



*Smoky Mountain Global
Methodist Church*

May 2024 Newsletter



From Our Pastor

Reverend Parker Benson

On May 19 we will celebrate our three-year anniversary with a picnic and party after church at the Trinity House. We will have dinner on the grounds complete with fried chicken, potato salad, rolls, covered dishes, desserts, cold drinks... yum, yum! Connie and Dwight will provide entertainment. When the party is all over, we will declare – with Porter Wagoner, “A good time was had by all!”

It is hard to believe that three years have gone by since we held our first worship service at Smoky Mountain Heritage Center in Townsend. I still have the bulletin. It says, “Welcome to Smoky Mountain Methodist Church, 7th Sunday of Easter, May 16, 2021.” Our opening hymn was “Trust and Obey,” and we closed by singing, “The Church’s One Foundation.”

I had no idea then that we would be at Heritage High School today. We worshiped in Townsend for 21 weeks; moved to Alcoa Elementary School for 84 weeks, and we have been at HHS for 53 weeks as of May 19, 2024. Our church has grown from 78 members who joined on Membership Sunday, September 26, 2021, to 120 members today. That is an increase of 54%, which is very good for a new church start. You are a wonderful church, and I am very honored to be your pastor.

Who knows what lies ahead. Of one thing we are certain, God will provide. We have bought property and we have plans to build. We are currently working our way through all the hoops that go with new property and building plans. City, county, and state governments all have a say in a new building process. They have rules and regulations that we must go by. Fortunately, our church has some very wise and talented people who are working very hard to meet all the requirements in a timely manner. This is not our first rodeo!



Meanwhile, enjoy the ride. I sometimes think of us as pilgrims on a wagon train. We have a vision; we have goals; we have a destination. We are a big family, the family of God, and we will worship Him where we are, until He moves us to another place. Live one day at a time and always remember, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1.6).

God bless you in Christ,
Parker 😊



Happy May BIRTHDAYS!

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

Read your Bible daily
Pray without ceasing
Attend church

PUT THIS on YOUR CALENDAR!

MAY 19th—3rd CHURCH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

After church, there will be a picnic over at Trinity House. In case of rain, we will have it at Heritage High School. Please sign up in the cafeteria to let us know how many from your family will be attending and to provide side dishes like salads, vegetables, casseroles or desserts. The main meal will be provided as well as drinks, etc.

Entertainment by Dwight and Connie

44 Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus

#14 Rejected by Jews

O.T. Isaiah 53:3

N.T. John 1:11

#16 Elijah Came Before

O.T. Malachi 4:5-6

N.T. Matthew 11:13-14

#15 Was a Prophet

O.T. Deut. 18:15

N.T. Acts 3:20-22

#17 Called the Son of God

O.T. Psalm 2:7

N.T. Matthew 3:16-17

Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

Monthly Members Spotlight



Meet Betty Smith



Where were you born and raised? I was born in Fitzgerald, GA and grew up on a small farm that had a menagerie of animals. I met my future husband when we met and worked together on the school newspaper at Fitzgerald High School.

How long have you lived in Tennessee? Gerald and I moved here from Atlanta after we graduated from college. It has been almost 57 years that we have lived in this area.

Name something unique about you that very few people know. After I retired from being the perpetual teacher and student, I played tennis competitively for about ten years, traveling throughout the South East and West to AZ and CA.

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? Documenting and tracing our combined families on Ancestry.com. I have spent many years talking to relatives, visiting grave sights and researching to leave this lineage to my children and grandchildren. I also am working on getting our pictures in order, in between growing and caring for plants and my garden.

What qualities do you admire most in others? I admire people who care about others, are friendly, and who lend a helping hand. A person who is honest, stands for what is right, uses good judgment, encourages others, gives their best effort, has a positive attitude, and has a good sense of humor.

Meet Gerald Smith

Where were you born and raised? I was born and raised in a little town 100 miles south of Macon, called Fitzgerald.

How long have you lived in Tennessee? Well, if Betty says it has been 57 years, I guess I'll go along with that. Marrying her has been the greatest success of my life.

Name something unique about you that very few people know. I was named "Most Likely to Succeed" and played softball from my teens into my 50's.

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? I love to follow and watch any type of sports, but am particular to high school football, I am a VOLS fan for football, basketball, baseball and Lady Vols softball.

What qualities do you admire most in others? I most admire kindness, perseverance, competitiveness, and versatility.





Meet Marty Weber



Where were you born and raised? I was born in Chicago and in 7th grade we moved to Saginaw, MI. In my Senior year at Arthur Hill HS I met my future husband. We dated for 5 years and we have been married for 61 years.

How long have you lived in TN? 46 years. We relocated to Knoxville to open Hearth & Patio.

Name something unique about you that very few people know. Being in retail exposed me to a man's world of selling everything from wood stoves, add-on furnaces, grills, etc. I could move my share of heavy merchandise and made believers out of those who didn't believe I knew what I was talking about.

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? I have always loved to hike, but I am now content to hike along the 4 miles of the Greenbelt and it is perfect!

What qualities do you admire most in others? In Gene, I loved his faith in God, his humor, his honesty and his love of nature. I still admire those qualities in other people.

Meet Gene Weber

Where were you born and raised? I was born and raised in Saginaw, MI. and educated in the Missouri Lutheran Church.

How long have you lived in TN? 46 years ago to begin a retail business, Hearth & Patio.

Name something unique about you that very few people know. For the past 60 years, I have been the grocery shopper for our family. I have always loved to cook, and especially to create home made soups.

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? For the past thirty years I have been an avid hiker in our National Parks. I am a member of the Smoky Mountain 900 Club and have hiked from the North rim to the South rim of the Grand Canyon.

What qualities do you admire most in others? I admire people who are always honest and place their emphasis on Christian/family relationships.





Come enjoy **Faith, Food and Fellowship**

at the next **SMGMC's Men's Luncheon** on

Thursday, May 23rd at 11:00 am at **CALHOUN'S** in Maryville.



Pray

P = Praise

R = Repent

A = Ask

Y = Yield



Hear Our Prayer

Gracious God, we come to You as those who are in need of Your assistance and those who know that without You we can do nothing.

We humbly ask for help as we attempt to live the Christian life.

Please provide comfort and strength as we face difficulties, challenges, and opportunities each day.

Guide us through Your Word so that we may learn how to live this life in a way pleasing to You.

Endow us with Your wisdom so that we may always act with love toward others, forgive when wronged, ask for forgiveness when needing to be forgiven, and serve as instruments of peace.

Guide us as we work together throughout the day to care for those who are sick, lonely, poor, or dying.

In Jesus Name, Amen. (Author Unknown)





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

Beyes Eye

Happy Mother's Day!!