



The Circuit Rider



to every thing there is a
season,
and a time to every purpose
under the heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Salmon Creek Church

2020

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a note from Pastor John

I know that many people in our congregation have taken the time from this lockdown/slowdown/whatever-this-is to work on their gardens. This is certainly true on the block where I live in Washougal. It's not as if they were bad gardeners before, but now new trees and shrubs are sprouting up, lawns are immaculate, weeds have been completely banished. Backyard vegetable patches are overflowing with tomatoes and melons. If you hadn't noticed, Home Depot and Lowes have about doubled their sales in gardening equipment. And now as summer comes to an end, the harvest is likely to be bountiful indeed!

There is a common spiritual metaphor around gardening – tending to the garden of our souls. Fertilizing our spirits, growing our relationship with God, watering our faith and pulling out the weeds. I have been encouraged to see many in our congregation doing these things, even in this weird time of uncertainty and fear. I haven't taken a count, but I believe devotional reading is up, Bible reading is up, and prayer is up. People still so long for connection with God through connection with each other that they will tolerate Zoom and social distancing in order to get that contact.

I don't think it's too much of a stretch to say that, externally, we are living in a spiritually parched time. Reality has become malleable, and God is no more than a myth. So, God bless all of you who have been watering your faith! And it's never too late to start – God is always in season!

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' (Isaiah 40)

When Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well that He is the living water of life, He means it. He is living water for our souls. Read, pray, serve, pray, rest, pray – these are the things that will water your faith and let it blossom in this drought. Droughts come and go, but the Word of the Lord is forever.

Blessings, Pastor John Hiestand

So, What's Next?

We've enjoyed some nice weather during August, which has allowed us to have an outdoor service, which we plan to continue into September. I am so appreciative of everyone who has helped to make these services meaningful and safe. But we do live in the Northwest, and sooner or later we will need a roof over our heads when we worship.

The hope is to begin having indoor worship beginning Sunday, September 20. This service will be held in the FMC gym, which allows us to continue our practice of social distancing in a well-ventilated space. The sanctuary is still being remodeled (they are laying carpet as I type this) and I don't know when we will return to worship in the sanctuary, other than to say with confidence that we will return to the sanctuary! As is always the case, the September 20 date is a "soft" date as conditions and requirements continue to change frequently, so keep watching your e-mails for more information.

Your patience over the last six months, as we have worked to adapt to this new environment, has been much appreciated, and your faith in Salmon Creek Church has kept us all going. But most importantly, your trust in God's promise of grace and love gives us confidence in our future as the Body of Christ.

Blessings, Pastor John

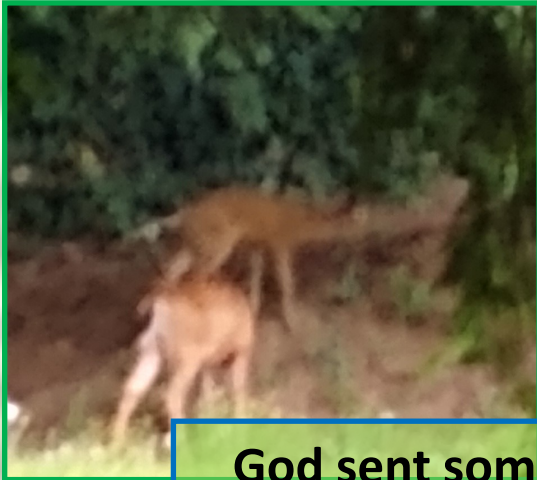
Until certain conditions are met, Salmon Creek Church will not be holding indoor worship services. Please join us for drive-in and outdoor celebrations as they become available, or continue to enjoy our online services.

Pastor John will be on vacation Tuesday, Sep. 1 through Monday Sep. 7. I will have extremely limited access to cell and e-mail. In case you have a pastoral emergency, please call Rev. Sue Ostrom, Pastor of Mill Plain UMC, at 360-831-7942.

An outdoor church service will be held on Sunday, Sep. 6 at 9:00 am, weather permitting. Communion will be served as a "Love Feast."



outdoor WORSHIP



God sent some of His woodland creatures to worship with us!





Trustees and other volunteers are nearing completion of this project. I really appreciate the continued efforts this spring and summer as we took on one project after another in the main building and Daycare. The COVID crisis provided us with an opportunity to serve our church and stay busy. I wish more of you could drop by to stay in touch with our church. That said, these were physical church efforts and all of us really need the bonding and spiritual good feeling of meeting again. The outdoor church has been great and I hope more can return to services.

In the next 2-3 weeks, work should be completed. The carpet is being installed now, starting with the Sanctuary and then the Narthex and Chancel (altar) sometime in mid-September. Pews have been re-installed in their new configuration. We will complete the chancel work and painting during the first week of September.

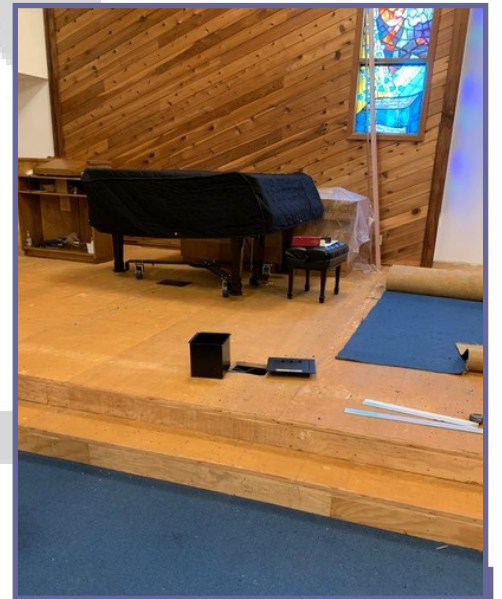
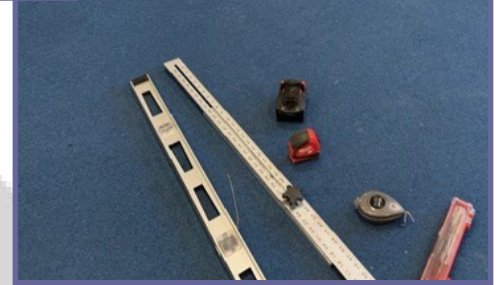
Thanks to all of you for your continued support of our church.

Steve Enyeart

Trustees reconnecting a speaker, while making the chancel area Disabled persons accessible.



Removing the old Carpet!



Installing the new carpet!



GOD'S GARDEN OF LOVE





Family Promise, a little different but the same heart ...

Let us face it, the last few months have been challenging for all of us. Now add to that: being homeless, having food allergies and a special needs teenager. That was one of our two families that we hosted in August and that is why I love Family Promise.

When the pandemic started, Family Promise had to make some adjustments. For the first four and a half months, families were housed in extended stay hotels and meals were delivered to the doors. Sometimes you never saw the faces of the family. This was costly, \$8,000 a month.

August brought a new chapter for Family Promise of Clark County. They started using what is called static sites. This means that the guests stay in one spot, which is donated or rented at a reduced cost, for a month. For August, the location was an old church that is now called the Sumner House. The guests pretty much live in their rooms. TVs were set up in the rooms, plus tables and chairs. They ate in their room. If they left their room, they wore a mask. The guests were responsible to sanitize the area daily. Meals were packaged per family and handed to them. The difference was that the hosts were also on site. The guests would stick their heads out and tell you how wonderful the meal was. They would thank you for being there. The space was huge for six people and social distancing was at its best. The set up was closer to the Family Promise we know and love. You still get to see faces, above the masks, talk to them.

There are two other static sites in the works. One is an old nursing home in Brush Prairie near Meadow Glade Seventh Day Adventist Church. The other will be the Unitarian Universalist Church at 4505 E 18th Street. Both churches are closer to Salmon Creek. They also have a fire suppression system, so there is no need to stay up all night. Salmon Creek's next week to host is **December 27—January 3**.

I want to thank the individuals and small groups that helped and supported us for our August week. We had two wonderful volunteers from the Washougal church cover three shifts for us. And as always, we couldn't have done it without the help of Felida Bible Church.

Help for the week of Thanksgiving, November 22nd - November 29th is needed. Instead of assigning one church to the busy week, they are hoping that all our churches in the network could take a shift. There will be a Signup Genius link for this at <https://www.familypromiseofclarkco.org/>

Lastly Thank you for your prayers. The families are so grateful for your generosity.
Karen Beilsmith

GIVE MORE 24!

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

On September 24th, Family Promise of Clark County will be participating in the annual community-wide event called **Give More 24!**

By giving to Family Promise on September 24th, your donation is matched by local businesses and groups that support Family Promise, allowing us to make a bigger impact in our Community. Your gift will go further!

Give More 24! is on September 24, 2020 from midnight to 11:59 PM. Give More 24! is a day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Give More 24! is an initiative of Community Foundation of Southwest Washington. Over 200 charitable, nonprofits across Southwest Washington participate.

For more information on Give More 24!, visit www.familypromiseofclarkco.org
As we get closer to September 24th a direct link will be included in the Currents.

Thank you, Karen Beilsmith

I have been making object lesson videos for the children which have now become a YouTube channel. The name of the channel is "SCUMC Children's Time". If you wish to see it, do a search on YouTube using that name and then scroll down until you see this thumbnail:



Or if you prefer, email me and I will send a link. I have had fun making these and I hope the kids are enjoying them and learning more about God as a result.

There are a LARGE number of individually wrapped craft packages at the church. These are designed for elementary-aged children and are Bible based. They only require glue to make. If you would like some for your child/children, please let me know. I would be happy to arrange a gloved, masked, drive by drop-off of kits for them.

I hope the transition to back-to-school goes well. You are in my prayers. I look forward to seeing you all again, hopefully soon!

Diane Reid, Family Ministry Coordinator



What have YOU been doing? Let's share our lives in photographs, to bring us just a little bit closer during this time of isolation and separation. Send your photos (e-mail in jpeg format) of your projects, gardens, outings, family, crafts, special interests, etc. to me to be included in the next Circuit Rider! We ALL miss each other deeply and want to see what we've all been doing. Depending on how many photos I get, I will try to make a collage of our submissions but if there are too many, I may have to pick and choose. We would all love to see what's been happening in YOUR lives!

DEADLINE: 3rd Sunday of the month.

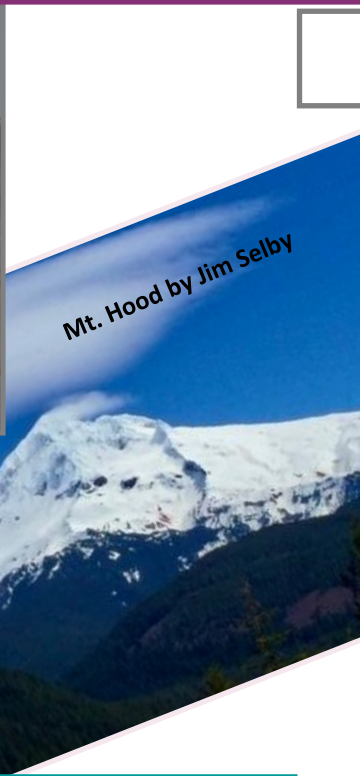
I look forward to hearing from you!

Nancy Volgamore

What have you been up to during lockdown?

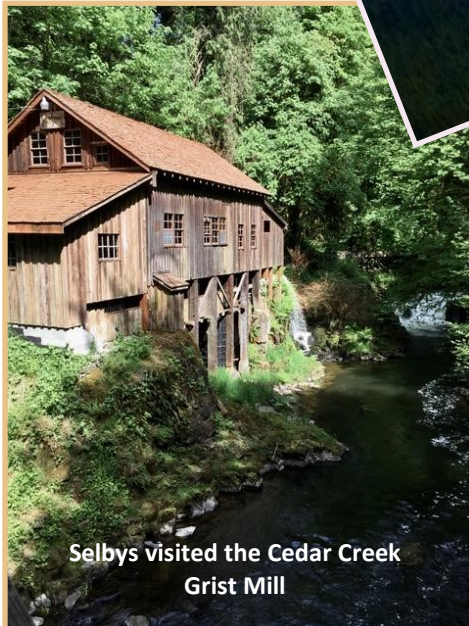


Beilsmiths hiked up the side of Mt. Hood to McNeil point and hut.



Mt. Hood by Jim Selby

Jim Selby and buddy Karl Kratzer at Chinook Falls on the Siouxon Creek



Selbys visited the Cedar Creek Grist Mill



Nancy Volgamore is enjoying Diamond Dotz kits!

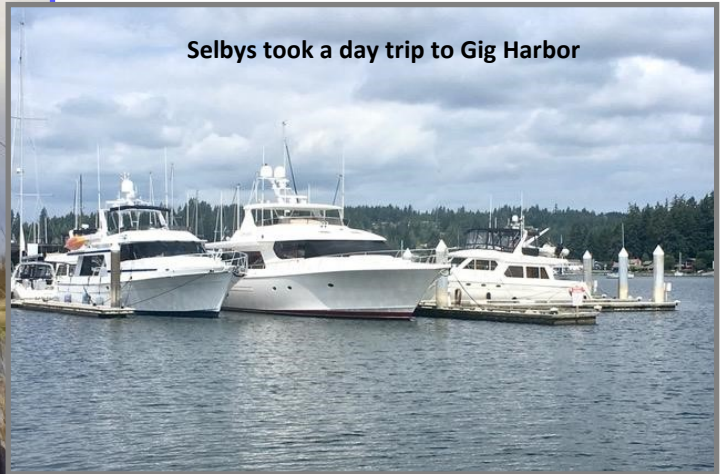
Karen & Richard were hiking in Teton National Park



Jim & Betty Selby at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge



Selbys took a day trip to Gig Harbor



Weston took his parents flying around St. Helens, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams and Mt. Hood



Nancy Volgamore's little cousin had her First Communion in Minnesota



Matt composed a song "Jean's Song" for Jean Trupp's Celebration of Life in Idaho. Pews were covered with quilts that Jean made for the family



Lucia Falls by Jim Selby



TEN THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT METHODISM



1. The Methodist Church began as a reformation of the Church of England.

The Methodist movement started with a collection of men, including John Wesley and his younger brother Charles, as an act of reform within the Church of England in the 18th century. The Wesley brothers originated the

"Holy Club" at the University of Oxford, where John was an associate and later an instructor at Lincoln College. The group met weekly and methodically set about living a holy life. They preferred to receive Communion every week, abstain from most forms of amusement and luxury and commonly visit the sick and the poor. The fellowship was stigmatized as "Methodist" by their fellow classmates because of the way they used "rule" and "method" to determine their religious convictions. John, who was the leader of the club, took the attempted mockery and turned it into a title of honor.


2. Wesley did not intend to split from the Church of England.

Initially, the Methodists simply sought reform within the Church of England. As Methodist congregations multiplied, and elements of a distinct theology were adopted, the rift between John Wesley and the Church of England steadily expanded.

In 1784, Wesley responded to the lack of priests in the colonies due to the American Revolutionary War by anointing preachers with authority to administer the sacraments. This was a significant reason for Methodism's eventual split from the Church of England after Wesley's death. This separation created a distinct group of church denominations. With regard to the occurrence of Methodism within Christianity, John Wesley once noted that "what God had achieved in the development of Methodism was no mere human endeavor but the work of God. As such it would be preserved by God so long as history remained."

3. John Wesley taught four key points fundamental to the Methodist Church.


- 1) A person is free not only to reject salvation but also to accept it by an act of free will.
- 2) All people who are obedient to the gospel according to the measure of knowledge given them will be saved.
- 3) The Holy Spirit assures a Christian of their salvation directly, through an inner "experience" (assurance of salvation).
- 4) Christians in this life are capable of Christian perfection and are commanded by God to pursue it.



The United Methodist Church

History of Methodism

- Originated with John and Charles Wesley
- Name "**Methodist**" can be traced back to incidents at Oxford University in 1729
- Methodist movement did not take shape until 1739



John Wesley
1703 - 1791

4. Methodists are known for their rich musical tradition.

Some of the most well-known hymn writers in Christianity were Methodists. Most notable was Charles Wesley who wrote and penned over 6,000 hymns in his lifetime. Many of his hymns are translated into other languages and form the foundation for Methodist hymnals. Wesley's hymns are famous as interpretations of Scripture. As a result of his renowned hymnody, the Gospel Music Association acknowledged his musical contributions to the realm of gospel music in 1995 by including his name in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

5. The United Methodist Church is the largest American mainline denomination.

With nearly 12 million members in 42,000 congregations worldwide, the United Methodist Church is the largest American mainline denomination. The UMC was formed in 1968 with a merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church. Today, the UMC is a participating member of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches. There are seven World Methodist Council denominations in the United States: the African Methodist Episcopal Church; the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; the Church of the Nazarene; the Free Methodist Church; the Wesleyan Church; and the United Methodist Church.

6. The Methodist denomination grew from four people to over a hundred thousand in Wesley's lifetime.

From the origin of Methodism, a group of four men who called themselves the “holy club” at Oxford, was an impressive growth in the span of John Wesley's lifetime. When Wesley passed away in 1791, the movement he helped start had grown to 72,000 members in the British Isles and 60,000 in America. Methodism continued to grow as today, across the multiple Methodist denominations, there are nearly 40 million members worldwide.

7. Wesley believed in the importance of “social holiness.”

Wesley preached that we needed to be involved in “social holiness.” He believed we could only grow as Christians in a community, surrounded by people of similar faith and conviction. In his preface to the 1739 hymnal, he was insistent that “the gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness.”

8. John Wesley coined the term “agree to disagree.”

Numerous times, Wesley engaged in heated theological disputes with another renowned preacher named George Whitefield. Though they both debated intensely, Wesley reflected on their contrast in beliefs in a memorial sermon for Whitefield by saying: “There are many doctrines of a less essential nature. ... In these, we may think and let think; we may 'agree to disagree.' But, meantime, let us hold fast the essentials. ...” This appears to be the first documented use of the phrase. It was an indication of Wesley's manner of sticking to his convictions while remaining in connection with those with whom he disagreed.

9. John Wesley wrote one of the bestselling medical texts of all-time.

Wesley was deeply convicted that God is concerned about our earthly life as well as our heavenly one. To that end, he wrote a medical text for the everyday person titled *Primitive Physick*. The book discussed the contemporary knowledge about home health remedies and went through 32 editions, making it one of the most widely read books in England.

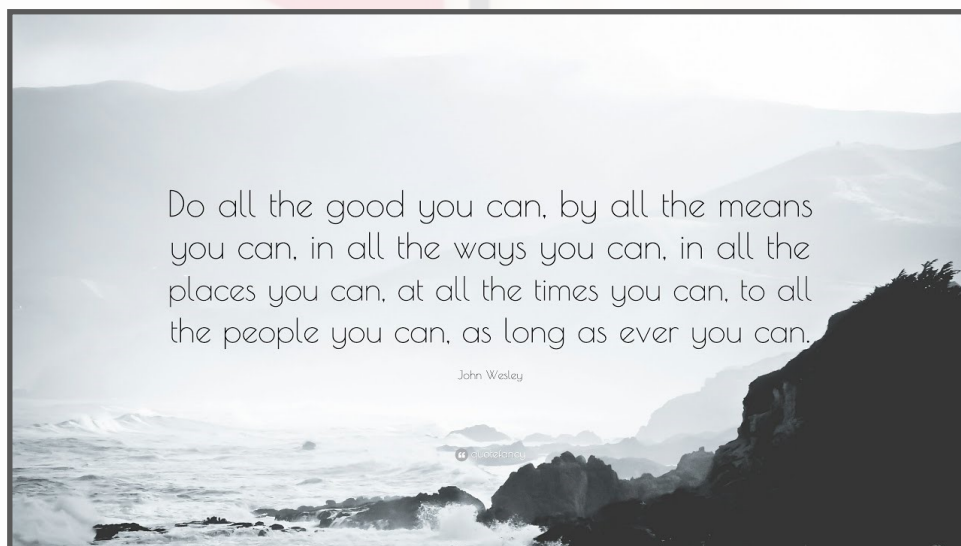
Many of Wesley's suggestions for healthy living remain commonly confirmed. While some of his recommendations were hopeful thinking, the most significant portion of his philosophy was his conviction on continual observation to support hypotheses. Wesley bravely questioned modern doctors about how they sometimes treated humans like machines and that much of their "medicine" lacked merit and evidence to support its effectiveness.

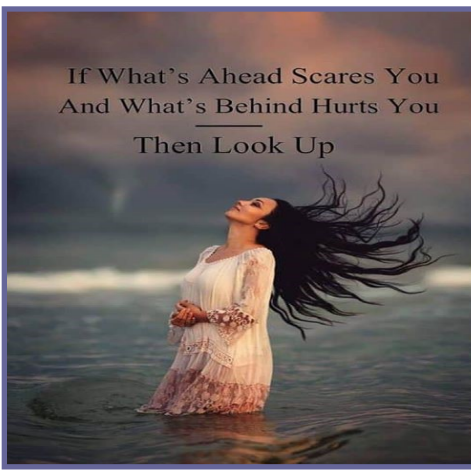
10. Although the Methodist Church is declining in Great Britain and North America, it is growing rapidly in South Korea.

The Korean Methodist Church is one of the largest churches in South Korea with around 1.5 million members and 8,306 ministers. Methodism in Korea grew from British and American mission work which began in the late 19th century.

The first missionary was Robert Samuel Maclay of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who sailed from Japan in 1884 and was given the authority of medical and schooling permission from emperor Gojong. The Korean church became fully autonomous in 1930, retaining affiliation with Methodist churches in America and later the United Methodist Church.

The church experienced dramatic growth in membership throughout most of the 20th century, despite the Korean War, before settling in the 1990s. The KMC is a member of the World Methodist Council and hosted the first Asia Methodist Convention in 2001.





When Pain Finds Its Wings

By the Rev. Susan Brims

John 20:21 – Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As [God] sent me, so I am sending you.”

Weariness is a reality right now. People are weary of COVID, and all the ways the virus has impacted life. The prayer I hear many praying is a prayer of lament, as they name the losses that are so very present.

The psalms give us examples of what a prayer of lament looks like. It usually starts with the words, “How long, O Lord,” and then goes on to name all of the pain experienced. How long, O Lord, will you forget us. How long will you not hear the cries of your people. How long will we have to suffer at the hands of our enemies?

If you were to write a lamenting prayer, what would you say?

There are times when a lament is so very appropriate. We miss seeing one another, having worship in the ways we used to do it. We miss the communal rituals that helped us to feel closer to God. Life has indeed changed, and we do not know when the COVID cases will begin to go down in many of our areas. This is where the pattern of the lament inspires me. In the psalms a lament is not only a place to pour out one’s broken heart to God, but a lament almost always ends with words revealing a trust in God. “But I trust in you, your hand will deliver me.”

COVID may have disrupted our lives, but that may not be a completely bad thing. Perhaps if people listen to the pain in their laments, they may hear the voice of God calling the community of faith to find ways to reach new people in a digital format? This time of disruption invites us to move from prayers of pain to a place of true creativity. This is where new life is experienced, in the moment when God whispers into your spirit a dream about what could be possible, and we say yes to the call.

From places of pain, new ministries are given birth. We are a connectional system and together we will find ways to turn our laments into ministries of hope, healing and transformation. New things are about to happen. **Do you not see it?**

The Rev. Susan Brim is district superintendent of the East District in the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church.



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ORGANIZATION
PAID
PERMIT #610
VANCOUVER, WA**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FAMILY MEMBERS:

Due to the closure of the office, the list of family birthdays is unavailable this month. Our apologies for not being able to acknowledge your special day!



Thank you for reading the Circuit Rider! If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact us.

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Submissions for the Circuit Rider can be sent to dalemv@att.net. Articles and announcements are due by midnight on the third Sunday of each month.

Editor: Nancy Volgamore

Numbers 6:24-26

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

