

# FOREST FIRE

**The Monthly Newsletter of Forest Heights United Methodist Church  
863 West Forest Ave., Jackson, TN 38301**

**October 2024**

## **A Word from Pastor Drew**

As we approach the season of our Charge Conference, where we examine once again who we are as a church, and what our particular purpose is, I would like to give a big shout-out to all the various church committees and the fine work they have done this year. I would like to particularly thank our Work Area on Christian Outreach for the many ministries our church has participated in this year, particularly in local missions. It is heartwarming to me as a pastor.

I heard a story once about a young pastor visiting with an older pastor. The young pastor mentions the “vagrants” who come to his church seeking help. He says to his elder, “I know we are supposed to help the poor, but these people are asking for help with a bus ticket or a utility bill or gas money or food. Is that really their story? The last thing they’re likely to spend that money on is a bus ticket or the utility bill or the gas tank or food. They’ll probably spend it on something the church doesn’t support, something that I certainly don’t support.” Finally, the young pastor says, “It gets exhausting justifying who I’m going to help and why.” The older fellow sits back and lets the young pastor’s words loom in the air like a confession waiting for assurance. Then the older man says, “What business is it of yours determining who gets help and who doesn’t? Why exhaust yourself with that burden? You are a follower of Jesus Christ. Your task, therefore, is simply to share out of the wealth of God’s abundance. Your requirement is simply to love others as God loves you. Your job is simply to give.”

Hospitality frees us to offer a cup of cold water to someone who might be in a situation completely foreign to our experience; someone in a world that is outside our limited understanding. And when we are brought into relationship with one another by the bond the hospitality creates, there is no more host and guest, no more insider and outsider; there is only a space in which we listen to and learn from one another, value and honor one another until all the uneven ground on which we stand becomes level, and the rough places are made a plain.

- Drew

## **Welcome**

We welcome Marcia Law, John and Kim Borden, Richard and Brenda Gullede, and Diane Sanford as members of Forest Heights. We look forward to worshipping and serving with them. Be sure to introduce yourself to them as you welcome them to our church family.

## Friendship

I was born Marianna, a Texas girl, on January 13th. I was raised in Houston, which is only 44 miles from the Gulf coast, and close enough to get hit by several hurricanes a year. Because of high water my aunt, uncle and a friend would always head to our house when hurricanes hit. My brothers and I enjoyed crabbing off the piers on the coast (sunburns too, lol). My favorite summer memory is of visiting two uncles who worked at the Coca Cola bottling plant. I remember taking a freshly bottled coke from the bottling line and drinking it. There was a special taste to the hot coke.



In school I was a musician, playing the piano, clarinet, trumpet, bugle, and drums. I graduated a year early and attended Texas Woman's University, studying nursing for two years. After those two years, I returned home to get into accounting.

About 35 years ago, while working as a bookkeeper for a neighbor, his wife (who is from Jackson) met a gentleman here and thought he would be the perfect person for me. I had no intention of coming here! But she was extremely pushy and had to have her way so, I came here and met Ray. After six months of phone calls, his driving to visit, me flying here to visit, he flew to Houston to ask me to marry him. We were married and I moved to Jackson. I started a family and now have a son, a granddaughter, and her spouse. Both love the military and are in the Army Reserves. My granddaughter continues as a music teacher. After 11 ½ years of marriage, Ray passed after fighting cancer for two years. He was also an Army veteran.

Reggie Smith and Ray were best friends; they grew up together and they both have the same birthday. Reggie encouraged me to attend Forest Heights, I transferred my membership and have enjoyed the church and its members ever since.

I had no intention of marrying again, but life sometimes takes you in a different direction. I was working in banking and after six years I was blessed with finding another good man, Bill. He was Lutheran and I was Methodist, but we took turns attending his church in Humboldt and attending Forest Heights. We were married for 9 years before he passed 6 ½ years ago from kidney and heart disease. I am blessed with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Bill was a Navy veteran.

I retired thirteen years ago and have become active in several civic and veterans' organizations. I joined DAR fourteen years ago and was elected their Treasurer two years later. I also started working with some veterans and we formed a non-profit, the W. Tn. Veterans Coalition. I was also elected as Treasurer of the Coalition. The Coalition works with helping Veterans in Crisis, helping supply an Honor Guard with Veterans funerals, sponsoring the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Jackson, and many other Veterans programs. We have enjoyed starting a yearly Military Ball for the Veterans and Jackson. It is a blessing to help our veterans who have fought for our country.

*FRIENDSHIP ... from one to another .... be blessed*

Note from September Friendship article: the mystery person is: Beverlyann Jetton

### New Laptop for Church Use

A new laptop has been purchased by the church. In addition to being used in the office, it is available for use at the church by any church member who wishes to use it for presentations, programs, etc. Just see Sue in the office to check it out. The laptop is to be used only on site at the church.

# Serving Each Other and Our Community

## Nurture Area News

### **Fifth Sunday Fellowship**

Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, for our Fifth Sunday Fellowship Time. The Friends of Old Time Music will be giving a concert in our pavilion. Come enjoy cookies, lemonade, and toe-tapping music. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair. See you on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday Bible Study** is currently studying the Gospel of Luke. Join us upstairs in the resource room whenever you are able

### **A New Ministry at Forest Heights**

The Sojourners Adult Sunday School class and the Nurture Area of our church are beginning a new ministry for the members of our congregation. We ask that you join us and participate in the "Freezer Blessings" ministry.

This ministry will provide homemade casseroles, soups, and desserts to any member of our congregation who is going through a time of illness, recuperation, or loss. Detailed information about the ministry is available on a handout. The handout will be available after October 1<sup>st</sup> on the table across from Drew's office and on the Communication Table by the Church Office.

### **All Saints Day**

During worship on Sunday, November 3, 2024 we will observe and celebrate All Saints Day. Our members who have joined the Church Triumphant since All Saints Day 2023 will be named and remembered. This year will remember and celebrate:

Rev. Jerry Jeffords  
Rev. Harold Montgomery  
Nancy Wheatley  
Jerry Johnson

### **Altar Guild Update**

We thank Jane and Huck Huckabee, Elaine Jones, Cheryl Thomas, and Sue Wyatt for their participation in worship by providing beautiful and meaningful visual for our weekly services. Their creativity is indeed a blessing to us.



A big thank you to Janette and Paul Chaplin for the seasonal floral display in the plant containers by glass door entrance to our building. We appreciate you and this lovely gift

### **Laity Sunday**

Laity Sunday will be held Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker, Sarah Poole. Sarah is the daughter of Sue and Bill Wyatt and grew up at Forest Heights. I know many of you will remember Sarah and we all are looking forward to hearing her speak. Also, special music will be provided by Kathleen Wilson and Kevin Wheatley. In addition, we will be singing old hymns from the Cokesbury Hymnal on that day. Watch for a bulletin insert coming soon when you can select from a list of hymns some of **your** favorites for us to sing that Sunday!

## **United Women in Faith**

United Women of Faith met Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> with fifteen members present. We welcomed as our guest District President, Beverly Mueller. Kitty Hawkins and Marilyn Kemp provided refreshments and Marcia Tate gave an interactive devotional that we all enjoyed. Beverly Mueller brought information on the Candle-Burning Service and it was decided to postpone our service until Spring so that we will have more time to explain, promote and better plan for our first annual Candle-Burning. Beverly also shared with us the Conference 2025 Calendar of Activities for United Women of Faith. There are several events that we are interested in participating in next year such as Mission U in July and Fall Retreat at Lakeshore in September. We were reminded to bring coats, hats, scarfs for school children to support the Outreach Committee's project. Remember Women in Faith is open to all women associated with the church even if you are not a member! Next month we will meet in the fellowship hall on Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Susan Montgomery will have the devotion and TJ Clanin and Cheryl Thomas will provide refreshments.

## **Outreach Area News**

### **Coats for Lincoln Elementary**

Baby, it's cold out there! We are collecting winter coats, mittens, hats, and scarves for children at Lincoln Elementary School. Place your new or used items in the box by the Pastor's Office – for more information see Mavis Johnson.

### **Room at the Table**

We will be serving a hot meal to the Residents at Studio 45 on Monday, October 14. This will be our last table. October's menu is Homemade Vegetable Soup & Corn Muffins – Looking for a cook for October. Contact Anita Roark if you can help or need more information.

### **Reelfoot Toy Store**

Can you believe it!?! Christmas is just around the corner. The Christmas Store at Reelfoot provides affordable toys for children and gifts for senior citizens. Shelves are stocked by the donations of United Methodist congregations in our conference. Forest Heights will be collecting new toys (keep the price tag on) and items for "seniors" beginning October 12<sup>th</sup>. Our donations will be delivered November 12<sup>th</sup>. If would like to help deliver our gifts and stop at Boyettes for lunch, sign the Reelfoot Christmas Store list on the Communication Table by the church office. Questions? See Sue Bryant or Sue Wyatt.

### **News from Forest Heights Preschool**

We passed our annual immunization audit with 100%. Congratulations!

The annual Trunk or Treat will be on October 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:30 p.m. If you'd like to volunteer to participate, please let the preschool know. Set up begins at 2:30 p.m. in the parking lot. We also have several parents that sign up. We will begin taking candy donations in October.

Thank you to volunteers from FHUMC that helped to shovel the pea gravel on the playground. We appreciate you!

### **Keep your directories/contacts up to date:**

New members to add to your directories

Marcia Law, 27 Hummingbird Cove, Jackson, TN 38305; Ph: 731-217-9491

John & Kim Borden, 264 Chickering Rd, Jackson, TN 38305; Ph: John – 731-431-0835;

Kim – 731-431-1636

Richard & Brenda Gullage, 25 Chickering Rd, Jackson, TN 38305; Ph: Home – 731-660-0616;

Richard – 731-697-7175; Brenda – 731-343-4121

Diane Sanford, 9 Emerald Ridge Cove, Jackson, TN 38305; Ph: 731-234-6184



### Happy Birthday in October to:

7	Diane Sanford
9	Kim Borden
12	Valetta Marcom
12	Frances Eubanks
12	Russell Gallimore
16	T.J. Clanin
17	Brenda Gullede
20	Marianne Archer
24	Dot Simpson
24	Sue Bryant
25	Pam Finney
25	Ernie Wilson

### October Anniversaries

7	Bill & Sue Wyatt
29	Ernie & Linda Wilson

### Calendar for October 2024 and beyond

September 29	Fifth Sunday Fellowship
September 30	Freezer Blessing 11:00 a.m.
October	Emmaus Walks: 3-6 Men, 17-20 Women
October 6	Forest Height Charge Conference 2:00 p.m.
October 12	Youth Cooking in Kitchen 12:00-3:00 p.m.
October 14	Worship Planning Meeting 10:00 a.m. Room at the Table 12:00-5:00 p.m.
October 17	United Women of Faith 3:00
October 22	Emmaus Meeting
October 24	Forest Heights Preschool Staff Meeting
October 28	Worship Planning Meeting 10:00 a.m.

### Notes of Appreciation

We thank everyone so much for the gifts you have given us. Your acts of welcome for us, and your kindness continue to impress us. We are so thankful God placed us near this church family as everyone has made us feel the love and warmth of this church family. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

- Averil & Kathleen

The church extends a huge “THANK YOU” to Kathleen Wilson for her work on our newsletter. For several months, Kathleen has been the newsletter editor. She is also responsible for our new *Forest Fire* title design. We appreciate everything she has done to streamline the items submitted and help get the newsletter published in a timely manner. Kathleen is stepping away from that “behind-the-scenes” volunteer job, but you will continue to see her serve our church in many other ways.



Now all information for the newsletter should be submitted directly to Sue in the church office. You can drop off items in the office during her working hours, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. You can also send information to her by email at office@fhumc.com. The deadline for items to be received for inclusion in the following month’s newsletter is the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Dear Church Family,

How can I ever thank you for the care you have given me during my recovery from the fall? All the cards, calls, and food were so welcome! So many people helped with errands, doctor's appointments, and food. (Maryanne spent 9 hours in the ER with me!) My ministering angels, Gordon and Frances, came every day to do laundry, chores, errands, bring dinner and usually tucked food in the refrigerator for later. I am so blessed to have found such a loving, caring, and supportive congregation!

Thankfully,

Ann Phillips

**From the Editor-** Kathleen Wilson has served for over a year as Newsletter Editor and has decided to take a break from the task. Kathleen's work has been a blessing to me as I have begun the tasks associated with serving as Forest Heights Administrative Assistant and my thanks go out to her for the work that she has done.

Sue Bryant



Ballet Rejoice blessed us with their interpretive dance to the music of "Hear I Am, Lord" supplied by Tapestry on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We were all blessed by the grace of these young women.