

Bookwalter United Methodist Church

4218 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

January 10, 2023

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director

Edie Jo Hall, Children's Director

Todd Spangler, Pianist

Church Phone: (865) 689-3349

Web Page: www.bookwalter-umc.org

***"Sharing God,s love with our neighbors,
Inviting them to share in in the joy of Jesus Christ"***

ARTICLE

At our last Church Council meeting of 2022, chairperson Mary Mahoney outlined several of the things we had done as a church over the course of the year. I share them for you to reflect upon also.

One of the highlights of the year was another successful week of Camp in the Community with a wonderfully diverse group of children having a meaningful and fun time on our grounds. Whitney Crye facilitated the donation of a bus bench for those waiting on KAT which Willis Miller then installed on our property. We said farewell to Rusty Boggs who retired as our pianist after decades of service. We have been blessed to welcome Todd Spangler as our new accompanist. Rusty did so many other things around the church and many people have stepped up to fill the void. For one, David Gardner is now uploading the written content for our YouTube livestream of worship services. Linda Comer continues to lead a successful combined adult Sunday school class via Zoom. We are so thankful to have

Debbie Johnson stepping in as treasurer as Don Henderlight's health was failing. We have an updated website (<http://www.bookwalter-umc.org>) designed by a friend of Mary Mahoney's and now maintained by Mary.

We had both a wonderful Easter Cantata as well as an exceptional Christmas Cantata with a full choir and orchestra. On a sad note, our choir director Bailey Hueser shared that he will be moving to Washington D.C. in a month or two with his fiancé.

We provided "Valley of Rhyme " books to every student at Inskip Elementary and hundreds to an Oak Ridge school. The remainder were distributed through other outreach venues such as a church food pantry in Rocky Top. We gave away over 1500 books altogether. We completed ten "Hands On" Mission buckets of food for Zimbabwe. We led the Pack-A-Backpack ministry with Inskip Elementary for the 21st year. We collected 600 food items for Thanksgiving baskets for those in our community through the Friends of Inskip. We also participated in the Bread for the World

food collection. The children's department sponsored an Undies Sunday collection for children at Inskip Elementary.

Before resigning, Zach Smith took ten youth to Senior High Youth Assembly. We are continuing to look for a new staff person here since the tragic death of Nick Eggert. The Civil Air Patrol has regrouped and is meeting again. They are mapping the church cemetery and also led a placing of wreaths service there in December. We gathered to celebrate member Mary Helen Meadow's 90th birthday in September.

Pat Newman stepped in to help with Adult Bible study by leading one on Spiritual Gifts and another for Advent. She also led "Coffeehouse Church" which was a well-received different approach to Sunday morning service. We had a proper Homecoming for the first time in a few years with a covered-dish meal and our speaker was Nick Rose. We had fun with two game nights on March 30 and July 27. We had another successful Trunk or Treat in spite of threatening weather.

I have probably missed some things here, but it still makes a nice look back. As I said in my sermon Sunday, now it is time to look forward to 2023 and beyond! Steve

COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH

Plan on joining us in the Fellowship Hall (instead of the sanctuary) on Sunday, January 29th at 11:00 am for our second "Coffee House Church" worship service. Pat Newman's friend Hedy Collins will be sharing her faith story while you are free to sip on a cup of Joe.

BRAIN-STORMING SESSION

Join us Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 a.m. until noon to share inspirations and ideas. We will have doughnuts and coffee and get you out by lunchtime. We plan on fleshing out details for our planned new backpack/food/homeless ministry. We will also discuss ideas for a niche fundraiser that will help ease the financial burden as well as increase our visibility in the community.

We did not want to just call this a "planning" session because it will be more than just putting events on a calendar. It should also be more grounded than a mere "dreaming" session because we want to follow up with our ideas and make them reality. Pray this brainstorming session is blessed with a vision for our congregation.

