

The
VINE
The newsletter of Soddy United Methodist Church
October 2017



It's said that a life without dreams is like a garden without flowers. You may call it a garden, but it's actually nothing more than a patch of dirt. The flowers make it a garden, just as dreams make up our lives. As human beings we need goals to work toward. We crave purpose. We want to know that we are part of something bigger, greater, more substantial and lasting than just ourselves. So we dream.

Children have lots of dreams. Ask them where they want to go, or what they want to do or be, and they'll tell you – usually with lots of excitement! They can imagine themselves as just about anything. Ask a teenager or college student about their dreams and you'll find them becoming a little more solid. They have more form and substance. At one point I dreamed of being a professional comic book artist. I wanted that more than anything. Unfortunately, that dream never came true for me.

It seems that as we age, our dreams diminish. Perhaps that's because we've accomplished some or all of the dreams we had when we were younger. Maybe we now have our education and a nice home. Maybe we've raised a strong family. Maybe we feel we're financially secure or we've taken trips to places we always wanted to visit. Somehow, though, as some dreams are realized and others pass away unfulfilled, we don't often replenish our dreams. We forget how to dream.

continued

From Pastor Todd, continued

I think the church often forgets how to dream. We travel along well enough without realizing we're not aiming for something big. We get accustomed to our routines and practices and before long we suddenly realize we haven't dreamed anything great for God.

When the church forgets to dream – and dream BIG – it slips into a placid mode of maintenance. There are no longer any great hills to climb, no strongholds to storm for God's kingdom. We forget that God calls us to live in radical faith and obedience, and to pursue the things he values: justice, charity, missions, grace, love of neighbor.

I don't know what our next great dreams will be. But I do think it will come from within our committees, teams and work areas – from among the people of our congregation. I believe that a new dream will arise – one so large and unimaginable and audacious that only God can cause it to happen – and that only God can get the credit for!

What dreams do you have for our church? What would you like to see us do if God is in the midst of it? Don't be afraid to dream. One of my favorite quotes is by Ralph Waldo Emerson: *"Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail..."* Let us dream together. Let us imagine the greater good we are called to in Christ Jesus. Let us leave the well-worn path of what-we-have-always-done-before and strike out into new territory. Let us remember to dream again, and to leave a trail for others to follow.



To our friends at SUMC,

Belinda & I completed our move to Missouri a few weeks ago. We have been busy settling into our new home and re-establishing ourselves as Missourians. We are finding time to catch up with family members as well.

However, we do miss our church family deeply and want you to know how much we appreciate your kindness, thoughts and prayers over the last few months. We trust that God will lead us to our new church family soon, but please know we will always treasure our time with each of you at SUMC.

~With much love, Larry & Belinda Garner

**Larry & Belinda Garner
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ACROSTIC PRAISES BY THE "TWEENS" CLASS OF SUMC

Psalm 145 is an acrostic psalm using the ABC's of the Hebrew alphabet. We attempted our own acrostic prayers using our names:

by Payton Wood

Please make this day blessed.
All things you make are amazing.
You are the creator of all things.
Thank you for all you have done for me.
Our Father is good and lives in heaven.
Never will I look down on myself
because I am young, God. Amen.

by Brody Dotson

Blessed is the King in the name of the
Lord.
Restoreth my soul.
Oh, praise our Savior!
Declared he is the King of all the
universe.
Yay for the Lord!

by Karen Yeatts

King Jesus! Kind to all and the key to life everlasting;
Abide in me, Alpha and Omega; Lord God, you are the beginning and end of all creation;
Righteous and radiant Father, you redeemed my soul and made me new and clean
Eternal Lord, I worship you alone; I empty myself and ask you to enter;
Now and forever, I sing you praises. Amen.



**WE NEED DONATIONS FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL
PLEASE BRING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS...**

- 1** PRIZES for Bingo—small, yard-sale type items
- 2** CAKES and BAKED GOODS—for the cake walk
- 3** 2-LITRE BOTTLES OF SODA
- 4** BAGS OF INDIVIDUALLY-WRAPPED CANDY
- 5** TREAT BAGS



October Birthdays

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

October Anniversaries

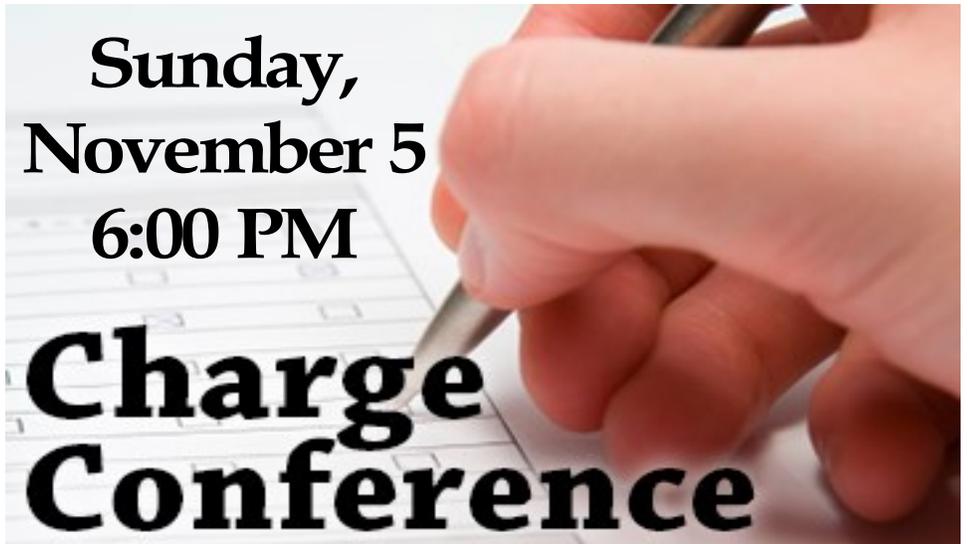
7 Mike & Stephanie Parrott
20 Roger & Donna Graham
21 Todd & Felicia Kingrea



*Once again this year,
our Charge
Conference will be held
jointly with Daisy/
Sale Creek UMC,
First UMC Dayton,
Graysville/New Bethel
UMC, Spivey/New
Providence UMC, and
Mountain View UMC,
at First UMC Dayton.*

**Sunday,
November 5
6:00 PM**

**Charge
Conference**



When I dwell on the years gone past, remembering simple moments oh so dear.
But they fleetingly leave me so very fast, as I try to keep them close and clear.

A touch of his hand as he grasps mine, a kiss on my cheek, gentle and sweet.
Just being near to him each time, knowing and hoping all life is complete.

Sometimes I think I hear his voice, as I dream of a life so quickly gone.
Then I wish sometimes to have a choice, as I long for just one more moment,
just one, just one.

~Claudia Inwood



Vicki Hardesty and Pat Ricketts attended the United Methodist Women's 44th Annual Meeting and Officer's Training on September 16th and 17th, at The ConneXion in Sevierville, Tennessee. The speaker was Rev. Melissa Smith, pastor of First UMC in Pulaski, Virginia.

Karen Murphy gave a book review of *Not Safe for Church: Ten Commandments for Reaching New Generations*, written by Douglas Powe, Jr., and Jasmine Rose Smothers. The book basically said that if congregations want to reach new and younger people, we have to start doing things that are out of our comfort zones. This book can be counted as part of the books for our 2017 reading program.

Both Vicki and Pat were disappointed because they couldn't attend the second day of Eddie Hammett's presentation, but this book review made many of the same points that Eddie was emphasizing.

United Methodist Women September meeting "Five Syllables"

At the monthly meeting of the UMW, Karen Yeatts was in charge of the program. She taught us about the Haiku poem. Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry that consists of three lines that rhyme. The first and last lines have five syllables and the middle line has seven syllables.

The ladies were encouraged to write their own Haiku. Here are a few examples:

Heavenly Father
Who has a plan for our good
Help us to trust you
by Vicki Hardesty

You are my Father
Strength comes new each morning
Without you I would fail.
by Judy Teague

True God, El Shaddai
All day I sing your praises
Your love sustains me
by Karen Yeatts

Wonderful Counselor
You are the source of all being
You are the real Word
by Pat Ricketts

Great God Almighty
I see You in each minute
Encouraging and loving me
by Judy Teague

Study, read, and write
Growing with help from our Lord
Lost then found in prayer
by Karen Yeatts



It's time for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes once again!

We do not have extra boxes at this time so if you are interested in participating, you may gift wrap a shoe box and place the items in it. You can also put your items in a bag (please label it "shoebox ministry") and leave it on the pew in the fellowship hall. We'll be getting more boxes soon and we will put the items in the boxes. ***The guidelines for preparing a box have changed, so please see the picture below for new instructions.***



How to pack your shoe box

- 1** Assemble this box by following the step-by-step instructions below.
- 2** Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. You may obtain standard boy/girl labels online or download a Follow Your Box label to learn the destination of your shoe box gift at www.samaritanspurse.org/occ. Mark the label and tape it to the top of your box.
- 3** Please include toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. Do not include used items, war-related toys, chocolate or perishable foods, liquids, medicine, or breakable items.
- 4** Please donate **\$7** or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. You may include the donation in the box or donate online when you print your Follow Your Box label at www.samaritanspurse.org/occ.
- 5** Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and drop off at the Collection Center nearest you during National Collection Week in mid-November. For drop off locations, call 1-800-353-5949, or visit www.samaritanspurse.org/occ. You can also send your shoe box gift to: Samaritan's Purse, 801 Bamboo Road, Boone, NC 28607.

Give online and **FOLLOW YOUR BOX** around the world. Find out the destination of your shoe box by making a donation at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CANNOT BE INCLUDED:

Candy, toothpaste, food or chocolate, Fruit Roll-ups, drink mixes (powdered or liquid), lotion, aerosol cans, glass items, and absolutely no used items.

All items must be new.



Sunday, October 1st	"Crippled Feet At The King's Table"
Tuesday, October 3rd	Marthas & Marys Bible study Girl Scout Troop #40430
Wednesday, October 4th	Wednesday fellowship dinner; choir; youth
Sunday, October 8th	SERMON SERIES: REDISCOVERING THE 'GO' IN GOSPEL "When God Says 'Go'..." ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD meeting
Monday, October 9th	Prayer shawl ministry
Tuesday, October 10th	Marthas & Marys Bible study Girl Scout Troop #40430
Wednesday, October 11th	Wednesday fellowship dinner; choir; youth
Sunday, October 15th	SERMON SERIES: REDISCOVERING THE 'GO' IN GOSPEL "One Of The Hardest Words In The Bible"
Tuesday, October 17th	Marthas & Marys Bible study; AARP meeting Girl Scout Troop #40430
Wednesday, October 18th	Wednesday fellowship dinner, choir, youth
Thursday, October 19th	United Methodist Women
Saturday, October 21st	Girl Scout Troop #40430 (fellowship hall)
Sunday, October 22nd	SERMON SERIES: REDISCOVERING THE 'GO' IN GOSPEL "The 'How' And 'Where' Of Going"
Monday, October 23rd	Prayer shawl ministry
Tuesday, October 25th	Marthas & Marys Bible study Girl Scout Troop #40430
Wednesday, October 25th	FALL FESTIVAL
Sunday, October 29th	<i>United Methodist Women Sunday</i>
Tuesday, October 31st	HALLOWEEN