

SHARING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD

MAY - JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen." (Luke 24: 5b)

Tom Dooley, the medical missionary who spent his life in service to the people of Indochina and who died at a young age with cancer, wrote of a time when he was discouraged. Money wasn't coming in, supplies were too few, work was hard and tedious. He wrote: ***Every time I get discouraged and down in the dumps, someone comes along and rings the rusty bells of hope and I have encouragement to get back at it again.***

I think that is a very powerful phrase, ***"ringing the rusty bells of hope."*** You see, that is what Easter is all about. At Easter, God once again rings the bells of hope, announcing to the world that He is alive and real, announcing that we always have hope because love is stronger than death.

When Sam and Betty Moffet had been married for 12 years, Betty developed cancer. They believed she would be healed, and they prayed that she would. But after a long, painful struggle, Betty died. After Betty's death, Sam wrote a letter to all his friends:

We believed that she would be healed. We prayed the prayer of faith. But the prayer of faith that heals is the gift of God. And it did help us through the long days of suffering. We lived with confidence and expectancy. Even to the end, we knew the Lord could heal her. But even when the darkness came in close and cold, the trust remained. For

now we know there is a greater miracle that the miracle of healing. There is resurrection.

We will all face death on this earth. But Christ was raised so that we could see beyond death. We can be like that elderly woman who told her pastor, "I'm dying, and I'm scared to death. But I'm trusting everything to the love of God." The rusty bells of hope ring for us all. Because of what Christ did, we can be like that man who had etched on his tombstone the words, "Gone away with a friend." Resurrection means that we can see beyond suffering, beyond disappointment, beyond death. He has defeated them all.

This is the way it will be because of Easter. Death is the doorway that opens to life. The tomb is empty. Hallelujah.

- Drew

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



The *Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School* is scheduled for June 23-27. This will be an exciting opportunity for children to create projects with their hands while learning more about God, the Creator of the world.

As always, volunteers are necessary to make VBS a success. We need foremen, assistants, as well as donors for the list of supplies that we need for our children.*

A VBS planning meeting and dinner is scheduled for Sunday, May 18th, at 6 p.m. in the CLC. Anyone interested in helping in VBS, whether with their time and presence or with their contributions and donations, is welcome to attend. And, please, bring a hearty appetite and ideas! Parents or grandparents of children are especially welcome, and we would very much appreciate any comments, observations, and ideas you have. If you are unable to find a sitter for the kids, a sitter in the nursery will be provided.

- Monet Boardman, Director of Children's Ministry



VBS SUPPLIES NEEDED

Debby Campbell is already hard at work planning VBS science sessions. She needs the following supplies:

- ✓ Plastic soda bottles (8 oz.)
- ✓ Mentos Mints (not fruit)
- ✓ disposable aluminum baking pans
- ✓ smocks
- ✓ empty thread spools
- ✓ small plastic buckets (your name on bottom)
- ✓ ribbon
- ✓ 12" rulers flashlights (put your name on them)
- ✓ funnels (name on them)
- ✓ big plastic tubs (name on them)

- ✓ empty water bottles
- ✓ white glue
- ✓ glow paint
- ✓ measuring cups & spoons
- ✓ Borax or liquid starch
- ✓ hand-juicers
- ✓ Play-Doh
- ✓ Sand
- ✓ turkey basters
- ✓ new sponges
- ✓ grass seed (quick sprout)
- ✓ potting soil

Debby asks that you put your name on anything you would like returned.

YOUTH NEWS

Our Mystery Dessert Auction in March was a sweet success! Thanks to everyone who bid and purchased desserts, we raised a total of \$500.



The Youth Group is planning a Float Trip down the Buffalo River this summer. We will end our trip at the home of Jim and Joyce Darden with a cook-out there. We are in need of inner-tubes and life jackets. If you have any of these items – or would like to donate funds so that we can purchase some (which we will use again!) – please contact Jennifer Bowen.

- Jennifer Bowen, Youth Director

Outreach Committee Report

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has provided over 50 prayer shawls to offer comfort to those who are ill, grieving or in need of a reminder that they are loved and supported by our congregation.

Thanks to those who knit, crochet, provide bags, print materials included in the prayer shawl bags, and deliver these gifts. A special thanks to Glen Pancake for the shelving to store the prayer shawls in the library.

Everyone is welcome to get a prayer shawl to any person in need. Simply pick a shawl from the library shelf, sign the information sheet on the side of the cabinet and bless someone with a prayer shawl.

Blessings,
Outreach Committee

PAINTING & WALLPAPER HELP AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know needs to have a house, a room or a hallway painted or wallpapered, Graham Kilsby is ready to take on the job at a reasonable price. Feel free to give him a call at 931-306-7054, or call the church office.

USHERS FOR MAY AND JUNE

Serving as Ushers for May are:

Glen Pancake
Jerry Tibbs
Mac McCarthy
Darrell Lanagan

In June, Ushers will be:

Chris Boardman
Billy Edwards
Larry McCutcheon
Tom Wright

- Ann Strickland, Christian Witness Committee Chair

FINANCIAL NOTES

The Finance Committee has been really challenged with finding ways to meet our expenses. We are upon that time of year when many people travel and attendance is down which typically means that our weekly income drops. Please remember - our expenses continue even if you are unable to attend service and continued support is appreciated.

- Susie Cullinan, Finance Committee

CHRISTIAN NURTURE COMMITTEE

Reminder: If you wish to join the Prayer Chain, or need to update your information, contact Debby Campbell. Also, don't forget to check the Wish List for the Bethlehem Center. And donations of clothing and shoes, especially for men, are needed for the Nashville Rescue Mission. Collection bins are located in the church.



“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.