



The VINE

The newsletter of Soddy United Methodist Church
October 2016



As you probably already know, our sanctuary will be undergoing extensive renovations over the next several weeks. The roof will be fixed. The sanctuary ceiling will be repaired, cleaned and painted. New carpet will be installed in the sanctuary, offices, choir room and youth room. Everything (except the youth room) will receive new paint. Broken or discolored ceiling tiles will be replaced. New chairs will be put in the choir loft. Thanks to the generosity of Earl Lee & Almeda Frazier, who left the church significant bequests in their wills, we have the resources to undertake these much-needed renovations.

We have been asked to refrain from entering the sanctuary while this project is underway. Non-construction and renovation personnel pose a severe liability risk to the contracting firm who will be doing the work. We thank you in advance for your understanding. We want the contractors to be able to work without having

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

to worry about anyone getting hurt. The contractors and Trustees estimate a four-to-six week period for the renovations to be completed.

During that time we will hold our worship services in the fellowship hall, beginning Sunday, October 9th.

continued

From Pastor Todd, continued

Back in the early 1980s my youth pastor had a poster hanging in her office that showed a mournful-looking basset hound and the words “Be patient. God isn’t finished with me yet.” As our sanctuary begins to undergo its renovations, I’m reminded that all of us as Christ followers are “works in progress.” The Holy Spirit is constantly at work seeking to renovate us more fully. Day after day he’s shaping us more into the image of Jesus.

I'm sure you've walked into a business that was in the midst of renovation work. There was plastic sheeting everywhere. Tools, buckets, and ladders were scattered throughout the work area. Very likely the wiring in the walls or ceiling was exposed. Prominently displayed signs told us **PLEASE PARDON OUR MESS—WE'RE RENOVATING IN ORDER TO SERVE YOU BETTER!** We understood this wasn't permanent. The business wouldn't always be like that. Once the renovations were complete and the mess cleaned up, the business would be even better.

That's how it is with disciples of Jesus. We're an ongoing renovation project. We won't permanently be like this. Once the renovations are complete and the mess cleaned up, we'll be better than ever! So if you're not satisfied with where you are spiritually (and none of us should be!), keep yourself open to the Holy Spirit and allow him to do his delicate, compassionate renovation work in you.

And we promise to be patient with you, because we know God isn't finished with us yet, either!



Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16 NIV

October Birthdays

7 Katie Wood
10 Kelsey Jones
11 Sylvia Williams
12 Doug Yeatts
Barbara Hendren
15 Jessica Cunnyngnam Lyon
Thomas Hendren
22 Kathryn Mullins
27 Jimmie Irwin
30 Janet Pelfrey
Gena Bain

October Anniversaries

7 Mike & Stephanie Parrott
20 Roger & Donna Graham
Carl & Carole McLaughlin
21 Todd & Felicia Kingrea



October 31st is not only Halloween but it is also Reformation Day. 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the greatest even since the resurrection of Christ. The Reformation began on October 31, 1517 when German monk Martin Luther nailed his 95 Thesis to the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Here is an article from My Daily Devotional by Stephen J. Carter.

REALLY FREE

On Reformation Day we celebrate the gift of God to the Church through His servant Martin Luther. Luther reminded us of our freedom from the Law in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus told the self-satisfied religious leaders of His time, “Everyone who sins is a slave to sin” (John 8:34). You see, they thought, “I’ve got it made.” They believed that their birth automatically made them free. In the 16th century many religious people felt much the same way. Birth and religious vocation gave a false sense of freedom. Is it possible for lifelong church members with good records to make the same mistake—“I’ve got it made”?

Another tragically mistaken group says, “I’ve got to make it.” People in Jesus’ day followed the Pharisees and tried to keep their religious laws to the finest detail. Paul once lived by those standards: “I’ve got to make it.” In the 16th century many struggled to gain freedom from guilt through prayers, fastings, pilgrimages, and indulgences. Is it possible that today many depend on church attendance, financial contributions, church work, and acts of service to make it before God? A hopeless task!

Then we joyfully realize: The Son makes me free. Jesus Christ took on the Slavery of the Law and died to atone for the world’s sin. God declares the world righteous for Jesus’ sake. “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). Luther discovered that freedom through faith in Christ, and the gates of paradise opened to him. We rejoice in our movement from slavery to freedom and live in that freedom.

PRAYER: *Dear Jesus, thank You for making me really free. Keep me always in that freedom. Amen.*

**HONEY, WHEN YOU GO TO THE STORE PLEASE REMEMBER
WE NEED DONATIONS FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL.
GET ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**PRIZES FOR BINGO—SMALL, YARD-SALE TYPE ITEMS;
BAGS OF INDIVIDUALLY-WRAPPED CANDY;
CAKES—FOR THE CAKE WALK;
2-LITRE BOTTLES OF SODA TREAT BAGS;**



**DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.
THE FALL FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 26TH, FROM 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

"Doves in the Church Tower"

by Virginia Gill



As the night birds call for rest,
a star twinkles in the west.
To his mate the dove will sing,
"Come to sleep beneath my wing."

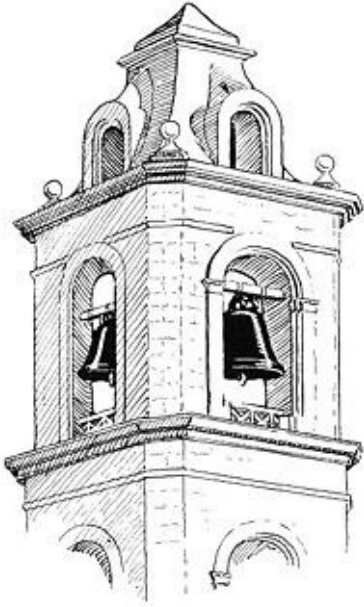
Night fall brings the Autumn airs,
the birds all huddling in pairs,
Darkness covers the watchful owl,
tracking all rodents and fowl.

Atop the church belfry tower,
doves announce the evening hour.
In all the prayer said at night,
"Protect us from every fright."



In the night fell a little snow,
covered all that was below.
Bloody bones and gray feathers
announce, "twas not the weather."

One dove had died that cold night,
the other one searched in flight,
Not finding the one loved so,
Fell victim to the snow.



From the Finance Committee chairman:

2016 has been a great year financially for Soddy UMC. Thanks to the generous stewardship from the congregation, and large bequests from the Frazier's estates, the church is in the best financial shape ever. It is time to create the church budget for 2017. **I am asking all committee chairpersons to e-mail 2017 budget requests to Littlestoddy1@gmail.com.** Thank you.

FALL FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26



6:00 - 8:00 PM



HOT DOGS, CHIPS, SNACKS, AND DRINKS!
GAAMES FOR THE KIDS!
BINGO! CAKE WALK! GOODIE BAGS!

WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO COOK AND HELP SERVE.

IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY, PLEASE CONTACT KATHRYN MULLINS OR VICKI HARDESTY

**WE ALSO NEED DONATIONS OF CAKES, COOKIES,
CUPCAKES, AND CROCKPOTS OF CHILI**



Sunday, October 2nd

SERMON SERIES: SEE THE LIGHT
"A Sight To Behold"

Tuesday, October 4th

Marthas & Marys Bible study
REVELATION Bible study (Chapter 6)

Wednesday, October 5th

Wednesday fellowship dinner, choir, youth

Friday, October 7th

Soul Sisters Bible study

Sunday, October 9th

SERMON SERIES: SEE THE LIGHT
"Can't See A Hole In A Ladder"
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD meeting

Monday, October 10th

Prayer shawl ministry

Tuesday, October 11th

Marthas & Marys Bible study
REVELATION Bible study (Chapter 7)

Wednesday, October 12th

Wednesday fellowship dinner, choir, youth

Sunday, October 16th

SERMON SERIES: SEE THE LIGHT
"There's None So Blind..."

Tuesday, October 18th

Marthas & Marys Bible study
AARP meeting
REVELATION Bible study (Chapter 8)

Wednesday, October 19th

Wednesday fellowship dinner, choir, youth

Thursday, October 20th

United Methodist Women

Sunday, October 23rd

SERMON SERIES: SEE THE LIGHT
"Eyes Wide Open"

Monday, October 24th

Prayer shawl ministry

Tuesday, October 25th

Marthas & Marys Bible study
REVELATION Bible study (Chapter 9)

Wednesday, October 26th

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 30th

United Methodist Women Sunday

Monday, October 31st

HALLOWEEN