

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church



May 2025 Newsletter



From Our Pastor

Reverend Parker Benson

We – Smoky Mountain Methodist Church – are about to embark on a building project. It is a dream, it is a hope, it is a trust that God will provide. He has led us safe thus far and I believe – we believe – with Paul, that *“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

This month, this year, May 2025, we will begin our Consecration Sunday campaign. We will each be asked to contribute, to make a 3-year financial commitment, to the building project. That is how all churches get built. That is how the Temple was built. That is how every church in Blount County was built. God’s people brought their tithes and offerings into the storehouse. This is not some strange undertaking or some weird way of doing things. This is how God’s people have always done things.

I have been tithing since 1992. I also bring my offerings to the church and to various other charities that I support. And I am very blessed. Like most Christians in America, I have more than enough. I am only telling you this because I want you to know that I never expect more out of you than I expect out of myself.

I love our church. I love you. I believe in our church, and I believe in you. We are a very strong group of people; a very intelligent, accomplished, wise, mature, group of people. We have one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

But we do not have a church building. We worship in a high school. That is about to change.

We have come a long way since that first Sunday, four years ago, at the Smoky Mountain Heritage Center on May 16, 2021. We have been to Alcoa Elementary School, and to Heritage High School, and to the Trinity House. It has been a long journey, but we have stayed together, and God has blessed us. We are now ready to build Phase One of our church. Together we can do this. *We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.*

If you are reading this and would like to support our church from afar, you may mail a check made out to Smoky Mountain Methodist Church to P.O. Box 101, Walland, TN 37886. We will keep you posted. Please pray for us.

God bless you in Christ,
Parker



Future home of Smoky Mountain Methodist Church





*As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you.
Isaiah 66:13*

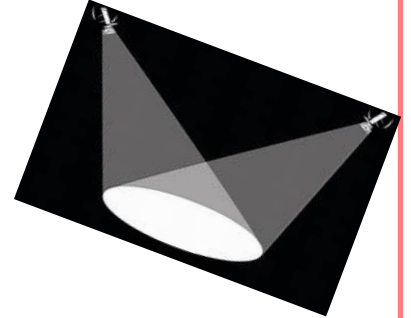
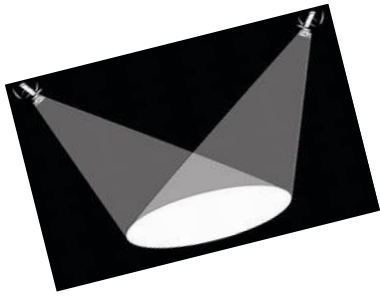
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Happy Mother's Day!!

Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Meet Sandy Lybrand



1. Where were you born and raised? Right here in Blount County (By the Grace of God!) Wildwood Community

1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? Most of my life.

2. Name something unique about you that very few people know. I once worked with Alex Haley. We spent a day walking around his farm and talking—was very interesting. I was really surprised at how humble he was.

3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? Lately it has become physical therapy. I enjoy a good book, sewing, and assorted craft projects.

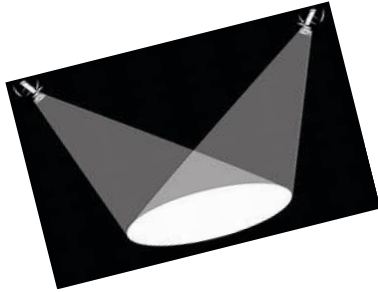
4. What qualities do you admire most in others? Honesty and Authenticity



Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Meet George Lybrand



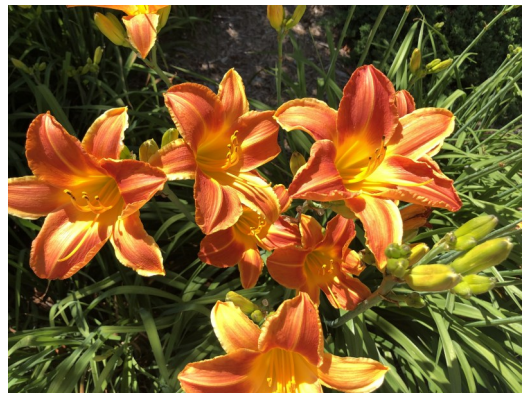
1. Where were you born and raised? Columbia, SC (and NC GA & TN)

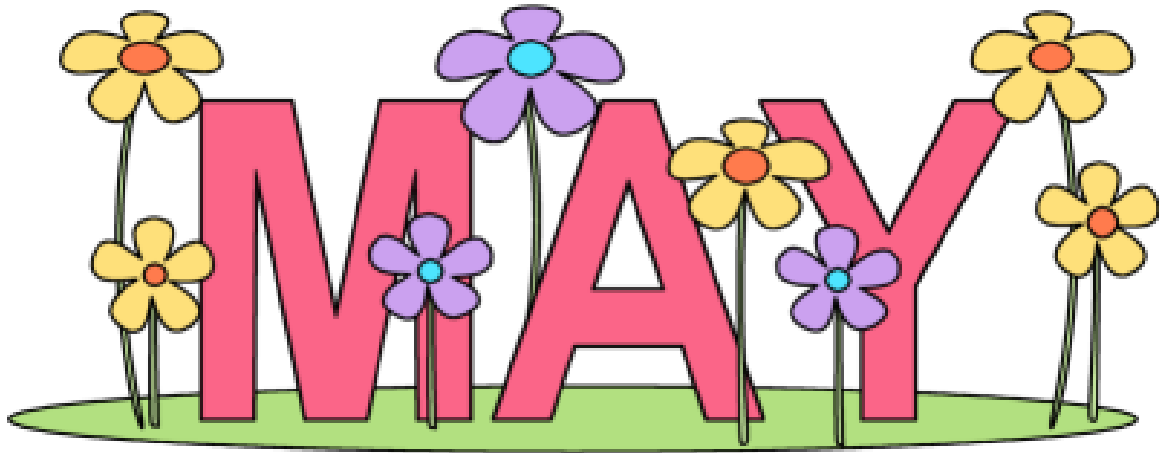
1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? Since College

2. Name something unique about you that very few people know.
Friend and Clothing Consultant to Dale Earnhardt, SR.

3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today?
Reading and Bible research

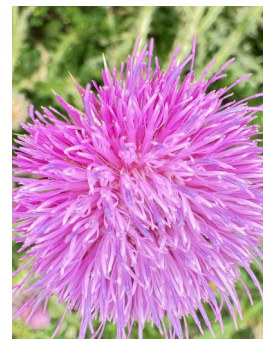
4. What qualities do you admire most in others?
Consideration, Commitment, Follow Through, Honesty, Faithfulness





1st	Peggy Hostetler	17th Connie Waters
2nd	Randy Trentham	18th Cathy Lee
6th	George Simonis	18th Cindy Wilson
10th	Alan Cummings	25th Larry Chesney

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



MIDSOUTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 8th 7:00 pm – June 11th 2:00 pm

Hosted by Fairview Methodist



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



***GREETERS
DAY SET UP***

FRI-

PARKING ATTENDANTS

SATURDAY SET UP

REFRESHMENT ASSISTANTS

SHUTTLE DRIVERS

RESTROOM ATTENDANTS

TAKE DOWN

***THOSE WITH FIRST AID EXPERIENCE
VOLUNTEER CHECK-IN***

***If you are available to volunteer for any of these areas or
need additional information, please contact:***

***George Lybrand at 865-591-8879 or
E-mail at sglybrand@yahoo.com***

***Blood Pressure Readings will resume
on the last Sunday in September.***



Men's Luncheon
Monday, May 19th
@ 11 Calhouns



Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.

Romans 12;12

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The following was written by Lyn Webb, an elementary school best friend, of my best friend in college, Jane Dunham Vandiver from Pine Bluff, AR. I have never met Lyn but have enjoyed her Daily Devo that she texts every weekday.
What a blessing!

**“For the Joy set before Him, He endured the cross.....”
(Hebrews 12:2).**

In 12 days, I will have my second knee replacement surgery. In her attempt to encourage me, my physical therapist said: “At least you know what to expect this time.” Truth is... I wish I didn’t. The unbearable pain which is hard to control. A helpless husband hearing my screams, and knowing he can’t do anything to fix it, leads me to humbly reflect on Jesus this Easter season.

He KNEW what was waiting for Him....

BETRAYAL. In His deity, Jesus KNEW who would betray Him. Yet, at the Last Supper, when He told His Disciples “one of you will betray Me” they looked at one another in disbelief. Why? Because Jesus never treated Judas any differently than the others. He loved him.

DENIAL. Jesus KNEW Peter, one of His closest friends, would deny he even knew Jesus. Still, He prayed for Peter that when he had turned back (knowing he would), he would strengthen his brothers.

Jesus KNEW the excruciating pain, torture, and humiliation which awaited Him.

REJECTION. The holiness of His Father, His Abba, demanded He turn His back on His Son, as He, Who knew no sin, became sin for us. He KNEW, yet He set His face like flint towards the cross because of the Joy set before Him – the Joy was us!

THIS is humbling! Thank You, Jesus, for paying the price we could never pay and providing a so great salvation we could never be good enough to obtain for ourselves.

Lyn Webb

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church Council Meeting April 4, 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report

Rev Benson announced that on April 8 and 15 the Evangelism Team will invite local residents to the SMMC Easter Sunday service by visiting nearby neighborhoods, speaking with residents and/or leaving information on their door handle.

MOTION: Rev Benson

Request that SMMC give \$300 to Alcoa First Methodist Church for their youth ministry, in recognition of their support of providing a bus and driver for the April 8 and April 15 outreach effort by SMMC Evangelism Team.

SECOND: Steve McGee

Unanimously approved

Finance Report

Mark Woelke presented financial information as of March 2025

Tithes and donations: \$40,572 collected in March (budget \$22,000); \$82,498 year-to-date (budget \$66,000). Note: there were 5 Sundays in March.

Operating expenses: \$6,610 March (budget \$18,400); \$20,737 (\$55,195 budget)

Available cash for the building fund: \$707,857

Surplus cash year-to-date: \$61,800

SMMC has no debt as of March 2025

Trustee Report

Steve McGee reported the following:

The trustees are addressing ramps to the Trinity House, railings on the steps, an awning on the back stoop to mitigate water damage, and gravel for the parking area. Currently nothing is up to code. Steve met with a contractor who indicates he can do all but the awnings at cost around \$12,000. Steve has confidence in the contractor's ideas and work. (Railings aren't needed if some landscaping is placed around the porch.) Steve is searching for a company to install an awning, likely at a cost of \$5,000.

MOTION: Debbie Cummings

Request that SMMC install the ramp, steps, gravel and awnings so that Trinity House is up to code and the water problem is fixed.

SECOND: Mark Woelke

Unanimously approved

SPPR

Bonnie Van Pelt and the SPPR were scheduled on April 4 to meet with a candidate (Brad Brown, currently a pastor in Blountville, TN) for the Associate Pastor position. A phone call was previously held with the candidate with favorable impressions. Mr. Brown and his wife have quite a bit of experience with youth services, they desire to move to the Maryville area to be near family.

6 Blessings that Remind Us to Honor God Every Day

1. The Blessing of Vision. Thanking God that we can see is a simple way to honor Him with our eyes.
2. The Blessing of Walking. Thanking God we can get out of bed no matter what it takes to do so, is a blessing.
3. The Blessing of a Healthy Immune System. Thanking God that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we can make healthier choices.
4. The Blessing of Hearing. We can enjoy the loving “sound” of the Lord’s “voice” when we take the time to deepen our relationship with Him and spend time in the Word on a regular basis.
5. The Blessing of Being close to Friends and Family. Thanking God for helping us to cultivate and nurture meaningful relationships.
6. The Blessing of Serving the Lord. Thanking God for giving us unique gifts and talents that He has given us to be a blessing to others.



Thankfulness is a
spiritual weapon
that brings peace
to your soul.