

## SHARING

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD



#### JULY - AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

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#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

***“One of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and soul, and mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22: 35-39)***

Jesus cited the command to love God as “part one” of a two-part answer to the lawyer’s question. The command to love God is followed by the command to love neighbor. The British writer, D.H. Lawrence, wrote a moving short story entitled “The Man Who Loved Islands” about a man who hated people so much that he longed to live apart from the rest of humanity. With his savings he bought an uninhabited island. He was certain he would find fulfillment there, in total isolation. But seclusion did not bring the fulfillment he had hoped for. He became restless; he blamed it on the island. All he needed was a different island, he told himself. So he sold the first island and moved to another, then another, and another. He spent years moving from island to island in the futile search for happiness in isolation. In the end he became hopelessly insane.

It is more than possible that much of the misery in our time is the result of our love of “islands” or, put another way, the result of our disobedience to the second part of the great commandment. The command to love neighbor is the strongest possible affirmation of having been created for life in community...to know one another, to appreciate the uniqueness of one another, to share in one another’s sorrows and joys, but like “the man who loved islands,” we too often see others as the cause of all our problems. Of course, we don’t buy islands to escape from each other...but we do create emotional pockets of isolation. We remain in relationships, but without sharing our lives on any deep level...We live superficially, and we begin to view others as a threat to our own vulnerability.

Christ invites us today to “get off our islands.” Isolation breeds despair. The cure for much depression is simply to immerse oneself in community. It is in community that we best experience the love and grace of God. In fact, the self cannot really exist without another to give it meaning. To love God is really to love neighbor, and to love neighbor is really to love God. There is no greater commandment.

-- Drew

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our next UMW meeting will be held on Monday, **July 11**, at 6 p.m. in the church library. All women are invited to attend. We will be taking nominations for next year's officers in preparation for our annual District meeting in Lewisburg, scheduled for **September 17**. Please consider giving your service as a UMW officer: President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer.

There will be a Mission Study at Columbia FUMC on **August 22**. The topic is "Spiritual Growth" and will be presented by Marjorie Black, wife of our District Superintendent. She is a dynamic speaker you won't want to miss. Program runs from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. There will be NO potluck. Please contact Debby Campbell if interested in attending.

There will be a spiritual retreat to Beersheba **September 9-11**. If interested in attending, contact Debby Campbell immediately. You must register by **August 25**. There is the possibility of a scholarship for first-time attendees.

- Debby Campbell,  
President, United Methodist Women

## UNITED METHODIST MEN



Our energetic UMM sponsored its annual Fishing Rodeo on June 11. Appreciation goes out to all the volunteers who helped the children bait hooks, untangle lines, land their fish and serve snacks and lunch. A special thank you to David and Regina

Roberts for hosting this fun event for the children at the ponds on their property!



## YOUTH NEWS

The Youth have been meeting on Wednesday mornings since school has been out for the summer. We have been having great fellowship time. The Youth came and helped with Vacation Bible School, and enjoyed working with the children. On June 22, we went on our annual Float Trip down the Buffalo River, and had an amazing time. A huge special thanks to Jim Darden for a wonderful lunch after the float trip and for letting us hang out at his house when we got out of the river. Also, a big shout-out to Cora Criss and Charlotte Morgan for being our chaperones. **We are making plans for a fundraising Car Wash in the next month or two.**



- Jennifer Bowen, Youth  
Director

## More Youth News!

In other Youth news, Jerry Turner reports that the Junior-Senior High Sunday School Class is completing its goal of reading the Bible from cover to cover.

The process called for each member of the class to read aloud during each session, and they began this two years ago. They are now on the Book of James, and only have roughly 50 pages left.

The participants were cautioned to read the Bible with reverence and with good diction. As a result of this reading, many of the participants have developed enhanced reading skills, to wit one of the class, Lorrell Sood, will be reading the lectionary on an upcoming Sunday.

The teachers of this class, Kathryn Kozlinski, Retha Tibbs, Jerry's wife Jan and Jerry are extremely proud that this group has patiently and arduously worked through all these scriptures to be able to say they had read the entire Bible! "Don't tell us the youth of this country are not achieving!," Jerry said.

## COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN NURTURE

The Christian Nurture Committee met on [March 17](#), 2016. Those in attendance were: Chair, Cindy Graves; Pastor Drew Brewer, Deb Baker, Judy Ford, Jim Darden, Debby Campbell, Martha Edwards, Kenny Graves, Retha Tibbs, and Gwynn McVickers.

Part of the committee's meeting focused on starting a **class for young adults/younger couples**, and a tentative data base of possible members was handed out for further consideration on the subject. The month of September is the target for starting this class if there is sufficient interest. We are hopeful that this class will make, so if

you are interested, please see Debby Campbell for plans to be made accordingly.

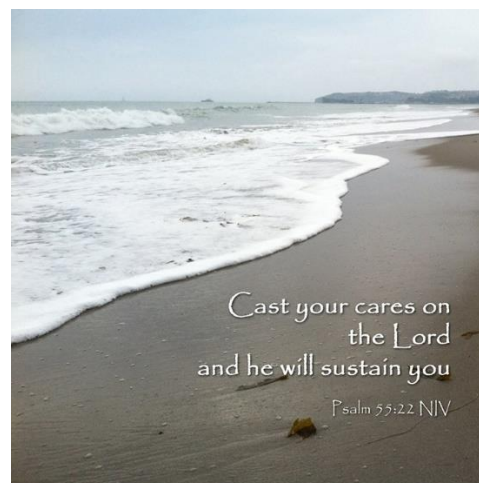
The choir will be taking a break from [Wednesday](#) night choir practice and presenting specials throughout the month of July. However, solos will serve as the anthem each [Sunday](#) highlighting the awesome talent of some of our members. Hats off to those who have volunteered to share their vocal gifts during this time.

Pastor Drew and Gwynn McVickers had talked prior to the scheduled meeting in regards to our church's response when a member or a regular attendee passes away. It was decided that the church must be notified, and in lieu of flowers, a \$25 donation will go to the designated charity.

At the time of the March meeting, the UMW had gained four new members. In regards to the UMM, they had outlined repairs being made to the church, and it was reported that officers for the year had been elected and that they would again hold the annual Fishing Rodeo (see related story in this issue).

The next meeting of the Committee on Christian Nurture is scheduled for [Tuesday, July 12](#) at 6 p.m.

- Cindy Graves, Chair



## IMPORTANT NOTES & NEWS



### Weekly Al-Anon Meetings

Al-Anon meetings started Tuesday, June 28, and are now being held each Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in the Wesleyan Fellowship Classroom. Al-Anon is a spiritual program based on the 12-Steps (adapted from AA) and offers support for friends and relatives of people suffering from the disease or alcoholism and addiction.

### Happy Life Shower

On **Sunday, July 31**, as part of our Fifth Sunday Potluck luncheon, a "Happy Life Shower" will be given for Pastor Brewer's daughter, Jennifer Brewer, and her fiancé Dalton Kilburn, as they make plans for marriage, a baby and a new home. The couple is registered at WalMart, Target and Amazon. As always, there will be an abundance of delicious food! The luncheon will be held in the CLC following the conclusion of services on July 31.

### Bathroom Renovation Complete!

A newly tiled and upgraded bathroom is now complete in the administrative office annex, thanks to several members who rolled up their sleeves and got a much-needed job done. With assistance from Glen Pancake, the old flooring came up. And Cora Criss stepped in to install new ceramic floor tile and a new toilet and to reposition the sink. All that's left to do is to

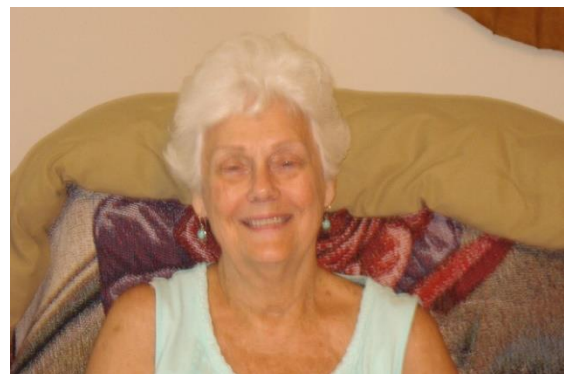
touch up the paint. Thanks, Cora Criss and all others who helped!

## FEATURED MEMBER

If people were trees, **Ann Strickland** could easily qualify as a stately oak -- tall, strong, sheltering, beautiful and resilient.

Ann grew up in Michigan, where she married and started a family. When her husband developed a health problem, his doctor suggested his health would benefit by a move to a warmer climate. At age 30, with four children at that point, Ann and her family relocated to Florida. There, his health did show improvement, thanks not only to the move but also to Ann's tenacity in preparing a plan to address her husband's serious heart condition. In the meantime, they were blessed with a fifth child. However, after surviving open heart surgery in his 30s and living another eight years, her husband passed away at age 40.

Ann was on her own raising her five children for several years. And then, she attended a wedding where a charming man asked her to dance. They started meeting to go dancing and dated for five years. "All the children got along well with the others and were delighted when Ken and I decided to get married," Ann said. "They were all happy with our decision. His children loved me, and I have always been a friend to all them.



"I had always wanted a Hawaiian wedding," she said, "so I made sure our wedding would have a Hawaiian theme." To that end, Ann not only made her own wedding dress, she made Hawaiian shirts for Ken and the boys, dresses for the girls, the wedding cake and flower arrangements. Married to him for 19 happy years, their blended family included nine offspring – her five children and his four – and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She and her late husband Ken put down roots in Hohenwald in 2002, buying property and having a home built. "My daughter Stacy and her husband have property here and invited Ken and I to come visit. We fell in love with Hohenwald. We were impressed with how friendly and helpful the people here were." When Ken passed away the year after their move, Ann remained in Hohenwald and has made her life here one of service to the community and the church.

"Over the years, there have been deaths of children and grandchildren," Ann said, "and while it is difficult, it is part of life." In particular, the passing of Ann's granddaughter Gina was "a lesson for all of us. Gina, who was born with a rare condition, was never treated as handicapped. She was loving and was very much loved by her family and her many friends. She touched a lot of lives. There were 500 people at her funeral, including not only family and friends but also the doctors, nurses and medical scientists who had gotten to know her."

Over the past 14 years, Ann, too, has touched a lot of lives in Hohenwald. In addition to singing alto in the choir, she has been active in heading and serving on the church's Witness Committee, helping to produce the Prayer Shawl brochures, maintaining the Usher list and bulletin boards, serving as a counter of tithes and offerings, and producing the Church

Directory. She also is active with the Lewis County Public Library, serving on its Board and the Friends of the Library, and has been very involved in making the library more user-friendly.



Another group Ann is involved with is the Red Hat Society. Ann is a member of two Red Hat groups – the Glitzy Adorable Dames and the Glitzy Manor Dames. The latter group, the Glitzy Manor Dames, works with the Lewis County Manor nursing home to visit regularly with residents, serving them coffee, playing games with them and remembering them with little gifts for birthdays and special occasions. Known for their cheerful spirits, purple dresses and red hats, The Red Hat Society is an international organization designed to help women form lasting friendships, support and encourage each other and to help others in a spirit of fun. Ann is a charter member of the Glitzy Adorable Dames.

Like the stately oak, Ann Strickland's branches reach far and wide, sheltering, nurturing and protecting many throughout her life.

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**"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](mailto:deb.baker@wildblue.net), or leave your news or a note in the Newsletter mail slot in the hall outside the church office.**