

## SHARING

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2016 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 different 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 a burglar might muster up enough nerve to commit his crime, but surely that is 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 one of the best definitions 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 oneself. That always involves the risk of failing to be oneself. 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 place before one. This quiet acceptance, and surrender to the

leading of God, is the “*good courage*” of which Paul speaks.

- *Drew*

## Choir to Present Service of Lessons and Carols



To celebrate the Advent and Christmas Season, First United Methodist Church Choir will present a Service of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This traditional service focuses on Scriptures that tell the story of God’s love for us from the beginning of creation to the birth of Jesus.

Choir anthems and congregational choirs will be sung in response to the Bible lessons read by various members of our church. The choir will be joined by friends in the community, and our own instrumentalists to bring you lovely music that we have all become accustomed to at this special time of year. Soloists and a quartet of singers from our church will add their talents to this time of reflection.

A reception to honor our choir and to fellowship with one another will be held in the Christian Life Center immediately following the program.

Please mark your calendars and invite your friends to come with you.

## Church-Wide Christmas Giving Opportunities



Each year activities are suggested that coordinate church participation in specific giving programs during the Christmas season. Three needs have been selected for your consideration.

The first is a **children’s gift program** through Little Swan Hunting Club. The Club requests monetary donations to allow purchase of children’s Christmas gifts, clothing, food, and other items for needy Lewis County families. This event began in September. Monetary donations may be made by:

- writing a check to the Little Swan Hunting Club and giving the check to Mark Warrington,
- giving Mark a cash donation,
- writing a check to the church and indicating this is a donation for the hunting club. Place check in collection plate.

Janice Floyd and Cora Criss are coordinators with Mark Warrington for this children’s project.

The second opportunity for Christmas giving is **food or monetary donations to the Lewis County Food Bank**. Once the sanctuary has the Christmas tree in place in early December, food items wrapped in tissue paper may be placed under the tree. Monetary gifts may be given as cash placed under the tree or by check written to the church indicating this is a donation to the Food Bank.

Myra and Dewey Hinson and Retha and Jerry Tibbs are coordinators for this activity.

And, traditionally, many in the congregation choose to make an end-of-year Christmas monetary gift to our church. Place this extra gift in the offering plate in December and indicate this is end-of-year giving.

***The Outreach Committee thanks you for your support to help those in need throughout the year. See below article for another way you can help the needy.***

## Outreach Committee Launches Clothing Drive



With winter right around the corner, it's time to prepare for those who may not have a warm home to protect them from the cold.

You can help by donating your cold weather clothes to the Nashville Rescue Mission. Fill our church donation boxes with coats and scarves, mittens and gloves, socks and hats, and any other lightly-used winter wear.

Items are needed for men and women, children and pets. We appreciate all who can help us by donating!

## United Methodist Women to Hold Annual Bazaar

The **UMW** is preparing for its **Annual Bazaar** to be held on **Saturday, November 12, from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** As always, we will be offering handmade items, baked goods, a white elephant sale, and



our soup and sandwich luncheon.

Miss Geraldine Crowell has donated a beautiful handmade queen-size quilt which will be taken home by a lucky donor that day. In addition, Cora Criss has donated a magnificent quilt prepared by her mother and herself. This quilt will be offered through a silent auction. \$1.00 per bid may earn you this quilt.

Due to our bazaar, **there will be no November meeting.** In addition, we have decided to **change our meeting time to 1 p.m.** during the winter months.

We will celebrate the holidays with a **holiday party on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m.** Further information will follow.

- President Debby Campbell

## Church Directory

My thanks to everyone for participating in the photo session. I want to especially thank Debby Campbell, Mark Warrington and Deborah Baker for their time invested in making this a success.

We had 69 families photographed. Debby and I are grateful for everyone arriving on time, and a lot of you ahead of time, which gave Debby and me a chance to chat with you and become more familiar with the new comers to our church family.

The pumpkin treats and cider were our way of thanking you in hopes that this was a positive and pleasurable experience for you and not to be afraid of having your picture taken in the future. The finalization of the directory will hopefully be done by the time this is in print. Looking forward to the new directory in the New Year 2017.

- Cheri France

## Junior-Senior High Sunday School

The Jr.-Sr. High School class has been watching the various episodes of "AD the Bible" which is a wonderful video presentation portraying the Book of Acts. The complete title is "Acts of the Apostles" and this set of DVD illustrates the turbulent time after the crucifixion.

The series brings to life a combination of the material provided in the book of Acts and some recently discovered documentation by various sources including the Roman historian Josephus' account of the activities of the earliest Christians. The class members generally were not aware of the degree of the fighting and conflict between the Jewish leadership and the Roman government and the fledgling Christian movement which claimed the first of many Roman converts as well as the experiencing the martyrdom of Stephen -- the first of all the many Christian martyrs.

As a continuation of the original series "The Bible," this set of stories makes vividly clear how much the early Christians had to overcome to survive. The stories help young people get a life-like picture of the activities of such important biblical figures as Peter, Paul and the other Apostles including Mary Magdalene. The class will likely continue with "AD the Bible" into next year. This set of DVD's will afterward revert to the church library for viewing by other church groups and/or individual members.

- Jerry Turner

## Featured Members

Some may call it fate, others might call it great timing. Mac and Jimmie Kay McCarthy call it God's Hand.

A little over 48 years ago, Mac, finishing his last year of military service, sat in a car on a college campus waiting on a girl and spotted another young lady coming out of

her dorm. "I was heading outside to take a picture for my boyfriend," Jimmie Kay said, "and I heard someone say, 'Hey there, what's your name?' I said, 'Jimmie', and he came right back with 'My name is Sue...How do you do!' -- just like the Johnny Cash song that was popular back then, which made me laugh." Mac, who had been serving in Germany, abandoned his car -- following her around to talk to her.

She didn't see him again for a week, then after a weekend at home, she came back to campus a little early. "I just felt like I needed to come back earlier than I usually did," she said, "and there he was again, with a different girl." After that, Mac and Jimmie Kay, in her last year of college, dated non-stop... for 19 days. "It was love at first sight," Mac said, "and Jimmie Kay was the answer to my mother's prayers, and despite her father saying he'd be after me with a hickory stick and her grandmother chiding me for wearing cutoff jeans, her family took to me too."

On July 4 at the Phosphate Mine on the Natchez Trace, after 19 days of dating, Mac proposed, and Jimmie Kay accepted. They were married the next month, on August 17.



The young couple moved to Atlanta, where Jimmie found a teaching job and Mac entered college. There, the pair enjoyed life in the big city and were able to do some traveling, even taking a delayed six-week honeymoon to Europe after Mac graduated

from college. Mac, who grew up in a military family, spent much of his youth in Germany, and was able to show Jimmie the sights in such places as Madrid, Austria, Switzerland and Germany. "We had no children at that point, and that honeymoon was wonderful, an adventure for both of us." They recounted becoming accidentally separated on a train, each temporarily stuck in two different countries, seeing an avalanche, shopping in Spain, and marveling at the Alps. "Most of all, it opened my eyes to the majestic beauty of the world God has created," Jimmie Kay said.

After six years in Atlanta, they left behind their jobs and a new house and moved back to Jimmie's family home. "We had come home for a visit and decided we wanted to be back with family," Jimmie said. "We added on to the original house and shared it with my parents and brothers for five years. Our first child, Natalie, was born there."

Jimmie Kay grew up as a Methodist on her family's farm near the Natchez Trace, attending Bethel Methodist in the country. As a little girl she took piano lessons and was often called upon to play piano in church. "I'm not sure I was very good, but those little songs I played taught me so much about the Lord," she said. Mac, who grew up as a Baptist, was saved at the age of 8 at a Billy Graham Crusade in Germany. "I still remember walking down by myself to receive Christ and how loving everyone was to that little boy as I made the walk down to the front," Mac said.

After moving to Lewis County, they joined HUMC, where Mac rededicated his life to Christ and Jimmie Kay became active with children's Sunday School and heading up Children's Ministries, as well as United Methodist Women. They raised their two daughters, Natalie and Lara, in the church, where both were married. They also became educators in the Lewis County School System -- Mac as a Special Education Director and Jimmie Kay as a teacher, both having gone through an

intensive process to become Level 3 Career Teachers.

Mac and Jimmie Kay are both still very involved with HUMC, with Mac serving on committees and Jimmie Kay serving with Children's sermons and providing fresh, beautiful flowers to grace the altar each week.

"The Lord is part of our life every day," she said. "When I am picking flowers for the church, it's a quiet time for me to think about how richly we have been blessed, and about all the Lord has done for us and our family."



In addition to serving HUMC and their church family, Mac and Jimmie Kay care for her 94-year-old mother who still lives in the family home near their home and enjoy spending time with their daughters' families, which include grandchildren Sam, Jack and Katherine (Natalie's children), and grandsons Lochlan and Laken (and Charlie and Lara are expecting a baby girl).

Both say their life together was part of God's plan. "We've had a wonderful life," Jimmie Kay said, "and we're still totally in love." And Mac's face lights up with a smile. "She is my best friend," he said.

**"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](mailto:deb.baker@wildblue.net), or contact other members of the Christian Witness Committee.**