



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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January 2025

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director
Todd Spangler, Pianist

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor
Betsy Payne, Secretary

Edie Jo Hall, Children's Director
Taylor Stephens, Youth Director

*Sharing God's love with our neighbors,
inviting them to share in the joy of Jesus Christ.*

ARTICLE

It has been something of a tradition for our Church Council Chairperson Mary Mahoney to summarize much of what has taken place at church over the past 365 days when we have our final meeting of the year. Here is her recap of 2024.

The Youth attended Resurrection in January and Assembly in the summer. On February 3rd we held a planning/vision meeting that the congregation was invited to attend. As always, some good ideas came from this event. Coffee House Church continues to be well received and is held on 5th Sundays.

We collected enough items to have 15 buckets to be sent to Zimbabwe. This was an increase from 10 last year. We participated again this year in Pack-Backpack for Inskip Elementary school. Several members helped with distributing the items to the students. Always a rewarding experience.

Thanks to ALL who recruited, organized, priced, arranged and sold items at the rummage sale. The sale raised a little over \$3,000. The money raised helped offset the costs of the soccer camp.

We held our first soccer camp and it was enjoyed by over 30 children from the Inskip Elementary School. Each child received a t-shirt and soccer ball to take home. We hope this can become an annual event. Thanks to Jason French for leading this effort and to all who assisted with it.

Kudos to Charles Gault for his relentless efforts in getting the tenant out of the parsonage and overseeing the sale. This was finalized around the end of September. The money received, minus expenses related to the eviction which we were able to keep, has been placed in an account with the Holston Foundation and will begin to earn interest which in the future we may be able to access.

We thanked Betty Lenoir in October as she retired with a reception recognizing her 20+ years of service as the church secretary. Betsy Payne has been hired to fill the church secretary position.

Scott Payne hosted a Contact Care workshop at Bookwalter for Seniors. It was informative and a good time for fellowship. They met again in December and more meetings are planned.

Another successful Trunk or Treat was held on October 27th. Approximately 14 vehicles participated, and we saw a steady flow of children. Thanks to Betsy Payne for leading the crafts activities for the kids. Thanks to all who helped coordinate and get everything set up and put up after the event!

Bookwalter UMC celebrated 142 years with our Homecoming on November 3rd. We enjoyed hearing from Rev. Mary C. Thompson, Executive Director of Holston Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries. Thanks to Idonna, Rose and (*I know I am leaving out people*) to all who helped with Homecoming.

We also celebrated Pat Newman completing Lay Minister training! In the summer we unanimously approved her request to Church Council to move forward with this goal.

We participated again this year in collecting items for food baskets for families for Thanksgiving. This year we collected 200 boxes of dressing, gravy packets and unsweetened Kool-Aid packets.

Pastor Steve has held several Bible studies throughout the year on a variety of topics. Pat Newman led our annual Advent Bible study. The study was called Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph

Bailey Hueser pulled together our Christmas Concert -- Noel – Night of Everlasting Love – with performances held on Saturday, December 21st and Sunday, December 22nd. This was dedicated to the memory of his uncle Michael Hueser who recently passed away. Mike had participated in past cantatas.



We had a good year of helping people, serving the community and having fellowship. I can't wait to see what next year brings.
Mary

CHURCH COUNCIL

We will have our first meeting of 2025 on Monday, January 13 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel Class at the church. We will also offer a Zoom option for those wanting to join us online.

BIBLE STUDY AND YOUTH

We will resume our regular Wednesday evening activities of Adult Bible study and Youth meetings on January 8th at 6:30 PM. The Bible study will resume their study of First Corinthians with Sesson Six.



YOUTH

Our young people will be going to Resurrection '25 on the weekend of January 24-26 so please be in prayer for a safe and meaningful event.

Thank you to everyone who contributed at the recent "Peas On Earth Dinner" as they raised \$448.

FROM THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

