

## SHARING

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD



#### SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

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#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

***"Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'" (Luke 15:31)***

In order to find our way in this world there has to be a dependable point of personal contact with God. The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes and the guidance of scripture are all good, but they cannot save us, and we can keep them all so far as human effort is concerned and still be lost.

"Lost" is being where you're not supposed to be. "Lost" is not really knowing where you belong, or how to get there. "Lost" is having no valid point of reference outside of "self." A great proportion of society today is unaware that there is any reference point beyond what looks good, or feels good, or seems good at the moment. The worst kind of being lost is not having a clue that you are lost at all.

These Pharisees to whom Jesus addressed these stories about "lost" and "found" did not have a clue that they were themselves LOST. They were sure and certain they knew all about God and what God expects; they "knew" they didn't need Jesus or anything he could tell them. The Pharisees

"knew" because they knew how to "do" religion. Whenever religion becomes a matter strictly of "doing" with no reference point for "being" we have people who are lost and don't even know they are lost.

I remember a story of the sea from days gone by. A sailing vessel had become becalmed off the coast of South America and had drifted for days with not enough wind to go anywhere. Their supplies had been low when the wind had died and now they were becoming desperate for drinking water. They prayed for rain, prayed for a wind, but only got scorching sunshine. Then over the horizon came a coal-burning steamship. They shouted and hoisted flags, and soon the ship turned and came toward the becalmed vessel. They shouted as soon as they could make themselves heard, "Do you have any water for us? We're dying of thirst!" They thought they heard the reply, "Let down your cask into the sea." They asked again – and got the same strange answer. Anyone knows that to drink sea water doesn't quench thirst and is inviting death. "Let down your casks where you are right now!" Someone threw a bucket on a line and hoisted it on deck, and, amazingly, it was sweet and fresh. The reason – they had drifted into the mouth of the Amazon River, which is 100 miles wide when it flows into the ocean. They had been dying of thirst with water to drink all around them.

There are people not far from where we are right now who are drying up in spirit, and dying of spiritual thirst with the provisions of God all around them. We don't have to DO anything to bring God where we are. He is here, waiting for us to recognize him and ask his help in putting him at the center of our lives.

. Drew



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will be attending their annual District Conference in Lewisburg on [September 17th](#). We are supporting two charities this year and are asking the congregation to assist us.

We are collecting eyeglasses, and we are helping Lobelville Elementary stuff weekend backpacks with breakfast items.

Collection containers may be found in the church narthex.

Thank you for your support.

- President Debby Campbell

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Men's Fellowship will hold their Annual Pancake Brunch on [Sunday, September 18](#), following morning worship service. It will be served in the CLC. Tickets are now on sale for \$6 each or two (2) for \$10. Our Church children and youth will be served at no charge. You may get your tickets from members of the Fellowship. Bring your

friends and enjoy seeing our men doing the cooking and serving!



- Jim Darden  
President, United Methodist Men

## 2016 CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our 2016 Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, beginning at 4 p.m., at the Centerville United Methodist Church. All committee reports must be in the church office by September 11.

## YOUTH NEWS

Our youth are ready to do some fall cleaning for you! We are excited to get outside and do a little work. If you have a projects you need our help with, we would love to roll up our sleeves and help you get them done! Just give Jennifer Bowen a call at the church office, 796-2681.

- Jennifer Bowen, Director of Youth Ministry



## JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Junior and Senior High School Sunday School completed the reading of the entire Bible on Sunday, August 14. Only 3 of the class completed the entire project with a 75% attendance rate, and two – the Boardman brothers – have moved away and finished the project on their own. The remaining member to complete the whole reading was Darby Ganus. Other members of the class entered the class after the reading had begun but those who read the entire New Testament aloud were: Lorrel Sood, Conner Sood and Jessica Basile. The last two weeks of the month of August were taken up by a pair of college-level lectures and discussions on how the Bible was compiled over the years and preserved for us.

Here are some of the topics they have been covering:

How did the books that are in the New Testament get there? Who decided that these should be included and others should be excluded? Do we have all the books that we should have? For example, Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 5:9 that he had written an earlier epistle to the church at Corinth. What happened to it?

The Gospel – the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus

The Apostles' ministries and the Epistles written by various authors

“The history of the New Testament and its development is a fascinating subject – and crucial to the understanding of both the Bible and the modern Church,” Jerry said. “I believe our teens are learning a lot about the New Testament, which even some adult Christians may not know.”

If you haven't done so already, please choose to join us, as well as your family and friends, in one of our classes. We meet from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. every **Sunday** prior to Church.

## PRAYER SCRIPTURE CLOTHS

Another opportunity to share God's love is available through Prayer Scripture Cloths, reminders that the recipient is being remembered and supported through prayer.

The cloths vary in size and selected scripture. These scriptures are surrounded by beautiful material which is then quilted in love. When completed, they are prayed over and are ready for distribution.



These are available in the church library for anyone to take to someone in need. Please sign these out on the provided form to enable determining the persons receiving these gifts and to avoid duplication.

The Prayer Shawl and Prayer Scripture Cloth participants include Retha Tibbs, Judith Linqvist, Gwynn McVickers, Kathy Knight, Sue Brown, Joyce McCutcheon and other persons outside our church membership.

We welcome any other participation in this ministry.

Thank you, The Outreach Committee

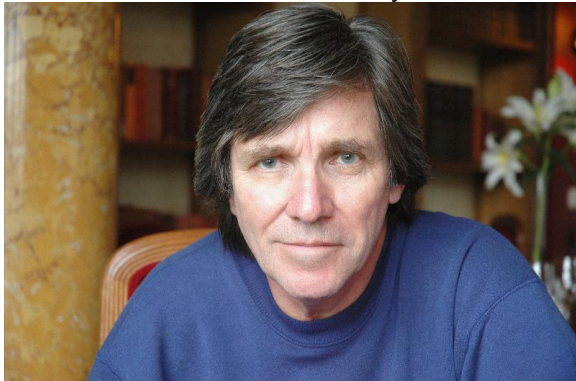
## CHURCH DIRECTORY

The new church directory is in its beginning stages and we need your participation in making this a success! We need 100% participation in the photo sessions offered, since this directory is our best tool for getting to know each other, and for helping newcomers and future members to become familiar with us. Even if you are not able to have your photo taken, we will accept a fairly current picture of yourself or we can have Deborah Baker take a picture of you. Photo sessions will be held Thursday, Oct. 13, 2 – 9 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 14, 2 – 9 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 15 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. You will be able to get one 8 X 10 photo free and you may choose to buy other photos at a 20 percent discount. You do not have to be a member to have your photo taken. If you have questions or want to sign up, give Cheri France a call at 795-6596.

## FEATURED MEMBER

Our church is blessed with people who are richly talented – and, even more importantly, with people who share their talents.

One such person is Graham Kilsby, whose vocal and songwriting talents add a depth and unique quality into our already rich worship services. Born in Bristol, England, Graham is the son of a former Salvation Army Officer and the grandson of two early founders of the Salvation Army in Scotland.



Although the Salvation Army was not Graham's chosen path of worship, he was at an early age a member of the choir of St. Albans Church, Westbury Park, Bristol. This experience was a positive influence on Graham as he grew into a deep understanding of church and choral music. That early grounding in church music led him to sing in many British cathedrals as well as at the Royal Albert Hall, London, and on the BBC as a regular soloist on programs such as "Children's Hour."

Music led him to many parts of the world, including Spain, Belgium, Canada, France and the Caribbean where he anchored "The Morning Show" for the CBS affiliate in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands for five years. He was also a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, one of the oldest in the islands that were devastated by Hurricane Marilyn during his time there.

His first Christian-Spiritual album, "Author of the Universe," shows through music the path he has taken in trying to more closely understand Christ and God in our lives and the questions many of us ask in our respective journeys. The album reflects just a few of the many spiritual songs he has written over the years, some of which have been recorded by Roy Clark, Lynn Anderson and others. They also reflect his love of choral music that started years ago thousands of miles from his now-home of Hohenwald, TN.

Not content to simply rest on his laurels, Graham continues to write music and to learn new skills. He recently completed coursework in Computer Graphic Design. And his next goal is, he says with typical British dry humor, is "to sing a duet with Jimmy Hurt."

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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, or leave your news or a note in the Newsletter mail slot in the hall outside the church office.**