

Hohenwald First United Methodist Church



Sharing



(July/August 2018)



200 Court Street*Hohenwald, Tennessee*731-796-2681*firstunitedme680@bellsouth.net

From the Pastor's Desk



Bible Verse: “Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me...” (II Timothy 4: 10)

Paul mentions the name of Demas. It's a brief reference, which makes it all the more unsettling. Just one chilling little sentence: “Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me...”

Demas is mentioned in just two places in the NT. In Colossians, Paul writes: “Luke and Demas send their love to you.” Demas, we conclude, was a trusted friend and traveling companion, a brother in the faith, but somehow he left the fold. He was in the center of the Kingdom, friend of the apostles, and somehow he slipped out of the net.

Do you know what is the most frightening thing I can think of? It isn't disease, or even death. The worst fate I can think of is to be a Demas. To be one who has heard the truth, but who loved other things more, and who fell away.

Spiritual failure, it seems to me, is the

ultimate tragedy in life. A journalist once asked the famous British playwright, George Bernard Shaw, this interesting question: “Mr Shaw, you have wined and dined with all the greats of our generation. If you could die, and come back as some other famous person of our time, who would it be?”

This is what Shaw said: “If I could relive my life in the role of any person I desired, I would want to be

the man George Bernard Shaw could have been, but wasn't.” How profound!

There are all sorts of reasons for spiritual failure. Paul says Demas deserted the ministry because he was “in love with this present world.” The world can offer endless illusions and attractions: Sexual excitement and pleasure. Great wealth and riches for those willing to take from others, or unwilling to give of themselves. Power and fame.

Nobody understood that better than Paul. But few risked more for the sake of the Kingdom. Yet, with everything Paul suffered, he was still able to trust. I am convinced that spiritual success is, above all else, a matter of trust.

In previous verses, Paul writes to his young friend, Timothy: “I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.” Toward the end of the letter he says, “The Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the word fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth...to God be the glory forever and ever.”

Even as Paul was facing desertion by his friends, even as he was facing old age, even as he was facing death, itself...he knew that he was not alone.

And that knowledge made him the person he was, instead of the person that he might have been.

Drew Brewer

Outreach Committee

Cherokee Nation Orphanage Project

Thank You for the donations the week of July 29th through the first of August. We were able to purchase several backpacks as well as many other school supplies with much of the money donated. Around \$600 was donated to this program (\$200 of this amount from the UMW). Clothing and books were also donated. Please continue to support this worthy cause now and throughout the year.

Clothing and school supplies are being collected for delivery to the Cherokee Orphanage in Cherokee, N.C. Children [preemie to 18] need assistance. Items

may be left in our church library. For more information contact Ashley Garner.

Special thanks to the Outreach Committee at the First United Methodist Church in Hohenwald for all of their recent donations to the Cherokee Orphanage Project. The delivery went perfectly. Everything was so needed, and we had enough school supplies for all of the foster children in the program. Additional supplies were taken to the elementary, middle, and high school as well as the Kituwah Academy (a new traditional school) and to the Children's Home. The extra \$200 from the UMW allowed us to buy more supplies. Thank you again for your generous hearts!

*Gary and Kathy Collier
Coordinators of the Cherokee Orphanage Project*

Nashville Rescue Mission

Fall is in the air and with winter not far behind, the Outreach Committee would like to remind everyone that donated items are needed by the Nashville Rescue Mission. New or slightly used coats, scarves, and gloves for winter warmth will soon be needed as well as hand warmers and other articles of warm clothing. Even dog and cat food can be donated as many of the individuals who take advantage of the rescue mission have faithful four-legged friends who accompany them. If you wish to donate, there are boxes in the church designated to this mission. There are so many items that are needed by this organization. If you are interested in seeing a current list of needed items, please go to the following web address: www.nashvillerescuemission.org or contact someone on the Outreach Committee in our church.

Thank you from the Outreach Committee!

Christian Witness Committee

The Christian Witness Committee met Thursday, August 16, 2018, at 10 a.m. in the church library. Prayers was led by Brother Drew Brewer, and Chairperson, Sue Brown called the meeting to order. The following topics of old business were discussed with just updates: the Radio Ministry; the church newsletter; bulletin boards, church foyer board with new members' pictures; and advertising.

Other topics brought some changes. The visitor list was discussed as to those who need porch visits and those who are visitors with their families. Sue Brown

mentioned that she would like to see a note or letter go out to visitors, while Larry McCutcheon suggested a type of gift to the individual like a refrigerator magnet with our church information as a type of reference for the person. The group also made the following change to greeters...there will now be an additional third greeter at the side door each morning. In the month of September there will be a survey passed out of ways we can improve this part of witnessing in our church, such as a future training for greeters, ushers, and/or liturgists.

The committee asked Rebecca McClain as secretary to update each month the webpage calendar of events. Laurel Sood has taken over the job of running the Power Point presentation for each Sunday morning church service.

New business included discussion of joining other community churches in feeding the football team on a rotation basis and trying to get a list of people who are moving into Lewis County/Hohenwald from someone in the city government so that we can send out our church brochure and/or a letter of invitation to visit our church. In final business the group discussed including a stewardship report in the church bulletin at least once a month. All agreed but it was not decided when this would begin or how many times the report would be included as part of the Sunday church service bulletin. The meeting adjourned with a later meeting date to be determined.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on July 9th and August 13th. There were 18 members and one visitor present at the July meeting. The group discussed the installation of the ice maker that the women's group purchased for the CLC and the progress made on the men's restroom in the classroom part of the church. Members also discussed preparations for the Harpeth District Mission Study to be held at Hohenwald First United Methodist on August 25th from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There were 14 members present during the August meeting. Plans were finalized during this meeting to provide refreshments for the Harpeth District Mission Study and lunch, which will be potluck. The group also discussed at both monthly meetings the Adopt a Classroom Program and agreed they wanted to continue to support Lewis County students in this way.

Other items discussed during the August meeting included a trip tentatively set for October 4, 2018, to work at the UMCOR warehouse in Decatur, Alabama. An offering for World Thanks was taken up by the

group. Mrs. Joyce McCutcheon shared with the group information about helping the Little Swan Hunting Club Christmas Project. Helpers are needed in various areas including going to Walmart to buy gifts for the children. The club also will be having a Fish Fry on September 15th and may need help with sides such as beans and slaw and desserts.

Also the UMW ladies have been bringing items to each monthly meeting for "The Shelter, Inc. in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, which also services Lewis County. This organization helps women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. An updated list was passed out by Debby Campbell of items the group needs most. Those items include: monetary donations; prepaid phone cards; gas cards; non perishable food; cleaning supplies; bottled water; dryer sheets; dishwasher pods, and pillows. Any person not part of the UMW who would like to contribute, please contact Cora Criss or Barbara Lewis.

President Cora Criss discussed the Shoebox UMCOR project. The women's group has decided to do this project again this year, and boxes are due to Decatur by October 19th. Plans include purchase of the same items from last year since the list did not change, as well as using the youth of the church to stuff the boxes and get them ready to ship. The program was delivered by Debby Campbell in July and Jimmie Kay McCarthy in August. Coming up soon in the month of November will be the yearly UMW Bazaar in the CLC. More information will be provided later.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men's group have been busy for the last three months. The Fishing Rodeo was a great success for the month of June. In the month of July the men's group sponsored a breakfast pancake supper for the NA group to show their support. Seventeen UMM members were present. The men fed approximately 75 individuals including UMM members. Great fellowship was enjoyed by all involved. A meeting followed the meal where the men voted to provide drinks and cook lunch for the Vacation Bible School participants.

At the August meeting there were 19 men present. The men planned the annual fish fry to be held August 19th. The lunch was a great success. The group fried fish, french fries, and hush puppies to accompany slaw, white beans, and desserts furnished by the ladies of the church. Some of the fish cooked had been caught by the youth of the church during the June Fishing Rodeo. Local police and fire fighters were

invited to come and eat in appreciation for all they do for the community.

Also at the August meeting the men took up a collection of \$200 to help with school supplies for local kids and teachers.

At the next meeting, the group will be setting up an Emergency Response Team to help with tree clearing after damaging storms.

Little Swan Hunting Club Fish Fry will be held on September 15th, and Mark Warrington said they may need some volunteers to help.

A very moving testimonial was given by Jerry Turner, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m. The next meeting is set for September 11th at 6:00 p.m.



UMM Helping Others Any Way They Can



Fish Fry Sponsored by the United Methodist Men's Group---Food was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all of the men in this group for providing us with a great meal and fellowship!

News from Junior/Senior Sunday School Class

The Jr/Sr High Sunday school class is approaching the end of the DVD series by Beth Moore on the "Book of Daniel." We have learned that the stories regarding Daniel in the Lions' den and the legend of Shadrach, Meshach and Abendnego are more than the Biblical myths that they were previously thought to be. We now know from archaeological discoveries made recently that there is an actual historical basis for these events revealed in Babylonian manuscripts by historians of the period of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel survived being thrown into the lions' den, and Shadrach, Meshach and Abendnego were thrown into a fiery furnace heated to over 1000 de-

grees but were protected by a representative of God and also survived. King Nebuchadnezzar came to regard Daniel as his closest confidant, adviser and chief interpreter of dreams.

We are now listening to Beth Moore's account of the 4 apocalyptic visions contained in the second half of the book of Daniel which is the only book in the New Testament to fall into the genre of apocalyptic literature similar to the Revelation of the New Testament. These visions made spot-on prophecies about the future of the Persian Empire and the rise of Alexander the Great. We shall finish this study before the next newsletter and begin a different study. **(Respectfully Submitted by Jerry M. Turner Ph.D)**

Vacation Bible School

A successful Vacation Bible School was held three days, July 12th, 13th, and 14th with the diligent planning of Cora Criss and several other faithful volunteers too numerous to mention. A total of 47 youth attended over the span of the three days. The theme this year was "Friendship," with a focus on the parable of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son.

On Saturday of VBS, the youth were treated to lunch cooked by the United Methodist Men and also furnished with ice cream sundaes also made possible by the men's group. All three day participants were presented with a small pocket Bible with a Bible verse and their names inside as a memory of this summer event.

The students also learned three songs and presented them the day of the cookout for their parents, friends, and relatives to enjoy. They also sang them at the morning church service on July 15th. The event proved to be a great success with memories and Biblical education that the youth can take through their daily lives. Let's look forward to another successful VBS next year!





Methodist Youth Floated the Buffalo River

On Saturday, July 21st, seven youth from the First United Methodist Church, along with guides and chaperones Cora Criss, Katherine Kozlinski, and Kellie Spitzer, floated the Buffalo River, taking in a scenic view of Lewis County and her beauty. The trip was enjoyed by all participants. The floaters ended up at the river bank of Jim and Joyce Darden's home who treated them to a hot dog lunch. This group would like to thank the Dardens for the food and their hospitality.



It's Back to School



Summer is almost over and school is back in session. As our children and youth begin their next journey, a menagerie of ideas and concerns float through this old retired teacher's head. As a classroom teacher, each year I would pray for many things, but above all, I would pray that my students would leave my classroom all the wiser in the area of not only English, but

also in how to treat others, how to relate to others, how to make good decisions, how to be successful in all of their classes, and above all how to stay healthy and safe. My first year as a classroom teacher was 1979 and was a learning experience for me. I was young, naive, and full of hope and wonderment. Little did I know that things would change drastically during my 32 years in the classroom. I would become a teacher, mother, counselor, confidant, friend, mentor, disciplinarian, and provider of pencils and paper to countless students, whether they wanted me to or not.

By this point, you may be wondering why this topic is in a church newsletter. As Christians we are all called upon to be many things to many people. Our opinions and ideas may not always be accepted with open minds or open hearts (the logo of the First Methodist Church). But we learn quickly that any obstacle should not be the reason to quit trying.

Young people whom we know, whether they are family, neighbors, church acquaintances or community acquaintances, all need to know they are cared about, that what they experience in life matters, that what they accomplish in life matters, and that what they fail miserably at matters to us as well so that we can help them be successful the next time.

Take time this school year to pray for our children and youth and for their parents as well. They face many obstacles every day, many of which we did not have to face years ago. Parents struggle as well to provide emotional and physical support to their children and strive toward giving them the kind of life they want their children to have. Let all involved know that you care. Be a mentor to someone if you have the opportunity. If it is a parent, be there for support and advice; let them know that parenting can be difficult, but their child/children are looking to them for guidance and stability.

As far as students, ask them how their school year is going, what their favorite subject is, who their friends are, and other caring questions. Let them know that in times of failure, we pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and try again. Also instill in them to treat others the way they want to be treated. Giving in to peer pressure, bullying others because they are different, are all inadequate ways of dealing with issues. They should always be the bigger person and think about the feelings of others. Tell them that even if they do not know how to deal with situations, to come to adults for help. Better yet, pray about it. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46: 1) Children and youth should never feel alone. Each of us CAN make a difference.

Please include the schools, administrators, teachers, and students in your prayers each day. They can use all of your love and support. In training to be a teacher, professors teach that our roles as teachers are important. I always felt this, but it wasn't until 1998, that it really hit home. I was teaching senior English and had this young lady in class who was quiet, polite, but withdrawn. I took it upon myself to draw her out of her shell. Little did I know that in succeeding, I would find out things that would change me forever. This young lady's mom had been deceased 11 years. During the course of her childhood, she had been physically and mentally abused by a couple of family members. On the day of her graduation from high school, she came to my room with a gift, a beautiful spiral bound booklet she had made herself. I thanked her, hugged her, and stuck it in my bookbag to look at when I got home.

That night as I was grading papers, I pulled this lovely booklet out of my bag and began reading, thinking it would be about her hopes and dreams for the future. Little did I know it contained some harsh realities about her life that as a teacher I never suspected. Inside contained excerpts from her life, both home and school, including what had happened to her and her many safe places, one being my classroom. I continued reading and wept. Over time and help from a counselor, she had learned to overcome her tragedy. I was fortunate to be one of the people who had become part of her survival. In concluding this article, never underestimate the effect you can or could have on a person's life. Here are her final words to me as she bravely exited high school into this great but sometimes harsh world:

"I just want to say thank you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity (though you never knew or probably ever realized) to feel like I had a, "mother figure," for helping me to knock down some "walls" that I had made in my own life, and for helping to make me a better person. I know you are wondering how you have done all of this. It's strange to me even, but you have. You have honestly given me something that I will always remember. I will remember the example you have set, the life that you lead, and the person that you are. These things, I can never forget." (Anonymous)

I am still to this day reflecting upon all I learned from my experiences, but we are ALL teachers in life. We can each make a difference in the life of another person, especially a child or youth. You do not have to be school personnel to make this difference; you

just need to care enough and make the effort to do so. Let this be the school year that you make this happen. (Respectfully submitted by Sally Thornton)

Meeting Church Family



Meeting the people of our church has been one of the highlights of the move back to Tennessee. In preparation for each newsletter, I leave each interview with a better appreciation of the unique plethora of people the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald is blessed to have as its church family. American poet Maya Angelou once said, "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." This edition of *Sharing* highlights the life of Kathy Knight, a special lady who represents all of the attributes mentioned by Ms. Angelou.

Edna Kathy Knight was born August 22, 1950, in Griffin, Georgia to parents Haywood and Edna Knight. She was one of three children, having an older sister Carol and younger sister Joanne. Kathy has lived various places in her life but calls home McDonough, Georgia where she lived with her parents and siblings. Her parents are now deceased, but she keeps in touch with her siblings. Carol still lives in McDonough and Joanne lives in Woodstock. As Kathy talked about her childhood, she shared many fond memories of family and fun times. She has vivid memories of family vacations to Indian Rock Beach, Florida and a cabin on the lake where she spent summers water skiing. One can see these memories light up in her eyes as she reminisced about the innocence of childhood and lasting memories of a closely knit family, which many children do not get to experience in our world today. She grew up loving dogs and horses and described one of her best buddies, her Tennessee Walking Horse, "Shades Equalizer." Her memory of his grace and eloquence gave due diligence to this beautiful creature.

At age eighteen, Kathy ventured to Atlanta, Georgia and began working in marketing for the telephone

company, then moving to the outskirts of Atlanta, where she continued to work. She married at age 21 and moved back home to McDonough when her husband was sent to Vietnam. They had one daughter Jenny who presently lives in Hohenwald with her husband Chad Brewer. Also Kathy has four grandchildren: Olivia, Cade, Aaron, and Lincoln. Olivia and Cade are the oldest and live outside of Hohenwald, while Aaron and Lincoln still live in Hohenwald with their parents. She also has a 15 month old great grandchild, Asher.

In 1991, Kathy moved to Tennessee and worked over a period of time in the fields of insurance, medical, and legal. She worked for the founder of Multi-List Real Estate, Inc. in Maury County and also in a government job in the same county working as a court coordinator for the Mt. Pleasant General Sessions Court. It was from this job that she retired after 14 years.

With her daughter, son-in-law and four grandchildren living in Hohenwald for around 20 years, Kathy decided to move where she could spend time with them. She has found Hohenwald to be a very friendly town. Two of her grandchildren play baseball, basketball and football, which makes her a busy grandmother. She loves to watch them actively involved in these sports and attends as many games as she can. She is also a faithful Tennessee Titans fan and enjoys watching the Greenbay Packers. During her spare time, Kathy loves to read, knit, and visit old friends in Columbia and Lawrenceburg. She loves old rock and roll music and is especially partial to gospel music. The Kelleys from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee are one of her favorite gospel groups and are long time friends.

In the interview we talked about traits in people, society as it is today, and changes we would like see happen. Kathy admires strong Christians who “walk the walk.” She also admires people who have manners and teach manners...simple things like saying “thank you” often seem to be lost in our society. In all of our lives there are many ups and downs, but key to happiness is to never let anything get you down. Kathy’s philosophy is “This too shall pass,” wonderful words to live by.

Kathy loves to travel and has been many places including San Francisco and other places in California, including Disneyland. She has also been to Wisconsin, but some of her favorite trips have been to Florida, especially Panama City, Destin, and Rosemary Beach, where she has friends who reside there. Her most recent trip was to South Dakota with a tour group of

individuals from Columbia and Hohenwald (church friends). She said they had a great time seeing the sights, especially the wildlife, like herds of buffalo, and just enjoying each other’s company.

Kathy chose the United Methodist Church of Hohenwald for the same reasons my husband and I chose it--the people. She is a member of the United Methodist Women and participates in their activities.

As mentioned earlier, Kathy loves animals and shared with me missing who she called her “sidekick” of 13 years, her pup Maddie, a Shih Tzu who has been gone a year and a half. Maddie was very important to Kathy as any dog or cat lover can understand. They provide great companionship and are gravely missed when they leave this world.

Over the next few months, as you attend church, take time to get to know Kathy. Quickly, she makes you feel at ease. My husband had the privilege of getting to know her while on jury duty. Kathy never meets a stranger and is much fun to be around. A wise person once said, “We cannot direct the wind...but we can adjust the sails.” There are many interesting people in the world, maybe just at the reach of your hand. Take time to meet others in our church. Find out what you are missing. Our church is very lucky to have Kathy Knight, and I feel very lucky to call her my friend.

Events and Reminders

- Watch the bulletin for Committee Meetings - TBA
- United Methodist Men’s Meetings will be September 11, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.
- The Grief Group will meet Sep 5th at 10:00 am
- United Methodist Women’s Meetings will be August 13, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. and September 10, 2018, at 3:00 p.m.
- The Sunday night study of Adam Hamilton’s *The Call* is at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are encouraged to attend.
- Choir practice has resumed beginning August 1, 2018, and is each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m.

- Radio Broadcast of each church service is every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on WMLR 1230 AM.
- Please send text numbers to Debby Campbell so that she can update the Prayer Chain. If you have no text number, you can provide an email address.
- The next due date for the church newsletter will be October 23rd. Please send information to Sally Thornton by this date.

Don't forget our Web page where we have the weekly bulletin, copies of the newsletter and past sermons:

<http://hohenwaldumc.org>

“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 859-585-2707 or email information to slt2017fmc@gmail.com You may also contact other members of the Christian Witness Committee.