

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

December 2025 Newsletter

From Our Pastor Rev. Parker Benson

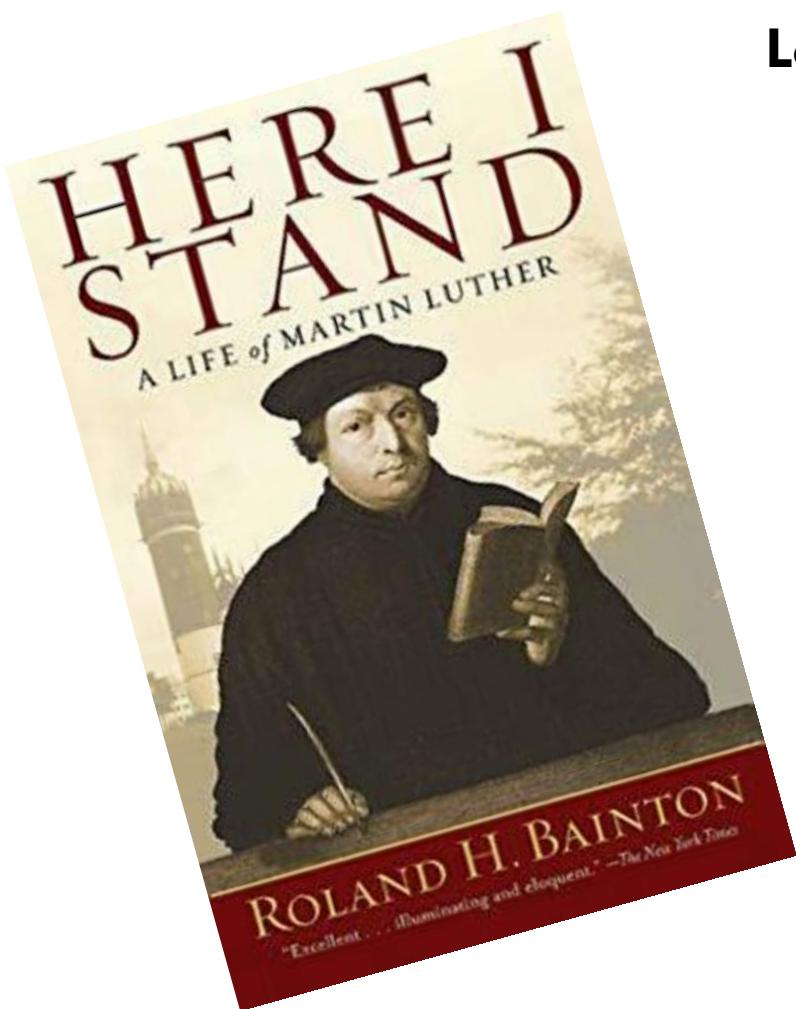
I just finished a good book: **Here I Stand, a Life of Martin Luther, by Roland H. Bainton.** It is an excellent book, and I heartily recommend it. Luther was an Augustinian Monk and ordained a Priest. However, he eventually left the monastery in the belief that a man “is justified by faith in Jesus Christ,” and not by leading the austere life of a Monk. He preached Romans 1.17: “The righteous will live by faith.” He protested the practices of the Christian Church in Rome and especially the practices of selling indulgences (i.e. pardons for sins). Martin was excommunicated by Pope Leo X in 1521. He led what is today called, “The Protestant Reformation,” that eventually led to the founding of a new church: Lutheranism. In fact, all Christian churches today that are not Roman Catholic or Orthodox, are properly called Protestant.

Martin Luther was a preacher and a teacher. He earned a doctorate in theology and served as professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg in Germany until the day he died (1546). His translation of the Bible into German is hailed as a literary masterpiece. He was also fluent in the art of music, and his hymns are still sung in churches today all over the world. Luther’s best-known hymn is “A Mighty Fortress is Our God,” found on p. 23 in our hymnal. This is what Martin Luther had to say about music:

“Music is to be praised as second only to the Word of God because by her are all the emotions swayed. This precious gift has been bestowed on men alone to remind them that they are created to praise and magnify the Lord.

But when natural music is sharpened and polished by art, then one begins to see with amazement the great and perfect wisdom of God in his wonderful work of music, where one voice takes a simple part and around it sing three, four, or five other voices, leaping, springing round about, marvelously gracing the simple part, like a square dance in heaven with friendly bows, embracings, and hearty swinging of the partners. He who does not find this an inexpressible miracle of the Lord is truly a clod and is not worthy to be considered a man.”

Luther sure had a way with words, and he was quick to let you know what he thought. I admire him and I heartily recommend the book: Here I Stand, a Life of Martin Luther.



**Love in Christ,
Parker**



WELCOME



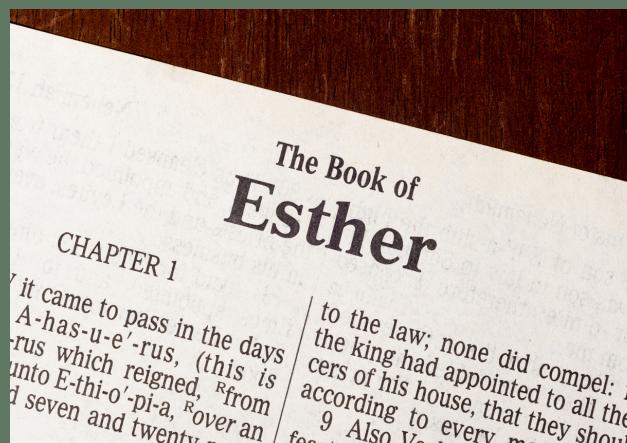
PLEASE GIVE A
WARM
WELCOME TO
OUR NEWEST
MEMBERS
DAVE & GINNY
HUMPHRY!



SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER QUARTER PROGRAM STARTING ON DECEMBER 7TH

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

DETAILS.



Nehemiah
Nehemiah's Prayer
1 The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Monthly Member's Spotlight

Bill Proffitt



TENNESSEE

Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Maryville TN.

How long have you lived in TN?

I Lived here my whole life with the exception of 4 years

I spent in Memphis while attending dental school.

Name something unique about you that very few people know.

I worked part time for American Airlines while at
UT Knoxville in undergraduate school.

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

My hobby is my work. I love my patients and my work brings me pleasure. I also enjoy spectator sports, traveling and working around the house.

What qualities do you admire most in others?

Honesty, respect, kindness and caring for others

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Monthly Member's Spotlight

Mary Proffitt



TENNESSEE

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Kingsport Tennessee and lived there 5 years and moved to Surgoinsville TN and this was my mailing address for the next 16 years.

How long have you lived in TN?

I have lived in TN my entire life except for the 3 years
I lived in Charlottesville VA.

Name something unique about you that very few people know.

Most of my childhood I lived in a log house built in 1891.

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

The hobby I am most passionate about is painting. I love creating unique pieces of art and sell them at a gallery in Townsend.

What qualities do you admire most in others?

I admire many qualities in others. But I love being around people who can laugh at themselves and have fun just doing nothing.

Happy Birthday

We wish you the Happiest of birthdays!

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 - Sterley Van Pelt

24th - John McRae

25th - JESUS

30th - Parker Benson

31st - Nan Werner



— ★ ★ ★ —

VETERAN'S DAY CLEEBRATION AT HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL

Thank you to all Veterans!



FREE Children's Christmas Shop

Who: K-5th Grade ONLY!

What: Christmas Shopping (\$1.50 or less items)

for their Immediate Family.

(Parent, Guarantor, siblings ages 5-17)

When: December 3rd Starting at 5:30 p.m.

(You will be given a time slot)

Where: Smokey Mountain Methodist Church

3742 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway
Maryville, TN

Santa's Coming!

Each Child Must Be Registered and RSVP!

(Text to receive a call from Jenny Brown

865-456-4986 on

Tuesday 18th starting at 7:30 p.m. until FULL)

Hot Chocolate and Cookies will be provided!





CHRISTMAS

Party

@THE BARN
EVENT CENTER
DEC 11 FROM 5-
8PM

DINNER WILL BE
CATERED PLEASE
BRING A DESSERT

Please RSVP by signing
up on November 30 or
December 7



Men's Luncheon

Monday,

December 15th

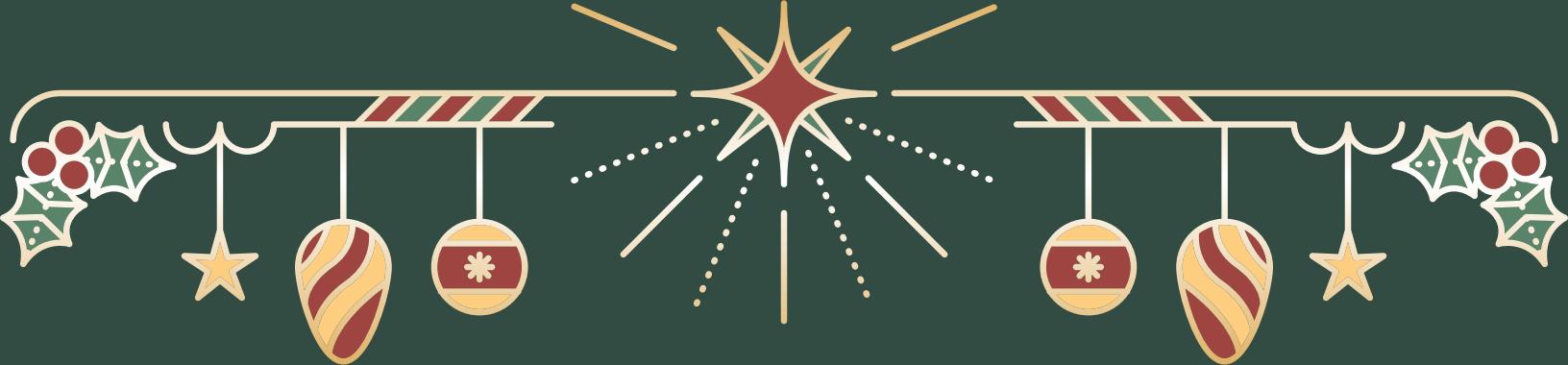
at 11:00 a.m.

Calhouns in

Maryville, TN



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



Make A Joyful Noise

When: December 5, 6, 12, 13

Where: Brookdale at Brown's Creek

Dec 5 at 11am

Morning View Dec 6 at 10am

Brookdale at Sandy Springs Dec 6 at
1:30 - 3pm

Clover Hill Dec 12 at 2pm

Shannondale Dec 13 at 10 - 12

If you have any questions please contact

George and Cheryl Simonis



Christmas Olympics

Be prepared to play Hungry Hungry
Reindeer & Snowball Toss

Who: Youth & Children

When: Dec. 17th

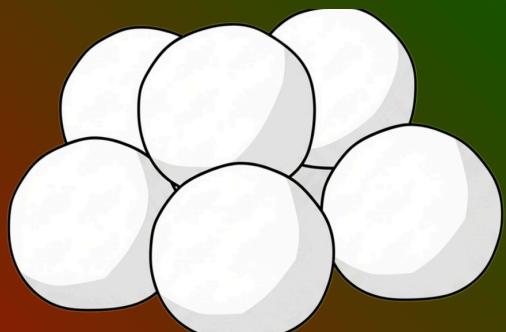
Children at 5:30-6:30

Youth at 6:30-7:30

Where: Trinity House

3742 E. Lamar Alexander

Parkway Maryville, TN



Join us to celebrate

Christmas Eve Service

Come and celebrate the birth
of Jesus with music, sermon,
and Holy Communion.

Dec 24th 7:00 pm

HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM

