



# Forest Heights United Methodist Church

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## NEWSLETTER

January 2024

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**SEARCHING FOR GOD**

*"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?"*

The Magi were searching for God; people today are still searching. As I have slowed down enough in life to be an observer of what is happening around me, I find people of every age with a deep hunger for something more in life than what they currently have. People are disappointed that the accumulation of things leaves them with a haunting feeling that they have nothing. There are numerous expressions of the haunting, disquieting hunger people have.

Over sixteen hundred years ago, St. Augustine wrote, *"For thou hast created us for thyself, and our hearts cannot be quiet till it may find repose in thee."* The Christian Church very boldly affirms that the primal hunger that finds so many expressions is essentially a hunger to be close to, and to be at peace with God. We were created for that relationship with God, and until we are in that relationship there is a hunger for the completeness. The Magi symbolize our hungry world in search of meaning, purpose, and fulfillment. They symbolize a world in search of a relationship with God, whether or not they recognize that such a search is their hunger. Our role is to reach out and not to condemn, berate, or distance ourselves from them. While God reveals himself in many ways, we believe that the clearest revelation of God is found in God's Word. This does not mean that God leaves everyone else in total darkness. God finds ways of showing himself to all people. But as Christians we believe that the richest insights come when the person reaches God as revealed in Christ Jesus.

What does all this mean for us? If you sense a terrible restlessness in your life, you may still be searching for the relationship with God which God intended for you, even if you are baptized, and even if you are an active member of a congregation. You are in the family of God, but you have not connected with God in a way that brings you the peace for which your soul hungers. If that describes you, seek out a Christian mentor as the Magi sought out help. God wants your heart, mind and soul to be at rest in him.

**Drew**

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### **Nurture News -Serving Each Other**

Our sympathy to the family of Ann Jeffords and family. May God continue to comfort you during this difficult time.

**Staff Christmas** – The staff would like to thank everyone for your generous donation for staff Christmas.

May your holiday season be blessed and happy!

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863 W. Forest Avenue  
Jackson, TN 38301

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Many thanks to all** who helped prepare and participate in our Advent events. This includes but is not limited to preparing the church for the season, Christmas caroling and sharing a delicious meal provided by the choir and others, participating in worship through lighting the Advent candles, and singing in as well as attending the Christmas Cantata, you shared your gifts and graciously blessed this community of faith in a mighty way. For this we give thanks!

**Mark your calendar:**

When- January 8 at 9:30 a.m.

What- Take down the Chrismon tree and decorations

Who- All available hands and feet

The **Church Council** will be meeting on Sunday, January 21. It will take place right after the morning church service with a light lunch provided. To be prepared each committee and group should meet prior to this meeting. Thank you for agreeing to be a leader in our church. I pray we have a productive year with God's help. --- Paul Chaplin

**Happy Birthday to:**

Jan. 2 Mary Wright

Jan. 13 Marianna Lewis

Jan. 27 Elaine Ervin

**Happy Anniversary to:**

Jan 26 Frances and Gordon Eubanks

**Friendship**



Billy Mack Simpson was born December 12, 1932 at Parkers Crossroads in Henderson County, TN. As a child he was raised in the Church of Christ. He attended and graduated from Steele High School. He served in the US Army for 3 years. He worked at Eli Witt Cigar Co., located on East Chester, then NCG repairing cash registers.

Dorthula Workman Simpson was born October 24, 1932, in Gibson County. She graduated from Rutherford High School and attended West TN Business College. She worked as a secretary with Russell Rice, attorney for the city of Jackson. Dot then took a secretary position with the TN State Planning Commission retiring in 1962.

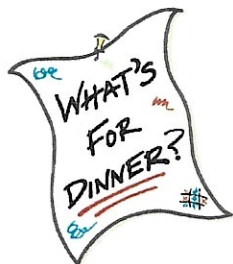
Their friends took the two on a blind date. Eighteen months later Dot and Bill were married on July 21, 1957 at her home in Gibson County at Salem Methodist Church. Their marriage brought two children, Leanne, who has three boys, and David, who has twin boys.

Dot and Bill became members of Forest Heights United Methodist Church in September 1958. Presently Bill likes puzzles, working with wood furniture, enjoying his years repairing cash registers, and most of all Dot's food. Dot likes to sew, cross stitch, and cook for Bill. This couple do not know what they would do without the church, with its sweet, sweet spirit.



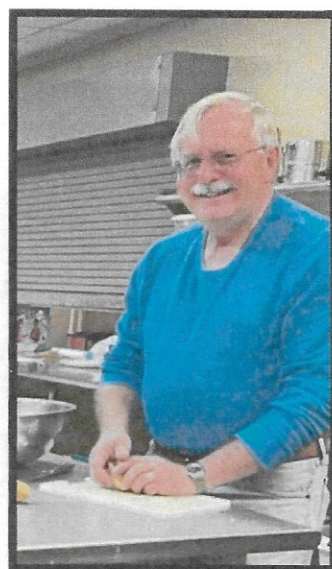
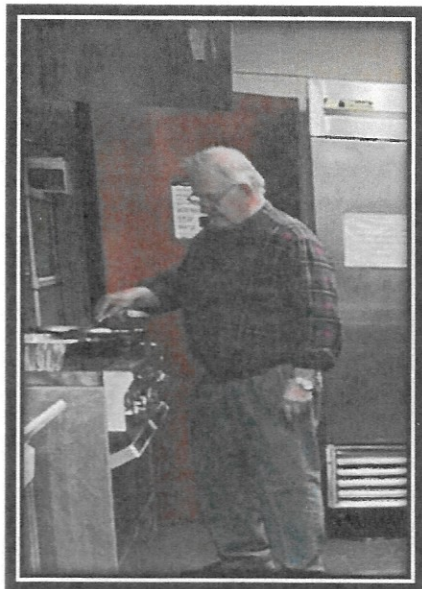
Bill wanted to share some knowledge of how we became Forest Heights United Methodist Church. We were chartered May 24, 1953. Reverend Dr. Van Bogard Dunn was the pastor. When Hayes Avenue Church dissolved, some of the members wanted to build a chapel. T. Ray Lasley owned property on Forest Avenue. He offered his land freely. He had a contractor named W. O. Wyatt create and direct the building of the chapel. Forest Heights United Methodist Church sits on his donated land today.

Friendship, from one to another.....Be blessed.



## Outreach- Serving Others

**Room in the Inn :** Thank you to everyone who helped last month. We fed 22 men supper and breakfast. We had enough to carry pancakes and fried potatoes to Studio 45 Suites (formally The Scottish Inn). This is a community of low-income families, many with food insecurity issues. In January, our Room in the Inn will be **TUESDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>**. The menu will include: Turkey and Dressing, green bean casserole, salad and dessert. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the office.



Thank you to everyone who helped with our **Christmas Cookie Bake**. Our youth enjoyed trying out your recipes and baking cookies and candies. A special thank you to those who brought homemade cookies to help fill the bags and those who helped deliver the Christmas bags.

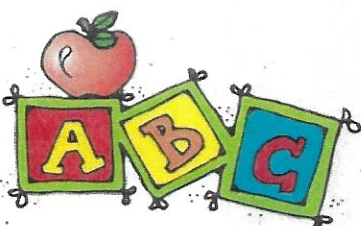
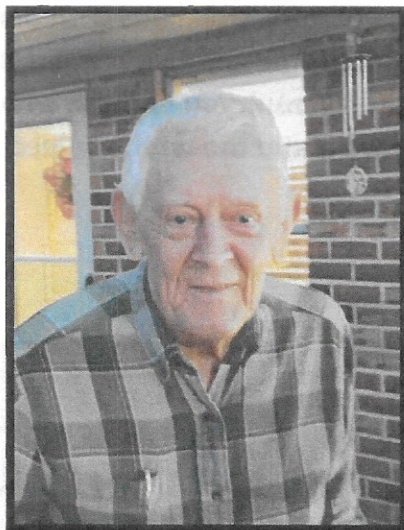




Forest Heights collected toys for the **Reelfoot Toy Store**.



**Christmas Caroling and our Chili Supper was awesome!**



**Pre-School News:** Christmas has been a busy time for the pre-school. The children and parents collected food items for the blessing boxes. This was a wonderful way to teach the children the concept of sharing. The teachers are getting the children's ages and stages completed for the upcoming parent-teacher's conference. January brings the annual state licensing visit. The entire pre-school staff would like to wish all of our families warm new year's wishes.