

## The Good Views

### From the Pastor

**“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?...But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.” Psalm 13**

Most people become impatient with other people, especially loved ones and those we interact with most frequently. It is understandable that people of faith would become impatient with God and ask “How long, O Lord?”. This is to be expected when we are afraid, in pain, or anxious; when we want answers now and every second seems like an eternity. God can’t answer our prayers soon enough to satisfy our anxious hearts at such times and we may wrongly conclude that God is not concerned for us. Indeed, life seems like a test and a challenge at times and we wonder “How long” before this ordeal finally ends. Many times in my life I have found myself thanking God for a peaceful interlude while wondering when the next storm would erupt. Even Jesus asked of God, “why have you forsaken me?”

So, how long are you willing to wait on the Lord? The Psalmist mentions the “enemy” who had exalted over or controlled their existence. One way of dealing with the misfortunes of life is to identify an enemy and blame such others for all our troubles. At times an identifiable enemy may clearly be the cause of our problems but usually this is a way of avoiding the real problem. As Christians we are taught by Jesus to approach suffering and troubles by asking God to intervene, by looking at what we can do to change the situation, and by detaching from evil doers and enemies. We are to turn the other cheek, pray for those who try to harm us, and see beyond the outward behavior to the inner person. Not that bad behavior is excusable or has no consequences. Clearly there is the price to pay when we or others do evil, however, it is not up to us to exact that price from our enemies, “vengeance is mine: I will repay, says the Lord” (Romans 12:19). In fact vengeance probably does more harm to the one exacting it than to the one receiving it and it usually leads to a downward spiral of revenge and more revenge. We should never try to avenge ourselves.

Though we may come to feel that a situation is unredeemable and hopeless, our faith is that God will eventually do what is right and good. No matter how long that takes, it is not up to us to push the process along, rather it is our job as Christians to be faithful and patient, to “wait upon the Lord”. My life will end some day with many things left undone and probably with enemies as well as friends around me. I trust that God’s will prevails in eternity and that is good enough for me no matter how long it takes.



## Our Church Calendar: Programs and Activities @ Westview

### Mission Statement:

*"We envision Westview United Methodist Church as a place that equips disciples to change lives."*



United Methodist Information Service

Where you can ask any question  
about the United Methodist Church

**1-800-251-8140**

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Central Time  
Toll-free in the U.S.

<http://infoserv.umc.org>

### Weekly Meetings

#### Sundays

12-2 p.m. Youth Fellowship

2:00 p.m. Joyful Noyz Youth Praise band practice

#### 2nd-5th Sunday

12-2 p.m. Children's Fellowship and 12 p.m. Children's Choir

#### Tuesdays

9:00 a.m. Preschool parents Bible study (Everyone is welcome)

9-3:00 p.m. Preschool in session

6:30 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study

7:30 a.m. AA meeting

#### Wednesdays

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Art Academy

5:30 -7:00 p.m. Sprouts and Confirmation Class

6:30-8:00 p.m. Adult Choir practice

#### Thursdays

9-3:00 p.m. Preschool in session

6-7:00 p.m. Spiritual Weight Management

7:30 p.m. AA meeting

#### Fridays

10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study (Contact Patti Carrol)

## July

### July 9

5:30 p.m. Young Adult Fellowship dinner club Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Tom and Kim Daugherty's, 7306 Cox Run Court, bring a side dish or dessert. This month is for adults only. Next month will be a family gathering.

Waynesboro Workday

### July 12

Funsters to Chaffins Barn Theater – Call Debby Rainey

### July 15-17

Family Fellowship Weekend at Beersheba Springs

### July 17

Guest preacher: Rev. Loyd Mabry, District Superintendent and former Westview pastor.

### July 24

Guest preacher: Rev. David Hawkins, Conference Treasurer/Statistician and former Westview pastor.

### Waynesboro Workday Rescheduled for Sat. July 9

Work on the flood damaged homes in Waynesboro continues, with 3-4 teams having worked at various times the past 2 weeks. The planned Conference-wide Waynesboro Workday has been rescheduled from June 25 to July 9. Our apologies for the change. We are looking for about 24 people, no more than 8 to each of the 3 homes still needing work. One group has already signed up, so schedule your team now. Please contact David Lay at [david6359@msn.com](mailto:david6359@msn.com) or at 931-853-4893 to sign up for this workday or arrange another date your group can come.

### The Family Fellowship Weekend at Beersheba Springs

July 15-17, 2005

If you know of a church that would like more information about this fun and inspirational event please contact Melissa Meyer at (615) 230-5738 or [mmassoc@comcast.net](mailto:mmassoc@comcast.net).

## Summary of 2005 Tennessee Annual Conference

Registration began at 2:00 PM for the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Tennessee Annual conference. The beautiful, spacious Brentwood United Methodist was well prepared for the arriving crowd. We were soon off to find our "way about" in this wonderful church. (Believe me, it wasn't hard to get lost!) I attended the session concerning the constitutional amendments as these changes were discussed and the necessary action was taken by the delegates. Bible study was held each the morning. There was an abundance of music throughout the 3 days led by an extremely talented man of the host church. He accompanied the congregational singing with the pipe organ and grand piano. (Plus he is an opera singer) Needless to say, music was a big part of the worship service. What a joy to sit amongst believers and sing His praise. The inspirational message of the Lord was powerfully presented by several pastors and church officials. At a site located in a tranquil area in the church basement delegates could come in for moments of solitude and reflection at nine prayer stations. It was interesting to watch the business of the church take place and hear about the role of the United Methodist church in our state and throughout the world.

I appreciate being able to attend and experience the church in action.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Newman, alternate lay member of the Tennessee Annual Conference

The theme for the June 12-14, 2005, Tennessee Annual Conference was "Living in God's Extravagant Love through Prayer." Richard J. Wills, Jr., Resident Bishop of the Nashville Area, presided at this, the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Tennessee Conference. Vance P. Ross was the Conference Preacher. Brad Brady was the Conference Bible Study Leader.

The Tennessee Annual Conference passed a budget of \$12,505,881.00. This includes a figure of \$200,000.00 for the Contingency Fund, which was virtually depleted early in 2005. The Conference has been receiving gifts from individuals and local churches to replenish this fund. The Laity Luncheon at Annual Conference gave \$1,681.71.

Eight Constitutional Amendments proposed by General Conference were all approved by an overwhelming margin, the only exception being Amendment VII which adds "local pastors under appointment" to the clergy membership in the Annual Conference which still had a substantial 71% approval rating.

The Conference also passed eleven resolutions presented by Conference Committees or individuals including:

- \*Support of a National Hunger Awareness Day, urging congregations to stand in solidarity with the poor and marginalized until the hungry are fed.
- \*Support of the need for increased awareness of Native American contributions to the local church.
- \*Support for the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday in conjunction with Human Relations Day/Ecumenical Sunday as an annual event of the Tennessee Annual Conference.
- \*Approval of seven ministry projects as Conference Advance Specials
- \*Approval for the Vanderbilt University Wesley Foundation to seek a long term lease agreement with St. Augustine as a new campus ministry center is constructed
- \*Approval of the transition of the task force on sexual ethics into a standing committee of the Council on Ministries to be known as the Committee on Sexual Ethics.
- \*Approval allowing the Building Committee to investigate the possibility of the Conference Center in which to house the offices of the Bishop, Connectional Ministries, Administrative Services, Office of Ministerial Services, Nashville Area Foundation, Nashville District, and other interested Conference agencies.
- \*In support of encouraging individuals and congregations to call upon all schools, colleges, universities, sports teams and municipalities to voluntarily discontinue their usage of all Native American mascots and symbols.
- \*In support of a resolution asking the Conference to commit to sharing information on pending TennCare changes through its congregations and publications; and to urge the Governor, State Legislature and our U.S. Senators and Representatives to continue to seek solutions to the TennCare crisis. It was further recommended that copies of the Conference action to be sent to the Governor.

In a separate action it was voted that the United Methodist Episcopal Areas in Tennessee get together to meet with the Governor about the TennCare crisis. This would include the Tennessee, Memphis, and Holston Conferences. (Continued on Page 4)

One motion brought from the floor by Rev. John Purdue passed and it was related to the growing Hispanic population in all districts of the Tennessee Conference. The motion moved "that each District and District Superintendent be charged with the creation of the office of District Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries (or like office) in the coming conference year with that office to be filled by a Latino/a, preferably a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> generation immigrant." Purdue further moved that these positions be funded through the creative and collective efforts of local churches in the various Districts with the strong encouragement of the District Superintendents.

There was a celebration of the ministry of eighteen persons who retired with this session of Annual Conference. In total years of ministerial service the eighteen individuals represented well over half a millennium dedicated to Christ and His church.

### Statistics

Statistics reported at Annual Conference revealed that:

1. There are 172 Local Pastors in the Tennessee Conference (total figure)
2. There are 19 First Time Local Pastors
3. There were 19 Licenses for Pastoral Ministry presented along with 7 persons commissioned as Probationary Members for Service and 9 Ordained as Elders during the Sunday Ordination and Commissioning Service.
4. Church membership in 2004 was 116,593, an increase of 6/10 of 1% over the 2003 membership total of 115,931.
5. Average weekly worship attendance for principle worship services in 2004 stood at 49,143 which is an 8.5% increase over the 2003 figure of 45,307.

## Remember Our Military Friends Protecting our Country

**CPL Jason Gulley**  
910 Mandarin Trail  
Jacksonville, NC 28540

**PVT Jessica Spivey**  
L.R.M.C.  
C-MROT Box 2003  
APO A-E 09180

**SA Hawkins, Daniel D.**  
440 Roberts Ave.  
PMB #1529  
Pensacola, FL 32511-5151

**Renner, Scott CPL**  
927 Albacore Street  
Beauford, SC 29906

**Captain Adam B. Mangrum**  
Home

**Cadet Katherine Ivey**  
Squadron 5  
USAF Academy, CO  
80841-4940  
Graduates June 1, 2005

**Lance Corp. McDaid, Matthew**  
2-5 Golf Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon  
UIC 40365  
FPO AP 96426-0365

**PFC Joseph A. Clinard**  
B-3-69 AR 1BCT  
FOB Brassfield-MORA  
APO AE09383  
In Iraq

**HT3 Braddy, William C.**  
ENG/R DIV  
USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67)  
PPO AA 34095-2800

**Danny Gray**  
100 Crews Ave., A15  
Alamogordo, NM 88310

**PVT Eric Fold**

**Minor, Jeremiah L.**  
Task Force Bayonet  
HHC 2/503<sup>rd</sup> FSE  
APO, AE 09355  
Cindy New's nephew  
**AN Jenkins, Keith**  
V4/AIR DIV  
USS John F. Kennedy (CV-7)  
PPO AA 34095-2800

## **Ubuntu eXplorers Program Builds Friendships**

New York -- The Women's Division and Mission Volunteers office of the General Board of Global Ministries are forming a partnership that will enable women from the United States to build friendships and experience mission for one to two weeks in Zimbabwe, Uruguay, Cambodia, Sierra Leone or Cote D'Ivoire.

The goal of the program, called Ubuntu eXplorers, is to enable women from the U.S. to understand and share together the daily life, struggles, culture, challenges, and opportunities of women from one of these countries. It will give members from the 1-million member United Methodist Women a first-hand look at the programs and projects supported by their annual giving of approximately \$20 million.

The program will begin April 2006 with a first trip to Zimbabwe. Trips to Uruguay in August and Cambodia in September will follow. In 2007, the Division and Mission Volunteers will host trips to Sierra Leone and Cote D'Ivoire.

"Ubuntu" is an African word and proverb meaning, "I am human because you are human." According to Ubuntu psychology, "Sharing ourselves and our gifts with others optimizes our collective and individual humanity. Even in the sharing and the giving, the individual or 'other' group receives the gifts and the glories of humanity."

Jeanie Blankenbaker, assistant general secretary for Mission Volunteers, says that the idea of Ubuntu eXplores came as an answer to a prayer from Grace Musuka, coordinator of women's work for The United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe.

"A couple of years ago, Grace asked me if it would be possible sometime for just women to come to Zimbabwe to worship with her women, to share in laughter and cry in sadness, to enjoy each others' company in Christian love, as sisters of faith, letting the women in Zimbabwe know they were not alone," explains Ms. Blankenbaker. "When we called Grace to ask if she'd still like us to come, she immediately said, 'Can you come yesterday?'"

Karen Prudente, executive for international opportunities with the Division, said that grassroots women's organizations, supported by United Methodist Women, will host the visitors.

"Participants will learn about the cultures of the area, travel, pray, sing, cry, teach, work, listen and tell stories, and engage as Christian sisters," she explained. They will visit and have a mission experience at institutions such as schools, clinics, women's training centers, hospitals, nurseries."

The experiences will differ depending on the trip chosen.

Costs will be under \$2,500 (inclusive of airfare, local transfer and immigration fees, room and board, local host arrangements and local workshop expenses, and a \$200 registration fee towards a pooled fund for Ubuntu scholarships). Additionally, team members will be asked to provide one suitcase of resource materials suggested by the host organization.

For more information and registration forms, please consult <http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/> or <http://gbgm-umc.org/vim/ubuntu.htm> . Interested women may also call Mission Volunteers at 212-870-3825 or the Women's Division at 212-870-3911.

## **Sponsor and youth with a camp scholarship**

As usual the church offers ½ scholarships to our children and youth who want to attend church camp each summer. If you would be willing to give a scholarship the cost is \$67.50 per child. Mark your check "camp scholarship fund".

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Mark 16:15*

**It helps us in times of need to remember how much God touches all of our lives.**

You are invited to write and share a witness of faith and spiritual experience in our monthly newsletter. Give your account to Janie Wells in writing or send it to [janiew@comcast.net](mailto:janiew@comcast.net) or the Pastor.

## **Unexpected**

Sometimes I would come early just to watch them arrive—the little ones who come to this place twice a week to learn and play and laugh. I am reminded of the time (seems like yesterday) when my own kids attended church pre-school. In those days we went elsewhere to find a preschool because this kind of program was not yet available for the children of Westview. How comforted I was then to know they were in a situation where they were encouraged to sing songs about Jesus and pray about the things that were important to them. I am so proud that now our own church provides this same comfort to Christian parents and the same ministry to the next generation of children in our community.

At the beginning of this school year Kim Tenney asked if I would be available to lead a Bible study offered weekly for the moms of our pre-schoolers. Her vision was to provide this opportunity to all—congregation and community alike. I was given complete discretion to choose the material we would study and set the class time for each Tuesday at 9 a.m.

We began the year reading Carol Kent's book *When I Lay My Isaac Down*. It is an interesting book about the very real struggle of giving God the things we hold dear— including our own expectation of what our lives hold in store for us. Each chapter provided questions that were difficult as well as challenging. We shared from our hearts and learned to know each other and our God better that we had before we began.

Our next study was *Living Free* by Beth Moore. We learned to implement 5 important principles in our lives:

1. To know and believe God
2. To glorify God
3. To find satisfaction in God
4. To experience God's peace
5. To enjoy God's presence

Throughout this study we continued our traditions of prayer time and sharing from our hearts. Each week the group faithfully prayed for this church and its members for making possible the ministry to the children and their families.

Our final text for this year has been Phillip Yancey's *The Bible Jesus Read*. This is a book that challenged our expectations about the Old Testament and expanded our knowledge of and interest in the rich history, poetry, prophecy and instruction in the books we had previously not explored in great enough depth.

Along the way this year some unexpected things happened. As we prayed each week for our own families we also prayed for my church family at Westview. I learned how much the ministry of the pre-school has meant to them---how much they appreciate the teachers and their tireless efforts in teaching the children Christian principles and ideas. I've heard first-hand their gratitude to the church for providing an environment that fosters and develops the foundations of faith in their children.

I wasn't expecting to have much common ground with this group—after all my boys are almost 15 and 11 and our pre-school days are distant memories. I wasn't especially prepared for the way God blessed me with this experience. I learned that the things we share---faith and family---matter most of all. We came together each week, Baptist, Church of Christ and Methodist to draw closer to the God we worship and the Jesus we love, We shared and we grew, experiencing together the ups and downs of the real Christian life. Tears and laughter, serious and funny, always seeking the face of God and always desiring to draw closer to Him. We became for each other the body of Christ. A taste of what unity can be when we concentrate on the important issues of faith that we all share. Bound not by tradition but by love.

I was not expecting to find God on Tuesday mornings but He found me. I will always be grateful to the people here at Westview for supporting the pre-school ministry. Thank you for providing the expected and obvious gifts of the program to the preschoolers and their families and the unexpected gifts of fellowship and unity it provided for me.


# Little Eyes Upon You

There are little eyes upon you  
And they're watching night and day.  
There are little ears that quickly  
Take in every word you say.  
There are little hands all eager  
To do anything you do;  
And a little child who's dreaming  
Of the day they'll be like you.

You're the little one's idol,  
You're the wisest of the wise.  
In their little mind about you  
No suspicions ever rise.  
They believe in you devoutly,  
Hold all you say and do;  
They will say and do, in your way  
When they've grown up just like you.

There's a wide-eyed little person  
Who believes you're always right;  
And their eyes are always opened,  
And watching day and night.  
You are setting an example  
Every day in all you do;  
For the little child who's waiting  
To grow up to be like you!

Author Unknown

<p><b>Westview United Methodist Church</b> 7107 Westview Drive, Fairview, TN 37062 Phone/Fax: 615-799-0250 Email: <a href="mailto:westumc@comcast.net">westumc@comcast.net</a></p> <p><i><u>Return Service Requested</u></i></p>	<p><b>Non-profit Organization Permit # 11 Fairview, TN 37062</b></p>
 <p><b>Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors.</b></p>	

***Mission Statement: "We envision Westview United Methodist Church as a place that equips disciples to change lives."***



**"The Good Views"** is a monthly publication of the Westview United Methodist Church.

- Gary Wedgewood, Pastor
- Rev. Loyd Mabry, Columbia District Superintendent
- Bishop Richard J. Wills, Jr., Tennessee Conference of the U. M. Church

### **Sunday Activities**

8:30 AM Southern Folk Worship

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

12-2:00 PM Youth & Children's Fellowships & Children's Choir

2:00 PM Joyful Noyz Youth Praise Band

### **Tuesday Activities**

6:30 PM Bible Study

### **Wednesday Activities**

3:30-5:30 PM Art Academy

5:30 PM Sprouts

6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice