



Equipping People in Becoming Deeply Committed Christians

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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July 2016

Tennessee Annual Conference Report From Edwin Moore

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the 2016 Tennessee Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and being one of the delegates of the Pulaski FUMC. At the conference much emphasis was placed on reporting back to each of our local congregations by answering three questions in order to let you know where God fits into our lives and our churches.

The first question was: **Where did I see God at work during the Annual Conference?** In every speaker and every report it was easy to see God at work. Emphasis was placed on our need to stay focused on Jesus. Much of the conference was like attending an exciting worship service. There is no doubt that God is alive in the United Methodist Church. Not only did the speakers show God at work, but each attendee at the conference. It was a pleasure to be surrounded by fellow Christians. In private conversations, it was amazing to hear about the activities in which many of the churches are involved in their local communities much like the Pulaski FUMC.

Question two was: **What was most meaningful for me as a delegate that I will share with Pulaski FUMC.** I was asked a question at the conference that each of us need to ask ourselves and that is "When people see you (me), what do they see? We need to be God's eyes, ears and hands here on earth. We need to let "God's miracles break forth every day and don't let me be an obstacle in any way".

Question three was: **What did I learn or hear at the Annual Conference that has inspired me to take a leap of faith with a fresh expression of ministry in my neighborhood?** We were reminded that almost everything around us is changing, then why not the church. Just like most everyone else, I sometimes resist change. Change can be frightening, but we accept it in our daily lives, why not in church. We must recognize what must change and what must stay the same.

We were challenged at the Annual Conference to: Discover, Equip, Connect, and Send; offering Christ One Neighborhood At A Time. This is similar to the challenge Pastor Lee makes to us every Sunday by saying: "We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ by engaging, connecting, equipping, and sending people for Christ and making our community a better place to live".

Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your delegate at the 2016 Tennessee Annual Conference.

Tennessee Annual Conference Report from Sally Hobbs

Thank you, FUMC of Pulaski, for gifting me 3 ½ days at the TN Annual Conference and for changing and renewing me. The conference, however, was not just for me but for the entire church. I want to share with you the three questions that were asked of laity.

1. **Where did I see God at annual Conference?** God's presence was constantly visible in many ways. I saw God in the hundreds of voices raised to honor our Lord, both in song and liturgies and in seeing smiling faces of old and new friends that are called United Methodist. God filled our hearts at every worship service with His word, the music, and the worship visuals. I also saw God in the various leadership roles of present and past members whose roots weaved from this congregations. Harriet Bryan, Max Mayo, Tommy Ward, Tommy Vann, Cheryl Wood, Pat Sailors, Mark Hagedwood, Ted Brown, Trevor Gentry, MMC music, and probably more that I don't know or failed to mention.
2. **What was most meaningful as a delegate that I can share?** Bishop McAllily's State of the Church address opened the conference with two questions: Do I believe we have a dying church or a vibrant church? Many of the characteristics of each, I believe we have. Those questions focused my thoughts as I continued listening and learning the next three days. Let's work to be a vibrant church. The other most meaningful moment was the Service of Ordination. I think of it like a preacher's graduation ceremony. I love seeing the grandeur of the service, but I especially love seeing the people stand who have come in support of each candidate. I love seeing both clergy and laity stand proudly together in the presence of God and each other, promising their love and support to the honored minister as the Bishop lays hands on each candidate. One young man had probably thirty youth (and many others) who stood proudly for their friend and Godly leader. What a God sighting for those young hearts!

Continued on page 2

MINISTER OF MUSIC



It is with great excitement that I announce our guest worship artist for July 31st in both services will be Logan Blade. Logan is a 24-year-old young man who was diagnosed with autism at age 2. Although Logan cannot carry on a conversation and has little to no speech, God blessed him with an amazing deep baritone voice. Logan has recently traveled all over the eastern United States. He sang at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and in New York City on the USS Intrepid. Logan has been on the Grand Ole Opry with country artist Josh Turner and has performed shows at the famous Bluebird Café in Nashville. In 2014, Logan was nominated for a Dove Award for Best Country Album. Just this past May, Logan was invited to sing at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Logan sings at church and community events. He has 2 CD's out. A portion of the CD sales goes to Autism Tennessee. I know you will want to mark this date on your calendar and invite friends to come to church with you.

Blessings, *Cheryl Wood*
cheryl@fumcpulaski.com

From Pastor Lee

Last month, Judy and I attended our version of church council. It last 3 ½ days and is called Annual Conference. Sally Hobbs and Edwin Moore also attended as FUMC's lay delegates. There is an equal number of clergy and lay delegates who represent congregations from around the TN Conference. Annual conference has been held here in Pulaski previously and in our sanctuary. There is a picture of that conference between the sanctuary and rotunda in the room that has the fireplace. Take a look at that picture sometime as it was before there was laity representation.

I'm joining Sally and Edwin in answering three questions about annual conference as a way of reporting to back to you.

Where did I see God at annual Conference?

Worship has a significant place at annual conference. We sing and glorify the Lord, we hear testimonies of individuals, congregations and ministries. In all of these expressions of worship I see God. But it doesn't stop there. Annual Conference is a significant time that Judy and I are able to share meals, sit with and speak to other pastors we may only see once a year. It's kind of like a family reunion and in those reunions we see God.

What was most meaningful as a delegate that I can share? What did I hear, see, or learn that inspired me to take a leap of faith with a fresh expression of ministry in my neighborhood?

As I shared in a recent sermon, "...make our community a better place to live" the teachings on Christian (Methodist) social innovation was powerful. As we get closer to Sharp property possession having a host of relationships and ministries that are socially innovative are imperative for us. If you have time, I invite you to spend a few hours and watch these teachings. They are available on YouTube and you may want to fast forward to the teaching.

I hope I can be an inspiration for you and our congregation to take leaps of faith with a fresh expression of ministry in our community. Our community needs the people of FUMC of Pulaski, whose hearts are full of God's love and grace and ooze out that love and grace to our community. This can be expressed in many ways and you are a vital participant, if you choose to be, in bringing a fresh expression of ministry.

Tennessee Annual Conference Report from Sally Hobbs continued:

3. **What did I hear, see, or learn that inspired me to take a leap of faith with a Fresh Expression of ministry in my neighborhood?** "Be not afraid" a popular phrase in the Bible, but do I live by it? I challenge myself and I challenge us, FUMC of Pulaski, to be people of Hope and Love.

I want to share with you some thought I heard and liked while at Annual Conference this year.

- 1) Give God away
- 2) God's mission has a church that involves us.
- 3) We sometimes build the bridge and walk on it at the same time.
- 4) Invest in young people
- 5) Be a leader
- 6) Grow fruitful and faithful congregations
- 7) You can't just make a disciple, you have to be a disciple
- 8) You need action in your faith
- 9) God honors our availabilities more than our abilities
- 10) Create new ways to reach the unchurched – Be innovative

I challenge us to be something special that will enable all of us to work together to meet our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ through engaging, connecting, equipping, and sending people for Jesus Christ and making our community a better place to live. Thanks again for letting me be your lay leader and delegate to annual conference.

The VBS Committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make VBS a success!!





Soul Food Sunday will be July 17. Items needed : Cereal

Sympathy is expressed to the Family & Friends of Mr. Butler Harrison in his recent death.

Sympathy is expressed to Jerry Hibdon & Family & Friends in the death of his mother, Mrs. Hazel Youree Hibdon.

IN MEMORY OF:

Mr. Butler Harrison by Irene B. Harrison, Gary & Patsy Harrison, Stapp & Jessica Harrison, Charles & Sandra McPeake, Darren & Andrea Overholtzer, Andrew & Julie McPeake, Chuck & Jane Paysinger, Louise Henry/Open Door Class, Mr. W. P. Murrey, Dr. & Mrs. Malcolm Cox, Earl Wakefield, Jim & Sandra Ferrell, Phil & Sara Reese

Mrs. Hazel Hibdon by Gerald & Sue Harper, Claudia Oakes, Chuck & Jane Paysinger, Linda Mooney

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTE:

Every Sunday we recite the Apostle's Creed as a statement of our faith as Christians. But what is our statement of faith as Methodists? Starting August 14, the Sojourners Sunday School Class will be reading and discussing *Top 10 United Methodist Beliefs*, by Don Adams, which explores John Wesley's teaching on a number of topics and how those teachings fit in with those of other denominations.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this study. We meet at 9:30 Sunday mornings."

Thanks! Eli

CARD MINISTRY REMINDER:

Please fill out the colored card you will find in the pews on Sunday if you know someone who would like, or who needs to receive a card from Pulaski FUMC. You can drop them in the boxes in the vestibules or in the Card Ministry mailbox in Fellowship Hall.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS

TRANSFER

Did you know the Church offers Electronic Funds Transfer? If you are interested in having your pledge/donations to the church automatically transferred from your account into the church account, please call Brenda in the Church office at 363-2595. It's very simple and quick.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the Second Monday of each month @ 10:00 in Fellowship Hall.

We are exploring a Cub Scout Pack at our church. If you are interested in being a leader, please contact Pastor Lee.



Prepared. For Life.™

Sunday Radio Broadcast

Sponsor a Sunday Radio Broadcast in honor or memory of someone for \$125.00. Please call the church office for more information. Many dates in 2016 are available.

MATTHEW THRIFT SHOPPE

Matthew 25 is an all volunteer staffed non-profit 501c3 church mission that gladly accepts and survives on donations. These donations are used to provide assistance to people in need [food, utility, rent, & medication]. Please call 424-5599 for more information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

07/14: Margaret Walden
 07/15: Yancey Coltrane
 07/16: Claudia Oakes, Shirley Wilson
 07/17: Diane Coggin, Jeremy Nkulu
 07/18: Makayla Street
 07/20: Nathan Bain, Delia Marchant Alex Oman, Deann Schultz
 07/21: Cynthia Pierce
 07/24: Jean Francis, Keith Riggan
 07/25: Lois Aymett, William Church Wendy Hibdon, Ella Pierce Sara Woodard
 07/26: Robert Wiseman
 07/27: Courtney Hutto, Kim Rackley Janet Ballard
 07/28: Rhett Dupree
 07/29: Robert Walls
 07/30: Ki Chiles, Bob Owens Wesley Polly
 07/31: Phyllis Childress, Kayla Hutto
 08/01: Ali Blair, Barrett Dunavant
 08/02: Ellen Garner
 08/03: Case Pride, Wei Reeves
 08/05: Katherine Koski Thomas Miller, Aaron Schultz Lesley Strickland
 08/06: DeWitt Booth George Ferguson
 08/08: Gene Morris, T Spivey Hudson Tucker, Olivia Tucker
 08/09: Michael Gardner Anna Grace Herd
 08/10: Whitney Henry Carolyn Petty, Larry Riggan
 08/12: Lynn Clark, Rudo Manyau
 08/14: Bruce Chiles
 08/15: Missy Harper Sara Katherine Murrey
 08/16: Linda Wamble
 08/17: Lucy Cothorn, Nicholas Kemp Patrick Phillips, Ashton Potts Tyler Brown
 08/19: Louis Liggett, Betty Slaten

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

07/16: John & Sharna Liggett
 07/16: Larry & Margaret Walden
 07/19: Forrest & Stephanie Garner
 07/24: Mike & Jane Lee Robertson
 07/25: Bob & Reba Walls
 07/28: Bill & Traci Rackley
 07/31: Bob & Angeta Andersen
 07/31: Jerry & Wendy Hibdon
 08/01: Jeff & Donna Bain
 08/05: DeWain Harris & Harriet Bryan
 08/07: Jason & Amy White
 08/08: Randy & Judy Shay
 08/09: Louis & Sandra Liggett
 08/14: Bill & Lisa Blair
 08/14: B. J. & Wendy Butler
 08/15: Charles & Jane Jenkins
 08/16: West & Teresa Chiles
 08/16: Harwell & Jane Murrey
 08/17: Patrick & Rebecca Sewell
 08/18: Bobby & Carroll Eubank
 08/18: Eli & Doris Wossum-Fisher
 08/18: Dan & Heather White
 08/21: Davis & Sloan Lake
 08/25: Lee & Jessie Parker

OPPORTUNITIES:

Sunday, July 17:

8:15 AM – Worship
 9:30 AM – Sunday school
 10:30 AM – Worship (WKSR 100.9)
 5:00 PM – 7:00 UMYF

Monday, July 18:

6:00 PM – United Methodist Women

Tuesday, July 19:

6:30 PM – Stephen Ministry

Wednesday, July 20:

10:00 AM – Young at Heart (F/S Hall)
 Special Speaker on Senior Adult Care
 Snacks, Games, and Prizes

Thursday, July 21:

8:30 AM – Circle of Care
 11:00 AM – 12:30 Soup & Sandwich

Sunday, July 24:

8:15 AM – Worship
 9:30 AM – Sunday school
 10:30 AM – Worship (WKSR 100.9)
 5:00 PM – 7:00 UMYF

Monday, July 25:

5:00 PM Building Committee

Tuesday, July 26:

5:30 PM – Growing Tree Parent Orientation

Thursday, July 28:

8:30 AM – Circle of Care

Sunday, July 31:

8:15 AM – Worship
 9:30 AM – Sunday school
 10:30 AM – Worship (WKSR 100.9)
 11:30 AM – Acolyte Training (Sanct.)
 5:00 PM – 7:00 UMYF

Monday, August 1: 5:15 PM - Trustees

Tuesday, August 2:

6:00 PM – 8:00 David Crockett District Round Table (F/S Hall)

Thursday, August 4:

8:30 AM – Circle of Care
 10:00 AM – Hewitt House Devotional

Sunday, August 7:

8:15 AM – Worship
 9:30 AM – Sunday school
 10:30 AM – Worship (WKSR 100.9)
 5:00 PM – 7:00 UMYF

Monday, August 8:

10:00 AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry
 5:00 PM – Finance Committee
 6:00 PM – Church Council

Tuesday, August 9:

GCHS Soccer Team Fundraiser Dinner (F/S Hall)

Thursday, August 11:

8:30 AM – Circle of Care
 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM Boys & Girls State Dinner

Sunday, August 14:

8:15 AM – Worship
 9:30 AM – Sunday school
 10:30 AM – Worship (WKSR 100.9)
 5:00 PM – 7:00 UMYF

Monday, August 15:

6:00 PM – United Methodist Women

Tuesday, August 16:

6:30 PM – Stephen Ministry

Thursday, August 18:

8:30 AM – Circle of Care

Sunday, August 21: Soul Food Sunday

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School 9:30
 Worship 8:15 & 10:30
 (10:30 Service Broadcast on 106.7 WKSR)

As of June 30, 2016

2016 Spending Guide: \$546,281.00
 Total Income to date: 232,117.51
 Total Expenses to Date: 231,019.17
 Operating surplus/deficit to date: 1,098.34

*Includes \$41,915.52 paid toward Apportionments.

Average SS attendance: 123
 Average Worship attendance: 234

First United Methodist Church
 200 West Jefferson St.
 Pulaski, TN 38478

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MEMORIAL INFORMATION

Memorials may be designated to the following funds: New Building Fund, Music, Children’s Music, Youth, Special Worship, Funeral Fund, Circle of Care, etc. Please mark your check accordingly.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is now available on the Church

**Website—
 www.fumcpulaski.com**

THE STAFF:

Rev. Lee Stevenson..... Pastor
 Rev. Cheryl Wood.....Minister of Music
Dir. of Youth & Discipleship
 Brenda Barrett.....Church Administrator
 Adelaide Daniel..... Office Volunteer
 Fred Lindsey..... Maint. Supervisor
 Carolyn Holbert, Courtney Morris Nursery
 Terri Adams..... Managing Director of
 “Growing Tree” Nursery School
 Custodians.....Randy Shay & Joe Appleton
 Sherry Hill..... Stephen Ministry Coordinator