



Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

September 2024 Newsletter



From Our Pastor

Reverend Parker Benson

There comes a time in a Christian's life (pre or post Christian) when he/she realizes that what the Holy Bible proclaims is actually true. There really is a God (whom we define as 'That which there is nothing greater than') and this same God (Jehovah, Yahweh, El Shaddai) really did create the heavens and the earth, the world and they that dwell therein. Eventually, at just the right time, God sent His one and only Son to die on a cross for our sins. Afterwards, after Jesus rose from the dead, God sent His Holy Spirit, whom Jesus had promised in John 16. All of this is true, real, factual. It is the truth of the universe!

Furthermore, heaven is a real place in real space – otherwise Jesus is a liar or a lunatic because He talked about it often. After His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven from which He came: "No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven..." (John 3.13). Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father, who art in heaven..." Heaven is a real place in real space, and you can go there. Jesus is the way.

Okinawa is a real place in real space. I have been there. Now you may say, "I don't believe in Okinawa." That doesn't make it go away. That doesn't make it disappear. That doesn't make it not so. It is real; a real place, just like heaven, whether you believe it or not.

Moreover, Christianity is the most logical explanation for the reality I have experienced in my everyday life. Better than anything else, Christianity explains the human predicament. Christianity answers the four big questions of life: How did I get here? Why am I here? How am I to live? Where am I going? Origin, Meaning, Morality, and Destiny are the four big questions of life and Christianity answers them all.

If you meet someone on the corner who does not believe this – someone who rejects Christianity, ask her, “Have you ever done anything wrong?”

If she says, “Yes,” ask her what she did. Then continue asking questions (the Socratic Method), e.g. “Why is it wrong? Who told you it was wrong? Where did you get the idea that some things are right, and some things are wrong? Who decides right and wrong? Who establishes morality?” This could go on for a while.

Is stealing wrong? Is adultery wrong? Says who? Is it wrong all the time everywhere? Is there a uniform and universal code of conduct? Who established that universal code?

Who is Jesus?

I think any rational person, if he/she will take the time to think about it, will have to come to grips with the reality of God. There are just too many questions that cannot be answered apart from the reality of a God who is behind it all – before all things, and above all things. And if that rational person will read the Bible, he will soon be met by the reality of the Holy Spirit, the living God, the risen Savior, Jesus Christ! The Truth of the Universe!

He stands at the door and knocks.

In Christ,

Parker



It's FOOTBALL
time in



TENNESSEE !!!!



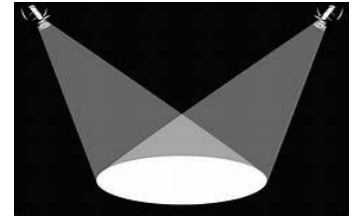
Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Meet Don Smith

(husband of Jewel, who was spotlighted last month)



1. Where were you born and raised? I was born and raised in Aliquippa, PA; a small steel mill town.

1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? I have lived in TN for 2.5 years after getting remarried and moving from N.C., by way of FL.

2. Name something unique about you that very few people know. My role in leading the design, development and production of the first embedded GPS inertial navigation system to be used by the military. Today there are over 35,000 of these units used by militaries world-wide.

3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? I am most passionate about riding my BMW motorcycle. I have ridden to Alaska twice, British Columbia, Mexico, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and in all 48 states except North Dakota and Wisconsin.

4. What qualities do you admire most in others? Honesty and integrity.

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MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Meet Connie Waters



1. Where were you born and raised? I was born at Blount Memorial Hospital and raised primarily in Walland.

1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? My whole life I have lived in Blount County.

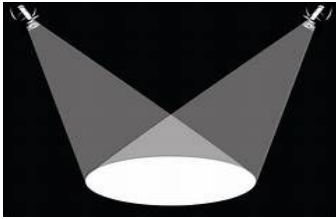
2. Name something unique about you that very few people know. I went back to school when our youngest started kindergarten. Receiving my LPN designation, I continued on and received my RN and then my Bachelor's Degree. I retired in 2019, after spending my entire career as an obstetric nurse.

3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? I have always loved to travel and am always looking for an opportunity to hit the road. Dwight has helped me to develop a great love of fishing. I don't consider myself an experience fisherman but I do love to drop a line and sometimes the fish catch me!

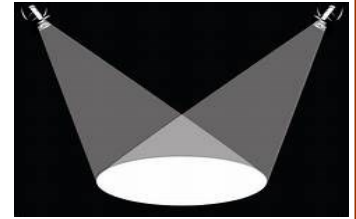
4. What qualities do you admire most in others? Love of God and His Word, integrity and hard work.

Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Meet Dwight Waters



1. Where were you born and raised? I was born at Blount Memorial Hospital and raised in Walland.
- 1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? I attended Walland Elementary and High School. With the exception of a few early years in my marriage, my mail has always been delivered through the Walland Post Office.
2. Name something unique about you that very few people know. I built a recording studio 25 years ago adjacent to our home and have recorded various groups and individuals over the years.
3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? I grew up fishing the rivers of East TN and the Cherokee Indian Reservation with my father. I still love to trout fish and have become ver passionate about saltwater fishing. Of course, music is my other love.
4. What qualities do you admire most in others? Those who love God, family, and country. They have a smile on their face and a song in their heart.

Excuse me, what's your name again?

Please locate your name tags and start wearing them on your Sunday wares!!

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 Marsha & Don McPherson



Train up a child in the way
he should go,
and when he is old
he will not turn from it.
Proverbs 22:6



God's Four Gifts for YOU!!!

- 1) The Gift of Forgiveness**
- 2) The Gift of Eternal Life**
- 3) The Gift of God's Spirit**
- 4) The Gift of Special Abilities**



7 Claire Crotser

9 Michelle Cooley

13 Jack Parham

15 Sharon Chaney

16 Dwight Waters

16 Clifford Hart

17 Pat Dula

18 Kristine Brock

18 Paula Weals

18 Marty Weber

19 Pat Cherry

21 Emma McCollum

27 Margaret Trentham

28 George Lybrand

44 Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus

#30 Hated Without Cause

O.T. Psalm 35:19

N.T. John 15:24-25

#31 Crucified with Criminals

O.T. Isaiah 53:12

N.T. Matthew 27:38

#32 Given Vinegar to Drink

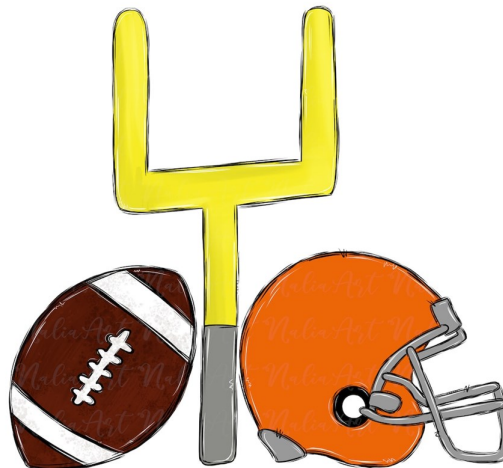
O.T. Psalm 69:21

N.T. Matthew 27:38

#33 Hands and Feet Pierced

O.T. Psalm 22:16

N.T. John 20:25-27



Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

Council Meeting August 1, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Report from Mark Woelke

- Operating expenses were \$8,000.00 below plan for July.
 - Tithes/Donations currently at plan level for July which puts us at 82% of our annual budget. Budgeting for Assoc. Pastor also began in July.
 - The building fund increased by \$6,500.00 during July. Cash available for this fund is now at \$561,368.00.
 - Mark presented charts of Giving Trends for General Giving, and Building Fund Giving. This information will be needed in the future when we apply for grants, mortgages, etc. Good to be planning ahead.
 - Mark also presented a chart of our Campus Project Funding to assist in looking at various possible loan amounts and how we could address them.

Steve McGee said that basic maintenance items are being taken care of. He is working on fixing the back door leak when there is a bad storm. Sterley VanPelt has fixed our feather banners that are used at our property entrance

Alan Cummings reported that the search for an Associate Pastor is ongoing; a recent phone call with a prospective candidate did not work out.

Sandy Lybrand said the Teachers' Lunch for Heritage High School went well and was much enjoyed by the teachers and staff. Fed approximately 110 and gave out small gift bags containing hand painted bookmarks from Cheryl Simonis, Cathy Kresica and Sandy Lybrand, along with information about SMGMC and other items. Sandy feels the Outreach Team now has this luncheon down to a science.

DEAR GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

Dear Heavenly Father, we are thankful for your love, forgiveness, grace and mercy. We humbly approach you, as we too, are sinners that have not been aware of the sin filling our nation, schools and churches. We were complacent and involved with our own daily lives. Teach us to live with awareness and to speak the truth in love. We pray for this country that was founded on your God given principles and we ask that you will convict each one of us to realize we have dropped the torch, repent and help us light the world with your love. If we do this, you will restore our land. We pray for integrity in our elections throughout this country.

In Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.



Men's Luncheon

Monday, September 16th @ 11 am at Calhoun's

"Thanks to all of the attendees of the August Men's Luncheon. It was the most well attended luncheon that we have had so far and several came for the first time. We moved to Monday this month as it was reported at the meeting that Calhoun's has a burger special on Mondays that sounded great!!!! There will be sign up sheets for those that want to come to the next luncheon in the lobby the two Sundays prior to the 16th." *Mike Goddard*

