



## THE MESSENGER

Steele Memorial United Methodist Church

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Rev. Kevin Lantz, Pastor

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July 2017

### A CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY: Rev. Ralph Sager, PASTOR EMERITUS

On Sunday, June 25, the Church celebrated the ministry and service of a faithful servant of God, **Rev. Ralph Sager**, as he moves into a retirement relationship with the church and community. Rev. Sager has served friends and members of Steele Memorial UM Church for 22 years as a loving pastor, visitor, confidant, and friend!

We now recognize Rev. Sager as **Pastor Emeritus**. The word "Emeritus" means "a title of honor following retirement!" It is not unusual for our Churches to recognize the service of those near and dear to our lives and our faith with such sincere distinction.

In a letter to Rev. Sager, **Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball** gave thanks for his faithful service with these words: "Today as you are named Pastor Emeritus of Steele Memorial United Methodist Church, I give thanks for your faithfulness and your dedication to sharing Christ with the world in word, action, and living. I give thanks for your many visits and the prayers you have offered for those experiencing challenges in their lives. I give thanks for your servant leadership and for how you strove to do your best for the sake of God and God's people whom you were called to serve.

"Today I give thanks for you and for responding continuously throughout the years to God's call on your life! You have made a difference and you have helped the world and its people to know Christ and to trust God. Thank you for your ministry! Thank you for your witness! Thank you for sharing God's love!"

Though retired, Rev. Sager will not be gone! He considers this to be his Church home, for you have made up his circle of family and friends for many years! From all of us at Steele Memorial UMC, we express our deep appreciation! Well done, good and faithful servant!



### SWIM PARTY

July 30 is our Church Swim Party at the Kennedy Center from 6-8 p.m. on Rt. 2. This is a good time to CONNECT friends to the fellowship of your Church. Swim and cover-dish dinner. Won't you think about inviting a family or friends?

### NEW NURSERY CARE STAFF

The Church has recently hired two young ladies to staff the Church Nursery during our weekly Sunday worship hour. We are pleased to welcome **Mikayla Nicely** and **Taylor Sowards**, two students from Cabell-Midland High School who have completed the state certification curriculum for child-care with Mr. Garry Dick, who serves as a teacher of Family and Consumer Science at the school.

### DESSERT AUCTION

The Ice Cream Social always provides some fun and laughs with the dessert auction! Though the ice cream is free, attendees bid for desserts provided by some of our great cooks and bakers! Proceeds from the auction go toward our building fund, payment for our new parsonage, our Pastor's residence. This year we raised \$1,445.00! Thanks to all who contributed, including our youngest bidders: Kenzie Fannin and Kennedy Wagoner!



## NEW CHURCH STAFF

Who else is new around the Church?

You can welcome **Mr. Ricky Shull**, the new hire as custodian! Ricky is working this final week in June with Ms Fern Allred who has been the Church custodian for 30 years! We will miss Fern's faithfulness and work ethic! She has been a reliable, yet quiet servant of the Lord – preparing us to engage others in ministry for more than a generation! And we are thankful!

Ricky Shull comes to us at

just the right time! A former employee at Pressley Ridge and AT&T, Ricky is from Milton and has been looking for a Church position; a place with a role that he could consider a “ministry,” serving the Lord in something he enjoys doing. Take time to welcome Ricky to the Church if you see him!

You can also welcome **Marilyn Meade** to the Church office as our new Office Manager and administrative assistant. Marilyn was one of many really good candidates who interviewed for the position, as we have regrettably had to say goodbye to Jonnie Johnson.

Marilyn has deep experience as a resource person for the local Red Cross office in Huntington. She served as Emergency / Disaster Services Specialist for several years. Her proficiency working with people and with the tools of the office are typical roles that were obvious from her resume and interview. The work of the office will run smoothly as we all patiently help Marilyn get acquainted with the roles and service of our ministry!

## MY MOM'S REFRIGERATOR

Among the collection of wise words and funny sayings on Mom's refrigerator are some very important prayers and bible verses. This is one sample, a clipping from her Church, by Dr. Rebecca M. Daniel:

Oh God, in whose image we know our faith,  
we seek Your presence.  
Bless our church.  
Guide us as we make decisions  
as to how we can together use  
our time, our talents, and our gifts.  
We pray for wisdom and insight. Amen

“Bless our Church.” I was hooked by this phrase. I'm so glad that Mom has a heart for the work of her Church, because what the Church is called to do far excels most any other purpose we can imagine!

It is the purpose of the Church to **ENGAGE** people in the world who are blind to the purpose and desire of our heavenly Father -- who wants to love each person personally!

It is the desire of the Church to **CONNECT** people to a relationship with the Maker of Creation who gives us our true identity through faith in Jesus Christ!

It is the role of the Church to **DEVELOP** Christian believers with spiritual insights and understanding so that the heart is set free to love -- through the power of sacrifice and humility!

It is the task of the Church to show the believer the way to **SERVE** the Lord in the unique place that matches your passions, gifts, and desires!

It's a grand life with clarity and understanding – this journey with Jesus Christ! And you are needed! Can I help you find your way with us?



*Pastor Kevin*

## WHAT IS “CELEBRATE RECOVERY?”

Celebrate Recovery is a biblical and balanced program that helps us overcome our hurts, hang-ups, and habits. It is based on the actual words of Jesus rather than psychological theory. Thirty years ago, Saddleback Church in California launched Celebrate Recovery with 43 people. It was designed as a program to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through a recovery process. Celebrate Recovery has helped more than 17,000 people at Saddleback, attracting over 70% of its members from outside the church. Eighty-five percent of the people who go through the program stay with the church and nearly half serve as church volunteers.

Celebrate Recovery is now in over 29,000 churches worldwide!

**Celebrate Recovery at our Church meets each Tuesday evening**, beginning with dinner at 6:30 in the old fellowship hall. The meeting is open to anyone searching for a road into recovery, and is a perfect match for those in recovery for their after-care!

Following the meal, a key lesson is shared to assist with the recovery process, followed by a small group discussion. Attendees experience support through worship, prayer, and support from others in their team meeting.

**How others can help:** You can take part in this important outreach by recruiting your class, small group, or group of friends to prepare dinner, with each group member taking responsibility for a simple dish or dessert. Contact Gina Crews for more information at 304 544-9696.

## VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) is a grassroots movement within The United Methodist Church that provides a way for lay and clergy Christians to use their skills and talents in service at home and around the world on short term mission assignments at their own expense.

Their work includes construction of mission facilities, teaching, witnessing, conducting medical clinics, conducting Bible study or Bible School for children, and serving in disaster relief efforts around the world.

Opportunities for 2017 teams are likely to be closed, but each year there are trips planned. This year included two trips to Alaska and one to Haiti. If you have an interest, you can search the West Virginia Conference web-site:

<https://www.wvumc.org/change-the-world/volunteers-in-mission/> or contact Rev. David Stilgenbauer, WV Conference VIM Coordinator by email

Revdaves@yahoo.com or call at 304-210-6938.

## OVERSEAS TOURS THAT CONNECT SPIRITUALLY

The United Methodist Church in West Virginia presents several tours of special significance for any friends or members of the Church.

**September 11-23, 2018 The VIM Irish Spirituality Mission Trip** is all about the soul! The “work” of the team participants is going to be a work on your walk with Jesus Christ! Pilgrimage is an ancient Christian work of progress. By walking the pilgrim path you move from one place in life to another in which you are closer to Christ.

On this work team, you will grow in faith and discover the “thin places.” You will learn about “threshold” places and moments ...and more! Coordinators for the trip include Rev. Bart Thompson and Rev. Monty Brown. The group will be visiting sights in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland that have spiritual and historic

## NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

The Western District of the WV United Methodist Church (of which we are a part) will install our new Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Okey Harless this month. Below is his letter of introduction to the Churches of our District.

Greetings,

Allow me to introduce myself; I am Dr. Okey Harless, your new District Superintendent for the Western District. My wife Jane and I come to the District after serving the past 13 years as pastor of Dunbar UMC in Dunbar. Jane and I have been married for 44 years. Our family includes our daughter and son in-law, Tim and Karen O’Neal, and their children Chase and Alex, who recently relocated to Missouri.

I come believing that God placed my name on the heart of Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball when she asked me to serve as your District Superintendent. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve with you in ministry that offers a breath of fresh air to a hurting, broken world! There is a tremendous amount of work to be done! One report I heard said that 80% of West Virginians are not connected to a church. Many of them simply do not know Christ. We must dream and vision about how we can reach new people! Remember Jesus said, “Go make disciples,” not “wait” and make disciples.

Our Lead Team is working on ways to fulfill the great commission! Soon they will be sharing ideas and plans. I have already started working on plans to move our District forward. I pray that the churches are ready to move! Please keep me and the District in your prayers as I pray for each church and pastor. Please know that if I can be of help to you or the church my door is open.

Jane and I look forward to meeting you on July 9, 3 p.m. at Pea Ridge UMC for the Installation Service. This serves as our first clergy gathering as well. I am looking forward to visiting churches for worship and other special events. I am interested in you and your ministry. By the way, one thing that you will hear me say often, “I love my job!”

Grace & Peace  
Dr. Okey Harless



meaning to all Christian pilgrims.

The cost is \$2,800.00 in airfare, ground transportation, lodging, and most meals. One-third payment to reserve a spot on team is due February 1, 2018. If this is something for you – you can contact Rev. Bart Thompson; 409 Jefferson Ave. in Glen Dale, WV 26038; 304 813-7213, or at his email: [bartompson@aol.com](mailto:bartompson@aol.com)

**October 15-25, 2018** a second Ireland Tour by **Educational Opportunities Tours** led by Rev. Dan and Becky Johnson. Contact Dan Johnson at 304 575-7359 for more information and other Christian travel opportunities.

In early 2020, Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball will host a special Holy Land pilgrimage, **Walk the Land of Jesus and the Bible** as the ultimate hands-on learning experience! This trip will inspire your faith and help transform your life and you discover your bible study to be enriched. More information will be forthcoming.

## TREE OF LIFE

As you move through the corridor into the Fellowship Hall of the Church you see the “Tree of Life” with bronze leaves and names on each leaf. What is that all about?

Each leaf is “purchased” to honor or remember a loved one of family member connected to our Church and in order to relieve the building fund debt of the Church addition (which has subsequently been paid off) and for the new parsonage, which is a current expense we are paying. Those who desire to purchase a leaf can do so with a \$500 contribution and contacting the Church Office at 304 736-4583.

Leaves may be purchased in installments and marking your contribution in a pew envelope, designating your gift clearly on the envelope. The current balance of our Parsonage is approximately \$200,000.00.

**PULPIT EXCHANGE** - Sunday, August 20, the Churches of the Greater Barboursville Ministerial alliance will take part in a "Pulpit Exchange!" Rev. Evan Arkell, pastor of the Barboursville Baptist Church will be our morning preacher and Rev. Lantz will be filling the pulpit at Christ the King Lutheran Church!

**CHURCH WEB SITE** - Visit the new look at your Church's website: [www.steelememorial.com](http://www.steelememorial.com)

**WOMEN'S AEROBICS: REFIT** - Our Church sponsors a women's aerobics class each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings 9:30- 10:30 in the Church gym. Stephanie Ross is the group leader, and she uses faith-friendly music to help make the exercise routine something you will enjoy!

As a special treat, Stephanie is offering an event on Saturday, July 22, open to all the public as a way to expose others to the exercise workout. It is free, but any donations for the 90-minute REFIT Class will be collected for charity. Stephanie did this last year as a way of celebrating her Birthday, so don't be surprised if there aren't a few refreshments for the gathering!

**ESTHER/RUTH CIRCLE** will NOT meet in July.

**UMW Mission Support** for July will be ECHO-canned pasta, peanut butter, and school supplies.

**CHURCH MISSION REPORT** - "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16

We continue to share with those in need, especially by our continued support of ECCHO. In May, the Singles class collected 195 snacks for children and the congregation sent 29 boxed and 20 individual servings of Mac & Cheese to the food pantry at ECCHO.

To support our Celebrate Recovery ministry, both the Singles class and UMW sponsored a Tuesday evening dinner. The Singles class also provided 10 homemade cakes to Recovery Point in May.

We also continue to supply snacks (approx \$75 ytd) to Hospice House as a way of supporting those families dealing with end of life issues.

Thanks to the Girls of Faith, Megan was able to donate over \$600 to "Autism Speaks" to help with Autism Awareness - special thanks to Ashley Kinker and Jayme Chapman who hosted the LulaRoe party and to all those who contributed to a great cause.

We, as a church, are blessed to be able to share with those in our community.

**THE MISSION TEAM** met in June to discuss where we've been and where we are going! Our team will soon begin a study about mission work. We discussed sharing God's transforming love with the world and we identified those most oppressed and troubled in our community. Please

make a team member aware of anyone in our church family or community that could use assistance.

Special thanks to our "summer intern" Rachel Pickett for helping complete several projects. No matter the task, Rachel is up for it with a smile on her face! From filling flood buckets for UMCOR, to shopping for Ebenezer and delivering, to serving food and helping make cardboard testimonies at Celebrate Recovery, she has helped!

Thanks to all of our sponsors and the Celebrate Recovery Team for an amazing night at Barboursville Park with the Jason Lovins Band. I have loved hearing the comments about the "cardboard testimonies" and I hope everyone realizes how difficult it was for some to share their deepest feelings. We ALL can learn from this! \$9,000 was raised for Recovery Point and a collection of over \$900 was collected at the concert. A love donation of \$250 was given to Carla, the soloist who opened for Jason Lovins. If you would like to provide a meal for CR, please let a team member know. Special thanks to Three Amigos (Jayme and Drew Chapman) for providing dinner for 50 people at CR! When you are at the restaurant, please give them a big THANK YOU! Also, we are seeking volunteers to assist with the children's lessons at CR that coordinate with the adult lessons.

The playground at Ebenezer Community Outreach Center should be a little more lively as we sent approximately \$450 in playground equipment, toys, crafts and school supplies their way. In July, we are going to celebrate with the children at a Princess/Superhero Party! If you would like to donate snacks, drinks, or have a talent the children would enjoy, please let us know! All are welcome to don your costumes and join us!

Ed Peckham shared with us about his membership in the Christian Motorcycle Association. This is an international organization that uses all proceeds to promote Christ. Steele Mission Team donated \$250 to the Run for the Son ministry.

Watch the bulletin for information about a nearby mission trip for late summer or early fall.

Occasionally, people walk in the church during services requesting money, we would like to make it known to everyone that a form for Tower Foodfair is available in the church office.

Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others — Philippians 2:4

**SCHOOL BACK PACK TIME** - The summer is flying by as we all enjoy swimming, picnicking and vacations with the family. As we enjoy the sunshine it will not be long for the children to head back to school (August 10<sup>th</sup>).

Each year more and more children in our county will be in need of help getting school supplies. In conjunction with ECCHO, a day in July will be scheduled to fill back packs for children Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. In order to fill the back packs we need donations of school supplies. Here is a list of items that are needed:

- Back packs for all age groups
- One to one and half inch three ring binders
- Folders
- Spiral notebooks both wide and college rule
- Note paper both wide and college rule

- #2 pencils
- Ink pens
- A box of 24 crayons
- Pkg. of colored pencils
- Highlighters
- Glue sticks
- Erasers
- Pencil boxes---plastic and cloth

There were over 200 back packs filled last year and volunteers for this year will be needed. If you are able to help, please contact Peggy Fillmore or Brenda Chapman. The July date will be announced soon and the back packs will be filled at Milton UMC. With your donations and help children in Cabell County will be able to start school on positive note.

**STAFF PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS TEAM** wishes the very best to Rev. Ralph Sager, Jr., Associate Pastor, Fern Allred, custodian and Jonnie Johnson, Administrative Assistant as they begin to enjoy other life pursuits. We thank you for your years of service and dedication to Steele Memorial United Methodist Church.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest staff members, Rick Shull, custodian and Marilyn Meade, Administrative Assistant.

**THANK YOU** from the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Team to everyone for helping Rev. Sager celebrate his 22 years of ministry at Steele Memorial United Methodist Church. Your expression of love is greatly appreciated.



02 Holly Fannin Jacob Lingenfelter	17 Lee Blake
04 Emily Lingenfelter	18 Mary Frances Burns Lois Silling
08 Rob Blake Courtney Cremeans	19 Jim Allman Ron Foss
11 Callie Nease	24 Kati Call
13 Rebecca Holton	25 Buck Conard
15 Phil Herrold	Gina Crews
16 Peggy Hicks Eldon Paugh	29 Pete Kelley
	31 Dick Jimison



- 02 Rob & Teresa Blake  
Chad & Molly Fisher
- 04 Chris & Rita Kelley  
Ed & Patty Peckham
- 11 Danny & Sherrie Childers  
Jeff & Carla Snell
- 16 Buck & Cathy Conard
- 17 Carl & Cheryl Sullivan
- 21 Buddy & Lilly Dick
- 23 Todd & Kathy Lester
- 25 Raymond & Rosetta Blake
- 29 Phil & Bonnie Herrold
- 31 Greg & Gina Crews



Psalm 33:12

# July 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 Office Closed	5	6	7	8
9	10 -Trustee Mting 7:00	11	12	13 -Lydia Circle 1:00 -Finance 7:00	14	15
16	17 -Adm Council 7:00	18	19	20	21	22 -Vision Team 9:10
23 -Vision Team 12:30	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 -Swim Party Kennedy Center 6-8 pm -No Evening Worship	31					

## Weekly Events

**Sunday—**

8:45 Early Worship  
 9:45 Sunday School  
 10:45 Morning Worship  
 6:00 Youth  
 6:30 Evening Worship

**Wednesday—**

6:45 Bible Study  
 7:45 Choir

**Thursday—**

7:00 M. Call gym

**Monday—**

6:30 Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts  
 7:30 Boy Scouts

**Friday—**

**Saturday—**

8:00 Men's Bible Study

**Tuesday—**

6:30 Celebrate Recovery, SFH



*Parking Lot  
Greeters*

*July*

02: Donnie Barbour	Kim Stanley
09: Pat Cornwell	Mike McClung
16: Kelly McGuffin	Gary Cox
23: Kim Stanley	Tony Ryder
30: Donnie Barbour	Gary Cox