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# Mid-Week Visitor

## Waverly United Methodist Church

August 31, 2020

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## Our Church Bell

With the recent removal of our steeple for repainting and repair, the bell could be seen for the first time, albeit from a distance, since 2001 when that maintenance was last performed. It was cast by G.W. Coffin in Cincinnati, Ohio, by the Buckeye Bell Foundry in 1864. Dr. William W. Slayden, M.D. (1873-1947) wrote on June 5, 1940, largely from memory, the following:

"The present church was built about 1902. The bell in the belfry has a rather unique and interesting history. It was brought from the North during the Civil War, to Johnsonville on a Federal gunboat, and was used as such as a Federal gunboat bell. This fleet of boats was attacked from the west side of the river by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his brave and dashing band of cavalrymen. They were completely routed and set on fire as they floated down the river and down in Stewart County, this particular boat using this bell sank. Some Stewart Countians pillaged the boat, taking off among other things, this bell and buried it in the sand and after the War was over sold it to the Masonic Lodge at Waverly, Tennessee. It was swung in the belfry of the little brick church on Church Street, and when the Methodists and Masons built a combination Church and Masonic Hall the bell was brought over to the new building and then when the old church and hall was torn down and the present church was erected the Church purchased the bell from the Masons and swung it in the present belfry. As it does weekly now it has called all the populace to worship for the past 75 years. When its appealing tones fall on our ears, wherever we are and whatever we may be doing, we should pause in our mad rush after secular and material and sordid things and utter a silent prayer for our well being and continued preservation, and beg for His guidance in all things. Through all the years the church has met its obligations and all in all has wrought well. We should stand with bowed head and reverent mein (mind?) in the presence of such an institution."

Dick Rice

Church Historian



Constitution Week ~ September 17-23, 2020

## September Birthdays

1 FAYE LOCKHART  
3 SUE SIMPSON  
4 VICKI WORK  
7 NANCY CARR  
JOSHUA HEAD  
8 JACOB ARMSTRONG  
9 JOHN EINERSON  
10 CHLOE FUSSELL  
12 LARRY WEBB  
13 LAURA SCURLOCK  
14 ANDY PORCH  
16 MICHEAL BERG  
21 AUTUMN ELLIS  
23 JASON COOPER  
27 KAINE COOPER  
28 CARLEE WARREN  
29 REGINA WILLIAMS  
LEROY UPTAIN  
DAVID LITTLE  
30 MATTHEW HIGHTOWER  
JANET GRAVES

### Gifts received:

Aug. 2: \$7,021.00 (tithes)  
\$200.00 (designated gifts)

Aug. 9: \$6,553.00 (tithes)  
\$50.00 (designated gifts)

Aug. 16: \$6,379.50 (tithes)

Aug. 23: \$5,186.00 (tithes)

Aug. 30: \$5,515.00 (tithes)  
\$460.00 (designated gifts)

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*Our sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to all who assisted with the removal, cleaning, and return placement of the steeple. It looks amazing! Thank you!!*

NET Team is selling tickets for Turkey and Dressing dinner to be held October 4 beginning after church. Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, apples and dessert included. Meals will be take-out only and tickets will need to be purchased ahead of time. Ticket price is \$7.00 each. Money raised will go toward local mission work. Help is needed and will be appreciated.

I would like to thank the Monday ladies lunch group that has been furnishing supplies for the Blessing Box. I've been told by many that people are using the box. This is a great outreach tool and is a blessing for us and the ones in need. This will be an ongoing project for our church and if anyone would like to contribute we have a table set up in front of the new kitchen to place your items. Some useful items:

- peanut butter and crackers
- individual snacks
- canned meats that don't need a can opener
- small bottles of drinks, etc.
- fruit cups
- macaroni & cheese
- individual heat & eat meals with pop tops

Remember, these may be people traveling through town and without access to a kitchen-they need things that are easy to open and don't require cooking. Thanks for your help!

Elaine Bates, chairperson  
NET Team