



Sharing

July/August

First United Methodist Church

FirstUnitedme680@bellsouth.net

2000 Street, Hohenwald, TN 38462

931-796-2681

“So then, my dear friends, stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord’s service is ever useless.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Worship Hours

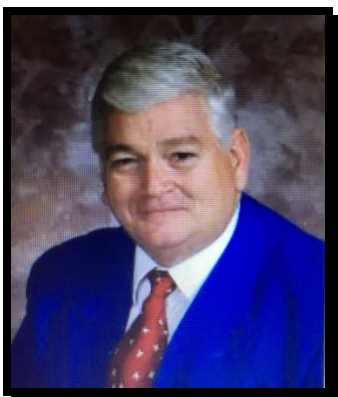
Sunday School—9:30 a.m.

Morning Service—10:30 a.m.

Sunday Night Service—6:00 p.m.

UMYF/Children—3:00-4:00 p.m. with optional choir practice afterwards from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

From the Pastor’s Desk



“Verna was Right”

When I was young, we always saw, and ate with, some of our relatives at holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Mom's brother and sister, and their families, lived a ways off in different directions, so seeing them meant travelling, one way or the other. Dad's kin lived mostly near us, around Rockwood, except for Aunt Verna and Uncle Walter up near Knoxville. Still, getting a bunch together in one house made it a special occasion. One Christmastime, when I was a freshman in high school, it was Dad's kin at our house, and Aunt Verna was there. I loved her dearly but was also a little in fear of her. Not scared, as in

afraid of danger and violence, but more a sense of nervous awe, like "fear of the Lord."

Aunt Verna was my father's oldest sister and tall and broad shouldered like the rest of the Gibsons, and she was a teacher. She possessed that command of the room that comes with being the first born and the authority of one in charge of children professionally. When she spoke, you listened. When she questioned, you better have an answer. I thought I was ready for her this time. I had rehearsed my lines. I knew at least one thing she'd ask and had an answer she would approve. And it came.

"Well, Tommy.....(she waited for my attention).... "What do you think you'd like to be when you grow up?"

I smiled. With confidence I answered, "I think I want to be an Art teacher."

She knew I liked to draw and make things. I knew she liked to teach and share knowledge. I figured this is where my passion met a respectable profession, and she would congratulate me on my wise reckoning. She didn't deny it would be a good fit, or suggest it was a foolish choice, not well thought out. She nodded thoughtfully, hummed a bit, and then responded in a way I never imagined.

"I always thought you might become a clergyman, maybe an Episcopal priest." WOW, didn't see that coming. And in spite of my holy awe, I knew I was free to converse on adult terms, and that meant my inner snarky bent would not be counted as flippancy (if I didn't overdo). So I responded, "What? Not good enough to be a Methodist preacher?" We were ALL Methodists, had been for generations.

Verna smiled slightly and allowed, "Sure. But I've noticed you always are drawn to the liturgical elements of worship and pay close attention to the prayers and creeds and Holy Communion." Aunt Verna was right. I was probably the most frequent volunteer to be an acolyte, making sure I and whoever was lighting candles with me kept an even pace coming, going, and lighting. I did enjoy the pageantry of worship. But I never thought I'd be a professional at it. I put the conversation out of my mind for the time. I didn't think of it again until after I had accepted the call to ministry, in my thirties. She did not live to see it, but I suspect she was laughing up her sleeve in Heaven.

She was more right than I expected even then. After obtaining the recommendation of my local congregation, and a district and conference level committees on ministry, going through Licensing School (a sort of quick boot camp for kick starting preachers), I was sent to my first small appointment. But to continue in ministry I had to go to Course of Study School for five summer sessions, reading books and writing reports through the remaining months to prepare. I could have finished there, and become an Associate Member of the Annual Conference, but wanting to be an Ordained Elder, I had seminary work to complete as well. First, I had to complete my B.S. in Art Ed. Then, I visited Vanderbilt and liked it, but also decided to check out Sewanee (University of the South). As soon as I drove onto "The Domain" I immediately felt the presence of the Holy. I knew this was it, before I ever set foot in a building or visited a class. And I am sure Aunt Verna laughed again. Sewanee in an Episcopal University.

So here I am, finally, after completing the 20 year path to ordination, an Episcopal influenced ordained Methodist clergyman, who is completely comfortable praying and praising God in any sort of setting, but really loving the sacramental signs and symbols of worshipping God on high, giving the glory due to our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Verna would feel proud, vindicated, and not at all surprised.

I am still an artist at heart and think visual as well as vocal worship honors God. We have

marvelous music at church, both good singers and instrumentalists contributing. I am thankful for that and would welcome more. I would also like to see the visual arts and theatrical arts included. Who are our artists and crafts folks? Banners, candles, table displays all add to an atmosphere of worship. Who can sign, mime, act out or dance their praise? What potential would Aunt Verna see in you? Psalm 150 urges "all who have breath, praise the Lord." All means all, y'all. What is God calling you to offer? How will you respond? Who will you make proud?

Pastor Tom Gibson

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on July 8, 2019, and August 12, 2019. There were 13 in attendance at the July meeting and 18 in attendance in August.

Gloria Jones delivered the devotional for July. Reverend John Rawdon, pastor of Sweetwater House of Prayers, delivered the program. He gave information about the plight of the homeless in Lewis County, which led to discussion about how the women's group could help. Jimmie Kay McCarthy delivered the devotional and program for the August meeting.

Plans for the November Bazaar will be in full swing in the month of September. The ladies are busy making additions to the types of items they will be selling and looking at ideas for new items to sell. September's meeting will be a working meeting on some of these craft ideas.

The group continues to send cards to shut ins, to individuals who are ill, to members who have lost a family member, or to those who just need encouragement.

If you would like to join the group, they meet the second Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. The next meeting date is September 9, 2019.

United Methodist Men

The Methodist Men met on July 9th and August 6th in the Christian Life Center. Meals

were provided by Dave Roberts and Glenn Pancake in July with 16 in attendance and Jim Darden and Billy Roberts in August with 17 in attendance.

The group sold ribs for the Fourth of July, which went extremely well. Profits will be used to give the men's group money to help individuals within the church and community when they need assistance.

President John Fricot thanked everyone for the help in moving Brother Drew Brewer to Jackson and in helping move Brother Tom Gibson and his wife Vickie into the parsonage.

During the South Central Area Fair, the men had a "Walking Taco" booth. The UMM would like to thank its members and some of the ladies of the UMW for their help in this project.

The group also voted to change the meeting day from Tuesdays to Thursdays. The next meeting is planned for Thursday, September 5, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. All men within the church are welcome and encouraged to attend.



**In Memory of Bobby Sloan
July 10, 1936-June 29, 2019**

"Silently, one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven, Blossomed the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels..."

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow,
Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie

*SPECIAL THANK YOU
To all committee
members, volunteers
and staff serving our
church*

Remembering Those in Prayer

Our Families, Schools, Community & Nation,
Military, Storm & Flood Victims, Persons Unnamed

New Concerns

Gosia Bastia , Family of Tommy Bates, Ronnie Belew, Bryan Boykin, Chad Brewer, Betsy Brown, Johnny Creasy, Hayden Criss, , Shirley Garland, Janice McCann, Sheryl Paradise, Shirley Sharp, Bill Tharp, Carney Troutt & family, Lewis County Library

Continuing Prayers

Elizabeth & Greg Fecteau, Carolyn Gafford, Brian Graves, Kenny Graves, Linda Hendricks, Camille Kelley, Suzy Brown Miller , Bert Moore IV, Jim Oliver, Rita Pery, Sonja & Jimmy Reeves, Mildred Rittman, David Roberts, Brandon Steward, Ken Stratton, Willie & Anna Terry, Elizabeth Tucker, Greg White, Tommy White

***NOTE-**To add a name, please fill out a prayer card and place in offering plate

***NOTE-** Continuing Prayers includes Shut-ins and those who need our prayers for a long term condition or illness. We will be updating this section each month and posting it on our website: <http://www.hohenwaldumc.org>

Wednesday Afterschool Ministry

of Hohenwald First United Methodist Church
200 South Court Street in downtown Hohenwald



Come join in the fun
at a great place to hang out after school

Wednesdays

Youth Fellowship 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
optional Youth Choir 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

All school age students are welcome
Parental permission and registration required

Snacks, Fellowship, Bible Storytelling,
Crafts, Games & Music

Registration beginning at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21
at Hohenwald 1st UMC Christian Life Center

Pick up between 4:45 - 5:00 or transportation available

Call 931-796-2681 or email firstunitedme@bellsouth.net
for more information

Small Talk

Each Sunday volunteers offer their time to have a lesson for the children of our church. In

recent years lessons have been presented by Cindy Graves, Kellie Spitzer, Joyce Darden, Jim Darden, and the minister. Recently our new minister, Brother Tom Gibson presented a lesson, which included a magic trick. Also Jim Darden presented a great lesson using a house key. These lessons usually coincide with the sermon topic each Sunday. Below are pictures from a few of our recent "Small Talk" sessions.

If you would like to volunteer to present a session on a rotating basis with others, please call the office and leave your name with Rebecca McClain at 931-796-2681. We would welcome your help with the children of our church.

Special Music

We are so very blessed to have talented people in our church. The choir as a unit has presented some very beautiful anthems over the years while there are also individuals who often present solo performances. Recently, father and daughter duo Paris and Katie Thompson presented a song where Paris sang and Katie presented the lyrics by signing, using American Sign Language for the deaf. Graham Kilsby, Gloria Jones, Jerry and Jan Turner, and others have also presented some beautiful solos. We appreciate each of these individuals and group for sharing their songs and music with us.



Welcome New Members



Hans, Brittany, and Ava Schwendimann

Grief Group



The grief group started by Larry and Joyce McCutcheon has been ongoing for several years. They come together to offer support for the many life situations that cause grief, whether it involves death, divorce, job loss, estrangement, loneliness or any personal sense of loss. The agenda is casual; there are no assignments or special readings. They meet to share time and experiences in a loving atmosphere. Attendance varies from 3 to as many as 10 members. Some persons come for many sessions and some individuals have been involved since the group began. All discussion is strictly confidential. Everyone is welcome to attend; they meet every first Wednesday of the month from 10-11:30 a.m.

(Submitted by Larry and Joyce McCutcheon)

Comfort the Methodist Way

For as long as most of us born Methodist can remember, we can still visualize our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends cooking for others in the church due to the death of a family member, to the sickness of someone, or for potlucks. I can remember my mother getting up at the crack of dawn and frying up two to three whole chickens for an after church potluck. She would then fix breakfast for a family of five and get three children and herself ready for church. That is what mothers do.

Within our church, there is a strong commitment to take care of others in times of need. Food is a major comfort in our lives and one small way that we can let others know that we are thinking about them and praying for them.

The following is an article **submitted by Kathryn Kozlinski**, who recently took over the food groups in our church from Martha Edwards who had been responsible for them for several years. In the passing of this torch, Martha gave Kathryn, not only the lists of groups, but a vast knowledge of the history of the strength and dedication of Methodist women decades back.

“A Bit of Hohenwald First United Methodist Church History of UMW: A Walk Down Memory Lane”

In April or May of 2019, Martha Nell Anderson Edwards stated she had been lead contact for the church HFUMC Care Group (Food Groups) for 30 years, and she was ready to give it up. Kathryn Ann Workman Kozlinski offered to help coordinate communication between church family members, and Food Group Leaders, with support of longtime Assistant Coordinators; Camille Kelly and Sue Hurt. Rebecca McClain, church secretary is frequently the first to know of a need through the church office and was happy to contact Kathryn as needed. In July, Martha Edwards delivered a treasured, long used book, listing the names, the dates, and

Groups who have served as “The Food Groups.” Once received, Kathryn began looking at the book’s contents. It is Martha’s belief that her aunt, Mrs. Charlotte Ray began documenting the UMW’s benevolence activities regarding the welfare, communication, needs, and attendance of church members.

To offer as a sample the following is a list from December 21, 1980, of those served by the UMW food groups during that year. It was labeled “To the Precious Ones.” **We are unsure why some of the names were marked through.** You may recognize many of the names.

Willie Couch	Laurence Belew
Schubert Pevahouse	Dora Epley
Irma Marbet	Anna Campbell
Willie Reeves	Annie Lee Pace
Emma Moore	Lou Hinson
Judy Tanner	Sudie Sisco
Whitney Duncan	Minnie Sanders
Ocie Staggs	Irene Beatty
Annie Mae Edwards	Lee Craig
Clemon Wisdom	Lloyd Belew
Lorraine Sisco	Irene Kaylor
Homer Reeves	Giles Keathley
Clara Tennison	Thelma Barber
Lillie Skelton	Charlie Anderson
Magdalene O’Guin	Margaret Williams
Jerry Paul Graves	Ted Graves
Miriam Crowell	John Churchwell
William Graves	Carlos Harder Ila Simmons

Ona Chessor Dobbs (nursing home)
 (Members Popes Chapel)
 Martha Bates (homebound)
 Carlos Harder Ila Simmons
 Mary Lee Pevahouse (Waynesboro)
 Aaron Duncan (Nashville)
 Barbara Vaughan (Columbia)
 Arthur Ray (86)
 Donna Acuff (Nashville Card)
 Claudia Anderson (unable to attend church)
 Hazel Epley (does not attend church)
 A.B. Sisco (Lives in Clarksville)
 Trent and Mary Sue Anderson (members at Warren, live here)
 Bess Graves (lives on Cedar St. member of Popes Chapel)

Lillie Starbuck (1989)
~~Lloyd Wolfe~~ (sick)
 Mary Tom Beard (Columbia)
 William Graves (comes to church)
 Linda Haley (home)
 Lucille Floyd (home)
~~Estha Turnbow~~ (89)
 Mattie Sharp (Centerville)

List of Hohenwald United Methodist Women—September 12, 1989

Charlotte Ray	Violet Thompson
Dorothy Sharpe	Mildred Berwick
Clara Wright (died 5/9/93)	
Lillian Holt	Martha Edwards
June Thompson	Donna Inman
Glenda Hayes	Edith Scarberry
Retha Tibbs	Linda Dabbs
Eva Quillen	Claudia Anderson
Julia Wallace	Nellie Hickerson
Carolyn Staggs	Eva Grover
Geneva Sanders	Nadine Cothran
Sue Bouldin	Mary Poore
Francis Floyd	Mildred Bixler
Mae McLemore	Jimmy Kay McCarthy
Bessie Roden	Edna Wisdom
Jessie Davis	Sadie Owen
Sue Brown	Kathi Brower
Cyrena Harder	Rebecca McClain
Wanda Reding	Katie Sue Johnston

In the book that Mrs. Ray passed on to her niece Martha, there is a poem of unknown age or origin that speaks volumes of the purpose of the UMW and how members help each other through the good and bad times in life.

TAKE MY HAND

**You take my hand and I’ll take yours and we’ll start out today.
 For a helping hand is what we need to help us on our way.
 The way to goal is a lonely road we need someone to care.
 So reach out my friend and take my hand and we are almost there.**

In February 1996, the Care Groups were divided into four groups identified as Groups I, II, III, and IV. Group leaders and teams work together to set-up prior to an event, preparing foods (one or two dishes, as needed), serving, and cleaning up. The activities then as now included: Church Suppers; Official Board dinners, Cantata; Christmas Church Supper; Funerals; Graduation dinners; Fellowship dinners; and Easter Sunrise Breakfast. Prior to the construction and Concretion of the Christian Life Center, meals were served downstairs in the church basement.

“It was a joy to read the names of the members, reflect on the memories attached to them, and take pride in knowing that their work was done with loving care, and they have passed those gifts to us today.”

Kathryn Kozlinski

Many people will walk in and out of
your life, but only true friends will
leave footprints in your heart

— Eleanor Roosevelt —

The following, also included in Mrs. Ray's book, gives insight to the history of the Methodist Church(es) in Hohenwald, reported from 1824 to 1962.

The first church established in the county was The Ebenezer Methodist Church at Palestine about the year 1824. Reverend James Tarrant was the preacher. He was pastor at Mt. Pleasant but served other churches and later moved to Palestine to live and is buried there.

In 1886, the Methodist organization was one of the leading denominations of the county, but we have no definite history of the Hohenwald congregation until the year 1898. During the Civil War, the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized and for several years, the M.E. Church, South and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church worshiped together.

At the meeting of the Tennessee Conference at Clarksville, Tennessee on October 25, 1898, J.A. Patterson was appointed pastor of the Hohenwald Mission in the Savannah District. Reverend Patterson served as pastor of the Hohenwald Mission for four consecutive years.

In 1899, the local church membership was 206, there having been 15 additions in the preceding year. Value of church property was \$500.00, and a total of \$324.50 was paid on church assessments.

By 1901, the local church membership had dropped to 69 members. The reason for this decline in membership was thought to be the growth of the Kimmins Methodist Church, which was growing rapidly. This was the first year since the Hohenwald Mission was organized that the local church contributed anything to foreign and domestic missions.

In 1902, J. T. Redman was assigned to the local church as pastor. In the years 1903 through 1906, no preacher was assigned to the local church. Reverend J. R. Simpson was pastor of the Kimmins Church at this time and also preached for the Hohenwald congregation in the old courthouse.

In 1908, C.E. Heriges was appointed pastor. On December 10, 1908, a lot was purchased from M. C.C. Rutledge, principal of the local high school, to be used for the erection of a house of worship. Purchase price of the lot was \$100.00, and Church Trustees listed on the deed were: C.J. Cotham, G.N. Springer, and H.B. Clayton. This lot is the same lot on which the present church building stands. The first church was a rough frame building, stripped on the outside. This building was erected soon after the purchase of the lot.

In 1909, Reverend Edgar Carson was pastor. This year a lot was purchased for the erection of a home for the pastor of the M.E. Church, South. Trustees listed on this deed were: J.G. Rice, G.N. Springer, Baski Hensley, William M. Stephens, Green Garner, and F. M. Nichols. The lot extended from the street now known as Park Avenue to the old courthouse square. The building faced the courthouse square at first. In 1924, part of the building was moved to face Park Avenue. The building was remodeled and remained the church

Getting to Know Church Family

Geraldine Crowell



In 1874, Swiss immigrants founded the town of New Switzerland in the Middle section of Tennessee. Hohenwald, which means “High Forest” in German, then merged with New Switzerland to become one town in 1878. Both groups of immigrants had come from the North seeking the “American Dream” and a new life for their families. They were intrigued by the building of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railways and farming potentials. It is from this background that the featured church member, Geraldine Doyle Crowell’s family came. Geraldine’s grandfather Aloise Spiess of Swiss origin and his wife Augusta Klessner Spiess of German origin were some of the early settlers in New Switzerland, later to be called Hohenwald.



Geraldine's Grandfather Aloise Spiess
and Grandmother Augusta Spiess

They along with others came in wagons from areas around Illinois, Idaho, and Wisconsin in hopes of finding a better life. Mr. Spiess bought land and farmed, growing peanuts, cotton, and some corn. Aloise and Augusta had ten children, four who died very young. Life was tough and winters were harsh, but these settlers endured and firmly laid the

parsonage until 1950, when it was sold to Lewis County Department of Education. The lot became part of the school grounds, and the building was sold and moved to another location and is still used as a dwelling. Another building on Park Avenue was bought for the parsonage in 1951.

In 1910, Hohenwald was changed from Savannah District to the Lawrenceburg District. Reverend Carson was appointed pastor the second year.

In 1911, H.B. Blue was given \$200.00 by the conference to be spent on church property. A total of \$725.00 was expended on a church building in that year. Part of this was used to weatherboard the church building. Timber to be used in remodeling was cut from the old Ebenezer Church property at Palestine. In 1912, Reverend Fred B. Cox was appointed pastor, and an additional \$500.00 was spent on the church building that year. \$150.00 of this was paid by the Conference Board of Church Extension. Value of church property increased from \$800.00 to \$2,700.00 with \$200.00 indebtedness.

In 1913, M.W. Charles was pastor.

In 1914, at the meeting of the Tennessee Conference in Pulaski, Hohenwald was taken from the Lawrenceburg District and became a part of the Mt. Pleasant District with W.O. Largen as appointed pastor.

In 1915, J.W. Gilbert was appointed pastor and two Women’s Missionary Societies were organized on the circuit. The Wesleyan Service Guild was organized in 1950. In 1938, the church building was brick veneered. In 1947, the Fellowship Hall and classrooms were added. In 1958, the new educational building was erected. The lot adjacent to the educational building was purchased in 1953, for the erection of a new parsonage. The parsonage on Park Avenue was sold in 1951. In November 1961, the church contracted with Philip Louque to build a new parsonage on 118 West Second Street. This building was completed in April 1962, and is being dedicated today, April 29, 1962.

foundation for generations to come in Lewis County.



Mr. and Mrs. Aloise Spiess

Geraldine Doyle Crowell, 92 years young, was born in Waynesboro, Tennessee on February 5, 1927, to parents James “Jim” Doyle and Clara Spiess Doyle. Shortly after being born, her family moved to Hohenwald. She joined the First United Methodist Church in 1928 and is presently one of the oldest members of the church. For years she never missed a Sunday and always felt that Sunday was the most important day of the week. Geraldine reminisced about the first church building being built out of planks with a steeple that housed a bell that was rung every Sunday. She knew the layout of the church like the back of her hand. She recalls that her mother and her aunt were very active in the church. As a child she remembers her brother arriving at church early every Sunday morning to help Mr. Lawrence Whitaker bring in wood to stoke the pot belly stove so that all in attendance would stay warm.

Geraldine never missed a Sunday and has a collection of perfect attendance pens to prove it. She has many pins, which are in two parts, the logo of the church on one, and the number of the year she had perfect attendance, meant to be interlocked to the church pin. These are like precious treasures to her.



Pens for Perfect Attendance



Geraldine's Family Left to Right
James Woodward Doyle, her dad
Clara Spiess Doyle, her mom
J. W. Doyle, her brother holding his nephew
Mildred Doyle Griggs, her sister



Geraldine's Dad Owned
First Car in Hohenwald

Geraldine's Family

Geraldine had one sister Mildred Griggs and a brother J. W. Doyle, both deceased. She married Fred Frank (Bill) Crowell May 22, 1946, and they had two children, Donald, a baby who died within hours of birth, and Dalton Crowell, who still resides in Lewis County. Dalton was married to Myra Baxter Crowell (deceased) and is presently married to Linda Clayton Warren Crowell. Geraldine's grandchildren are Phillip Crowell, twins David Crowell, and two step grandchildren, Von Warren, and Scott Warren who is deceased. A menagerie of pictures of all these grandchildren and her thirteen great-grandchildren grace the walls and décor of Geraldine's lovely home on West 5th Avenue.



Geraldine has many fond memories of growing up in Hohenwald. As a youth she remembers that she along with her friends played in an area beside her home every day after school, only after homework was completed. Mr. Doyle made the group a fire pit where they roasted hot dogs and marshmallows, had parties for birthdays and Halloween, and played baseball, football, and tennis. Her colorful description of playing tennis made me ask about the equipment they played with. Unlike the traditional tennis racket and Wilson tennis balls, their rackets were uniquely made by her father who took limbs from trees and cut planks that he wove to make paddles. The tennis ball was an old sock stuffed with cotton, and the tennis net was strung with seagrass string. Geraldine and her friends played happily for hours. Geraldine also recalls that the old courthouse in Hohenwald served as both a school and German church. She has written a book about her vast knowledge of Hohenwald's history, and with the help of Deanna Darden-Carroll she would like to have it published soon.

After being married, Bill and Geraldine took a honeymoon to Natural Bridge over in Wayne County. Bill had been in the military, beginning in a CC Camp and later volunteering for the army where he spent 8 years. He then worked for the factory Dana for 17 years, which operated in Hohenwald from the latter part of 1961 to 2005. One of his dear friends was Billy Edwards. Geraldine worked at Henry I. Siegel in Hohenwald for 32 years, a plant that made Chic Jeans.

She then quit to raise her twin grandchildren, David and Dwight. She has participated regularly in the Sewing Club. Her handiwork includes piece quilts, pillowcases, embroidery work, cut canvas work, and sometimes crochet. Her quilts have brought in great revenue to the church during the United Methodist Women's Bazaars. It is obvious that much time, effort, and love go into every piece her hands touch. They are one of a kind, beautiful, just like Geraldine herself, and very intricate. One year she made one with beautiful birds. Her friend Lida Floyd was asked if she had bought a ticket. She rushed to find someone selling them and bought one ticket, which was the lucky winner. Geraldine laughingly says that many teased her about it being rigged. But it seems that it was just Ms. Lida's lucky day. Geraldine also loves to listen to Gospel music. The Gaithers are one of her favorites.



In 1998, Geraldine's world was shattered by a horrific car accident on Hwy. 412 going to Columbia, Tennessee. She was on her way to

the foot doctor when a man who was late for work, passed seven cars trying to get to work on time, causing an accident that almost took Geraldine's life. She realizes looking back to that day that God was not ready for her and wanted her to spend more time on earth with family and friends. It was not without much time taken from her life though. She was in the hospital from August 13th to December 28th. Injuries included breakage of bones in her back, arm, and leg, and she also had a head injury. She was in a coma for 4 weeks. Life Flight took her to the nearest hospital where, not only did she have many broken bones, but she had to have her gall bladder, spleen, and one lung removed. It was a long arduous recovery at NHC in Columbia, but Geraldine returned home where her family celebrated another Christmas with her at her son Dalton's home. God was most certainly with her on that day.

Geraldine considers herself a "homebody" because she loves her home. She laughingly said that her son Dalton offered to take her and his family to the mountains one time. He asked her if she wanted to go, and she replied only if she was home by bedtime and was able to sleep in her own bed. Her charming cottage style house and beautiful yard show that much love has gone into making this place her home on land that has continued to be made available for her to purchase from family members. The home is full of memories and love.

I feel very fortunate to have spent my last interview with this great lady. She is a plethora of knowledge about the people and town of Hohenwald. I can't wait to read her book. I asked her what her philosophy was about life and she replied, "Go to church, live right, and believe in God." She believes in helping others and giving freely. Geraldine is proof that life is full of highs and lows, ups and downs, and good times and bad times; however, the lessons learned along the way only make us stronger, better people—people who will forever make an impressionable positive imprint on the lives of others. Thank you, Geraldine, for all you have taught us and continue to teach us.

Curtis, Amanda. "Spotlight: Geraldine Crowell." *Lewis County Herald*. Posted on February 21, 2019 <http://lewis herald.com/pages/storyteller-spotlight-geraldine-crowell>.

"Hohenwald Tennessee Tourism." 2019. <http://hohenwaldtn.org/>.

"Hohenwald." *Tennessee Encyclopedia*. 8 October 2017. Last updated 1 March 2018. <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/hohenwald/>.

Sharing a Recipe

You may be called on to share your favorite recipe that has been passed down to you---an idea that may be carried on by your next editor.

In remembrance of Mildred Rodgers:

Pineapple Casserole

2 2-oz cans crushed pineapple
1 cup sugar
2 cups cheddar cheese
1 1/3 cups crushed Ritz Crackers
4 T flour
1/2 cup melted butter
Drain pineapple well, reserving 6 T juice
Mix flour, sugar, and juice
Add pineapple and cheese
Place in 2 qt casserole
Mix melted butter with crackers & spread on top
Bake at 350 for 45-60 minutes until brown and bubbly

Great hot or cold

(Shared by Debby Durham)

As my time as your editor comes to a close, I would like to thank all of those who submitted information and articles for the newsletter. Without you, much of it would not have been possible. My life has been deeply enriched by this experience and for that I am forever grateful. Sally Thornton

Please welcome member Ashley Garner as your new newsletter editor. Watch the bulletin for new contact information from her.

"Sharing" is the newsletter of the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald, Tennessee, published six times a year as a service of the Christian Witness Program.