



Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

December 2024 Newsletter



From Our Pastor

Reverend Parker Benson

One of our greatest Christmas poems was written by Christina Rossetti in 1872. Christina grew up in London England, was educated by her mother, had a nervous breakdown at age 14, and began publishing poetry at the age of 31. Composer and music teacher Gustav Holst, who taught at St. Paul's School for girls in London put Rossetti's poem to music in 1906. Today the Christmas carol can be found in many Christian hymnals, including our hymnal, The Christian Life Hymnal, page 122. Below is the text.

In the Bleak Midwinter

By Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)

*Earth In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.*



*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give Him my heart.*

We sometimes get lost in the hubbub of the Christmas season. Amid the rush to get this gift and that gift for family and friends, we may want to ask ourselves Rossetti's question: What can I give Him?

It is increasingly amazing to me that God would do such a thing. It has been called "a scandal," this idea of coming to earth as a man (heaven cannot hold Him), this idea of dying for humankind (nor earth sustain). It is a scandal – an amazingly, incredible scandal that was witnessed in the bleak midwinter so long ago. A "breastful of milk" was enough for Him, "and a mangerful of hay." Not so for us, for me at least, I want my recliner and my remote; my wife and my bed. We are all incredibly insane in the bleak midwinter at Wal-Mart or Target, Toys 'R Us or the Mall.

But God loves us. Oh, how He loves us.

Let us love Him too.

In Christ,

Parker



Star of the East, Oh Bethlehem's star, Guiding us on to heaven afar!



Let Your Light Shine— A Christmas Celebration



Come to the mountains and wear your tackiest Christmas sweater!!!

Prizes will be given,

there will be *awesome* food

and *great* entertainment!!!

(Special Guest “Johnny Carson” and a surprise quartet)

EAGLE ROCK RETREAT

7143 Flats Road, Tallassee

Friday, December 13, 2024

5:30-8:00 pm

**If you signed up to ride the van, please be at
Trinity House by 5:00 pm. If you are driving,
please try and car pool.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS
WITH YOU, OUR CHURCH FAMILY!!!!**



Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Meet
Kathy McWilliams



1. Where were you born and raised? I was born in Blount County and raised in Loudon County.

1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? I've been blessed to live in East Tennessee all my life.

2. Name something unique about you that very few people know. I'm not sure if this makes me unique or my dog Jack....When I say to him "I'm going to talk to Jesus", he gets in his bed and stays there until I finish my prayer.

3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? I love to run or walk with my dog, Jack, and my friend, Danita.

4. What qualities do you admire most in others? Kind, huggable people!

Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Meet
Mike Goddard



1. Where were you born and raised? **Russellville, KY**

1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? **43 years between Nashville, Sevier County and Townsend**

2. Name something unique about you that very few people know. **While at Gaylord Entertainment (Opryland, Grand Ole Opry, etc.) I helped Minnie Pearl complete and publish her autobiography.**

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

4. What qualities do you admire most in others? **A strong work ethic, honesty, integrity and compassion.**

Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Meet
Danita Goddard



1. Where were you born and raised? **Greenbrier, TN**
- 1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? **My entire life.**
2. Name something unique about you that very few people know. **I won the blue ribbon for my cornbread at our county fair for 3 years in a row.**
3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? **Traveling, reading and walking our beautiful Laurel Valley neighborhood.**
4. What qualities do you admire most in others? **Honesty, a strong faith and love for others.**





DECEMBER



1st Danita Goddard

1st Bill Proffitt

2nd Amira Page

2nd Roger Page

6th Sandy Tubbs

7th Dave Wilson

11th Mary Proffitt

22nd Lon Gillooly

23rd Sharon Kull

23rd Sterley Van Pelt

24th John McRae JR

25th JESUS

30th Parker Benson

31st Nan Werner

44 Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus

#42 Ascended to Heaven

O.T. Psalm 24:7-10

N.T. Mark 16:19

#43 Sits at God's Right Hand

O.T. Psalm 68:18

N.T. Mark 16:19

#44 A Sacrifice for Sin

O.T. Isaiah 53:5-12

N.T. Romans 5:6-8

Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

Council Meeting November 7, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report

On November 7, 2024 at Trinity House a special guest speaker named Sied explained to a group of SMGMC members his conversion from the Muslim faith to Christianity. As part of Sied's evangelization, he provided small containers of honey for attendees to take, which include an invitation to attend SMGMC and provide an opportunity to ask for prayers. Church members are encouraged to share the honey with their friends and others who may be in need of spiritual help. The honey will be available at Trinity House for anyone to take and share.

Finance Committee

Operating expenses were \$15,732 in October, about \$2,000 under budget for the month. Tithes and donations for the year (\$282,080) are around 140% of annual target for October.

Actual October tithes/donations were \$29,963, about \$10,000 over budget for the month. (\$7,700 was for the TN flood relief).

Building fund available cash is \$600,380

Mark created a preliminary draft 2025 budget to be presented at the Charge Conference.

Tithes and donations are estimated to be \$264,000, operating expenses are estimated at \$232,602, leaving a projected excess of \$31,398 for 2025

Trustee Committee

Steve McGee reported his committee is addressing a chimney repair and working on a 2025 budget.

Outreach Committee

George Lybrand reported the patriotic picnic held recently was successful and fun. The next event is the Christmas party to be held at Eagle Rock.

From the Chair – New Church

G Lybrand informed Council of a special SMGMC Council meeting to be held on November 21 at 10:00a at Trinity House to meet with architect Don Shell, to ask him questions, and consider whether to extend his contract with SMGMC. At this meeting members will also discuss the unresolved sewer situation with City of Maryville.

Council unanimously approved acceptance of a proposal from Robert G. Campbell to begin survey work on the property in preparation for building design.

Charge Conference - Global Methodist Church Midsouth

G Lybrand walked Council members through the packet of materials to be submitted during the Charge Conference held following the regular Council meeting. Council members unanimously approved the proposed 2025 Budget, and the list of Leadership team members; the information was shared at the Charge Conference meeting. Rev Roland Buck presided over the Charge Conference meeting.

The **Annual SMGMC Church Conference** will be held on **Sunday, December 15, 2024**, after regular worship services. A light lunch will be served beforehand.



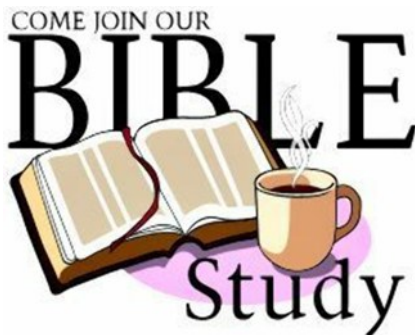
Men's Luncheon
Monday December 16th
@ 11:00 am
Calhouns



Adult Sunday School resumes at 9:30 on January 5, 2025

We will be using The Standard Lesson Quarterly:

NIV Version by David C. Cook Publishers.



See Kristine Brock before the worship service on

Dec. 15th or 22nd to pick up a student book for Winter 2025.

One copy per household, please.

DEAR GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS



Our Heavenly Father, We thank You for the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ. For the Cross upon which He gave His life for our sins. His resurrection three days later and Who is now sitting at Your right hand. Help us to study Your Word daily, to pray continually, to be joyful always, and to give thanks in all circumstances, as this is Your Will for us in Christ Jesus.

In His Holy name we pray. Amen

**Please contact your local representatives and tell them you want a
Blount County Public Library Director with strong conservative Christian values.**

Sample Letter:

It is very important that we select a good Director for the Blount County Public Library. The Public Library should not provide pornography, obscenity, and vulgar material to the public. It is not the role, nor the duty, of the Blount County Public Library to furnish such material. We need a director who represents the morals and values of the majority of citizens who live here.

You, as a council member, have the authority to make our library a better place.

Please, hire a respectable Public Library Director.

Sincerely,

Administrative Offices

Located at the Maryville Municipal Building - Upper Level (Entrance W. Broadway Avenue, Up one floor)

Business Hours | Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Closed 12 p.m. until 1 p.m.
404 West Broadway Avenue | Maryville, TN 37801-4710 | (865) 273-3401 Phone

Council Meetings

Located at the Maryville Municipal Building - Middle Level (Entrance W. Broadway Avenue, in Council Chambers)

Regular Meetings | First Tuesday each month | 7 p.m. | Public hearings scheduled before the meeting ([calendar](#))

Called or Special Meetings will be posted on the City's homepage [calendar](#).

City Council

To reach any member of City Council, please contact Sarah McCroskey, Administrative Assistant | (865) 273-3401 for messages

Andy White, Mayor | awhite@maryville-tn.gov

Fred Metz, Vice-Mayor | fmetz@maryville-tn.gov

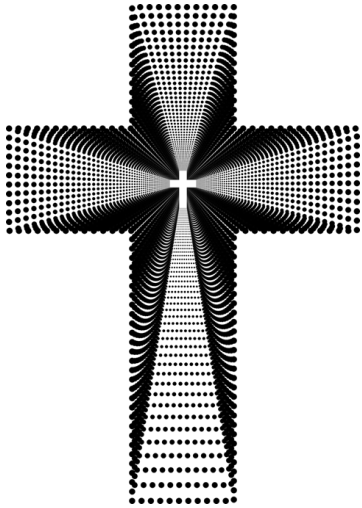
Tommy Hunt, Councilman | thunt@maryville-tn.gov

Sarah Herron, Councilwoman | sherron@maryville-tn.gov

Drew Miles, Councilman | dmiles@maryville-tn.gov

There is also a 40-foot mural of an antichrist satanic goat on Parham Avenue underneath the bridge on West Broadway near the public library. Our tax dollars paid for this. It should be removed immediately. Those responsible for the mural claim it is a whitetail deer.

In Memory of Janet Whitt



Janet was born in South Carolina and lived in Spartanburg for quite a while. She had a twin brother, Mike, and two other brothers, Jody and Freddy and a son, Kyle.

She worked as an oral surgeon assistant for many years. Richard , her husband, died 9 years ago and she sorely missed him and the traveling they enjoyed together.

Janet was so happy to be a member of SMGMC and would come home from working on Sunday's and watch the service online that night. She managed the sign up sheet for the church flowers on Sundays.

She was a HUGE Tennessee Vol fan as well as a very strong, independent woman. Janet fought cancer like a real warrior until she met her maker on October 20th, 2024.



Excuse me, what's your name again?

Please locate your name tags and start wearing them, please!

**Since we are continuing to grow in membership,
it would be a great help to everyone, if we could put a name to a face!**

Repetition works! Thanks!



Meet Bill and Mary Proffitt



Silent Night Oh Holy Night.