

SHARING



Hohenwald United Methodist Church

(May) – (June) 2018

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From the Pastor's Desk

Bible Verse: "Then the king said to his servants: 'The wedding banquet is ready, but the guests I invited did not deserve the honor. Go out therefore to the main streets, and invite everyone you can find to the wedding.'" (Matthew 22: 8-9)

What do you think of when you think of the Kingdom of Heaven? I grew up thinking it must be a pretty boring place...choirs dressed in long robes, singing tedious hymns, people with long faces, looking serious, never really smiling or having much fun. . . a somber place where you can't really do all the things you like to do down here on earth. That's why it comes as such a surprise to me to discover that our Lord's description of the Kingdom of Heaven was, of all things, a banquet. . . a party! Jesus even wanted us to know that you can't get in without a costume!

But the surprise is that the king gives a party and right away people make excuses not to come. Then one poor fellow shows up dressed for a funeral instead! The Kingdom of Heaven is like a "wedding banquet!" And those who wish to be there better be prepared to have a good time!

There are always going to be party poopers, aren't there? Always those ready to make excuses not to come. We human beings are experts at making excuses. . . to each other, and also to God.

Somebody once collected a few choice excuses that were offered to police officers who were in charge of examining the causes of automobile accidents:

"An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished."

"I had been driving my car for forty years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had the accident."

"I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."

"The pedestrian had no idea which way to go, so I ran over him."

"The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."

"Suddenly a tree was there, where no tree had been before!"

Somebody once described an excuse as “the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie.” God has heard them all before. When excuses keep me from experiencing the riches of the kingdom, I show how little I understand of God’s love for us all. And the only one I have really lied to is me.

—Drew

From Our Lay Leader

On June the 13th thru June 15th, I recently attended the Annual Conference at the Brentwood, Tennessee First United Methodist Church. During the June 24th church service, I will be sharing with the congregation some of the highlights of the conference. If there are questions that you might have about any topic discussed, please feel free to ask me or to call me. I would be more than happy to share with you what information I have. The conference was very enjoyable and informational.

Gloria Jones



Observation of Memorial Day

Many Americans all over the country took the time to honor our veterans on May 28, 2018, on Memorial Day. We all have loved ones who have either served in the military, known someone who has served, or had family or friends who have lost their lives defending our country. This day, along with Veterans’ Day, are some of the

most important days we have on our calendars.

Memorial Day, the last Monday of May each year is a day we honor the men and women who died while serving our country, as well as remembering and thanking those who are still with us who served and continue to serve. It was originally called “Decoration Day” and began in the years following the Civil War. It became a federal holiday in 1971.

This year many tributes were made to those honorable men and women either through parades, programs at public schools, through the media, or on television. PBS pays tribute with a special program each year.

Thanks again to all of the men and women for their bravery and sacrifice. We will always remember and be thankful.

Outreach Committee-Prayer Bear Ministry

God provides so many different opportunities to bless others. Good examples of this are the prayer shawl cloths which are ongoing ministries within our Church Outreach Program.

Recently, Linda Graves enlarged this prayer ministry by knitting prayer bears. Each 6-8 inch bear has its own personality. Drew recently received a bear decked out in full pastoral robe complete with a stole. The Kozlinskis received a patriotic bear in red, white, and blue.

The bears are dressed as male or female. A pocket on the front contains a simple note regarding prayer. Other messages can be tucked into the pocket.

The bears, prayer shawls and prayer cloths are available in the church library. Pick up one and let someone know you are praying for him/her. Please sign out the shawls and cloths on the sheets provided. The bears are not signed out.

Article Submitted by Joyce McCutcheon



Pictured are Sue Bouldin, Twanette Nickell, and Linda Graves (creator)

Christian Witness Committee's New Member Bulletin Board



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on May 14th and June 11th. During the May meeting, there were 17 ladies in attendance. The group discussed the May 5th garage sale, which made \$611 to go toward the beautification of the men's restroom in the office building. Despite the rainy weather, all participants in the garage sale had a great time, laughing, talking, getting to know each other better, and masquerading as various characters and icons. Martha Edwards enjoyed herself as Queen Elizabeth, waving to everyone, while another mysterious church lady disguised herself as Frankenstein. Do you recognize her? As you can tell, the ladies all had fun while raising money. Many small left-over trinket items were donated to the Lewis County Senior Citizens Center for bingo prizes.

Also during the May meeting, Retha Tibbs mentioned collecting personal hygiene items for The Shelter, Inc., located in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee and serving Lewis County as well. This facility works to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Martha Edwards suggested that each time the UMW meets, ladies bring an item for the shelter.

There were 21 ladies present during the June meeting. The group discussed old business including the ice maker/freezer, due to be in on June 12th. This will be placed in the CLC for everyone's use. Also president, Cora Criss highlighted the progress of the refurbishing of the men's restroom in the office area. Tile has been purchased and laid, and restroom

fixtures were to be bought. Other décor for this room was discussed.

Mrs. Sue Brown provided the program during the May meeting; Sally Thornton provided the program for June.

Reminder to All UMW ladies to bring a personal hygiene item to every monthly UMW meeting!! Also Cora needs breakfast items (fruit and bagels (no doughnuts), cookies, and snacks for Vacation Bible School.



Pictured are Kathy Knight and Martha Edwards



Mystery UMW Lady

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met on May 1st and June 5th. The meeting in May focused on the planning of the Fishing Rodeo, which was to be held June 9th on the property of Jack and Gwynn McVickers, who graciously offered to host the event. This is the fourth year for this event.

The men's group met again on Tuesday, June 5th to finalize plans for the fishing event.

Methodist Men's Fishing Rodeo

The United Methodist Men hosted the 4th Annual Fishing Rodeo on the property of Jack and Gwynn McVickers. There were 18 youth and approximately 25 adults who enjoyed a hot but beautiful day, catching catfish, socializing, and mentoring. Prizes were awarded by age group for the most caught and the largest fish. (See photo)

The men's group would like to thank all of the Methodist Men who participated, helping bait hooks, untying tangles, and giving fishing tips. Also they would like to thank John and Rose Fricot for graciously cleaning all the fish, Ron and Sally Thornton and Jim Darden for organizing the hot dogs and the trimmings, chips, cookies, and drinks. A special thanks to some of the ladies of the church who make homemade cookies. We look forward to another successful event again next year.





**Winners of the Fishing Rodeo L to R:
Sarah Maury, Lorrel Sood, Sierra Rayne
Green, and Thaddeus Moore**

Youth Choir News

Youth Choir Director, Cindy Graves would like to thank our wonderful church family by joining her in giving a big shout out to ALL the kids who participated in Youth Choir during this past school year. Through their dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm, they have shown a significant love for being a special part of our church services through song. They have also gained a sense of responsibility for their part in the ministry of our church, and it has expanded for each of them to build Christian character in a most pleasing way. Cindy says she is proud of them beyond what words can describe.

A special thanks to Brenda Duncan and Graham Kilsby, two of our very talented musicians, for providing accompaniment for the Youth Choir's



Pictured L to R: Tony Kozlinski and Jack Cruz; Katherine Cruz and Sierra Green; Bert Moore and grandson, Thaddeus Moore; Bobby Wyatt and son Dalton Wyatt; and Jolene Fox.



performances. You are very much appreciated!

**Respectfully submitted by Cindy Graves,
Youth Choir Director**



Members are from front L to R: Xavier Shook, Gabriel Shook, Hadley Spitzer, Katherine Cruz, Rebecca Robbins, Star Holmes, Christopher Spitzer, Damien Seiber, Christan Ganus, Lorrel Sood, Siarra Mayberry, Nevaeh Groves, Connor Sood. Not pictured are Chris Fierce, Lucy and Jolene Fox.

Hoping All the Fathers and Grandfathers in Our Church Family Had a Great Father's Day!

End of School Year Fun in the Sun

The First United Methodist Church held an end of school year event for the youth of the church as well as any visitors who wanted to attend. Cora Criss planned the event along with several volunteers. Twenty-four youth attended and enjoyed fun and games. There was a piñata, which brought great fun as well as games of volleyball, basketball, and water balloons. Sidewalk chalk was provided for creating and drawing as well as several games of pin the tail on the donkey.

The youth enjoyed food donated by the church and church members. Cora would like to thank all who participated, and all who volunteered and helped either by assisting the day of the event or making food. Everyone had a memorable afternoon.



2018 Vacation Bible School Coming Soon

The time is approaching for Vacation Bible School to be held July 12th-14th. This year's theme will be **Friendship**. There will be a planning meeting at 10 a.m., Monday, July 2nd, in the new parlor of the church to prepare for the event. **We need adult volunteers.** Come, volunteer, and bring ideas. Also needed are breakfast items like fruit and bagels and snacks. If you know of youth who might like to attend, please provide Cora with a name. If you cannot be at the planning meeting and want to help, please contact Cora Criss.

Admissions are from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and VBS runs from 9 until noon Thursday and Friday. There will

be a party for the youth who attended on Saturday.

Floating the Little Buffalo River

On July 21, 2018, the youth, 6th grade and older will be able to participate in floating the Little Buffalo River. Any youth interested should meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. that morning. A parent or guardian must drop off the participant and sign a waiver for the youth to go on this excursion. The van will be available to take youth home who need a ride. Please let Cora Criss know if your child wishes to participate because she needs to get a head count of those interested. She could also use some adult chaperones so if you love the water, this trip is for you.

Cora would like to thank Bob Sandy for letting the group put into the river at his house, and Jim and Joyce Darden for letting the group get out of the water at their house and for feeding the herd.

Information provided by Cora Criss

Artwork Appreciated

The New Journey Sunday School Class would like original art for display in the “new parlor.” Making the room not only a Sunday School classroom but also a “welcome to visit” room was the idea of member Gloria Jones, who has been collecting items to decorate the room. The purpose of this room was to provide a beautiful room where class can be held, where meetings can occur, and where visitors to the church can be made to feel welcome. If you would like to put a piece of art on display, please contact Gloria.



Retha Tibbs and Myra Hinson enjoying the parlor



Display Your Art



New Church Members



**Ashley Garner and Grandson,
Aiven Brewer**



**Katherine Cruz
Parents: Chano and Natalie Cruz**



**Baptism of Aiven Kyle Brewer, June 17th
Parents: Taylor Berg and Jordan Brewer
Grandmother: Ashley Garner**



**Christopher Spitzer
Parents: Matthew Spitzer and Kellie
Spitzer**



Hadley Spitzer
Parents: Matthew Spitzer and Kellie Spitzer

Getting to Know Church Family



Jimmy and Sue Hurt

Over our lifetimes, we encounter numerous individuals along the way, many who make a lasting impression on us, making us wonder what life would have been like without them. As my husband Ronny and I made the decision to move back to Tennessee, it was not one that was easy. I must admit the day we came to Hohenwald

for the closing on our house, it was pouring down rain, and we were early, apprehensive about the major change that was about to occur in our lives. We stopped in the parking lot of the Family Dollar, passing time before the closing. Sitting quietly, I burst into tears, as the thought of leaving our home of 30 plus years began to sink in. Hohenwald was much smaller than what we were use to, and we knew absolutely no one. I scared Ronny to death, as we had already invested money in earnest to buy the house. Now before you think I am making this article about me, let me get to the point.

Looking back on that now, I can smile and wonder, "What was I thinking?" We have met so many wonderful people through Hohenwald First United Methodist Church, many who will be forever friends and who we will always love like family. Two of those people are **Jimmy and Sue Hurt**.

Staples of our church, the Hurts are a unique couple who epitomize Southern grace, eloquence, and strength. William Faulkner stated in his Nobel Prize in Literature speech in 1949, "I believe man will not merely endure, he will prevail...because he has a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance. Jimmy and Sue Hurt have dealt with tragedy in their lives, but have remained strong in their faith and compassionate toward others.

Jimmy Hurt was born in 1932, in Memphis, Tennessee to Isham and Rachel Hurt, along with a twin brother. Sue was born in 1940 in Hohenwald, Tennessee to Carlus and Cyrena Harder. She had two sisters and two

brothers. Sue has lived in Hohenwald all of her life. After his birth Jimmy's family moved to Trezevant, Tennessee and then eventually to Hohenwald in 1939. At age fourteen, he lost his only brother in an accident. Both Jimmy and Sue graduated from Lewis County High School. After high school, Jimmy attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where he received his doctorate in Pharmacy. He also spent four years with the United States Air Force stationed in England. Back in Hohenwald, Sue went to cosmetology school in Nashville, Tennessee and had plans in this field. Little did she know that a frequent visitor at her house would change her life's direction. She laughingly comments on Jimmy's sparking her two sisters, but it would be Sue with whom he would fall in love. She would become his rock and companion for life.

After marrying on March 10, 1962, at the First Methodist Church in Hohenwald, Jimmy went to work at the pharmacy owned by his father. Mr. Isham Hurt soon persuaded Sue to come to work there also to make it a family run store. Many people in Hohenwald hold fond memories of this store and its owners. The store was eventually passed down to Jimmy and Sue.

The Hohenwald this couple knew back then was filled with two theaters, a Western Auto, a drive-in, a bowling alley, and a skating rink. They reminisced about the good old days when people felt safe, visited frequently, and never locked their doors.

Jimmy and Sue began a family with a son, Christopher Hurt, who tragically died in a motorcycle accident at age 14,

and Kellie Hurt Spitzer who plays a huge role in our church family. Kellie has two sons Christopher Spitzer and Hadley Spitzer. Jimmy and Sue consider their daughter and grandsons their most prized possessions, along with their relationship with each other and with God.

Over time the Hurts have travelled many places including London, England; Rome, Italy; Paris, France; Spain; and Hawaii. They have loved their trips with their daughter and grandchildren to Destin, Florida. Many family memories have been made there.

Both Jimmy and Sue have served in different capacities in the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald. Sue was treasurer for many years and presently serves on the Finance Committee. Sue is quick to say that Jimmy loves to give to others; he has a caring heart. He gives to his church, his family, and his friends. They love the people of the church, the music, and Brother Drew's sermons. Both are people others can always depend on to help if help is needed, and both are great listeners and friends to those in need. Jimmy loves his flowers, even though this summer he has had to cut back on his gardening. Sue loves to read in her spare time and makes the best cornbread and sweet pickles in Lewis County.

These two people obviously hold a special place in the hearts of many of our church members. For those of you who do not know them; make time to do so. A relationship with them will not disappoint. I end with a line from Jimmy's favorite song. To Jimmy and Sue Hurt, "Oh, let the Son of God enfold you, with the Spirit and his

love; Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit, like a dove, Will descend upon your life and make you whole.” (From “Spirit Song” by Maranatha! Music)

Mark in Your Datebook

- Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting—July 2, 2018 10 a.m.
- United Methodist Men’s Meeting—July 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
- United Methodist Women’s Meeting—July 9, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.
- Vacation Bible School—July 12-14
- July 21st—Youth Group Floating the Little Buffalo River. Meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. and bring parent/guardian for signing the waiver.
- There will be no choir practice until August 1st.
- Radio Broadcast of church service is every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on WMLR 1230 AM
- Next due date for submission for July/August newsletter—August 22, 2018.

“Sharing” is the newsletter of First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald, TN, published six times a year as a service of the Christian Witness Program. To submit news for “Sharing,” please contact Sally Thornton at 931-295-3302, or call or text 859-58-2707, or email to sjt2017fmc@gmail.com

You can also contact other members of the Christian Witness Committee.