

FOREST FIRE

The Monthly Newsletter of Forest Heights United Methodist Church

May 2024

A Word From the Pastor

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound, like the rush of a violent wind...” (Acts 2:1-2)

The mark of the true church is stunningly spare. A church is anywhere the sacraments (Baptism and Communion) are administered, and the Word of God faithfully preached in song, prayer, deeds of mercy and love, (and hopefully also by a preacher.) That is what the presence of the Holy Spirit does. On the original Pentecost that is exactly what happened. Behind closed doors, some frightfully, undistinguished, and ordinary people were given a gift that sent them rushing for the doors and into the street. Peter, of all people, began to preach. They all began to tell good news to the world about Christ Jesus, using whatever language was available.

We, too, are those ordinary people who can, most of the time, see the visible church, warts and all. But listen to this gift of Pentecost: *“We who are dreamy and hesitant, we who tremble our way through life, we are loved perfectly by a love that risks all for us.”* This love is not put off by our weakness, our shame, or by all the ways that we have not gotten life right yet. We are they to whom Jesus said, *“Peace be with you.”*

We claim not to be a community of spirited enthusiasm, for we could not attain that. We are not a community of arrived-at wholeness. We claim instead the gift of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit that points us unfailingly to Christ, and uses every last one of us to point others to Christ as well.

A pastor-friend of mine texted me this week with news that an adult friend of hers wanted to arrange to be baptized this week. The one proposing to be baptized announced, “I’m ready for God to have God’s way with me now.” Aware of the Pentecost promise to the church, then my pastor friend replied, “Well, you’ve been warned!” The good news of Pentecost is this; the same amazing, gracious, calling, gathering word of Jesus now is distributed to all: women and men, young and old. That word calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy. That is the meaning of the time left for us. The salvation that has been won for the whole world must now be proclaimed to that world. And God intends to use you and others to do it.

You’ve been warned!

Drew

A Card of Thanks

A thank you card was received from the New Jacksonians club for the use of our fellowship hall on April 15.



Thank You All!

A big thank you to Sue Wyatt, Pam & Paul Finney, Linda Montgomery, Janette & Paul Chaplin, Elaine Jones. and Cheryl Thomas for planning the beautiful reception given in my honor on Sunday, April 21. Thank you to all who were able to attend. The reception was beautiful but your presence and well wishes were the best. I shall forever keep these memories in my heart. Grace, Betty Lyons

Serving Each Other and Our Community

Friendship

May 9th was a very blessed day, as Betty Jean Randolph (Lyons) was born and raised in Jackson, TN. As a child she attended Lincoln Elementary and graduated from Merry High School. She's the mother of 3 children, a daughter- Stella who lives in CT, and two sons- Wayne in Oakfield, and Jay in Jackson. She has 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.



Her first job was nursery attendant at St. Luke Episcopal Church and First Christian Church. Later she worked at St. Andrew UMC for 16 years. It was there that she met Pastor Drew Brewer for the first time. She remembers Pastor Drew as the pastor who took time to tell the young children a story each Sunday morning before worship.

She was a member of the Jackson Police Department for 6 years as crossing guard at Lincoln and Whitehall Elementary Schools. She later attended West TN. Business College and graduated in 1974. Her first job was assistant secretary to Frank Bratcher (principal of Jackson Jr. High) for 2 years. Betty then was hired in 1977, as a full-time secretary for the University of Tennessee Extension Service where she served for 30 years before retiring in December 2007.

She thought she was going to enjoy watching soaps (All My Children, etc.) and take life easy all day, but she was called and accepted the position of Secretary at Forest Heights UMC January 15, 2008. She has served for the last 15.5 years.

She stated she has served with five of the finest pastors in the United Methodist Church – Pastor Susan Sharpe- 2 years, Pastor John Middleton- 4 years, Pastor Russell Morrow- 2 years, Pastor Harrell Nation -5 years, and Pastor Drew Brewer -3years. What a wealth of knowledge she has obtained from each one of them. She has many fond memories of each one that she will cherish forever and to each one of them she says, “Thank You for enriching my life and for my being a better person because of our association.”

She states she will miss her church family here (new and old friends) at Forest Heights who have treated her with respect and love from day one. Saying she has been on a beautiful journey here at Forest Heights but all good things must come to an end.

Her prayer for Forest Heights is found in 3 John 2- “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” I always looked forward to the interactions of all who entered my office showing grace and peace.

Friendship.....from one to another.....Be Blessed.

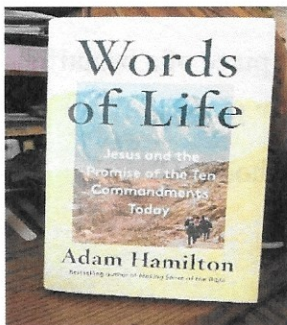


We have received a certification of appreciation.

Jean Ralston represented our church while attending a breakfast reception for those churches and individuals who participated in a variety of ways with Room in the Inn as part of Area Relief Ministries. During the winter season of 2023-2024 Forest Heights provided 243 meals, contributed 260 volunteer hours, and included 61 volunteers. Jean stressed appreciation to Beverlyann Jetton for her direction and the many hours and contributions our church family has donated. The certificate will be posted on the bulletin board soon.

Wednesday Bible Study

Our Wednesday morning Bible study will resume on May 15th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. We will be studying Paul's letter to the Philippians. There will be no study book required, although participants are strongly urged to use other resources and share their insights with the class. All that is necessary to bring with you is your Bible, an open mind, and a willingness to learn together. All are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there! Pastor Drew



Coming June 2 Are the Ten Commandments just a list of rules to be hung on a wall? Were they handed down to different people in a different time? Come join us on June 2 as we begin this 12-week study of Words of Life by Adam Hamilton during Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Room upstairs. Books will be available for purchase for \$19.

United Women in Faith

The Forest Heights United Women in Faith (UWF) had its first meeting on Thursday, April 18 with sixteen women present. The next meeting will be held Thursday, May 16 at 3:00 p.m. Marianne Archer and Evelyn Sutton will provide refreshments, with Marianne leading a devotion. During the upcoming meeting, the group will finalize the organization. A simple craft project is planned as well. Please come!

Retirement Reception for Betty Lyons

Thank you to all who helped make Betty's retirement party the happy event that it was. The many cards, gifts for the money tree, and refreshments expressed our love and best wishes for this wonderful lady. Your generosity was indeed a blessing for her.



“One in the Spirit”

Kudos to the “One in The Spirit” planning team. Celebrating God’s amazing grace in this place and time was just “Amazing!” We appreciate the work and time spent preparing for this gathering. A big thank you to all who came and for the delicious meal we shared.



For those who could not attend, the presentation focused on unifying all of us from our various backgrounds into one church family. Think of each of us as a single piece of a beautiful puzzle. Once we are all together, we form a very special puzzle. “We Are One in the Spirit.” In great expectation we look forward to seeing what God has in store for Forest Heights United Methodist Church.



Adult Sunday School Class Outing- This awesome group is venturing to Elaine's Jazz Band concert on Sunday, May 5 at 4:30. It will be held at Savage Auditorium on Union University's campus. Following the concert the group will meet at Perkins Restaurant for a Dutch treat dinner. Please contact Marilyn Pennel (731-661-15440 if you plan to attend.

Pentecost Sunday is Coming

Sunday, May 19th, we will be observing and celebrating the "Birthday of the Church." All are invited and encouraged to wear something RED on that day. This exciting day is recorded in Acts 2: 1-12. Join us as we too experience the wonder and power of the Holy Spirit.

From PPRC: Our new administrative assistant, Sue Bryant will begin her employment on May 15. Sue will be working 20 hours per week. Office hours will continue Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please pray for both of these ladies as they begin new adventures.

Happy Birthday to our May church family

Elizabeth Grisham – May 5
Edy Wood – May 9
Betty Lyons – May 9
AJ Kennedy – May 12
Coco Flynn – May 13
Evelyn Sutton – May 19
Ondra Farmer- May 19
Kitty Hawkins- May 20
Sue Wyatt – May 26
Robert Reeves – May 26
Gloria Johnson – May 28
Adrian Thomas -May 31

Happy Wedding Anniversary to:
Carroll & Russell Gallimore – May 8

Conference News

TWK Annual Conference

The third Tennessee- Western Kentucky Annual Conference will be held June 17-19 at Murfreesboro First UMC. The theme for this year's conference is "Boundless: Acts Continues" celebrating the boundless work of the Holy Spirit.

Table Talk

Table Talk is a new podcast designed to help facilitate deeper conversations across our connection and enable us to learn together how we might venture boldly into this new season of ministry as United Methodists. You can find videos of the podcasts on our conference website: twkumc.org. The purpose is to engage in discussions that inspire curiosity, openness, and innovation in our different ministry contexts, explore questions that lead us deeper into relationship with one another and our communities, and experience what it means to embody the love of Christ wherever we are. The most recent video (Season 1, Episode 7) hosted by Rev. Dr. Edgardo Colon Emeric, Dean of Duke Divinity School, is entitled, "Family, Faith, Fiesta, and Forgiveness."

Calendar for May 2024 and beyond

5/5-Communion Sunday

5/10 Deadline for cards for retiring Bishop McAlilly- Mail to Episcopal Office at 304 S. Perimeter Park Dr., Suite 2, Nashville, TN37211

5/12- Mother's Day- Celebrate and remember all mothers

5/14- Betty Lyon's retirement day!

5/15- Sue Bryant's first day as Administrative Secretary

5/15- 10:00 a.m. New Wednesday Bible Study begins in the Resource Room on 2nd floor

5/16- 3:00 p.m. United Women of Faith meeting in the fellowship hall

5/19- Pentecost Sunday- Please wear red to the worship service if able to celebrate together

June/July-Christmas Showbox Emphasis