

SHARING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’—and never do what I tell you?...He who hears and does not act is like a man who built his house on the soil without foundations.” (Luke 6: 46, 49)

Jesus was a carpenter's son. When he spoke about building houses, he knew what he was talking about. But he was also the Son of God -- and this is not just a good story.

Jesus is speaking to his disciples, and through them, to the church. That's you and I! This is not a warning to the unchurched or unsaved. This is a warning to those of us who profess to know Jesus Christ. In the verses immediately preceding this passage, “Judge not,” he says to his disciples, “lest you be judged, too!” “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you?”

We have to know Jesus is talking about hypocrisy and authenticity before we can understand this parable. This is a warning to those of us who think we know him, but don't...to those of us who think we're safe, when we really aren't. Remember! The wise builder is no more exempt from the flood than the foolish builder. The flood touches all human beings.

But the Gospel says there is a way to survive the flood. The key is in being very careful where we build our house. If we build where it's convenient, where it doesn't cost us much, where things are okay until the first heavy rainfall – we've missed the point of what it means to be the church. Jesus is not saying that following him will keep the storm away from your house. He never says that. He knows the flood will

come. That's why he pleads with us to build where he tells us to build. And if we are to be his church, we have only one choice: **we must obey him!**

A few years ago, a couple wanted me to conduct their wedding. I got out the ritual and began reading to them, and the man said, “Before you start, we don't want any of that business about obeying in there! Love is enough for us.” Now, whether he knew it or not, that man was expressing a profound truth about the way we live today. Obedience seems to be something which went out of style several years ago, just like hoola hoops and Studebakers.

It seems that today we prize individualism much more than we do obedience. We are so used to demanding our individual rights that we find it very difficult to bow down to the God who made us a redeemed and redeeming people. We want the privilege without any of the responsibility. We want benefits without obedience. And love, in our vocabulary, is some vague feeling connected more with desire than with respect and obedience.

What do we mean when we say we love Jesus? He asks us that question over and over again. “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’” he said, “and do not do what I tell you?” That's a fascinating question! Is Jesus saying that love is somehow connected to obedience? That you can't love him without following him?

In John's gospel, he makes it even clearer. “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” Can love be commanded? We're not used to thinking of it that way. We like to think of love as an

emotion...something that wells up inside of us, almost beyond our control. Love, in our way of thinking, is often reduced to some warm, fuzzy feeling that we have inside. If we look at love that way, then to try and command an emotion would be silly.

But what if love is not an emotion at all? What if love is the way God acts toward the world and the way that Jesus acts toward those who know their need for him? What if love is really not so much something we feel, as it is something that we do? Jesus is talking here about a consistency of character, and it is that consistency which makes a solid foundation.

You might get away with being half a Christian for a long time, but sooner or later, some flood is going to pour over your life, and you'll find out how deep your foundation is built. Faith may not be made in crisis, but it surely is displayed there.

- Drew

- Senior Center Nutrition Program

On Thursday, Feb. 20 at 11:15 a.m., lunch will be served at the Lewis County Senior Center. The menu will be pasta with a tomato-based meat sauce or meatless white sauce, garlic bread, salad and dessert.

In March, lunch will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 20 at 11:15 a.m., with a dressed mixed green salad, corned beef, cabbage/onions/carrots, boiled white potatoes, rye bread and something GREEN for dessert (yes, green frosting works!)

If you would like to volunteer to serve or to supply a food item for any of the monthly luncheons, please contact UMW President Carolyn Shelton at 931-628-0106, or Kathryn Kozlinski, Nutrition Program

Coordinator, at 931-796-2729 (or kawkppm@yahoo.com). Please save your receipts for reimbursement of your costs.

Update on Bethlehem Center, Nashville Rescue Mission Donations

Debby Campbell spearheaded a benevolence program to help with donation wish lists for the Bethlehem Center and the Nashville Rescue Mission this year. Thanks to her efforts and participation throughout the congregation, several trips were made to Nashville to deliver the items generously donated. Hohenwald's High Forest Humane Society also supported this program.

Shown below is the van packed up and ready to make a delivery in December!



Nurture Committee Report

The Nurture Committee attends to the concerns of education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups and stewardship. The attention is on the needs of individuals and families of all ages. If you would like to join us as we begin our new year, you will be welcomed! The first meeting was held Jan. 15, and there will be three more meetings this year, alternating between morning and afternoon meeting

times. We are always interested in finding new and innovative activities to meet our committee goals. One of our goals this year is to create a fellowship and ministries brochure for the church and for the community. We are interested in your needs, viewpoints and comments, so if you would like to join us or have an idea you would like to share, please contact Committee Chairperson Kathryn Kozlinski at 931-796-2729 (or email her at kawkppm@yahoo.com).

HELP WANTED

Companion/Caregiver: 2-3 afternoons a day, five days a week for senior female in the county. Hours flexible.

Housekeeper: General housekeeping duties, 2-4 hours every two weeks.

Meal Planner: Plan and prepare weekly meals, one day a week.

Please contact Kathryn Kozlinski, Nurture Committee, 931-796-2729 if you can help with any of these needs.

Children's Ministries

In November, the children of the church filled 30 shoeboxes for children of the world and delivered them to the Baptist Church for Samaritan's Purse. In December, they collected hats, mittens, scarves and gloves and delivered them to the Food Bank. During Advent, the children participated in the lighting of the Advent candles and sang a song.

We just started a new course of study on Wednesdays from 3 – 4 p.m., produced by Cokesbury Exploring L.I.F.E. (Living in Faith Everyday). For the next four weeks, we will explore "My Life in Christian Love." These lessons are about choosing to: follow Jesus, love, help, and to believe in Jesus. The honor the theory of multiple intelligences that tells us everyone is born with the capacity to learn in many ways, but we all

have a preferred way of learning, such as verbal, visual, musical, physical, social, problem-solving and/or self-starters. We need at least two helpers plus parents of children younger than 5 – and we need someone to bring snacks each week.

Also on Wednesdays throughout the next month, the children will be asked to recruit sponsors for a "Following Jesus" Walk-a-thon to raise funds for the church and for the local Food Bank. You may pledge any amount you wish per mile walked by the child, or you may donate a set amount. The children will walk approximately 5 miles.

There will be a Planning meeting for 2014 on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 3:30 in the basement, at which time we will also recognize our teachers and helpers, award door prizes and serve snacks. If you are a parent, Children's Sermon presenter, a Sunday School teacher or interested in being a Wednesday helper, please plan to come.

In February, we will make Valentine crafts for Lewis County Nursing Home residents, and visit the residents there on Wednesday, Feb. 12. After that, we'll be moving into Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter activities.

Happy New Year!
Charlotte Morgan

Youth News

"Acquire the Fire" is just around the corner, and our youth are getting very excited about attending this event in Nashville Feb. 21-22. It is always a wonderful time of worship for them! We will be staying at the Hotel Preston again this year. Our group has grown to the point that we have outgrown our van capacity, but through the generosity of Kathryn Kozlinski, we will be able to accommodate everyone with her van and the church van. We want to give a big "Thank You" to Chris Boardman, David and

Carolyn Shelton and Kathryn Kozlinski for giving up their weekend to go with us as chaperones and to everyone who has given special donations to make this weekend possible. Because of the support of many and the hard work of the youth, we raised enough money to cover hotel and other expenses associated with this year's "Acquire the Fire," and we are grateful to UMW for helping us with the costs of meals!

We have been doing a study on the life of David on Wednesday afternoons with an amazing group of young people, averaging 15-17 each week. They always enjoy participating in the worship service every fifth Sunday. And several of our youth participated in the Hanging of the Green service in December.

We're excited about planning some new fund-raising events in the next few months, such as a "Mystery Dessert Auction." Watch for details in the March "Sharing" newsletter and church bulletins.

Jennifer Bowen

Prayer Shawl Ministry



From Brenda Duncan to Joyce McCutcheon and members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Dear Knitters of the Beautiful Prayer Shawls,
My mother loves her prayer shawl. She and I used it daily while I visited her, and it is near her bed so she can wrap herself in God's love and in your love as she reads her daily Bible lessons, and whenever she feels that her resolve is weakening. This is

one of the most powerful ministries I have ever participated in. Thanks so much and may God continue to bless each of you as you serve Him.

New Monthly Music CDs Continue to Support Ministries



Christopher Boardman's music group, **Te Deum Laudamus**, continues to use its talents to help support missions and will release another innovative music CD for February. The *January* CD is also still available for purchase.

"We want to thank Graham Kilsby and Kenneth Kistler for sponsoring the *February* album. CD's will sell for \$5, and the money raised will go to support youth activities," said Mr. Boardman. "We would also like to thank the Hurts and Kozlinskis for their sponsorship of the *December* album, and the McCutcheons for having sponsored the *January* album."

Mr. Boardman, who has been playing guitar for 35 years and added the keyboard to his repertoire four years ago, says that addition of technology to his music works to produce sounds that are not found in most traditional Christian music. The music is often

described as having qualities of both ancient and futuristic sounds.

“Record companies tend to promote the same type of Christian music,” he said, and there are not a lot of choices. There are so many ways to celebrate and enjoy Christian music that we feel we have something special and unique, music that can transcend different generations.”

The albums are available for sale in the church office for \$5.00 each, and the proceeds go to support church Youth programs. The CDs are also available at the Strand, the Lewis County Public Library, the nursing home, and First Baptist Church, but when purchased at those locations, the proceeds go to support ministries and activities at those locations.

Te Deum Laudamus has the music material and the artwork already lined up for more monthly-themed CD albums, and all proceeds would sponsor our church and local ministries. If you are interested in sponsoring an album, please contact Kathryn Kozlinski or Christopher Boardman.

Ministering to Nursing Home Residents and Shut-Ins



As we think about Love and Valentine’s Day, why not expand our thoughts and actions to show love to those who are ill, medically fragile or dependent on others for their care? Here is a list of our shut-ins and nursing home/assisted living residents who need our prayers, encouragement, cards and visits:

In the Lewis County Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 119 Kittrell, Hohenwald, TN 38462: Marie Miller, Ruth Newton, and Carla Darden

Wilma Jones, 17 East 1st Street, Hohenwald, TN 38462

Bernice Clay, Elba Nursing Home, 987 Dayton Ave., Elba, AL 36323

Mary Jane Clifton, Woodmont Nursing Home, L19 W. High St., Woodmont, TN 37190

Lucille Potts, 203 W. 1st Avenue, Hohenwald, TN 38462

Geraldine Crowell, 312 W. 5th Avenue, Hohenwald, TN 38462

Juanita Schwendimann, 17 Walnut Circle, Hohenwald, TN 38462

Katie Sue Johnston, 1267 Columbia Highway, Hohenwald, TN 38462

Joan Cothran, Willow Springs Assisted Living, 1040 Campbell Station Parkway, Spring Hill, TN 37174

Nancy Johnson, 205 Westgate Drive, Apt. 147, Springfield, TN 37172

We encourage our church family to let them know we are thinking of them and that they are in our prayers at least once a month. If any member knows of others who should be included on this list, please contact Camille Kelley at 931-796-3353 or Joyce McCutcheon at 931-796-5909.

“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 deb.baker@wildblue.net, or contact other members of the Christian Witness Committee. The newsletter is also available on the church website. Deadline for the March-April newsletter is Wednesday, Feb. 26.