



Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

March 2025 Newsletter



From Our Pastor

Reverend Parker Benson

Sickness, like death, affects the entire family, not just the person who is sick. As most of you know, my wife Carol had hip-revision surgery on February 16. They were actually redoing a hip-replacement surgery from 8 years ago – what I would call a hip-replacement-replacement – but the doctor calls it a hip-revision. During the surgery, her femur broke in two places resulting in a much longer recovery time, 3-6 months as opposed to 3-5 weeks. And, like I said, it affects the whole family, not just Carol.

I know many of you have experienced this as well. Your new name becomes “Caregiver,” and your new responsibilities become “whatever she can’t do,” which, in my case, is a whole lot! I never realized how much Carol does around the house – and outside the house. Like, for instance, deciding what’s for dinner. First, you must decide what’s for dinner before you can prepare what’s for dinner. Fortunately, many of you church members have provided dinners – thank you, the refrigerator is full – but I still have to decide what to put in the microwave. That, to me, is a worrisome chore. I find myself staring inside the refrigerator trying to decide what to do. Then I close the door and softly yell, “Carol!”

It is so nice that Carol has progressed to the point, since February 16, that she can now get on her walker and come to the kitchen. What a relief that is to me. She eventually arrives. Then, Carol says, "Okay, pull out that dish and that bowl. Get out two plates and two glasses. Give me two napkins; I've got the silverware." Then she continues to tell me what to do, including what buttons to push and what cans to open; how best to dish this out and what needs to be cut up before you put it in the microwave, etc. etc. That is a big help to me. I feel like a student-driver and Carol is the State Patrol. "Turn here, stop. Pull over." Just tell me what to do.

Of course, this is only the tip of the ice berg. I have to let the chickens out, collect eggs, fill their feeders, fill their water containers (she has 30 chickens and a rooster named Ralph); clean the coop, fill the feed tubs, close the chickens in at night, feed the dogs, feed the cats, give the dogs their medicines... blah, blah, blah, blah, blah!! Plus - vacuum, dust, laundry, make the bed, empty the dishwasher...

I'll be glad when she gets well. A woman's work is never done!

Sickness, like death, affects the entire family, not just the person who is sick.


Grace and peace to you all.

Parker



For Carol.....

*I can do ALL THINGS
through Christ
who STRENGTHENS me.*
—Phillippians 4:13



Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Meet Sandy Tubbs



1. Where were you born and raised? Knoxville, TN
- 1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? All my life.
2. Name something unique about you that very few people know. I owned a Bait and Tackle Shop.
3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? Walking, hiking, reading.
4. What qualities do you admire most in others? Honesty and caring, Interest in others.

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Meet Dave Tubbs



1. Where were you born and raised? I was born in Mitchell, South Dakota and raised in Minnesota and Illinois.

1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? I moved here in 1999.

2. Name something unique about you that very few people know.
Worked in Management with Kmart for 38 years.

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

4. What qualities do you admire most in others? Congeniality and honesty, also a good sense of humor.

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Council Meeting February 6, 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

Council members attended a presentation of the SMMC website and Face Book page, hosted by Kenny Anderson. Google ads have increased our exposure measurably so far.

Finance

Tithes and donations were \$24,144 in January; \$2,100 over budget despite bad weather conditions keeping people from church.

Operating expenses for January were \$12.9K below plan

Available cash for the building fund is \$670,941, an increase of \$7K over the last month

SMMC has no debt as of 2/6/2025

Plans are underway to erect signage "Future Home of Smoky Mountain Methodist Church" visible from East Lamar Alexander Parkway.

Bonnie Van Pelt suggested that the salary for the sought after SMMC assistant pastor be raised to \$60K (up from \$50K). This new amount would encompass the total package including benefits. Mark Woelke and Bonnie will work on a salary and benefits package.

MOTION by Bonnie VanPelt

Raise the associate pastor package from \$50K to \$60K.

Second: Mark Woelke.

Approved unanimously.

Mike Goddard reported on behalf of the Mission Team: proposed projects slated for 2025 are for True Purpose Ministries, Heritage High School and Junior High School (lunch for staff), Pregnancy Resource Center, Christmas gifts for children.

The facility use form has been updated; Council members discussed whether SMMC should collect a fee or donation from individuals who are not members of SMMC, and how much is appropriate? No decision was reached at this meeting.

The building project update: The survey work was completed at the end of December 2024, Bill Wilson (Blount County) is deciding where to place the septic field. Once this is complete Don Shell can finalize the campus plan.





Lark McGee 4th

Ron Faircloth 14th

Gene Weber 6th

Cathy Kresica 17th

Sandy Lybrand 12th

Diane Frady 28th

Seven Most Powerful Prayers in the Bible



1. The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

This prayer emphasizes the most important parts of **living a holy life** every day: worship, seeking and following God's will, relying on God's provision, repenting from sin, and asking for spiritual protection. This prayer is something we do both personally and in community. "Our Father" unites us with other Christians.

2. Hannah's Prayer in Painful Circumstances

(1 Samuel 1:10-11) Hannah's [prayer](#) shows us how someone can still have strong faith despite [going through difficult times](#).

This [prayer](#) is a powerful example of both raw honesty and confident trust in God's power to intervene. Hannah's persistent faith encourages us to remain faithful and trust God to answer our own prayers in the best ways and at the best times.

3. Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom (1 Kings 3:7-9)

Solomon's selflessness pleased God, who not only gave him the [wise discernment](#) he asked for, but also blessed him with wealth and honor. Despite his position as a king, Solomon prays with humility, asking God for wisdom instead of relying just on what he thinks could work in his own limited human understanding. Solomon's prayer challenges us to approach God with humility, as well.

4. Mary's Prayer of Praise (Luke 1:46-55) Known as the Magnificat, Mary's [prayer of praise](#) is a beautiful expression of joy and gratitude. Her [prayer](#) highlights God's faithfulness and his power to bless humble people. It celebrates God's redemptive plan and his loving care for all generations. Mary's powerful prayer of praise encourages us to worship God with hearts full of awe, and to eagerly look forward to what God will accomplish working in and through our lives.

5. David's Prayer of Repentance (Psalm 51)

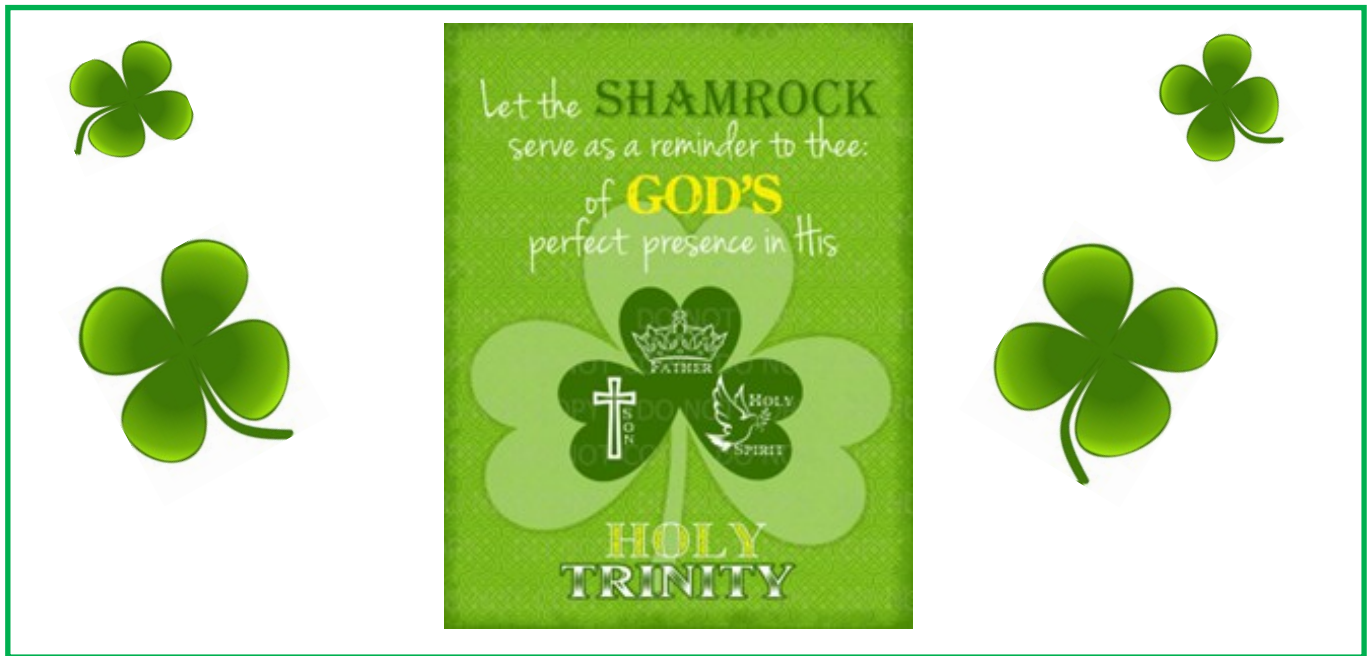
David's [prayer](#) shows what honest repentance looks like. He acknowledges his sin without making excuses and appeals to God's mercy and love for forgiveness and a fresh start. This [prayer](#) reminds us that no sin is beyond God's forgiveness and that true repentance leads to spiritual renewal.

6. Hezekiah's Prayer for Deliverance

(2 Kings 19:15-19) Hezekiah's [prayer](#) is a powerful example of trust in God's sovereignty. It reminds us that whenever we need God to deliver us from a challenging situation, we can trust God to respond and help us. Hezekiah acknowledges that deliverance can come only from God. This shows strong faith in action and reminds us that prayer should be a first response – not a last resort – when we need deliverance from a challenging situation.

7. Jesus' Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane

(Matthew 26:39) This [prayer](#) reveals [the depth of Jesus' humanity and his perfect submission to the Father's will](#). Jesus' [prayer](#) challenges us to trust God's will, even when it leads us to make personal sacrifices. This shows us that it's acceptable to bring our honest struggles and fears before God in prayer. This prayer in Gethsemane shows us



Monthly Scripture Verse

*Whether you turn to the
right or to the left,
your ears will hear
a voice behind you,
saying,*

"This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21



Men's Luncheon

Monday, March 17

11 am @ Calhouns

Sunday School

Noticing the migration west from the Appalachian cabins to settlements along the Oregon Trail, the American Sunday School Union (ASSU) set as a goal to establish a Sunday school in every new community on the western frontier and sent out a large number of missionaries to make that happen. These Sunday schools eventually gave rise to thousands of churches across America.

One example of the tremendous influence the Sunday school movement had in American frontier life was the Mississippi Valley Enterprise (MVE), the effort of the ASSU to “establish a Sunday school in every destitute place where it is practicable throughout the Valley of the Mississippi.” In fifty years, the MVE established over 61,000 Sunday schools and enrolled 2,650,000 pupils. Remarkably, during his twenty years of service, missionary Stephen Paxson, who was born with a speech impediment that later earned him the nickname “Stuttering Stephen,” started 1,314 Sunday schools that taught 83,000 students about Jesus’ love for them.

Author Unknown



**Sunday Morning
Adult Study**

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30
in classroom 2-102, located down the
hall beside the school office.

Please join us every Sunday!!!

Please help.

Under the direction of Mr. Larry Campbell and Mr. Kenny Anderson (Archie & JoElla's son),
we are trying to market our church via social media and the web.

We need YOU to write a brief testimony about our church.

Here is an example:

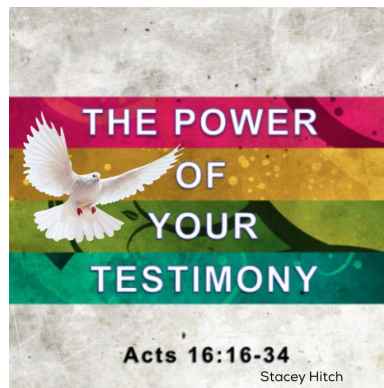
"Our church is a wonderful delight. Everyone is friendly and I love the coffee and donuts before the service. The music is great, and the preaching is powerful. I love Smoky Mountain Methodist."

Jane Smith.

That's all there is to it.

Please write a brief testimony and email it to Larry Campbell at

Do it today. Please.



"It was one of
those March days
when the sun shines
hot and the wind
blows cold: when it
is summer in the
light, and winter
in the shade." Charles Dickens.

