



Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

June 2025 Newsletter

From Our Pastor

Reverend Parker Benson

I have always believed that God will provide. The reasons being, 1) He always has, and 2) His word says He will: *"God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* (Php 4.19).

We held Consecration Sunday on June 1, 2025. I am confident that God will provide the resources for our new church building. I have a great peace about that. We have a wonderful church – you are wonderful people, and God has blessed us tremendously.

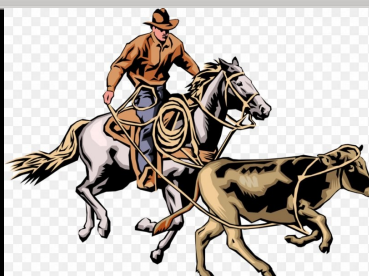
I am reminded of a story I read a long time ago. I have never forgotten it and I would like to share it with you.

Shortly after [Dallas] Seminary was founded in 1924, it almost folded. It came to the point of bankruptcy. All the creditors were ready to foreclose at twelve noon on a particular day. That morning, the founders of the school met in the president's office to pray that God would provide. In that prayer meeting was Harry Ironside. When it was his turn to pray, he said in his refreshingly candid way, "Lord we know that the cattle on a thousand hills are Thine. Please sell some of them and send us the money."

Just about that time, a tall Texan in boots and an open-collar shirt strolled into the business office. "Howdy!" he said to the secretary. "I just sold two carloads of cattle over in Fort Worth. I've been trying to make a business deal go through, but it just won't work. I feel God wants me to give this money to the seminary. I don't know if you need it or not, but here's the check," and he handed it over.

The secretary took the check and, knowing something of the critical nature of the hour, went to the door of the prayer meeting and timidly tapped. Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, the founder and president of the school, answered the door and took the check from her hand. When he looked at the amount, it was for the exact sum of the debt. Then he recognized the name on the check as that of the cattleman. Turning to Dr. Ironside, he said, "Harry, God sold the cattle."

THIS
PASTOR
★ HAS AN ★
AWESOME
CONGREGATION





Welcome Associate and Youth Pastor Brad Brown and wife, Jenny!

Throughout his ministry to God, Brad has served in many areas other than preaching. He has worked in discipleship roles, focused on local missions, held outreach events for the community, and concentrated on reaching children and youth for Jesus Christ.

As an ordained elder of the Global Methodist Church, Brad is coming to Smoky Mountain Methodist with a heart for God and growth. He has walked with God for over eleven years as a pastor, teacher of children and youth, organizer and being involved in community mission projects, while sharing his knowledge and love of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

His wife Jenny stands by his side and has served in her own right on many mission projects.

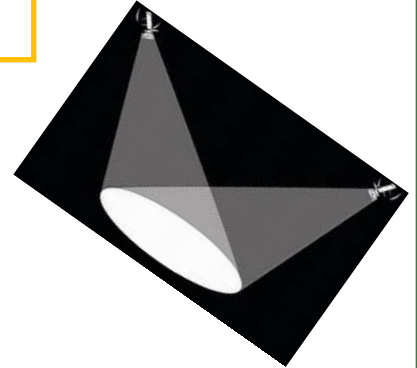
Brad and Jenny are requesting that our congregation pray that they will be willing vessels and that the Holy Spirit will lead, guide, and direct them so that they will walk as Jesus walked and that the planted seeds and watering will be blessed by God and there will be an increase.

Please be a willing volunteer to help and advise them both as their new journey with us begins July 1st!

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Meet Pete Gale



1. Where were you born and raised?

Scranton, PA. Army Brat, mostly in the South.

1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee?

50 years

2. Name something unique about you that very few people know.

I won Karen in a knife fight in Amarillo, TX.

3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today?

Travel

4. What qualities do you admire most in others? Courage and a good sense of humor.

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Meet Karen Gale



1. Where were you born and raised?

In Maryville, TN.

1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee?

My entire life.

2. Name something unique about you that very few people know.

Correction. Pete won me over when we met at UT in Income Tax Accounting class. :)

3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today?

Keeping in touch and spending time with loved ones—family and friends, both 2 legged and 4 legged ones.

4. What qualities do you admire most in others?

People who are caring, respectful and kind. Those who are further along than I am in their walk in faith.



1st **Don McPherson**

1st **Cheryl Simonis**

9th **Tim Kresica**

15th **Sue Marston**

20th **Karen Martin**

21st **Mark Frady**

29th **Kathy McWilliams**



Men's Luncheon

June 16th

Monday @ 11
Calhouns



*God has a reason for allowing
things to happen. We may
never know His wisdom, we
simply have to trust His will.*





Smoky Mountain Methodist Church Council Meeting May 1, 2025



HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report

Rev Parker Benson said the 4/27/2025 meeting with the congregation about the new building was excellent and feels like in general all are embracing the plan.

Brochures will be distributed to each church member containing church plans and financing, including pledge cards. Members are to return their pledge cards on June 1st (Consecration Sunday), or directly to the church. Members also have an option to donate asset-based funds to the building fund; Mark Woelke will speak to those interested in this option. On Father's Day (Sunday June 15, 2025) Mark Woelke will inform the membership of the results of collected pledges.

The Evangelism Team distributed 160 door hangers in the neighborhood near SMMC church, inviting residents to attend Easter Sunday celebrations with us. The Team will continue this outreach at other times during the year.

Rev Ken Tucker (Wears Valley United Methodist Church) is giving SMMC their old church sign. Steve McGee will look into securing and installing this sign.

Finance Report

Mark Woelke presented financial information as of April 2025

Tithes and donations: April: \$23,959 (budget \$22,000); year-to-date: \$106,457 (budget \$88,000).

Operating expenses: April: \$39,201 (budget \$20,629); Year-to-date: \$59,938 (\$76,074 budget) **

Available cash for the building fund: \$679,592

Surplus cash year-to-date: \$47,000

SMMC has no debt as of March 2025

G Lybrand informed Council that the GMC Annual Conference Mission Offering has reached out for financial help. The goal is to help other Global Methodists around the world to develop self-sufficient annual conferences. The suggested contribution of \$10 per member/average attendance was unanimously accepted by Council (\$800 total).

Council unanimously agreed to again subscribe to the legal services provided by the National Center for Liberty & Life; a flat fee of \$1,000 per year gives SMMC unlimited access to their services.

Council agreed to sign a contract with Pathway Grant Consultants to provide a list of funding options for SMMC's new building project. The cost is a flat fee of \$800.

SPPR

Bonnie Van Pelt informed Council that the search for an Associate Pastor is ongoing and all are hoping for positive results.

MOTION – B Van Pelt

Increase the budget for the Associate Pastor from \$60,000 to \$70,000, with the stipulation that the extra salary will compensate for the Associate Pastor's work on all our social media. In addition, the Associate Pastor will be given a \$500 reimbursement for moving expenses, and \$2,000 for any expenses related to out-of-pocket for youth programs.

SECOND: Steve McGee

Council voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Items from the Chair - New Church Project

Presentation and discussion of two contractors offering estimates for construction of Phase I. Of these two, DBB Construction of Friendsville, TN, has been very responsive to SMMC throughout the process and proactive to the needs of SMMC. References for DBB Construction include their extensive work at Eagle Rock.

MOTION – G Lybrand

To formally hire DBB Construction as the contractor for SMMC's new building project, Phase I.

SECOND: Steve McGee

Council unanimously agreed to pursue a contract with DBB Construction.



These people honor
Me with their lips,
but their hearts
are far from me.

Matthew 15:8

Beye's Eye