

SHARING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD

MAY - JUNE, 2013 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God." (Romans 8: 28)

I have a good friend who is actually regretful when he has no story of misery to tell. He loves to recount, in colorful detail, all that has gone wrong in his life. Fortunately for the rest of us, he is a clever storyteller, and his accounts are usually humorous. Another friend has just as many difficulties, but she looks for the good in each one. When she finds it, she lets go of the trouble and focuses on the good. Which person do you suppose is happier? Which experiences the power of Easter?

Many of us tend to cling to past miseries and pains. This tendency is really a form of self-centeredness. Think about it. When I wallow in my misery, my whole focus is on myself – my pain, my problem, my grief, my self-pity! In reality, such an attitude prevents us from trusting God's love for us. To believe in Easter means to believe that Good Friday is not the end of the story. To believe in Easter means to believe that the power of good can withstand any trouble.

To practice seeking Easter in everything requires trust. Paul has it right: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God." Paul had learned to trust in the midst of trouble.

What can we do in this Easter season to practice this trust? One thing we can do is to examine each thing, each experience, to find the good – the best – that it can bring. If we approach life with this principle in mind, we will find ourselves growing closer to the Lord of Easter.

Meister Eckhart, the thirteenth-century German mystic, said that even while on the cross, Jesus, deep inside himself, knew joy because he was united with the Father in his heart. This is the gift of resurrection in our everyday lives: to live so close to God in our hearts that even our Good Fridays are filled with Easter joy!

- Drew

Church Pictorial Directory

*** News from Ann Strickland, Christian Witness Committee**

I want to thank everyone for helping to make this happen – it was definitely a group effort by all of us!

We still have a few pictures to be taken of members who were unable to be photographed during the scheduled times. Kenny Graves will be taking these pictures on two Sundays after church.

If anyone's phone number has changed in the last two years, please let me know the new one.

We need church activity pictures covering the past two years – hayrides, Fifth Sunday Lunches, men's and women's groups at work, fund-raisers, car-washes, teen trips, Tripter outings, baptisms and picnics.

The Directory will have a Pastor's page and three activity pages. We are getting 72 free directories.

Thanks again for your help!

Children's Ministry

** News from Charlotte Morgan,
Children's Ministry Director*

On Wednesdays during the month of March, children enjoyed Lenten stories, music and crafts. They learned a song they sang on Palm Sunday. Our children enjoyed a day of Christian fun at the Easter *Eggstravaganza* produced by Operation Hope and sponsored by local churches and businesses. Our church donated 400 pre-filled eggs, one volunteer and brought about 15 children. This will be an annual event, and we plan to participate.

Cash and food offerings children brought on Wednesdays through Easter were donated to the Food Bank. A Children's Sermon workshop was held in March, when we added some new volunteers.

On Wednesday, April 17, children and teenagers met together to visit residents at Lewis County Nursing Home. We gave them a candy craft made by our children, sat down with residents to color and visit with them. It was a beautiful experience for all.

We've held some Acolyte Training/Refresh-er classes and added some new Acolytes and Vested Observers who will carry small Christian flags. We still have a few who need training. We'll do this on the next few Wednesdays. Also in April, we held a Children's Council Meeting to discuss, plan and set dates for future activities.

The children are doing a Mother's Day Flower Fundraiser, as we did several years ago. For \$4 per carnation, you may list names of women you want to honor or remember in the Mother's Day Sunday bulletin, May 12. The children of our church will donate the profits from this fundraiser to our Building Fund to help our church raise the money needed for a new roof. If you

want to help, please complete the form you will find in the Sunday bulletins May 5, place in an offering envelope along with your donation of \$4 for each person you wish to be listed. Put your envelope in the offering, labeling it Mother's Day fundraiser or give to Charlotte Morgan by Wednesday May 8. On Mother's Day, we will have one colored (those living and honored) or one white (those lovingly remembered who are deceased) carnation for every woman listed which you may take with you.

Children continue to meet on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the basement for Bible exploration through music, crafts, and games. Offerings are appreciated and will be donated to the new roof building fund through the month of May. Don't forget and miss out on Sunday School at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.

Our VBS Everywhere Fun Fair will be held June 17-21 from 9 a.m. - noon. This VBS will bring the fun of a kid-friendly fair and the beauty of God's world to our church. Kids will discover how to love our neighbors near and far, here in Hohenwald and around the world. It's our prayer that children and volunteers will leave with the understanding and calling to love God, to love neighbors as they love themselves, and to follow the example of Jesus to treat one another as they would like to be treated. See Luke 10:27. We will be calling soon for help with planning and preparation work.

Remember to wear red if you can on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

Youth News

Congratulations to our graduating seniors! Graduating this spring from Lewis County High School are:

- ✓ Kayla Discus
- ✓ Jake Thompson
- ✓ Brittany Spears

We are proud of each and every one of our graduates, and pray that the future will be bright for them as they cross this important threshold.

Choir Notes

The First United Methodist Church Choir continues to put in many hours of rehearsal in order to enhance Sunday services. Interim Choir Director Kenny Graves is excited to have the opportunity to direct this outstanding group and wants to thank each member for their cooperation and continued enthusiasm.

The solo voices of Rebecca McClain and Graham Kilsby have recently added spiritual depth to the anthems on two different Sundays. Their exceptional musical talents glorify God as they share their talents with the congregation.

The Choir is blessed to have several members back after illnesses and surgeries. Having all members present for rehearsals and performances is such a blessing.

There is a real need for additional men in the group. Any men who like to sing and can read music are encouraged to attend a rehearsal. Rehearsals are held at 7 p.m. every Wednesday evening.

The Choir would like to thank the church members for their support and their show of enthusiasm following many anthem presentations. The positive responses are motivational and uplifting!



Prayer Garden, Church Grounds Beautification

Thanks to the efforts of the Prayer Garden Committee, the spring re-planting, pruning and beautification of the Prayer Garden and maintenance of our church grounds have gone very well! Be sure and thank members of the committee for rolling up their sleeves and working so hard to give us all such a lovely place for worship and reflection.

“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, editor, at 931-285-0058; email her at deb.baker@wildblue.net, or contact other members of the Christian Witness Committee. To reach the church office or Pastor Drew Brewer, call 931-796-2681.