

SHARING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD



JULY - AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER

200 South Court Street * Hohenwald, TN 38462 * www.hohenwaldumc.org

931-796-2681 * firstunitedme680@bellsouth.net

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"The eunuch had come to Jerusalem to worship, and was returning to his home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'" (Acts 8:28-29)

The story is told of a man who, while walking in his backyard one day, suddenly felt the ground give way. He found himself sitting at the bottom of a deep abandoned well which had been forgotten for years and covered over with vegetation. Then he began to pray: "Lord, if you'll just get me out of this hole and save me, I'll turn my life over to you!" A few moments later, someone heard his cries and rescued the man. Next Sunday, the man joined the church and became one of the most eager witnesses for Christ his town had ever seen. His approach to witnessing was a bit unusual, however. Every time he wanted to witness to someone, he would invite that person over to his house, take him or her out to the backyard, and push the person down that old well. Since that's where this man had found Christ, that's where he figured everyone else should start too!

Every Christian witness counts four obvious elements: the one being witnessed to, the one witnessing, and the content of the witness given. The fourth element is the

most important of all the factors, though not always the most apparent. **Every true Christian witness begins at the impetus of the Holy Spirit.**

I believe that a reluctant or ineffective witness usually lacks a true reliance upon this fourth element. It was the Holy Spirit which allowed Philip that day to sense that this Ethiopian eunuch was already seeking God. Philip did not have to berate the man or browbeat him with scripture. He really didn't have to convince him of anything. All he had to do was point him toward what he had already been seeking. Philip was able to meet this man on his own level, as Luke tells us: "joining him" in his chariot.

Often we who are already in the church make it much more difficult than necessary for others to enter. Many times, some well-meaning, but misguided, witness has inadvertently placed a row of stumbling blocks in other people's paths, levying requirements and expectations which go far beyond those of the Gospel to which they are witnessing.

Reliance upon and trust in the Holy Spirit allows us to sense the right time and the right place. It also gives us the right words. But perhaps most importantly, it gives us the humility necessary to meet another person where they really are. Dr. D.T., a Methodist missionary to India in this

century, said it as well as it has ever been expressed before or since: "Christian evangelism is simply one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."

Drew

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Attention all ladies!

If you haven't done so already, please join us at our United Methodist Women meeting. We gather together the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the church library. You'll enjoy sisterhood, devotion time, and hear what we're doing as we reach out in our mission projects. We follow our meetings with a bazaar workday (**quilt in progress shown below**) on Wednesday morning, and we'll always find a way for you to pitch in. So don't be shy. Hope to see you at our next meeting!



Ruth Wise and Sue Brown (above) stitch while Myra Hinson and Martha Edwards (below) iron and sort the quilt squares.



Choose to Lose is a new group which meets each Monday morning at 10 a.m. in the church library. We don't ascribe to any particular diet or fitness plan because we know losing weight is a matter of personal preference. We gather as a support group sharing ideas, tips that work for us, and lots of encouragement. Though there is currently a core group of five women, all are invited to drop in at any time.

At the June UMW meeting, we were honored to have guest speaker DeAnna Darden-Carroll (**pictured below**) speak to us about the work of the Davis House Child Advocacy Center, which has a facility in Hohenwald.



Mrs. Carroll, who is a Child and Family Advocate with the Center, told the group about the numbers of children referred to the Center, services provided to those referred to the Center, and the types, signs and reporting of Child Abuse. She also provided information on the long-term impacts of child mistreatment, many of which have devastating consequences on the victims of such abuse.

UMW decided to assist the Center by donating stuffed animals, which are given to child victims who are referred to the Davis House.

- Debby Campbell,
President, United Methodist Women

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Vacation Bible School was revamped a bit this year. Instead of consecutive days in one week, activities were held on Wednesday, June 24 and Wednesday, July 1, concluding on Wednesday, July 8, from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The new Church sign project sponsored by the UMM has been a success. The sign has been ordered from Columbia Neon and the down-payment made. It is felt an updated and more noticeable sign will be a definite asset to our church.

The goal of \$2000 is still a little short as of this writing and will be due upon delivery and set-up. The Men's Fellowship will pay any amount not raised at time of delivery. We wish to extend our thanks to all who participated.



Our "Fishing Rodeo" for the children and youth of the church is scheduled for Saturday, July 18. There will be a morning of fishing followed by a wiener roast. We appreciate David and Regina Roberts for allowing us the use of their property.

Due to the success of our Pancake Breakfast, we will be holding another one once again in September.

- Jim Darden
President, United Methodist Men

IMPORTANT NOTES & NEWS



Thank you, church family, for all your loving care and prayers. We could not have made it through this very difficult time without your expressions of the love of Christ.

We love you,

Charlotte and Trey Morgan

Dear Friends,

It seems totally inadequate to just say Thank You to everyone who has been so helpful to me and Wesley by mailing get-well cards, making phone calls and especially the food brought to our home (which was super delicious), and words of encouragement spoken to us during the past few weeks.

Yes, Wesley has a form of cancer in his right lung, a mass at the top of his lung. The doctors seem to think chemotherapy and possibly radiation will shrink the cancer; he hasn't had any treatment yet - we will just have to wait and see. The oxygen he uses helps him to feel good. Again, I say a special "Thank You" to the kind and considerate friends. May God bless each and every one of you.

Wesley and Hazel Jackson.

Beautiful New Paintings in the CLC Corridor!

Thanks to George and Ruth Wise, the hallway between the Sanctuary and the CLC is now lined with beautiful scenes from the Bible. If you haven't seen them yet, be sure to take a look! They are a wonderful addition to our church.



Dutch Treat Breakfast -- An "EGGcelent" Way to Fellowship



If you haven't experienced one of the Dutch Treat Breakfast Fellowships, mark your calendar for the next one! Usually held on

the last Friday of each month, they are always announced in the Bulletin and are a great way to visit with other members. Newcomers are always welcome.



FEATURED MEMBERS

Inspirational author Anne Lamott, in her book *Plan B*, wrote that "Laughter is carbonated holiness." If that is true, the home of Jim and Joyce Darden is abundantly blessed. Amusing and sharp-witted, the couple has an easy humor between them and with friends, and laughter is always on the menu.

Married in August of 1999, they met, according to Jim, "by God's hand." He explains it this way: "I came home one day and there was a message about someone wanting to rent a place on the Buffalo River. That someone turned out to be Joyce, who rented the cabin next door for several summers with some of her friends, who were legal secretaries like she was in Nashville. That's how we met."

It seems that God's hand was also at work in bringing them both to First United Methodist Church. A former member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Jim admits that he had stopped going to church for a period of time. As a newcomer in the community, Joyce was invited to visit First United Methodist by sisters Martha Edwards, Sue Bouldin and Evelyn Tatum. After Joyce began attending, it wasn't too long before Jim joined her.



Left to right: Cheetah, Joyce and Gidget, Jim and River.

Both are now active members, with Jim serving as President of the revived United Methodist Men's group, and Joyce a faithful member of the choir.

"Being here in this congregation has really deepened my religious faith," Jim said. "It has changed my life and made me realize I needed a lot of atonement and forgiveness." Joyce, who grew up in the Catholic Church, is also deeply attached to the church, saying "The teachings, especially as presented by our Pastor Drew, always make me think, and they touch me. And the congregation is a very loving, compassionate group – we all need each other and are there for each other."

Joyce grew up in Maine, and Jim has lived in Hohenwald for most of his life. Between them, their blended family consists of four adult children – Jim's three, Chester, Dawn and DeAnna, and Joyce's son Jeff – as well as their three dogs, Cheetah, Gidget and River.

In addition to their work with the church, Jim stays busy with his favorite hobbies: cooking, gardening, word puzzles and nature. In addition to working as Secretary-Office Manager for Mid-South Painting, Joyce is an accomplished artist who takes her art very seriously and has experimented with a variety of different styles of painting. "I've gone in every direction," she said. "I enjoy trying to master different techniques, different approaches to painting."

And both Joyce and Jim love to laugh. There is a lot of "carbonated holiness" in that household.

Our neighbors.
Our hearts.
Our thoughts.
Our prayers.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

umc.org/violence | Share Your Prayer on Facebook.com/UnitedMethodistChurch

"Sharing" is the newsletter of First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald, TN, published six times a year as a service of the Christian Witness Committee. To submit news for "Sharing," please contact Deborah Baker at 931-285-0058; email her at deb.baker@wildblue.net, or leave your news or a note in the Newsletter mail slot in the hall outside the church office.