

SHARING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD



MARCH – APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

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DREW'S MUSINGS

“Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24)

In God's wisdom, the power of sacrifice is built into the fabric of creation. Seeds die that plants may be born, mountains are laid bare that valleys must thrive, leaves die that new ones might sprout. Each time we look at the Cross, we are reminded of Jesus' words to Phillip and Andrew: “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” Something has to die so that something new might live. The Cross teaches us about sacrificial love.

There's an old story of a little boy who would never behave. His parents tried everything – nothing worked. They tried punishment, they tried showering him with attention...nothing. One afternoon something strange happened. This boy had a little wire-haired terrier which he adored. On this particular day he was trying to teach the dog a new trick. The weather was hot, the dog was tired, and the boy was impatient. When the dog failed to understand what his master wanted him to do, the boy kicked the dog in great anger, cutting its mouth and wrenching its shoulder. For just a moment, the eyes of the



little dog looked up at his master, sort of bewildered and puzzled, then painfully he crawled over to where the boy stood and licked his hand!

The boy broke down and wept. He ran to his mother crying, “Oh, mother, I've done an awful thing.” You see, restrictions, spankings, rewards had not reached him...but suffering love had. That's what the Cross does to those of us who love Jesus. It makes us realize the greatness of His love for us. You and I might have walked away from that Cross – but not Him. Anyone who professes to follow him has to understand the power of that love, Had Christ not gone to the Cross, we would question His willingness to share our suffering. The Cross makes us aware of sin, but it also teaches the power of love. It means that God knows what it is like to suffer.

There was a time in my life when I didn't really see the suffering in life. But the only reasons I didn't see it than is because I

wasn't looking for it. In the ministry of the gospel, I have come to see teardrops in almost everything. Scarcely a day passes when I don't talk to someone who is lonely, hurt, frightened or confused. The world, as nice as it can be, is also filled with suffering. Doctors struggling to keep patients alive, patients bravely enduring pain, parents weeping for children, children weeping for parents.

What could we say to people like that if there were no Cross? We don't have to preach a sermon. All we have to do is point to His hands and His feet and say, "Look there!" More convincing than any assurance I could ever offer, I can point to the Cross and say, "He understands. He knows what it's like!" Whatever else we believe about the Cross, we must believe that is where Christ showed us God identifies with us in our suffering.

. Drew

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

At our February meeting, the UMW had a great time posing for our SuperBowl picture. We joined in a campaign to bring attention to and combat the problem of Human Trafficking along with UMW groups across the nation. We were one of the UMWs featured on the UMW Facebook page, and our picture and an article appeared in the *Lewis County Herald*.

In March, we will be cleaning up the kitchen in the Christian Life Center. Please arrive on Wednesday, March 9 at 10 a.m. with cleaning materials.

We will also be hosting the Lewis County Manor's March "birthday party" on Wednesday, March 30. If you haven't signed up to bring goodies, please call Debby Campbell at 796-2626. We will arrive at 2 p.m. and serve at 2:30.

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 14 at 6 p.m. in the church library. Don't forget to bring your pledge commitments and ideas for mission expenditures.

On [Saturday](#), Feb. 20th, several United Methodist Women attended the Columbia District Faith Lift at Centerville UMC. UMW President Peggy Owen led our day which featured Guest Speaker District Superintendent Allen Black. He challenged us to accept God and our mission to spread the good news into our hearts and certainly fired us up. The afternoon ended with fellowship and, of course, good Methodist-made food.

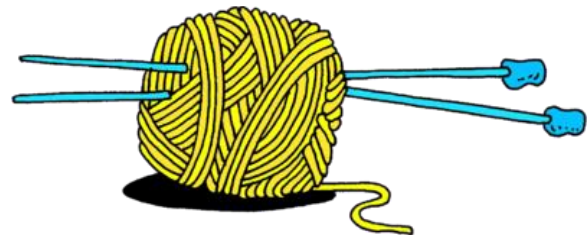
- Debby Campbell, President

OUTREACH UPDATE



February was earmarked as **Nashville Rescue Mission** month. Church members were asked to donate gently-used clothing as well as cold weather items for men, women, and children. The response was so overwhelming that trips to the Mission had to be made weekly. Suits, winter coats, blankets, socks and underwear, even doggy coats were just some of the donations that virtually overtook the narthex, office and library. Special thanks go to Mac McLemore and Gwynn McVickers who delivered our goods. We are certainly a caring giving church. Thank you all.

- Contributed by Debby Campbell



**Whatever you do, do it heartily,
as to the Lord...**

The **Prayer Shawl** originates in the Old Testament and was used during worship and private prayer time. [Today](#) a prayer shawl or

prayer cover or prayer cloth is meant to bring comfort to the wearer and an awareness of God's presence in our daily lives

Prayer shawls are prayed over during their construction. Whether in times of distress or moments of joy the shawl reminds the recipient of God's love and our love. The prayer list on the back of our weekly bulletin reminds each of us to pray for persons who have prayer shawls. This project is world-wide which means there is constant prayer being offered.

Hohenwald UMC has presented over 80 shawls. The shawls are available for distribution in our church library. If you desire to bless someone, pick the shawl that is appropriate (man, woman, style, color, etc.), sign out on the list attracted to the side of the cabinet and deliver the shawl.

Each gift bag has all the information necessary for the receiver to understand the significance of this gift. Reading the information aloud as you present the shawl can be very meaningful.

If you would like to participate in creating the gifts, please contact Sue Brown (931-796-3385), Retha Tibbs (931-796-5562) or Joyce McCutcheon (931-796-5909). Meetings are held from 1- 4 p.m. on the **third Monday** of each month at Piney Road Baptist Church. Classes are available if you want to learn to knit or crochet.

Thanks to Gwynn McVickers for making the bags beautiful and to Ann Strickland for printing and attaching the information. Of course, thanks to all who provide and pray for this ministry!

- Joyce McCutcheon, Outreach Committee

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We will be participating in the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering **Sunday**, March 6, during worship. This is to support UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) by paying for overhead during the year so that, in every advanced special offering for disasters through

the year, 100% of the monies go directly to the relief effort.

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than 80 countries around the world.

To give by mail: Send checks to: GCFA
P.O. Box 340029
Nashville, TN 37203

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT



Our church has two Adult Bible Study classes to choose from, the Wesleyan Fellowship led by Mike Spitzer and the Pathfinders led by Pastor Drew Brewer. Studies for spring will examine "The Gift of Faith" utilizing the Gospels of Mark and Luke. According to Hebrews 11:1, "Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see." Units will include tests of faith, restorative faith, and fullness of faith.

Our Senior Youth group is continuing to read the entire Bible. Currently studying I Corinthians, there is much to discuss with the three instructors: Jerry Turner, Kathryn Kozlinski, and Retha Tibbs. Plans are to complete the Bible by May.

Our Elementary class, led by Miss Judy Ford, will investigate Jesus' last days and his resurrection as well as the beginning and growth of Christianity. The class is involved in many crafts and mission projects to accompany the Bible lessons.

All classes meet weekly from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Please bring the entire family and strengthen your knowledge, passion, and commitment to God.

- Debby Campbell, Sunday School Superintendent

HIGH FOREST HUMANE SOCIETY AND HUMC



What do the High Forest Humane Society (HFHS) and our church have to do with one another? For one thing, the current HFHS Board of Directors is comprised of Lanette Durham (president), Michele Armstrong (vice president), Tony Kozlinski (treasurer), Ashleigh Smith (secretary) and Leila Oertal (board member) – all of whom attend the Hohenwald First United Methodist Church.

In addition, many in the congregation have worked as volunteers, including Jim and Joyce Darden, Don Smith, Kenny Durham, Gwynn McVickers, Debby Campbell, Kathryn Kozlinski and Cheri France, who have helped at PetSmart Adoption Days. In addition to those above, Rita Perny, Jane Simmons and Camille Kelley have donated their time and talents in other ways. And, I can't leave Graham Kilsby out – he has been the unofficial cat rescuer for HFHS, saving the lives of many cats and kittens, mostly at his own expense. But keep that under your hat – he does not need any more felines dumped at his house! If I have missed anyone, I apologize.

As many of you know, HFHS was going to disband. After 11 years of caring for animal every day, around the clock, most of us were burned out. We knew a shelter was needed and had been trying unsuccessfully for 11 years to get some assistance from the City and County. We decided to approach Mayor McKnight and now the City of Hohenwald has been working with HFHS to partner in building an animal shelter. Our hope is that the County will be willing to join this partnership so all the animals of Lewis County can benefit. If this happens, HFHS will continue its mission and run the shelter.

A few years ago, Drew performed a "Blessing of the Animals" at one of our HFHS fundraisers.

His words were beautiful and a variety of animals received the blessing. HFHS would like to assist our church in having another Blessing of the Animals this year, and I will let you know of the date. We are blessed to have so many loving, caring and giving people who know that we need to love God, each other and all of God's creatures.

- Lanette Durham

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CALENDAR

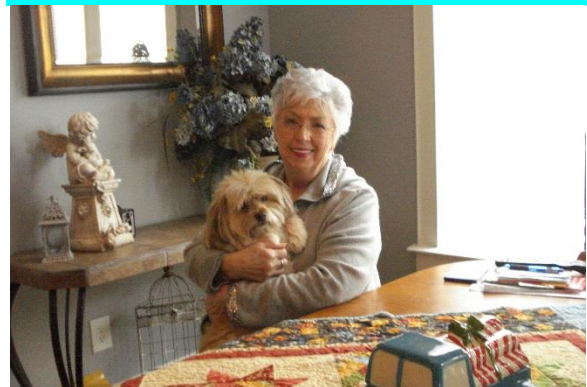
Thursday, March 24, 6 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion

Friday, March 25, 3 p.m. – Good Friday Worship

Easter Sunday, March 27 – Sunrise Service, 6 a.m., with breakfast in the CLC following. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Regular Service, 10:30 a.m.

******Other Calendar Note: Don't forget about the time change. Daylight Savings Time starts on March 13 – time to Spring Forward!**

FEATURED MEMBER



Hanging on the walls and draped over furnishings in the home of Gloria Jones are quilts and other handcrafted fabric creations that she has pieced together with obvious love, care, creativity and determination. And those are the same attributes that Gloria herself demonstrates daily.

A relative newcomer to Hohenwald First United Methodist Church, Gloria has hit the ground running here – a substitute teacher for an Adult Sunday School, singing in the choir, serving on committees. And she has taken on new

responsibilities as well – serving as our Certified Lay Minister, helping Pastor Brewer minister to shut-ins and long-term incapacitated people, one-on-one caring ministries.

Her training and background equip her well for these duties. She became a Local Church Lay Speaker in 1999 and a Certified Lay Speaker in 2000, the same year she was appointed Columbia District Director of Lay Speaking Ministries. She also was a volunteer chaplain for Highland Hospice of the Highland Rim before joining the staff to work with patients and families and their end-of-life issues. As chaplain, she officiated at many funerals and Celebration of Life services. Over the past few years, she has also completed six Disciple Bible courses and coursework with the American Association of Christian Counselor, and is now a Board-Certified Biblical Counselor.

“I want to start a Disciple Class in the fall,” she said, “an intensive 36-week course in which we will read and learn about the Bible.”

While her credentials are impressive, Gloria prefers talking about the experiences those roles have given to her, the joys of serving others, the humility and grace of doing God’s work. From simple requests from a terminally ill woman to “please brush my teeth for me” to praying with a family when their loved one is departing this life, to feeling the presence of the Lord after a homeless woman accepts a meal from her, Gloria feels that she is being blessed, as she tries to bring relief, comfort and caring to those she serves. “It’s not about me,” she says, “it’s about being accessible, finding the confidence to speak about the Lord and sharing your joy.”

Gloria moved here from Amarillo, Texas, but had lived here previously, until 1964, when she married. Returning to Tennessee a few years later, she had her own business as a designer and manufacturer of custom handbags as well as monogramming. Along the way, she also got interested in quilting. While living in Texas, she began to accumulate top prizes for her quilts as such Quilt Festivals as the Ogallala Quilt Show.

She had planned to stay in Texas, but woke up feeling ill one morning and could not shake the little voice telling her she needed to move back to Hohenwald. With a lot of help from her son Brad Rasbury, she completed remodeled and restored a charming older home, circa 1925, on

Park Avenue, which she shares with her beloved rescue pup Button. “Button travelled with me on trips from Texas. She’s a good traveler and has gotten me through a lot,” Gloria said.

In addition to her son, Gloria has other family -- eight grandchildren and now five great-grandchildren – with the most recent, a little great-grandson, arriving just a few days ago. She and a sister are also caring for a third sister who is ill.

“I’ve been in big churches, have even preached in some, but our Hohenwald Methodist Church is the type of church that can really grow, physically and spiritually. There’s so much that our caring church does and can do.”

“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.