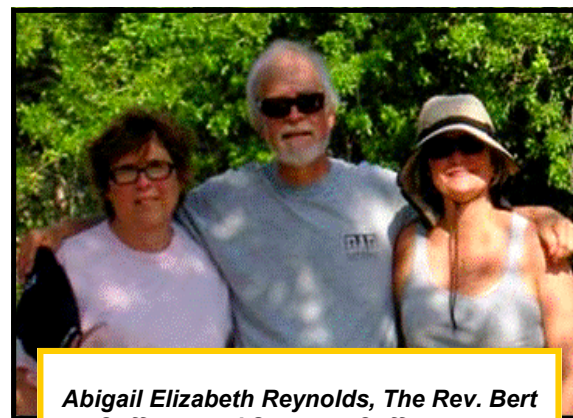
We are not yet sure why we are here, but we believe that this is where we are called to be at this time, for God's purposes and our blessing. We felt like Abraham, packing up our possessions and our lives, and setting off to a place that we had not seen, knowing not why or for how long, but following the voice that says "Leave what you know and follow me. I have plans for you".

We expect to be blessed here, but, more important, we expect to be a blessing here. How, when, to whom, we may never fully know, but we will share the presence of Jesus Christ every day, as God enables.

I am beginning this blog to tell the story of God's grace in the everyday experiences and encounters of our lives. Abby and I are anticipating many hellos and are refusing to say good-bye to any of you who desire to make this journey with us. Come along for the adventure, and we will go on safari together, to rejoice in God and share the joy of Jesus Christ.



The blogger herself...
Carol Crawford Rowe



Abigail Elizabeth Reynolds, The Rev. Bert Coffman and Suzanne Coffman, our loving and grace-filled escorts to FL

I will be writing each week, and sharing something in the newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, in Grafton, West Virginia, each month. You can follow our story there www.cogswv.org, on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000042786810> or at the blog site <http://saintsonsafrica.wordpress.com>. I welcome your responses and the sharing of your thoughts, as long as they are encouraging and edifying.

So we begin...

