

SHARING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“So we are always of good courage; even though we know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight.” – II Corinthians 5:6

On two occasions in this chapter, Paul uses the term “**good courage**.” What is “**good courage**?” Plato once said that courage was one of the *three* cardinal virtues. Therefore, wouldn't all courage be good? Not really.

A murderer or burglar might muster up enough nerve to commit his crime, but that is surely not “good courage.” Nor is the foolhardiness of daredevils, or the violent boldness of fanatics and terrorists, or the gung-ho machismo of many of our contemporary movie or sports stars. Taking unnecessary chances with our lives or the lives of others might take a certain amount of recklessness, but one could hardly call it “good courage.”

Good courage usually isn't all that dramatic. It is much less flamboyant. Good courage, as Paul expresses it, has more to do with **steadfastness**...with just “**hanging in there**,” as we say. A “**wise endurance**,” as Plato put it. A “**grace under fire**,” as Hemingway said, in perhaps the best definition of courage ever coined.

Good courage is often simply doing your duty – doing what is expected of you -- not only for your own good, but also for the good of others. It may be heroic and brave at times, but more often than not it will be more low-profile – something that only you and possibly those close to you – may ever

notice. And God, of course. God always notices.

By adding “**good**” to “**courage**,” Paul is making the moral connection that real courage arises out of strength of character. Paul Tillich, in his book **The Courage to Be**, says that courage is not simply a way of meeting danger, it is a way of life. We are given the opportunity to be part of the creative work of God in this world. Whenever we actively seek to live out that opportunity, instead of withdrawing from life, we are exhibiting what Tillich calls, “**the courage to be a part**.” And it is good. But even better is the courage to be one's self. This always involves the risk of failing to be one's self. A certain strength of faith is needed to tackle that risk. And that is what Tillich calls, “**the courage to be**.” This courage “**to be**” is rooted in God.

Life is filled with people who play out the hand dealt them with “good courage.” You see it in parents who matter-of-factly raise handicapped children. You see it in those who live in constant pain without becoming bitter. You see it in persons who care lovingly for aging parents. There is no roll of the drums for this kind of courage, no ticker-tape parade, no medal of honor. It is more of a hushed heroism, a silent sacrifice, willing to steadfastly endure whatever responsibility life has placed before one. This quiet acceptance, and surrender to the leading of God, is the “**good courage**,” of which Paul speaks.

- Drew

TRUSTEE NEWS

Work on enclosing the walkway between the sanctuary and the CLC began in July and is nearly complete.



The Trustees ask the congregation to contact the church office in writing if you have suggestions as to improving our church facilities (repairs, additions, etc.). We appreciate all your past support and welcome your suggestions. Your ideas are encouraged!!

For those who would like to support our building improvements financially, they are encouraged to contribute to the funding by “earmarking” their donations for use by the “Building Fund.”

- Larry McCutcheon, Trustee

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Carolyn Shelton, who has faithfully served as UMW President, is stepping down at the end of the year. Her tireless work is appreciated! “I would to thank all the UMW ladies for all their love, faith and support of me as your president for the last 4 years,” she said.

Our UMW ladies will host the UMW district meeting at the church beginning at 9 a.m. on September 20th. There will be lunch after the meeting in the CLC. All ladies are invited to come. If you have any questions, please call Carolyn at 931-628-2952.

The UMW Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, November 8. We will once again give away a beautiful quilt (pictured below), at 1 p.m. on the day of the bazaar. A \$2 donation gets you one chance to win it; donated \$5 for three chances. The UMW would like to thank Geraldine Crowell, Virginia Berry, and Joyce White for embroidery, quilting and binding of this beautiful quilt.

- Carolyn Shelton, UMW President



THE BODY OF CHRIST

Editor’s Note: *As members, we each have special talents, skills, abilities and ways in which we serve the Lord. Collectively, we strive to serve as the hands, arms, legs, voice and heart of Christ in reaching others and in sharing His love. Our featured members this issue are Martha and Bill Edwards.*

In 1962, married only four years, a young couple, Bill and Martha Edwards, made two decisions that enriched the lives of a great many people: they decided to make Hohenwald their home and to make First United Methodist Church their church home.

Now, more than 50 years later, they are so much a part of the community and the church that it is difficult to imagine either the church or the town without them. Martha’s

ties to First Methodist go even deeper, pre-dating their joining the church as a couple in 1962. She has been a member of First United Methodist Church since she was in the fifth grade.

After they met in high school, Bill served in the U.S. Navy from 1953-56 before attending Austin Peay State University, where he studied chemistry and biology. After graduation, he taught at UT-Martin and Clarksville High School. Martha, a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, worked as a bookkeeper at Genesco, then taught third grade until she retired in 1993. Married in 1958, they were living in Martin, TN, when a chance encounter in 1962 opened the doors for Bill and Martha to move back to Hohenwald. "We were in Hohenwald for a visit, and decided to visit First United Methodist Church while we were in town," Bill said. "Martha's sister Sue was with us, and the plant manager of American Biltrite (which later became Dana Corp.) asked her who we were. As it turned out, he needed a chemist at the plant, so he hired me."

Never content to be "pew-warmers," both Bill and Martha actively serve the church in many ways. As head usher, Bill is usually the first face visitors to the church see. And Martha is likewise ever-present, whether she is singing in the choir, serving on various church committees, or serving up the delicious dishes Methodist women are well-known for, at church dinners and other functions. Bill helps to make sure areas of the church, like the CLC and bathrooms, are clean and well-maintained. Martha, past president of UMW, has chaired the Care Group (in charge of food) since 1996, a program started by her aunt. She also volunteers at the Food Bank.

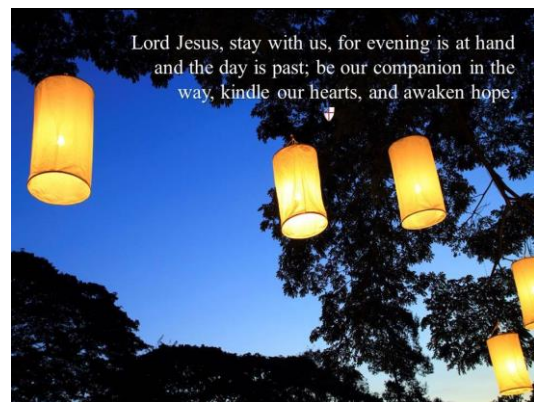
Having supervised people for over 30 years, Bill admits his favorite job is usher. "I love to meet people," he said.

Both Bill and Martha have remained active servants of the church for many years, but have also found time to enjoy their family, a son and daughter and seven grandchildren, in addition to their hobbies. Bill loves to play golf, and Martha is an accomplished artist, painting mostly landscapes for her children, she said, but branches out to other subjects as well, such as an eagle painted from a picture taken by her neighbor Carol Buckley. Both Bill and Martha also spend time outdoors at their place on the Buffalo River.



When asked what their secret is for a long and happy marriage, they both said "share the workload." That simple advice seems to have worked well for them, and for their church family as well, as they have shared their time and talents with us all.

"Sharing" is happy to salute Bill and Martha Edwards!



Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand
and the day is past; be our companion in the
way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE CHARGE CONFERENCE

In addition to hosting the Columbia District UMW from 9 a.m. – noon on September 20, our church will also host the 2014 Charge Conference, beginning at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our new District Superintendent, Alan Black, will preside.

Charge Conference is a time each year when we celebrate our ministry together in the past year, plan for the year to come, elect church officials and set the salary for pastor and staff.

The entire congregation is encouraged to attend.

START YOUR DAY OFF RIGHT!

It's said that Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. And what could be better than a good breakfast with great church friends? On Friday, August 29, the Fellowship "Dutch Treat" Breakfast was held at the recently opened "Panther Café."

Watch the bulletin for future fellowship breakfasts and join us!



OUR PRAYER GARDEN



Despite the ups and downs with weather, our beautiful Prayer Garden continues to grow and thrive. Many thanks to Rita Grow, Janice and Glen Pancake and all the others who work to make this spot so special.

"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.