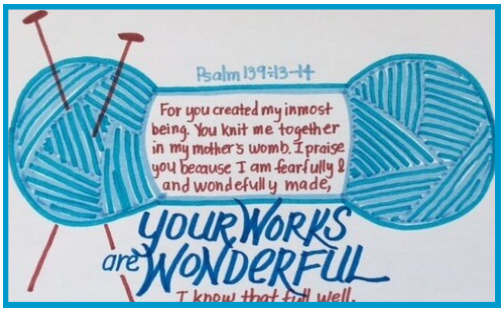
New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

www.newcov-church.org

A Word from Your Pastor

Dear friends,



Have you ever wondered why God made you the way you are? I have, and I don't have the answer to this question, but I give thanks for my limited ability to understand God. I'm not sure how your particular mind and heart work together as you seek to love and serve God, but I have discerned a few things about my own uniqueness.

I have come to understand that NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT something is to accept, I can do that, ***IF*** I CAN UNDERSTAND IT. I am not sure why I am this way, but it has gotten me through a lot of difficulties in life. In addition to that particular quirk, I am also a PLANNER – a person who likes to have life mapped out so that I can make wise decisions as life shifts around me. As I age, I realize more and more that I am not truly in control of life, and my requirement for advance planning has loosened a bit.

Well, I have a self-revelation and a change to share with you. A few months ago, I shared with you my plan to take a sabbatical for the month of January which was reviewed and approved by New Castle Presbytery and the Session of our church. Our Presbytery recommends 3 months of sabbatical leave every 6 years and I have served New Covenant for 7.5 years. I requested 1 month of time to be used as my once-in-lifetime-sabbatical as I travel through the state of Florida with my brother. We were looking forward to enjoying the beauty of the state and spending time together = total relaxation and warmth in a typically cold month.

Also, Jay and I have been dreaming and planning to take a Europe trip for a few years, but there have been a few delays. Well, this spring is the time for us to accomplish this goal. It originally began with Jay's desire to travel through France, but the more we contemplated it, we decided that we also wanted to see a bit of Italy. And, over the past few months, I have developed a yen for using A.I. as I research various options.

~continued~

2026

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR ..1
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A Note From Our Pastor (Cont.)

So, I shared with *Chat.GPT.com* my goals and dreams, and amazingly, A.I. came up with a great plan, but the trip increasingly grew longer as I tweaked it over and over; gradually, I realized that it seemed like we needed at least 3 weeks to travel from Paris to French wine country in Burgundy, then on to Interlaken, Switzerland, and then on to Italy to see Venice, the Amalfi Coast, and Rome. We need almost 3 weeks to travel and visit these wonderful sights. But I began to feel uneasy with being gone from church on sabbatical for the month of January PLUS a vacation in the spring for a few weeks, so I talked with trusted friends and advisors, and the Holy Spirit amazingly addressed my discomfort.

Cindy Kohlmann, New Castle Presbytery's Lead Presbyter and Stated Clerk, suggested dividing my sabbatical into 2 parts – Florida for family time with my brother, and then Europe with Jay in the late spring (and, of course, it would be AFTER Easter). It became a good plan since my brother's situation somewhat shifted and he only had 3 weeks for the Florida trip. Hmmm – seemed like the Holy Spirit was intervening in our lives and providing for our needs and solutions to my discomfort.

So, now my revised plan (which has been approved by NC Presbytery and the Session is that I will have a ***SPLIT-SABBATICAL***. I will be traveling in Florida during the first few weeks of January with my brother, then returning to church, and getting us through spring and Holy Week, and then in May, Jay and I will take on our Europe sabbatical/vacation time. And, all I really needed to do was to ***BE OPEN TO THE PROMPTINGS OF THE SPIRIT***.

I have been doing some reading and reflecting using a devotional book by Deborah Edwards which contains one-page-long devotions based on a particular theme which is accompanied by a scripture. As I have tried to be open to the Spirit's leading, this resource has been particularly helpful. Here are a few of the scriptural thoughts which the Spirit has used to lead me through this period of the shifting sands of human life:

DELIGHT – "Trust comes first, without complete trust, I am unwilling or able to accept the place you have chosen for me." (Ps 37:4 – Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.)

COUNSEL – "O Lord, you have promised to those who love you and obey you a Comforter to lead them into all truth." (Ps. 32:8 – I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.)

GUIDES – "O Lord, you have restored to me the joy of your salvation. My rebellious ways you have not remembered. According to your great mercy and love, you have remembered me." (Ps. 23: 3b – He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.)

UNDERSTANDING – "O Lord, you know how foolish I can be, how easily I can turn from you to selfish ambition, to seek my own way." (Ps. 119: 34 – Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.)

COUNSELOR – "I will praise you, Lord, the all-knowing One. For by your grace you stoop low, in love, to instruct me and guide me." (Ps. 16: 7a – I will praise the Lord, who counsels me...)

REFINER – "How easily, Lord, we deceive ourselves into believing in false gods. How quickly we desert you to follow the idols of this world." (Ps. 66: 10)

Dear friends and partners in ministry, I hope as you wander through the shifting sands of life, that you will turn to the Spirit's leading and prompting because I can assure you that ***GOD IS LISTENING TO YOU AND WILL PROVDE FOR YOU!***

Your partner in ministry, Carol

OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Our Daily Bread	3
4 World-Communion Sunday & ODB Offer-	5 Deacons' Mtg@ 10	6	7	8	9	10
11 Trustee Mtg; @ 11:30	12 Session Mtg 9 am	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Harvest Party @ Shields 8-11 pm

PLEASE NOTE *TIME & DATE CHANGES*: DEACONS NOW MEET ON THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10 AM (with some exceptions); TRUSTEES CONTINUE ON THE 2ND SUNDAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP; SESSION NOW MEETS ON THE WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING THE 3RD SUNDAY AT 1 PM (with some exceptions)

EVERY SUNDAY - WORSHIP AT 10 AM; FELLOWSHIP 11AM; CHRIST. ED - SUNDAY(8:30 AM) AND TUESDAY (10:30 AM)

10/1 Birthday - Alayne Fitzpatrick
Jim & Josi Inners Anniversary
10/2 First Friday @ Our Daily Bread
10/4 19th Sunday after Pentecost
WORLD COMMUNION & ODB Offering
10/5 Deacons' Meeting @ 10:00 am
10/11 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Trustee Meeting
10/12 Session Meeting @ 9 am
10/17 Clarisa & Matt Miller's Anniversary
10/18 21st Sunday after Pentecost
10/25 Birthday - Jim Inners
10/25 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
10/27 Birthday - Carol A. McBride
10/29 Birthday - Clarisa Miller
10/31 Jenny Hugh & Eric Dunmore's Anniversary

Clerk's Report & Deacons' Report

- Stated Session Meetings for August 19th and September 23rd, 2026 were cancelled due to vacations and the lack of a quorum.
- Next Stated Session meeting will be October 12, 2026 @ 9am
- **New Castle Presbytery Meetings**
  - Sept. 19th (Sat) Hybrid Mtg (Princess Anne, MD) Barbara Bookhart & Carol
  - Dec. 1st (Tues) Zoom only Jane Adams & Carol
  - Presbytery Meeting Report - September 19, 2026: We participated by zoom. The meeting was hosted by Makemieland Presbyterian Churches at Manokin Presbyterian Church. Those churches include Buckingham, Faith Chapel, Makemie Memorial, Manokin, Pitts Creek, Rehoboth, Wicomico. Three new ministers were introduced to the Presbytery – Rev. Rachel C. Hébert, Rev. Dr. Kai D. Moore and Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake.

    The Trustees requested that the per capita for 2027 will be increased by $2 for a total per capital of $32 which was approved. The Employment & Terms of Call Guidelines for 2027 were approved. The minimum salary was raised to $67,500. Reimbursements for continuing education travel, automobile and business are now included in one category, Professional Expenses, which has a minimum of $4,000.

    Reports were received from different committees and commissions. Because there were technical difficulties some of the oral reports share at the meeting were very hard to hear and understand. There were some written reports and if anyone is interested in seeing those reports, please let me know and I will get them to you.
- Session approved the final draft of the Funeral/Memorial Service Guidelines
- The adjustment to Carol's Sabbatical Plan was approved; it was originally scheduled for the month of January 2027, but now it will be split into 2 parts - the first in January for 3 weeks and several weeks in late spring as the Fishers travel to Europe. Presbytery has provided a grant of $1,000 to the church to help cover expenses while Carol is out of town.
- Membership - 41
- Email addresses: **Clerk** - clerk.ncpc24@gmail.com; **Pastor** - pastornewcov @gmail.com; **Office** - newcov.office2@gmail.com; **Treasurer** - treasuernewcov@gmail.com

Yours in Christ, Pat Wright, Clerk

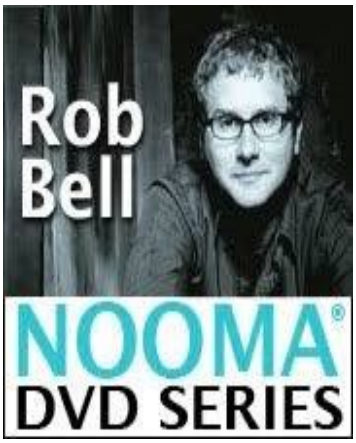
A CHANGE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEACONS: At the end of 2026, we will shift from having a Board of Deacons to a Ministry of Deacons with 3 people working together - Cheryl Shields (Hospitality) and Carol A. McBride with Judy Cooke managing the care of our congregation through the card ministry and providing care and support. We will be having 2 Congregational Meetings to vote on this change to our ByLaws (on 11/8/26 & 2/14/27). Be sure the read about events on the Fellowship Page of the newsletter.

- Skip Leeson, Moderator

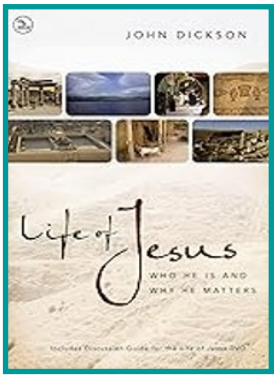
Christian Education Report

Christian Education Classes

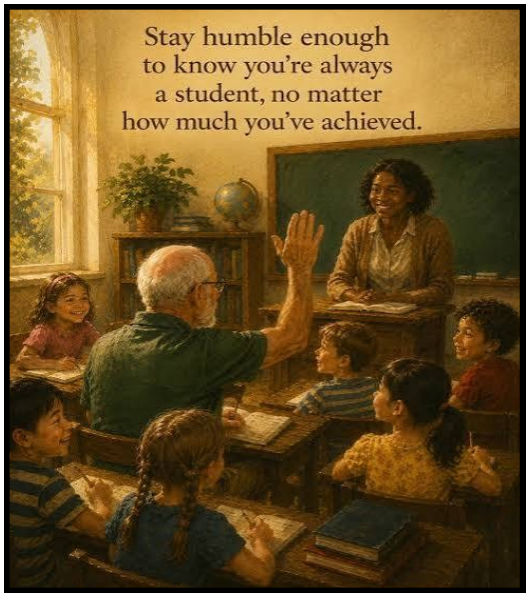
SEPTEMBER: Last month, due to several people being out of town, plus Bill being unavailable to help us with online classes on Tuesday mornings, we offered 3 classes on 9/13, 20, & 27 (Sundays) at 8:45 a.m. and on a class on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Each one offered a topic where scripture was applied to it. These videos were *Nooma* videos which are part of a series meant to provoke us to think biblically about how we live. The 3 topics we will discuss are: (1) ***Noise*** - Why are we so afraid of silence?; (2) ***Kickball*** - If God really cares about us, why don't we have what we want?; (3) ***Dust*** - It's easy to get discouraged and not feel good enough but God sees potential in ALL of us, and so should we!

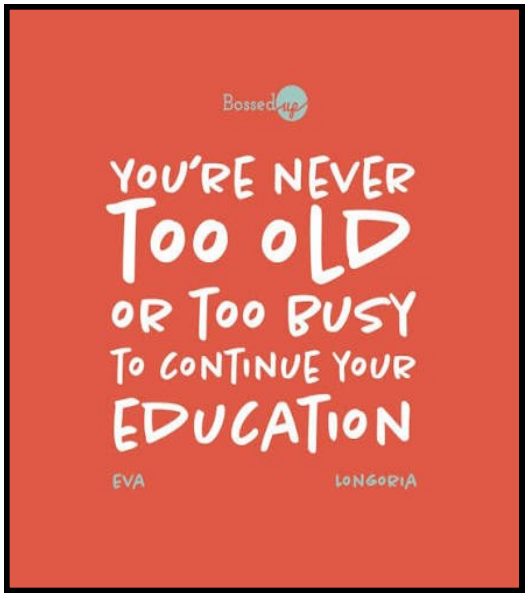


BEGINNING IN OCTOBER: Our study of John Dickson's book, *The Life of Jesus, Who He Is and Why He Matters* will begin on **October 11th** and will continue throughout the fall. Please let Jane know if you would like to join in, so that we can get you a book.



Jane Adams,
Christian Education Elder





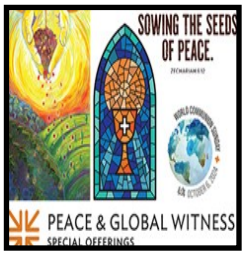
Mission Report

Our Daily Bread: We served **180+** meals on First Friday in September, some of which went into the Community Refrigerator which is available 24/7. ODB continues to assist us with ingredients for our meal when they have the supplies. The ODB collection continues to support this thanks to our congregation. Following our 1st Fridaymeal on 9/5, the ODB Dining Room was closed for major renovation. ODB will continue to serve meals throughout the renovation time (which is expected to last until early October) but the dinner meals will be cooked at the Middletown Senior Center's kitchen and then transported back to the ODB parking lot where a large commercial tent is set up to use for packaging and serving the meals. Lunch meals on Tuesday and Thursday have been converted to meals that do not require cooking. In addition, during renovations, there is a limit of 250 meals for each meal service. The Food Rescue program will continue and the community refrigerator and freezer will be stocked as usual. Our next 1st Friday meal is scheduled for October 2nd and we are expecting that the renovations will not yet be completed, so some change in our menu will most likely be required. Jane Adams will continue to collect non-perishable foods to be donated to ODB. FYI - Some of the folks who had been with the Middletown location of Neighborhood House have started a new initiative in Middletown called **Middletown Outreach Initiative**. They are currently located in space at Connections Church in Middletown.

Food Truck Tuesday happened on Sept. 15th with Puerto Rican food from ***Alizas Kitchen***. Special thanks to all who participated all year with our food truck Tuesdays. We will be giving serious thought to what we want to do next year, and whether we should continue with this effort. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated. It was originally intended to be a combination outreach and fellowship event but it has not really attracted many new folks from our community.

- Pam Leeson

World Communion Offering: The next Special Offering was collected during the month of September through the first Sunday in October which is World Communion Sunday. On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends through out all creation, Through participation in the World Communion Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. The theme is: ***"What does the Lord require of you?...to do justice and to love kindness and walk humbly with your God"*** from Micah 6:8.



Operation Christmas Child: We will be packing gift shoeboxes at Fellowship Hour on October 25th. Many of you have been purchasing items to put in these boxes and that is greatly appreciated. The drop-off date is the 2nd week in November. We will be collecting money to ship them. The cost continues to be $10/box. If you want to donate to that, feel free to put your donation in the offering plate and mark it Operation Christmas Child Child. Thanks for your help in making Christmas special for many children around the world.

- Pam Leeson

Pat Wright

Mission Elder

Ministry of Fellowship

SEPTEMBER

The **Pignic** was scheduled for September 20th, but we had a lot of people out of town or unavailable, so we changed it to the 27th, and we all enjoyed ourselves. We all enjoyed the pulled pork, beans, slaw, and a variety of salads and desserts. NCPC really knows how to enjoy each other's company to build up the Body of Christ!

OCTOBER

Harvest Party at the Shields

October 31, 8-11 pm

On Saturday, October 31st we will gather for a Harvest Party at the Shields - 14109 Golts Caldwell Rd, Galena, MD. Finger foods are welcome, or sweets or drinks. Please let Cheryl know how many guests are planning to attend. Text preferred (302) 602-1638. If you don't have a costume, a funny hat will do. Prizes for best category.

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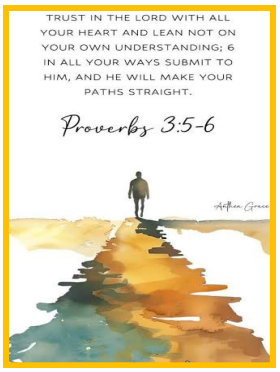
Stewardship & Finance

- Taken from Parish Publishing

Everyone has time! How we use that time is the challenge. Some people ***say*** they are always busy, but complain they never get anything done. These people jump from one task to another. They start one thing, then another and really never finish anything. Others ***are*** busy. They organize their time and finish one task at a time. They are always ready to do more because they know how to use their time wisely.



In order to use our time wisely, the first priority should be to spend it with God. Begin your day with prayer. "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:6). Let God lead you in what you have to do.

Each one of us must decide what is important. List your priorities, for example: job, family, keeping your home in good order, church work, visiting friends, engaging in a hobby or recreation. Begin to make lists and as you finish a task, cross it off the list. Make taking care of yourself also a priority.

God has given us our life. Each day has 24 hours, each hour has 60 minutes, and each minute has 60 seconds. Make the most of your time and allow God guide you in your choices.

Barbara Bookhart,
Elder for Stewardship and Finance

&

Carol L. McBride,
Treasurer

FIN. SUMMARY YTD 2026		JAN-AUG
Operating Revenue		
Revenue		**$ 103,278.50**
Expenditures		
Building/Property	$ 11,304.93	
Personnel	$ 65,838.70	
Other Expenses	$ 5,829.27	
Net Expenditures		**$ 82,972.90**
Net Operating Revenue		**$ 20,305.60**
Other Revenue (aka Special Funds)		
Fund	(60.54)	
Passthrough	$ 370.20	
Net Other Revenue		**$ 309.66**
Change to Net Assets (aka Profit/Loss)		**$ 20,615.26**
Note: Actuals include In-kind Donations & Expense; Net Other Revenue 538 is the change to Fund Bals this yr. Total Fund bal is $ 57,942.		

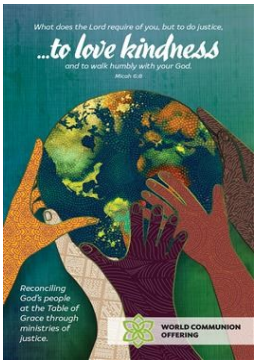
LET'S GIVE A SHOUT OUT!

LET'S GIVE A SHOUT OUT TO ALL OF OUR HELPERS!

The trustees did not meet in September but the work and projects continued on, as usual. As I am sure you have noticed, we are almost done with our updating of the Ladies' Bathroom. We have painted, replaced the small sink with a large countertop and sink (giving us space to lay things down while washing our hands), taken down the wall cabinet, and put in 2 much larger cabinets to hold all of our supplies, painted/purchased/upholstered new mirrors and a bench, and added fabric to adorn the cabinet windows and to cover all that resides under the sink. We still are in the process of getting new LED lights up to provide more than adequate lighting. It should all be done soon and we hope to get the floors steam cleaned. It is looking good friends so let's give a BIG SHOUT OUT to the main workers on this project - Jay Fisher and Pam Leeson.

And, let's not forget about all that Pam Leeson and Pat Wright did to beautify the outdoors - putting a *Blessed To Be a Blessing* plaque and artificial seasonal plants with lanterns in the circle area on the front lawn to protect our light connections, and adding fall wreaths and potted plants to our doorways. And let's not forget Sandy Philips and hubby, Clarke, who assist Jane Adams in keeping our landscaped beds looking good! Be sure and give them a word of thanks for their efforts! We know how to beautify just about anything, right?

Worship



October has 2 important liturgical dates: **World Communion Sunday** (October 4th) and **Reformation Sunday (**October 25th).

World Communion Sunday began in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA. During World War II, the day grew widely as a spiritual symbol to hold a fractured world together through the Gospel message. Other denominations and churches later joined this practice.

It's purpose and meaning are: ***Oneness in Christ*** - it emphasizes that all believers are connected as one global community, regardless of language, geography or denomination. It is also the day when all believers are invited and encouraged to participate in the ***Lord's Supper*** as the central symbol and shared act that bridges any historical divisions. Also, it is the time of year when we receive a ***Special Offering to promote Peace and Global Witness*** which funds programs focused on reconciliation, justice, and peacemaking around the world.

This year the theme is based on Micah 6:8 - *What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.* It attempts to reconcile God's people at the Table of Grace through ministries of justice.

Reformation Sunday is on the last Sunday in October (this year, October 25th). If you didn't grow up with this practice, you may wonder where this tradition comes from, and why some congregations continue to practice it. So … what is Reformation Sunday, and why should we care?

The history of Reformation Sunday is quite interesting. It begins in the 16th century – 1517, to be exact. If a person – out of contrition for their sins and as a sign of repentance – made a financial gift to help with the building of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, then the church would furnish that person with a certificate acknowledging that gift and promising that they or their loved ones would be freed from a portion of the misery expected in the afterlife.

In short, the church at that time taught that even those bound for heaven had to be cleansed of their earthly sins, and this cleansing (purging) in the afterlife took place in a place called Purgatory. The certificates offered by the church **(called "Indulgences")** promised to lessen this time of cleansing for oneself or others who have already died. There were some very nuanced explanations of this practice at the time. And there were other very crass explanations that basically amounted to people paying to be forgiven.

November 1st was an important day for the selling and buying of these indulgences, known as All Saints Day on the church's calendar. The day before, a German Monk named Martin Luther, posted a list of 95 Theses – 95 reasons that he objected to this practice of selling indulgences. Along with other writings by Martin Luther, those 95 Reasons (theses) went viral. Luther insisted that we are not forgiven because of anything we do – including the buying of Indulgences or doing enough good work. ***Instead, we are forgiven because of who God is.*** We are loved and forgiven because God is full of grace and mercy. His teachings and writings got Martin Luther kicked out of the church. But he didn't go alone. Others agreed with him, and after his death those who agreed with Luther became known as Lutherans and also as Protestants. Every Protestant church traces their roots back to this moment in history. Hope you enjoyed learning about your history!

RE•FORMATION
THEN • NOW • ALWAYS

Barbara Montazella,
Worship Elder

Frog Corner

F.R.O.G. CORNER: ***Forever Rely on God***

Don't forget the meaning behind the acronym **R I B B I T :**
Revere, ***I***nvite, ***B***less, ***I***nspire, and ***T***rust in the Lord.

Holy Golf Game

Two seniors are discussing their plans for the day. One says, "I'm torn between going to church and playing golf." The other replies, "Well, it's a tough decision. Let's *pray* for a hole-in-one at church!"

Divine Forgetfulness

At the church potluck, a senior is asked, "Have you tried the new memory-enhancing supplements?" The senior responds, "I did, but I can't remember if they worked!"

The Choir's Secret Weapon

Picture this: The church choir is practicing diligently when the director notices one member singing off-key. Concerned, the director approaches the choir member and asks, "Why are you singing the wrong notes?" The choir member replies, "I'm singing the notes the congregation is actually singing!"

Holy Speeding Ticket

An elderly gentleman is pulled over for speeding. The police officer asks, "Do you know how fast you were going, sir?" The senior replies, "I was trying to get to church before the devil does!"

Senior Saint and the GPS

A group of seniors is discussing modern technology at the church picnic. One senior proudly declares, "I've mastered this newfangled GPS device. I programmed it to take me to the church, and it led me straight to the confessional!"

Hymn or Hum

During a church service, a senior leans over to a friend and says, "I think they've changed the hymn numbers again." The friend replies, "No, they haven't. You're reading the church bulletin's Sudoku puzzle!"

Sermon Slumber

A pastor notices an elderly gentleman nodding off during the sermon. The pastor leans over and whispers, "I hope I'm not boring you, sir." The senior replies, "Not at all, Pastor. It's just that I'm practicing for the resurrection!"

Puzzle for You

FALL WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the Autumn-themed words below. The player who unscrambles the most words before time runs out wins!

NAMUTU _____

VRHATES _____

VEALSE _____

BOENEMVR _____

CORAN _____

KMUPNIP _____

DGUOR _____

PLAPE _____

EDIRC _____

EFONRIB _____

ETWSARE _____

AFYLIM _____

RNCO _____

RYHDAIE _____

PLEAM _____

UMHROSOSM _____

ZYCO _____

RDROCHA _____

TSYHACAK _____

KTBANLE _____

HKAGINTSVIGN _____

CUPACORNIO _____

MNONACIN _____

RYUTEK _____

NYRBACRER _____

LQRUISER _____

LDWANOOD _____

RCAWCESRO _____

HSOLCO _____

GEHEHGOD _____

Puzzle Answers for You

FALL WORD SCRAMBLE

-- Answer Key --

NAMUTU	AUTUMN	UMHROSOSM	MUSHROOMS
VRHATES	HARVEST	ZYCO	COZY
VEALSE	LEAVES	RDROCHA	ORCHARD
BOENEMVR	NOVEMBER	TSYHACAK	HAYSTACK
CORAN	ACORN	KTBANLE	BLANKET
KMUPNIP	PUMPKIN	HKAGINTSVIGN	THANKSGIVING
DGUOR	GOURD	CUPACORNIO	CORNUCOPIA
PLAPE	APPLE	MNONACIN	CINNAMON
EDIRC	CIDER	RYUTEK	TURKEY
EFONRIB	BONFIRE	NYRBACRER	CRANBERRY
ETWSARE	SWEATER	LQRUISER	SQUIRREL
AFYLIM	FAMILY	LDWANOOD	WOODLAND
RNCO	CORN	RCAWCESRO	SCARECROW
RYHDAIE	HAYRIDE	HSOLCO	SCHOOL
PLEAM	MAPLE	GEHEHGOD	HEDGEHOG