



September 2026

Table of contents:

Page 1	<i>Taking Memories to Heaven</i>	Page 6	<i>Upcoming Events</i>
Page 2	<i>Cont. Taking Memories to Heaven</i>	Page 7	<i>Bud Rust Birthday</i>
Page 2	<i>Memory Sewn into Music</i>	Page 8	<i>Upcoming Events</i>
Page 3	<i>Cont. Memory Sewn into Music</i>	Page 9	<i>Christian Humor</i>
Page 4	<i>Member Spotlight</i>	Page 10	<i>Word Search</i>
Page 5	<i>Cont. Member Spotlight</i>	Page 11	<i>Birthday/Anniversary/9/11</i>

Taking Memories to Heaven

Every now and then, a message touches a place so deep inside us that it lingers long after the sermon ends. Pastor Winnie's words about "*the things we hold onto*" did that for me. They made me look around my home and really see the objects that have quietly gathered over the years, the heirlooms, antiques, keepsakes, and little treasures tucked into corners.

Some of these things I've even walked my son, Drew, through. I've pointed out the pieces I hope he'll hold onto someday, not because they're worth money, but because they carry stories. There's the treasure box I made twenty years ago, filled with home movies, his childhood artwork, and the baseball trophies that once sat proudly on his dresser. And of course, the Baltimore Ravens memorabilia — thousands of dollars' worth of excitement, loyalty, and memories from seasons that came and went.

These things remind me of who I've been, who I've loved, and the moments that shaped my life. They're not just objects. They're memories.

But Pastor Winnie's message made me think about something deeper: **If I could take only one thing with me to heaven, what would it be?** The answer came easily. I would take a picture album.

Not just a book of photographs, but a book of memories, moments frozen in time that would have slipped away if not for the click of a camera. Pictures of people I loved and lost long ago. Faces I miss. Holidays filled with laughter. Christmas mornings. Summer afternoons. Ordinary days that became extraordinary simply because they were shared with someone I loved.



Those pictures hold memories that my heart would have forgotten without the reminder. They bring back voices, smiles, and stories that time tried to erase. They let me revisit moments that shaped my life, comforted me, and carried me through times of joy and times of sorrow.

And that leads to a question many of us quietly wonder: **Will we remember our memories in heaven?**

What the Bible Says About Remembering in Heaven

Scripture doesn't give us a detailed "memory chart," but it gives us strong clues — and they are comforting.

1. We will know and recognize one another.

In *1 Corinthians 13:12*, Paul says that in heaven we will "know fully." That means our understanding will be clearer, not erased. Recognition requires memory — not just of faces, but of relationships.

2. Our identity continues.

When Jesus appeared after the resurrection, His followers recognized Him. He still carried the marks of His life. This tells us that who we are — our story — is not wiped clean in eternity.

3. Heaven is a place of joy, not forgetting.

Revelation describes heaven as a place where God wipes away every tear — not every memory. The pain is removed, but the love remains. Our memories will be redeemed, not erased.

4. Love is eternal.

The Bible says love never fails and never ends. If love continues, then the memories that shaped that love — the people, the moments, the stories — must continue too.

What We Really Take with Us

When we leave this world, we don't carry our belongings. But we carry our love. We carry our stories. We carry memories that shaped our hearts.

Sometimes, when you're having a hard day, sit down and look through your memories. Let them remind you that your life has been full — full of love, moments, and blessings. And maybe that's what we really take with us to heaven: the pieces of our life that were touched by love.

So yes, I believe we will remember. Not the painful parts. Not regrets. Not the burdens. But love. The joy. Relationships. The moments that shaped our hearts.

Because in the end, heaven is not the place where our memories fade. It's the place where they finally make sense.

With love by, Lora Shirey



A Childhood Memory Sewn into Music

I'm sure you have a special song that speaks to you — a song that brings you to tears because it reminds you of something or carries a meaning that never leaves your heart. I have two songs like that. For years I only had one, but in 1989, while watching the CMA Awards, my second song found me. As I sat there listening to Dolly Parton sing, **He's Alive**, I realized I had added another song to my life's soundtrack.

Ironically, my first song is **Coat of Many Colors**, also by Dolly Parton. So, you could say I am — or was — a huge fan of Dolly. When her recent death happened, it truly brought me to tears. I have never cried when a celebrity passed away but losing her felt personal.

So, I thought it would be nice to tell you the heartfelt back story of the songs and why she recorded them.

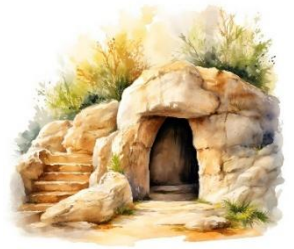


Dolly wrote “**Coat of Many Colors**” on the back of a dry-cleaning receipt — a detail she has shared often, and one that underscores how inspiration can strike in the humblest moments. The story itself comes from her early years in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, where her mother, Avie Lee Parton, sewed a patchwork coat for young Dolly out of scraps. The garment was made with tenderness, each piece stitched with care and accompanied by a biblical story about Joseph’s coat of many colors. As she worked, she told Dolly the biblical story of **Joseph**, whose father gave him a coat of many colors as a sign of deep love (**Genesis 37**).

But when Dolly proudly wore the coat to school, she was teased for its homemade appearance. That sting of childhood cruelty — mixed with the warmth of her mother’s love — became the emotional core of the song.

The song “**He’s Alive**” was not written by Dolly Parton. It was written in the mid-1970s by Christian songwriter Don Francisco, who wanted to tell the Resurrection story from a deeply human point of view.

Francisco originally tried writing it from the perspective of **Thomas**, but he couldn’t connect emotionally. He then shifted to **Peter**, the disciple who denied Jesus three times — a man carrying guilt, fear, and heartbreak. That shift unlocked the entire song.



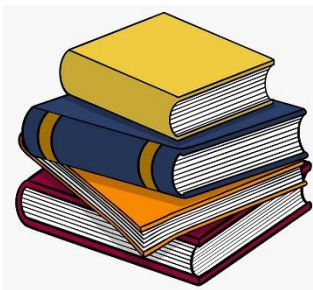
Francisco himself had lived a rough, wandering life before coming to faith, so he understood what it felt like to fail God and long for forgiveness. Dolly discovered the song years later and felt a powerful connection to its message. Dolly has always been open about her Christian upbringing — raised in the Church of God, baptized at age 12, and surrounded by gospel music. So, when she heard “**He’s Alive**,” she recognized it as a story she wanted to help tell.

In a later interview, Dolly said she felt the **Holy Spirit** fall upon her during her live performance of the song, and that she believed she was simply *a vessel for its message*. I can honestly say that I felt that same **Holy Spirit** fall on me during that performance as well.

If you have never heard these songs, I encourage you to listen to them.

Dolly Rebecca Parton - January 19, 1946 – August 25, 2026 she was 80 years old

Written with love, Lora Shirey



People have often told me that my life story would make a great book and that I should write one. I’ve always loved biographies and hearing people’s stories, but I have no interest in writing mine. I lived it — the ups, the downs, the adventures, the loves, the heartbreaks, the accomplishments, and the tragedies. And even though I’ve had many good things worth writing about, I don’t want to relive the

bad things.

But since I love hearing other people’s stories, I thought it would be a wonderful idea to share *your* stories instead. So, I’m starting a new series in each newsletter where I showcase one of our members’ lives. I hope you enjoy this series and that you’ll be open to sharing your story when I come ask.

Member Spotlight: Celebrating the Life of Betty Shermer

This month, we are honored to share the story of **Betty Shermer**, a woman whose life reflects faith, resilience, and quiet strength. Betty's journey is filled with moments that have shaped not only her own life, but the lives of those blessed to know her. She has been a cherished part of our church family, and her story is a beautiful example of grace, perseverance, and the power of community. We are grateful for the chance to celebrate her and share a glimpse of her journey with all of you.

Betty's Early Family Life

Born on June 19, 1929, Betty grew up on a farm in Audubon Township in Montgomery County, Illinois. Betty lived on the farm until she was thirteen, when her father died and the family had to move into town. Life changed quickly, but Betty learned early how to adapt, endure, and keep moving forward.

Betty was the third of seven children in her family. Her older sisters, Lois and Jean, came first, followed by Betty, then her brothers Ray and Bob, and finally her father's youngest child, Ellen. After her father passed away and her mother remarried, Betty gained a half-brother, Paul. Today, Betty and Paul are the only siblings still living — a tender reminder of the long, full life she has lived.

The older three sisters attended a one-room schoolhouse down the hill and across the road from their farm, where 1st through 7th grade all learned together. Betty started school at age five, joining her sisters, cousins from down the road, her childhood friend Rita, and her brother. Betty and Rita remained close throughout their school years, graduating high school together — except for two years (8th and 11th grade) when Betty moved away.

During her upper-grade years, Betty did a lot of walking to and from school — sometimes across town, sometimes from a nearby town — building the kind of determination and independence that would follow her throughout her life.

A Childhood of Simple Joys — and One Memorable Dog

Betty never had pets growing up — and she'll tell you exactly why. One morning, while walking to school, a neighbor's dog broke loose while chasing a car and bit her right on the ankle. Her stepfather marched over to the neighbor and said, "You keep that dog locked up while Betty's walking to and from school or I'll shoot it!" And... he did. From then on, Betty stuck to goldfish — the kind that don't bite, bark, or chase you across the yard.

But her childhood wasn't defined by fear. One of her favorite memories is riding into town with her father in the horse and wagon every couple of weeks. He always treated her to an ice cream cone — and sometimes, tucked inside the cone, there was a slip of paper for a **free ice cream** on her next visit. Those small joys stayed with her for a lifetime.

A New Chapter

After graduating high school, Betty worked for Western Union from 1946 to 1949 in three different locations. When she attended WU school in Crawfordsville, Indiana, it was the first time she had ever been out of Illinois. Crawfordsville also happened to be the hometown of a young man named Herman Shermer, whom she met at First Baptist Church — the beginning of a love story that would last a lifetime.

Betty and Herman married on November 28, 1948, and soon moved to Miami, Florida, where their first child, Sue, was born. Their son, Herman Fred Jr., and daughter, Linda Joyce, were both born in Washington, D.C.

Herman worked as a civilian for the Navy Department, and the family eventually settled in Adelphi, Maryland, where they lived for fifty years. Betty built a life there as a devoted wife, homemaker, and mother. She volunteered at school and church, sewed clothing for herself and her daughters, tended her garden, and was known as a good neighbor — the kind of person who quietly strengthens a community simply by being part of it.

Betty's Family Legacy

Betty and Herman built a loving family that grew across generations. They had three children: Sue, Fred (who passed away in 2008), and Linda. Sue and her husband Eric have two daughters, Laura and Ellen. Fred had no children. Linda and her husband Bill had three children — Nova, Ian, and Fiona — with Nova and Fiona passing away at birth.

Betty's grandchildren continued the family line:

- Laura and her husband Andy have three children — Stuart (who passed away at birth), Aidan, and Duncan.
- Ellen and her husband Geoff have one daughter, Hazel.

Today, Betty's family includes two living children, three living grandchildren, and three living great-grandchildren — each one a testament to the love and strength she poured into her family over the decades.

A New Home, A Steady Heart

She lived in Maryland for more than fifty years, beginning in an apartment before she and Herman moved into the home they built, where she lived for the next five decades. Betty moved to Pennsylvania in 2009. Herman passed away in 2012, but Betty continued to carry herself with the same quiet grace she had shown throughout her life.

Today, she lives independently in her own single-family home in Village Grande at Miller's Run, an over-55 active adult community. She attends a twice-a-week exercise class, enjoys social activities, and lives in the same neighborhood as her daughter Sue — a blessing that keeps family close.

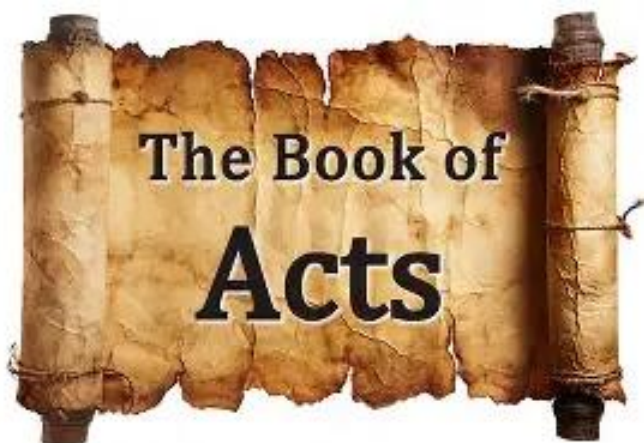
When asked if there is anything she would change about her life, Betty simply said: “Nothing.”

We celebrate you, Betty. Thank you for sharing your life with us, and for being a shining example of grace in our community.

***Closing Scripture - Betty's favorite verse
— a perfect reflection of her faith and
her heart.***

***“For God so loved the world, that He
gave His only begotten Son...”
John 3:16***





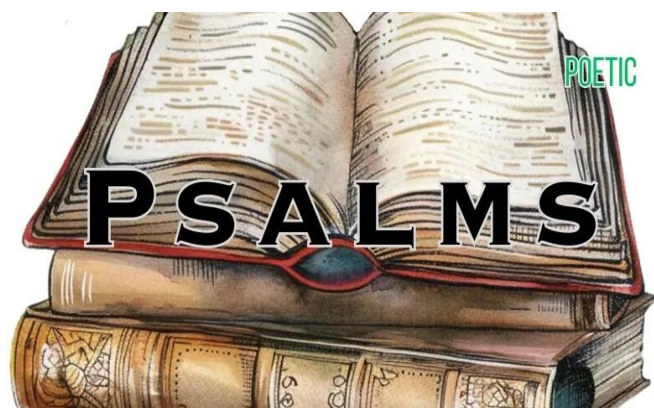
Sunday School starts September 13th

Gary Stump will continue a study on the book of Acts.

In Acts, Luke sketches the spread of the Gospel from Palestine to the capital of the Roman empire in less than 30 years in an era where the primary transportation was on foot and without radio, TV, telephone or even paper or printing presses; While Jesus had left them, the Holy Spirit provided valuable guidance and encouragement to minister and grow the church in spite of persecution.

Ladies Bible Study is back starting September 8th!

All is welcome - so come join in on the conversation every Tuesday @ 9:30 am
As they will continue the studies in the Book of Psalms



Joint Church Service Sunday October 4, 2026 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

On the first Sunday in October, World Communion Sunday encourages those of the Christian faith to experience Holy Communion together. The day also demonstrates unity among various denominations in the church.



Westgate will host a joint service with Reformation Lutheran Church @ 11:00 am. There will be a fellowship breakfast beforehand in the fellowship hall. Please consider bringing a breakfast treat to share

Bud Rusts 80th birthday party!
Here are some pictures to enjoy.



We Miss You Bud!



You can visit Bud @ Abbeyville Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
100 Abbeyville Rd Lancaster, PA 17603



Reverberate Lancaster 2026 will return to Long's Park on September 20, 2026, offering a free night of unity, praise, and encouragement for believers from across Lancaster County.

Reverberate is a community worship event hosted by Water Street Mission, uniting over 70 partner churches and ministries.

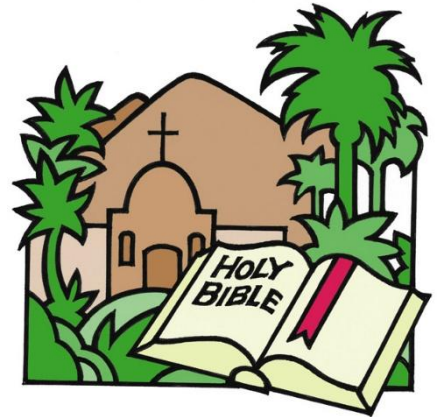
The goal is to **worship God, celebrate His impact on Lancaster, and encourage believers** through music, testimonies, and fellowship.

3:30 PM – 7:30 PM (free admission)

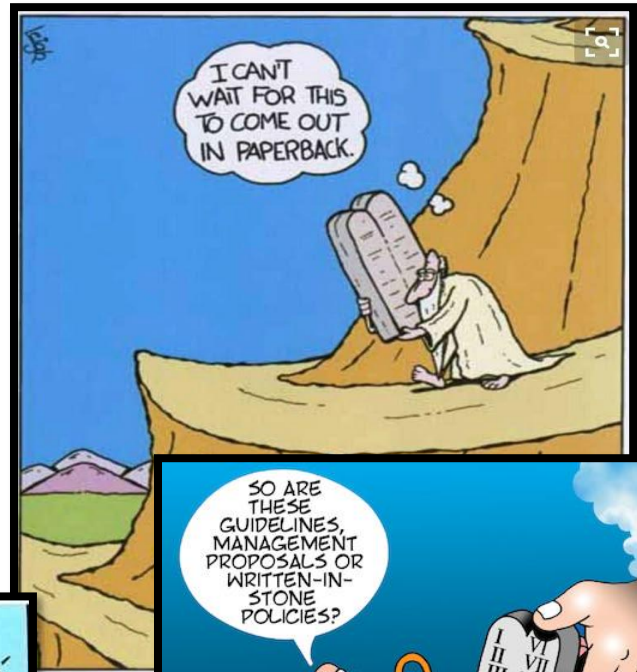
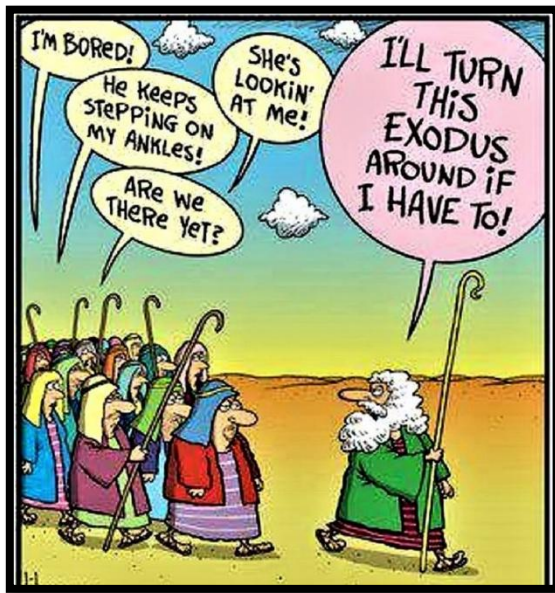
Worship from multiple denominations & styles — expect a mix of traditional, contemporary, and gospel music

Farewell Luncheon for the Tebie Family will be held Saturday September 12th in the fellowship hall from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Sandwiches, salad, cake and drinks will be provided. Please let Lora know if you will be attending by Tuesday September 8th. We hope you will stop by and wish them well!

REMEMBER OUR
Missionaries



Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday September 14th @ 6:00 PM



Goodluck!

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

C O L O S S I A N S I G V G Q E T T V D G
V G I B X E U T Q U S I E C J Q B Z A B H
M I X Y N P R O V E R B S H S D H X Z Z T
H S Y L G N N U D A N D A M E L K T Q I M
A C L T O L Z T C N Q S N I S B U G G Z A
Q G Q U K N H J E L E V I T C U S S R F T
J O R K L X V L X T S Q H K A G U B N H H
C S A I A N Z H M M W Q D O E D K G B N T
C S A A I A N Z H H M W O D Q E E F E U E
R Z F M N D T H E T E C S T T C T I T W R
Z C S P J N B L H N W E B C A S T I P W R
Z S P R A N R L E E T V P O S H P E Q Z A
Q C Z P X N X M S H H R S Z B O V G T C A
A C Z B N H L H N M W E T C T T B B T C A
P R K U E E R H R D A G G G B D S T V L H
I S L Z S G V Z A N Q X G E D Q X G T X A
F R E F K G K K N S N A I P P I P L I H P

WORD LIST

ACTS
COLOSSIANS
CORINTHIANS
DANIEL
DEUTERONOMY
EXODUS
EZEKIEL

EZRA
GENESIS
HOSEA
ISAIAH
JOHN
JOSHUA
JOEL

JONAH
JUDE
MATTHEW
NUMBER?
PHILIPPIANS
PROVERBS

NUMBERS
PHILIPPIANS
PROVERBS
REVELATION
RUTH



9/10 Rachel Stump
9/11 Woody White



9/2 John & Ruth Hessen

9/11 Facts

The attacks resulted in **2,977 deaths**, including **2,753 in New York**, **184 at the Pentagon**, and **40 on Flight 93**. Among the victims were **343 firefighters** and **72 law enforcement officers**, making it the deadliest incident for emergency personnel in U.S. history. Thousands more were injured, and the attacks caused at least **\$10 billion in property and infrastructure damage**, with cleanup of the World Trade Center site taking over a year.

Timeline of Key Events

- **8:46 a.m.:** Flight 11 hits the North Tower of the WTC.
- **9:03 a.m.:** Flight 175 strikes the South Tower.
- **9:37 a.m.:** Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon.
- **10:03 a.m.:** Flight 93 crashes in Pennsylvania after passenger revolt.
- **By 10:28 a.m.:** South Tower collapses.
- **By 10:59 a.m.:** North Tower collapses

Psalm 34:18 - "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit," assuring that God is present in our sorrow and offers salvation and comfort



★ 9/11 ★
WE WILL NEVER FORGET