



Sharing
(September/October 2018)
First United Methodist Church
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Scripture: "The eunuch had come to Jerusalem to worship, and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'"

(Acts 8: 29-29)

The story is told of a man who, while walking in his backyard one day, suddenly felt the ground give way. He found himself sitting at the bottom of a deep abandoned well which had been forgotten for years and covered over with vegetation. Then he began to pray: "Lord, if you'll get me out of this hole and save me, I'll turn my life over to you!" A few moments later, someone heard his cries and rescued the man. Next Sunday the man joined the church, and became one of the most eager witnesses for Christ his town had ever seen. His approach to witnessing was a bit unusual, however. Every time he wanted to witness to someone, he would invite that person over to his house, take him or her out to the backyard, and push the person down that old

well. Since that's where this man had found Christ, that's where he figured everyone else should start, too!

Every Christian witness counts four obvious elements: the one being witnessed to, the one witnessing, and the content of the witness given. The fourth element is the most important of all the factors, though not always as apparent. **Every true Christian witness begins at the impetus of the Holy Spirit.**

I believe that a reluctant or ineffective witness usually lacks a true reliance upon this fourth element. It was the Holy Spirit which allowed Philip that day to sense that this Ethiopian Eunuch was already seeking God. Philip did not have to berate the man, or browbeat him with scripture. He really didn't have to convince him of anything. All he had to do was point him toward what he had already been seeking. Philip was able to meet this man on his own level, as Luke tells us: "joining him" in his chariot.

Often we who are already in the church make it much more difficult than necessary for others to enter. Many times some well-meaning, but misguided, witness has inadvertently placed a row of stumbling blocks in other people's paths, levying requirements and expectations which go far beyond those of the Gospel to which they are witnessing.

Reliance upon and trust in the Holy Spirit allows us to sense the right time, and the right place. It also gives us the right words. But, perhaps most importantly, it gives us the humility necessary to

meet another person where he/she really is. Dr. D. T., a Methodist missionary to India in this century, said it as well as it has ever been expressed before or since: "Christian evangelism is simply one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."

--Drew

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee would like to remind members about the following:

- We should all to give generously to the **Lewis County Food Bank**, as this is the time of year for great need. Items can be brought to the church and placed at the back of the sanctuary, and one of our members will deliver them to the location.
 - Thanks to all for making cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry. **We collected 93 dozen cookies.** The Kairos Prison Ministry asked churches to interact with churches of many denominations to provide cookies for the October weekend spiritual event in the Nashville prison. This outreach ministry serves those in prison as taught by our Lord in Matthew 25:36, "I was in prison and you visited me". The cookies you provided represented gifts of Grace to the incarcerated men. **Thanks again for your participation.**
 - A reminder that winter is slowly approaching and the **Nashville Rescue Mission** could use your help by donating needed items. Coats, gloves, and scarves are always needed. A list of other items can be found at the following web address: www.nashvillerescuemission.org Boxes for donations are located in the church.
 - Please watch for information regarding opportunities for holiday giving.
- (Submitted by Joyce McCutcheon, Chairperson; Debby Campbell and Jerry and Retha Tibbs)**

CHRISTIAN WITNESS COMMITTEE

The Witness Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- **Radio Ministry:** The Sunday anthem and sermon is recorded and given to the local radio station, WMLR 1230 AM for broadcast.
- **Visitor Follow Up:** Visitors who sign the guest book or complete a visitor card receive a "porch

visit" from select members of the congregation. They receive baked goods and a packet of brochures from the church.

- **Greeters:** Greeters are assigned each Sunday morning to welcome people to the church. They attempt to identify visitors and make all feel welcome.
- **Newsletter:** The "Sharing" newsletter is printed every two months with happenings from the various church committees as well as other church groups and areas of interest.
- **Webpage:** Our webpage www.hohenwaldfmc.org is updated weekly with the Sunday bulletin, recorded sermon, and the newsletter. Committees have a page that details what they do.
- **Bulletin Boards:** These are displayed in various locations showing pictures of new members, news articles about church members, and youth activities. **(Submitted by Sue Brown, Chairperson)**

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

During the September meeting, Betty Stilts, treasurer, went over the budget for this year with discussion pertaining to any changes. The group decided to change the visit to the UMCOR warehouse in Decatur, Alabama to October 11th to work. Also the group discussed the UMCOR shoeboxes, deciding to postpone this project for a year before revisiting. Secretary, Cheryl France, made a list of volunteers to help the Little Swan Hunting Club during their yearly Christmas Project.

There was also discussion of any additional Christmas projects that the group might want to participate in.

Vice-President Barbara Lewis mentioned the annual district meeting to be held September 22nd, asking who might be interested in attending.

At the October meeting the officers for 2019 were announced and voted on. Debby Campbell will serve as president for 2019; Barbara Lewis, vice-president, Betty Stilts, treasurer, and Sally Thornton, secretary.

At the October meeting the group voted to give money to the Lewis County Nursing Home and the Lewis County Senior Citizens to be used for Christmas; also money will be given to The Shelter in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee for victims of domestic violence, which also serves Lewis County. As part of the September discussion of the budget other

designated money had been sent to the Lewis County Food Bank, the radio ministry, UMCOR, the Nashville Freedom School, and the Senior Citizens Center.

Much of the meeting was spent on planning the annual bazaar set for November 10th. The group decided to have the usual homemade items, including two quilts and other custom sewn articles. Baked goods will also be available as well as a few nice yard sale items. Lunch will be served at the cost of \$6 per person with homemade chili or broccoli soup, sandwiches, chips and desserts.

The next UMW meeting will be December 12th in the Christian Life Center at 12:00 a.m. The group will have their Christmas party before the meeting.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S GROUP HOSTS MISSION STUDY

The Hohenwald First United Methodist Women's group hosted the Harpeth River Mission Study on Saturday, August 25th in the Christian Life Center. The group provided a light breakfast, while all participants brought food for an enjoyable pot luck. UMW members from several churches within the district were present for this event. Joyce Clark provided a study, focusing on the Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States.

Using a verbal and video presentation, Mrs. Clark discussed the Alaska Conference, the Red Bird Missionary Conference and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. The presentation was followed by a meeting of select members of the district group.



UNITED METHODIST MEN



The United Methodist Men met on September 4th and October 2nd. The meetings consisted of discussions about upcoming projects, including the yearly pancake breakfast for the church and outdoor

**United Methodist Women
Annual Bazaar
November 10, 2018
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Christian Life Center
Hohenwald First United Methodist
Church
200 Court Street
Hohenwald, TN 38462**



Buy Your Chances Today for This Beautiful Quilt from Any Methodist Women's Group Member. They are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. (The quilt was made by Cora Criss.)



Quilt measures 105 X 118.

work-related projects. The group elected the following officers whose term will begin in January. President will be John Fricot; vice-president, Mark Warrington; secretary Ron Thornton; and treasurer, Tony Kozlinski. The pancake breakfast was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Donations in the sum of \$251 were made to help the youth groups. The UMM greatly appreciated those who attended.

THREE CHURCHES STREET PARTY AND CHILI COOKOFF

"We are excited to be a co-sponsor again this year for the Chili Cook-off. We encourage all to attend. Please help by donating condiments and volunteering even if you don't enter your chili. Each church will be responsible for furnishing items like; cheese, crackers, sour cream, etc.

Remember- It's a party! Come and have fun!"

(Flyer designed by Graham Kilsby)

DEDICATION OF THE ROBERT F. KISTLER ROAD

The city of Hohenwald recently dedicated a street and sign recognition to a member of Kenneth Kistler's family, a brother, Robert Kistler, who lost his life during World War I. It was a beautiful, touching ceremony with the display of flags, a prayer by Brother Drew Brewer, and a speech delivered by Senator Joey Hensley of Hohenwald. Members of the Kistler family were present along with friends and church family members.



L to R-Kenneth Kistler and Senator Joey Hensley



CHILDREN'S AND YOUTHS' MINISTRIES

Since September, the children and youth have resumed meeting again after school on Wednesdays. Our new Director of Children's Ministry is Teresa Drum, and the new Directors of Youth Ministry are Debby Campbell and Kenny Durham. We have been meeting together while getting acquainted with the 11-14 coming weekly. To encourage attendance as well as participation in Sunday School, Church, Children's Choir, and such, a point system has been implemented, which you may have noticed in the



Narthex. Points accumulated will lead to different gift cards and appear to be anxiously awaited by all.

After only three weeks, our children and youth have already taken part in our Fifth Sunday service as greeters, acolytes, ushers, sound booth, Children's Choir, and Worship Leader (formerly Liturgist).

Future plans include weekly Bible lessons, trips, community service projects, and the creation of a float for the Christmas Parade.

The women of our congregation have graciously offered to supply refreshments each week. When your turn arrives, you will be contacted several days in advance.

We would love to have more children join us and encourage you to bring family and friends. **(Submitted by Debby Campbell, Youth Ministry Directory)**

YOUTH CHOIR NEWS



L-R, bottom row: Gabriel Shook, Xavier Shook. L-R, top row: Hadley Spitzer, Lorrel Sood, and Christopher Spitzer

On September 30th, the 5th Sunday at the Hohenwald FUMC, the Youth Choir enthusiastically presented their art in the service through song which drew a parallel with the scripture, Matthew 5: 13-16. "Salt and Light," the title of the song, held significant meaning and had been discussed with those present in rehearsals as an extension of the Christian Fellowship held every Wednesday from 3-4 in our church's CLC. SALT is used to enhance the flavor of food, and in this song, salt is symbolic of us, as Christians, doing our best to enhance our own lives and also the lives of others by following the lead of Jesus Christ. The LIGHT is representational of Christians striving to

shine in the darkness (life's struggles), while spreading the light of Jesus and the hope of salvation, faith, and love.

The Youth Choir meets every Wednesday from 4-4:45 p.m. in the church sanctuary following fellowship in the CLC held from 3-4. Our eighth graders who are also in band are now freshmen in the Lewis County High School and are no longer with us. We miss them, but we understand the time frame of their commitment to band rehearsals and other activities in which they are now involved. We are very appreciative of the time they served in the Youth Choir last year, and we wish them well on their new journey in high school.

If anyone in our church family knows of a youth that might be interested in joining our choir, please extend an invitation. They are not required to be members or attendees of our church. They are escorted after school down to the church each Wednesday, and if they need a ride afterwards, the church van is available to take them home.

Thank you, Youth Choir, for your dedication and a job well done! Also, thank you parents for your continuous support.

(Respectfully submitted by Cindy Graves, Youth Choir Director)

MEETING CHURCH FAMILY



Dewey and Myra Hinson

There is nothing like getting to know people in a smaller setting. I am learning that with each interview I do. Each time I leave the interview I feel like I have known the person or people all my life. British writer Jonathan Swift once stated as advice to others, "May you live all your days." This is a short but profound quote about making the most of each day because each is important and essential

in one's existence. The couple interviewed for this article has definitely lived life to its fullest and treasures each day as if it is a precious gem. Dewey and Myra Hinson have both been an integral part of the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald for many years.

Dewey was born on August 18, 1931, in Dyer County, in a community known as Rushslough, located in Western Tennessee about 14 miles from Dyersburg. He was born to Eula Loins Hinson and Dewey Hinson, Sr. His father, after spending time in the army, came back to Tennessee to farm while his mother was a housewife who also helped with the daily chores of farming.

Myra Hinson was born December 10, 1944, to parents Raymond Reeves and Edith Barber Reeves. They lived in Perry County in Linden, Tennessee but moved to Lewis County when Myra was seven. Myra's dad was in the Navy and upon returning home did odd jobs, eventually taking a job as a prison guard in Nashville, Tennessee. Her mom was a housewife, which for the time period was the full time job of most women.

Dewey grew up with three brothers and one sister. At age 20 he moved to Gary, Indiana, where he worked in a factory for about 4 months; however, after discovering there was no place like home, he moved back to Tennessee, where his family resided to help his dad on the farm. He talked about going to school in a one room schoolhouse in Dyer County, but as the oldest was expected to help out on the family farm as much as he could. He said he remembered when part of the old schoolhouse burned. Students took turns going early of the morning to start the fire in the old school before students arrived. One morning when it was Dewey's turn, he arrived only to find one portion of the schoolhouse burned to the ground. He went back home, told his father who didn't believe him who had to see for himself. This was something he would always remember. It was in that schoolhouse that he was educated, learning much as a child that he would take with him throughout life. One thing he said others might not know about him would be that in grammar school he loved to box, something the boys enjoyed doing.

Myra had five siblings, two who are deceased, leaving her brother David and sister Retha. One of her favorite memories from childhood is when her dad built a house in Perry County at Hurricane Creek. He laid the foundation with stones gathered one by one from the creek bed, stacking them ever

so cleverly without any mortar or anything to hold them together. She and Dewey both said the house still stands today. I couldn't help but think about the children's church song with the lyrics, "The wise man built his house upon the rock." Myra's dad often called her the nickname, "Peewinkle," but the name didn't stick. She fondly remembers working as a car hop at the old Dairy Dip on Highway 48 when she was younger.

Dewey and Myra met on a blind date in December of 1961, while he was visiting relatives. After he went back to Dyer County, he and Myra continued their interest in each other by writing letters back and forth, which became the foundation for a serious relationship. They married in April of 1963, and moved to Hohenwald. Dewey first worked for a car dealership as a mechanic, then started working for Lewis Products, which became Dana. It was from here that he would retire. Myra worked for H.I. Siegel for over a year, then for Genesco for six years. Eventually she became employed by the Lewis County School System doing maintenance for a section of the elementary school.

The couple have three children together, Mary Ellen Hart, Victoria Baxter, and James Hinson, while Dewey had two children, Dalton Lynn Hinson and Teresa Gayle Barber, before meeting Myra. Between them they have 17 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great grandchildren. Some of their family lives in Germany, and this is the place that they said they would love to visit some day.

In their spare time they each have a different interest. Myra likes to sew and Dewey loves to watch baseball, since he coached a community group of 11-12 year olds for eight years. His favorite Major League team has always been and always will be the St. Louis Cardinals, who he told me were called the Gashouse Gang as a nickname in 1934. They both equally share a love for watching westerns and listening to Willie Nelson. Myra was telling me about Willie's cutting his hair and shaving to meet the queen of England.

Family is so very important to both Dewey and Myra. They enjoy Thanksgivings and Christmases, just getting together with family, the gifts being their time spent together. They love living in Hohenwald and love going to church, where they find friendly people and smiling faces. After going to other denominational churches, both agreed that the Methodist was by far the friendliest and

warmest. Both are involved in the men's and women's groups of the church.

During each of these interviews, I feel like I continue to be educated, learning new things and being blessed in getting to know our church family and in learning more about Hohenwald and Lewis County. Meeting Dewey and Myra was no exception. We laughed, reminisced, and shared highlights from our lives. By the time we departed, I felt like I had just had lunch with family.

EVENTS AND REMINDERS

- ◆ The next United Methodist Women's meetings will be November 12th at 3:00 p.m. and December 10th at 12:00 a.m.
- ◆ The next United Methodist Men's meeting will be November 6th at 6:00 p.m. There will be no meeting in December.
- ◆ The next Grief Group meeting will be November 7th at 10:00 a.m. at Joyce and Larry McCutcheon's.
- ◆ Choir practice is at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.
- ◆ Radio Broadcasts of each church service is at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday on WMLR 1230 AM.
- ◆ Three Churches Street Party and Chili Cookoff is November 3, 2018, from 4:00 p.m. to 6 p.m. between 1st and 2nd avenues. See flyer for more details.
- ◆ The next due date for submissions to the church newsletter will be December 17th.

Sharing is the newsletter of the 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.

