

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

February 2026 Newsletter

From Our Pastor Rev. Parker Benson

Read any good books lately?

I have been reading some good books lately. I have always loved to read. Carol gave me *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel DeFoe for Christmas. It is a classic and I am surprised I haven't read it until now. It was written in 1719 and has been acclaimed by literary scholars ever since. The young man Robinson Crusoe has visions of going to sea against his father's wishes, and, once doing so, ends up shipwrecked on a deserted island. He is the only survivor, and he spends the next 28 years on the island trying to survive. It is a fascinating tale.

I got my love for reading – for books – from my mother. My mother read to us four children when we were children and I loved it. One of the best things you can do as a parent is teach your children to read. One of my favorite books was *Little Black Sambo*, which, I'm sure, is no longer allowed in... well, anywhere. A young boy named Little Black Sambo fights tigers and makes pancakes. That's about all I remember, but mom read it to us over and over and I loved it.

Robinson Crusoe used to be required reading in school. Pat Cherry told me it was on her summer reading list for her 10th grade English class many moons ago. Here is a sampling from *Robinson Crusoe*:

“In the morning, I took the Bible, and beginning at the New Testament, I began seriously to read it... I came to these words: ‘He is exalted a Prince and Savior.’... I threw down the book and with my heart as well as my hands lifted up to heaven, I cried out aloud, ‘Jesus, thou son of David! Jesus, thou exalted Prince and Savior! Give me repentance!’”

I doubt if they are reading *Robinson Crusoe* in American school houses today. What a shame; what a loss. When I taught school in the ‘80’s and ‘90’s, I used to tell my colleagues, “The children are freezing to death and we have outlawed coats.”

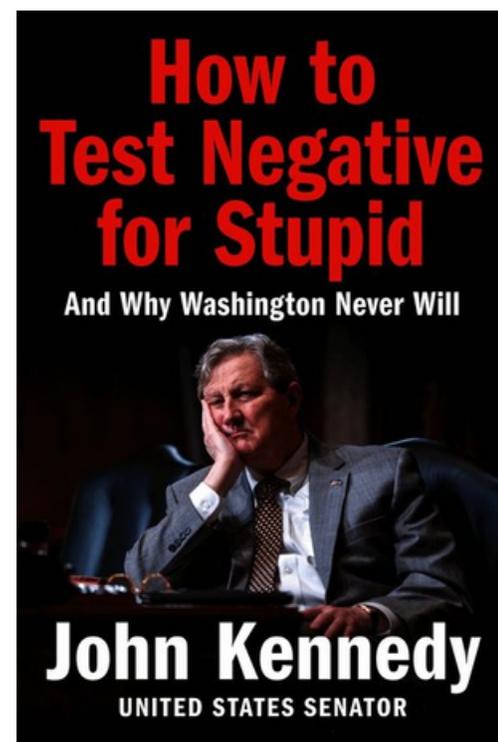
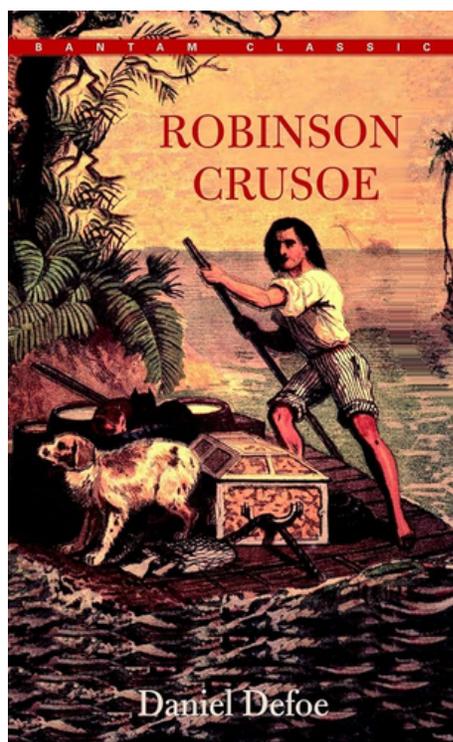
I have read some other good books over the Christmas holidays. I just finished Senator John Kennedy's book, *How to Test Negative for Stupid, and Why Washington Never Will*. It is insightful and funny. Kennedy's philosophy of life is "don't hurt someone else unless you have to defend yourself, don't take people's stuff, and leave me alone." His book is full of humorous quotes like, "My momma didn't raise no fool and if she did it's one of my brothers."

Right now I am halfway through *The Perfect Pass* by S.C. Gwynne. It is about football coach, Hal Mumme who changed the game of football with his "Air Raid" offense. Mumme floundered as a coach for 12 years before he developed his "Lonesome Polecat" and other passing attacks that revolutionized football. Mumme threw the football based on geometrical shapes he saw on the field between the receivers and the defensive secondary. Then he started winning! First at Iowa Wesleyan, then at Valdosta State, and later at the University of Kentucky. His teams threw the football all over the field and defenses were unprepared.

Like I said, I love to read and I love books. But it takes time to read, it takes time. However, as my dad used to say, "You have all the time there is."

Happy reading! And don't forget the good book. It is not only good, it is also the best.

Love in Christ,
Parker





SMMC would like to wish

everyone a

HAPPY

VALENTINE'S



DAY



Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Monthly Member's Spotlight

Bob Ryan



Where were you born and raised?

Maryville, TN

How long have you lived in TN?

My entire life

Name something unique about you that very few people know.

I am a descendent of Samual Henry, a Revolutionary War soldier, who settled with his brother James in what is now Blount County shortly after the war.

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

Hunting and Fishing

What qualities do you admire most in others?

Character, Integrity, Sense of Humor, and Patriotism

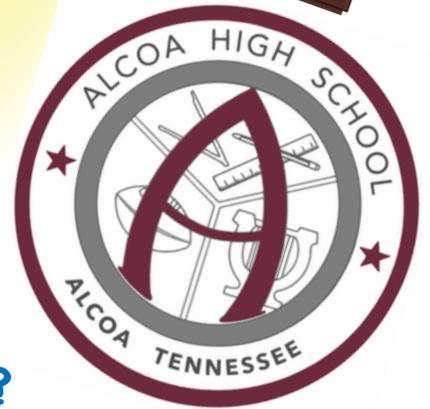
Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Monthly Member's Spotlight

Debbie Ryan



TENNESSEE



Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Blount County. I grew up in Alcoa.

I went to Alcoa High School.

How long have you lived in TN?

I have lived in Tennessee all of my life.

Name something unique about you that very few people know.

For fifteen years I volunteered with the Foothills Fall Festival.

Working backstage I met many artist, band members and production crew.

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

I like to read, ride my bicycle, walk, and hike.

What qualities do you admire most in others?

Honesty and Kindness

HAPPY



Birthday



4th Audrey Pettis

4th Mike Martin

8th Lana Parham

8th Don Smith

10th Dorthey Elliott

15th Donna Hart

20th Jewel Smith

21st Larry Campbell

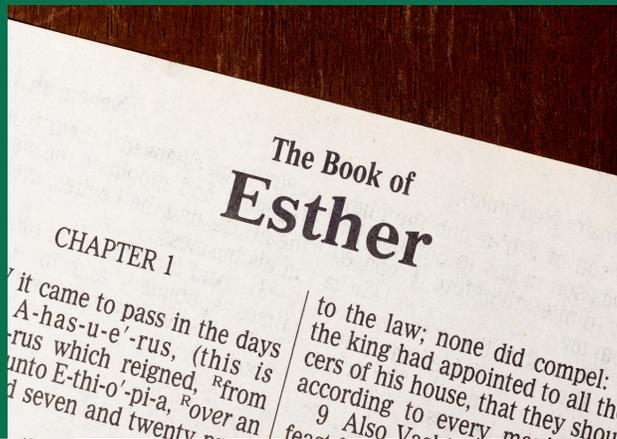
23rd Archie Anderson

26th Larry Meyers



SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER QUARTER

JOIN US AT 9:30 ON
SUNDAY MORNINGS IN
THE CHOIR ROOM. WE
WILL USE THE WESLEY
ADULT BIBLE STUDY AS A
GUIDE. PLEASE SEE
KRISTINE BROCK FOR
MORE DETAILS.



SMOKY
MOUNTAIN
METHODIST
CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

on A Biblical Worldview



JANUARY 6-MARCH 17
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
@ THE TRINITY HOUSE

Rev. Parker Benson will be teaching a
10 week study on a Biblical Worldview

lis. L.
etiam. Eu
diam in. Mi ipsum
sodales neque sodate.
vitae semper quis. In die.
lorem sed risus ultricies t.
unt nunc pulvinar sapien et.



Ash Wednesday

SERVICE

February 18 2026

7 pm

Heritage High School

Auditorium

Valentine's "Match" Maker!

February 11th

Children at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Youth at 6:30-7:30 p.m.



Smoky Mountain Methodist Church
3742 E Lamar Alexander Parkway
Maryville, TN

Painting with a Twist!

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

3742 E Lamar Alexander Parkway

Maryville, TN



February 25th
Children at 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Youth at 6:30-7:30 p.m.

SMMC Business, Accounting, & Finance Career Seminar

When: February 10 starting at 6

**Where: 3742 E Lamar Alexander
Parkway Maryville, TN 37804**



SMMC Career Seminar

Learn how to start your own business



When: February 24th at 6 p.m.

**Where: 3742 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway
Maryville, TN 37804**

Men's Luncheon

Monday,

February 16th at

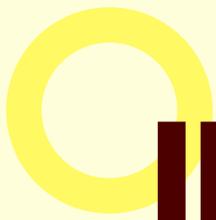
11:00 a.m.

Calhouns in

Maryville, TN



All men are welcome to attend for great food and Christian fellowship!



IMPORTANT DATES

FEB

2026



05

THURS

Church Council

10 @Trinity House

12

THURS

Worship Team

1 @ Trinity House

19

THURS

Congregational Outreach Team

10:30 @ Trinity House

19

THURS

SPPR Meeting

1:30 @ Trinity House

22

SUN

Trustees Meeting

9:30 @ Heritage High School Auditorium





St. Patrick's Party

Tuesday, March 10th from 5-8 p.m
at Everett Senior Center

Back by popular demand, we will be
playing St. Patrick's Bingo!

MUST RSVP BY MARCH 1ST!!



B I N G O				
14	18	40	47	70
10	25	44	60	68
13	23	FREE	59	63
7	29	31	58	65
4	20	39	52	66

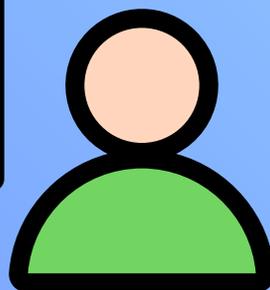


Video Testimony

**What has SMMC done for you?
Why did you choose to come here?
What do you see as the future for
SMMC?**

**When: Starting in January either on Sundays
before church or by appointment**

**Where: @ Heritage High School or Trinity House
Please let either Larry Campbell or Pastor Brad
know if you're interested**



CHURCH BLOOPERS & TYPOS



“HA
HA
HA”

Ushers will
eat latecomers.

The third verse of
Blessed Assurance
will be sung
without musical
accomplishment.

The choir will
meet at the
Larson's house for
fun and sinning.

The peacemaking
meeting scheduled
for today has
been canceled due
to a conflict.

The sermon this
morning: Jesus
walks on water
The sermon tonight:
Searching for Jesus

Next Thursday,
there will be
tryouts for the
choir. They need all
the help they can
get.

The agenda was
adopted...the minutes
were approved... the
financial secretary
gave a grief report.

The “Over 60s
Choir” will be
dibanded for the
summer with the
thanks of the entire
church.

Scouts are saving
aluminum cans,
bottles, and other
items to be recycled.
Proceeds will be used
to cripple children.