

SHARING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD



MAY – JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“Like newborn infants, long for the spiritual milk so that by it you may grow into salvation...for you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people. (1 Peter 2: 2a, 9b)

Have you ever seen a child lost from its mother in a large store? I saw such a child recently. He was panicked; his world was shattered; suddenly, he was alone in a vast and confusing place. Within seconds, a store employee noticed the child, went to him, and in a tender and loving way, assured him that, together, they would find his parent.

I saw this incident as a metaphor for the church and its relationship to people today. We live in a vast and confusing world. People are longing for someone to find them in their confusion, to comfort them until they get their bearings, and to offer them an identity which will give meaning to their lives. This is the role of the church – to assure people that God is like a loving parent, is looking for us, and wants our broken relationships to be restored so that we will no longer feel lost and cut off from the One who loves us.

The baptismal rites of the early church are fascinating to modern Christians. To be baptized was truly to give up an old way of

living in favor of a new...to receive oneself as ***“born again”*** into a special family. Often, following the baptism, the initiate would be offered a cup of milk, as a symbol of the “spiritual milk” that will nourish and sustain the new Christian.

I Peter is a call to the Church to ***“remember who we are.”*** It is a reminder that we who were once ***“no people”*** are now ***“God’s people.”*** Our stories have become Christ’s story. This was not our doing; we were ***“chosen”*** for this. It is, as the poet T. S. Eliot has said, like ***“returning to the place from which we started, and knowing it for the first time.”***

When suffering comes, when we are separated from each other, I Peter encourages us to hold to the belief that not only do we remember the story in our baptism – we have in some way become a part of that story, and our becoming a part of it strengthens us, empowers us, commands us to share that story with others: ***“to declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”***

The church still has a message for lost people today: long before we started looking for God, God was looking for us.

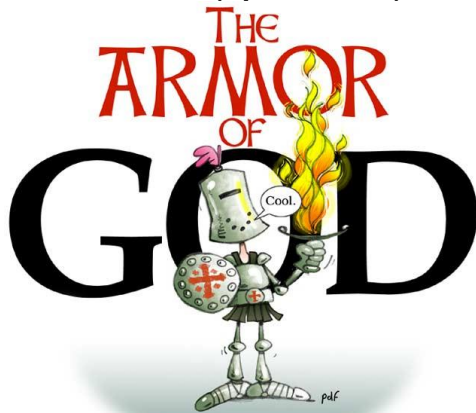
. Drew

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



It's almost time for Vacation Bible School. Volunteers are still needed, and I would love to talk to you about becoming involved in this spirited and rewarding program for our children.

VBS will take place June 22-26, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and our theme this year is **"The Lord's Army."** It will be a fun, Biblical-based boot-camp themed VBS as we put on **"the armor of God"** (Ephesians 5).



If you have questions, creative ideas, or concerns, I want to hear them. If you're interested in being a leader, teacher, or volunteer, please let me know!

- Monet Boardman,
Director of Children's Ministries

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women, UMW, is looking for a few new good women! If you are interested in service to our church and our community, this is the place to be. We

meet on the second Monday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Church Library to share fellowship and plan the month's activities.

Among these activities are quilting and sewing for our annual UMW Bazaar. Bazaar. We also hold work days from 9 a.m. – noon on the Wednesday following our monthly Monday meeting. You don't have to know how to quilt or sew to be put to good use on work days. We will find plenty for you to do!

A second activity which is great fun involves planning, preparing, and serving lunch at the Lewis County Senior Center. The third Thursday of each month, the UMW treats the seniors to a scrumptious meal. This is definitely the highlight of the month for many because we all know that these Methodist women surely know how to cook.

Recently, four UMW women drove down to Decatur, Alabama to work at the UMCOR Disaster Depot. Debby Campbell, Martha Edwards, Cheri France, and Retha Tibbs put together emergency first aid kits and flood buckets so that UMCOR Methodists will be ready as always to be "first to arrive and last to leave," when disaster hits anywhere in the United States.



In addition, the UMW serves the church by catering church funerals, visiting and providing food for the ill and shut-ins, volunteering at the Lewis County Food & Clothing Bank, and so much more. Perhaps you have a cause that you would like to share with us. Don't be shy. We're waiting for you!

- Debby Campbell,
President, United Methodist Women

UNITED METHODIST MEN

A new fiscal year is underway for our group. New officers were electe4d for 2015-16, and they are:

- President – Jim Darden
- Vice President – Kenneth Kistler
- Secretary – Chris Boardman
- Treasurer – Tony Kozlinski

So far, our group has completed three service projects. We installed a handicap ramp; supplied carpentry items for a recently-moved woman, and helped with a household move. Currently we are working on designing and erecting a new church sign (more information in the future) that will be more visible and more attractive.

Another pancake brunch is being scheduled for September as our fundraiser. Last year’s was successful, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, especially our cooks and servers.

We continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month and enjoy the good food our men cook (albeit their wives may do some of the cooking – which is just fine with us!).

- Jim Darden
President, United Methodist Men

IMPORTANT NOTES & NEWS



The 2015 **Tennessee Annual Conference** has been set for Sunday, June 7 through Wednesday, June 9 at Brentwood United Methodist Church. The theme of this year’s conference is “Offering Christ to a Hurting World.” Our Lay Delegates this year are Billy Edwards and David Shelton (alternate).

Please be in prayer for this important event in the life of our church.

I would like to thank the congregation for allowing me to stand in for Jennifer Bowen as Church Secretary these last four months. It has truly been a blessed experience. It has given me a new respect for the amount and quality of work Pastor Drew and Jennifer put in to this Church. In addition, I have seen the many “undercover” workers who come here almost daily to keep things running smoothly and to help me when I’ve had a problem I can’t solve. I have come to know many of you more intimately and thank you for visiting and sharing with me. I had no idea that we helped our community so much or how many of you pitch in with your service. I will surely miss being your sub and thank you, Jennifer, Pastor Drew, and God for my experience.

- Debby Campbell

From A Trustee:

It has come to my attention that very few members know there is a Trustees Work Order slot by the Pastor’s Office, in the hall. If you know of something at the church that needs to be fixed, please drop us a note in that Work Order slot. Just tell us What and Where the issue is and it will be checked. Thank you!

“During a time like this, we realize how much our friends really mean to us. . . Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. The Family of Kendall Patterson thanks you for all your prayers and cards.”

- Cookie

“Thank you very much. It was such a thoughtful gesture. Thank you so much for your generous donation. My family and I appreciate it very much.”

- Lisa Owen and Family



Nursery Workers needed

We need help in the nursery! If you are interested in helping to care for our youngest members, please call Pastor Brewer at the church, 796-2681, or Larry McCutcheon at 796-5909.

FEATURED MEMBER

Her roots in Hohenwald are as deep as the large, beautiful oak trees that shade her lovely home.

Born in Milan, TN, Camille Kelley has been an active part of the Hohenwald community since she was a sprout. At the age of 3, her parents left Milan to return to the hometown of her mother. Growing up, she lived in a little white house on Park Avenue next door to her aunt and uncle. Family, home and church have always been an integral part of her life.

A lifetime member of Hohenwald First United Methodist Church, Camille uses her background, skills and talents in a very important role, Financial Secretary, to help the church with its financial bookkeeping and records. She worked for Hohenwald Bank & Trust, which became Lewis County Bank, and then for Community South Bank. She also worked as a bookkeeper for Hassell – Kelley Motor Company/Chrysler-

GM, a family business of her late husband Tommy. She also worked as City Reporter for the City of Hohenwald, a position she says she especially enjoyed because she was able to meet so many people.



Now retired, Camille enjoys “working in the dirt,” tending the many lovely flowers and plants that surround her home. She has a close family that includes two daughters, a granddaughter and many nieces and nephews. She is also the loving caretaker to five rescue cats and the occasional “neighborhood cat” who comes to visit.

In addition to serving as Financial Secretary, she serves on the Finance Committee and the Committee on Christian Witness.

Having been a member for so many years, she has many fond memories of growing up in and raising her daughters in the church. “I remember MYF and that was a big part of my life as a young person,” she said. “We had folk dancing and sports and wonderful fellowship. Most of my recreation growing up was through MYF and the church.”

But, while some things have changed over the years, Camille Kelley’s love for God and the church have not. “This church is my home,” she said, “and I would not want to be anywhere else.”

“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.