

Worship returns to the Sanctuary
September 20th
8:15 & 10:30 Traditional

BROKEN PEWS

One concern I heard over and over about the renovations were the 'chairs in the sanctuary.' Originally, the space in front would not have pews but individual seating so it would be easy to make new space when we had special events. All kinds of configurations for worship and weddings and meetings would be possible. But something about chairs in our sanctuary just did not set well with folks.

Then there was a brilliant idea. What about those pews that have been removed over the years? We forget about those until the issue of storage comes up! They've been stacked in the storage shed for years and other things have been placed on top of them. What about using those old pews instead of chairs? They could be cut down so that two or three folks could sit on a pew; one could be moved aside to make room for a wheelchair. They can be turned at an angle; they can be added to; we can take them out; we can arrange them however we want. PERFECT!

The finished 'old pews' have arrived and people *ooohed* and *aaahed* over the beauty. ALL of the pews are our old ones, actually. But the refurbished forgotten pews look so much better than rows of chairs – no matter what kind of chairs we would have ordered. But then

If you look closely, you can see where repairs have been made or where repairs could not be made. If you look closely, you can see where paint is covering old scratches and smudges. You can see rubbed and worn places on wood. But when you stand in the chancel area and look out, it all looks beautiful. With the stained glass windows as a light source and the new lighting above, the pews – everything – is beautiful.

It's that way with us, isn't it?

When God looks closely at us, I am sure God can see the imperfections: the scars, the past hurts, the disappointments, the sin, things we have covered up and places we have tried to make new. The good news is that God doesn't *only* look closely and deep; God also sees above and beyond. **How beautiful we look to Him in the light of his love!**

(Continued on the next page.)

The **Mini**

Church Bell

Issue 17
September 14, 2015

Transformed by Christ, we will:
TELL,TEACH,TOUCH the World.

Broken Pews (continued from the cover)

I am grateful for all of the new things in the sanctuary; but I am also thankful that there are some old things with a few little scratches that remind me of people who have sat on these pews long before I was here; maybe long before you were here. Thankful for children's shoe buckles that scratched the wood and thankful for an old man's hand that clenched the pew in prayer every Sunday and wore it down smooth. I'm thankful for 'old pews' that remind me of past saints and cause me to pray and hope for those who come after. Thankful for reminders that we all have imperfections and are all the more welcomed in worship.



I met a woman on Friday by chance (really, by chance?) at the South Knoxville Public Library. I had just completed a graveside service at Woodlawn Cemetery and had two hours before my next appointment. I took my laptop into the library to do some work. As I walked in, an energetic older woman was coming out, saw my nametag with the UMC emblem and said, "Oh! Which church? I'm at Church Street!" When I told her First Maryville, she exclaimed "Oh, I grew up there. My family was there for years. We sat on the front pew!" I told her about our renovations and the front pews. I said, "There are a few little marks from years ago." She said, "That means a lot, doesn't it?"

Yes, it does. Yes, ma'am, it does.

Glad to be serving here – with my imperfections and all! *Catherine*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to:

Philip & Jennifer Faircloth of Franklin, TN on the birth of their son, Charlie Philip on August 15th. He weighed 9 lbs. 9 oz. He joins two brothers Noah & Eli and two sisters, Isabel & Lily.

The proud grandparents are Ron & Dianna Faircloth. Proud uncle is David Faircloth and proud Aunt is Carmen Faircloth.

Please welcome

Paul Hawkins
as a new member of 1st UMC

In memoriam:

Peggy Winck
Joined First Church :
September 25, 2006

Becky Pirtle
Joined First Church:
July 7, 2013

Entered the Church Triumphant: Entered the Church Triumphant:
September 1, 2015 September 8, 2015

Memorials & Honorariums

Bayou Mission Fund
In memory of: Jay Reynolds
Given by: Doug & Virginia Hardwick

Chancel Choir Fund
In memory of: Jay Reynolds
Given by: Wallace & Sara Jane Roberts

Memorial Fund
In memory of: Jim Williams
Steve Dorner
Lorene Kimbrough
Steve Dorner
Steve Dorner
Given by: Dennis & Pat Raines
Jim & Mary Kay Hamlin
Bert & Becky Emmerson
Wallace & Sara Jane Roberts
John & Judy Ziler

In memory of: Steve Dorner
Al Dockter
Lorene Kimbrough

In memory of: Tressa Benson Ferguson
Given by: Celebrate Recovery

In memory of: Steve Dorner
Jay Reynolds
Al Dockter
Lorene Kimbrough
Steve Dorner
Steve Dorner

Organ Fund
Given by: Dwain & Jane Pesterfield
Dwain & Jane Pesterfield
Dwain & Jane Pesterfield

Recovery Fund
Given by: Celebrate Recovery

Welcome Table
Given by: Tim & Patricia Badgett
Tim & Patricia Badgett
Ivanell Farber
Ivanell Farber
Arnold & Elaine Cox
Don & Cathy Watson

Where will you **Go.Do.**?

Saturday 9/19 and Sunday 9/20

KARM Donation Truck (in the 1st UMC Maryville parking lot)

(See insert for more information on what donations are accepted and how they help those in need)

Sunday 9/20

8:15 & 10:30 Worship - Wear a bandana for Bert Emmerson (Appalachian Trail Chaplain)

11:45 - Children are invited to help make blankets for *Family Promise*



Members of 1st UMC help pack food boxes at Second Harvest.

Wednesday 9/23

Workday at Compassion Counseling Center

Come help anytime between 9 am and 5 pm

Saturday 9/26

Stop Hunger Now Project

10:00 am to Noon

Wednesday 9/30

Workday at Montvale Elementary

For more info, visit the "Go.Do." section under the "1st to Serve" tab at :www.1stchurch.org or call the church office **982-1273**.

Lisa Blackwood of Good Neighbors accepts a check from Janet Harville on behalf of the Sojourners Sunday School Class.



The Community Food Connection helped a record number of people last month. We supplied food assistance to over 7,000 people. We appreciate your continued support. Right now we could use your help with donations of canned tuna, canned pasta meals or canned vegetables. Please just add to the grocery carts in the main entrance near the office, and we will deliver to the store.

In support of **Go.Do.**, we also have a variety of volunteer positions open, so please contact Linda Wells **995-2271** if you have a interest in serving our mission. We can always use drivers who have pick up trucks to help deliver our purchases from Second Harvest and local grocery stores.



Community Food Connection
of Blount County, Inc.

HAPPENING



Friday, September 18th @ 11:00 am in Wesley Hall

United Methodist Women host the senior ladies of Wesley House

(Any women who would like to assist with preparing or serving the food please contact Donna Doede at 856-0276)

All September & October

United Methodist Women are taking orders for pecans. Delivery will be in November.

Sundays starting **September 20th** at 9:30 am

1st UMC 101 - Room 202 (Open to all new members and those exploring church membership)

Sunday, **September 27th** at 4:00 pm - End of Summer, Pizza and Ice Cream Party

Wednesday, **September 30th** at Noon

J.O.Y. Fellowship Lunch - Enjoy gospel music, oldies and mountain music from the Jill Pear Family. Cost is \$5

MEETINGS:

Sunday, **September 20th** at 3:00 pm - Maryville District Conference

Monday, **September 21st** at 6:00 pm - Finance Meeting, 254

Sunday, **September 27th** at 11:30 am - CMAT

Tuesday, **September 29th** at 7:00 pm - Family Promise Training

For more information on any of these events or to sign up for them please visit www.1stchurch.org or call the church office at 982-1273.

Maryville First United Methodist Church
804 Montvale Station Road
Maryville, Tennessee 37803
Phone: 865-982-1273 / Fax: 865-983-5408
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GOT A CHURCH DIRECTORY? Copies of the new pictorial church directory are available in the church office. Just come by and pick up your copy today. Online access is also available to those whose email address is listed in the directory. Information on online access and how to get us your email address can be found at www.1stchurch.org under the "1st look" tab.



New studies and activities for youth are now underway!

Coffee Talk - Monday 5:30 - 7 @ Vienna Coffee - This will be a casual group who is interested in serious stuff. We will not study a particular curriculum, but will decide together which tough topics we would like to cover each week. The goal in this study is to give students the opportunity to discuss the things that matter to them like the ongoing struggle between the church and society.

Biscuits with Jesus - Thursday 7:15am - 7:50am @ 1st UMC, room 205 - This group will meet for breakfast and a light devotional/study each Thursday morning. Nathan will pick up breakfast on his way in and we will enjoy the likes of Chic-fil-a, Dunkin Donuts etc, and maybe even something home made. The goal for this study is to start your day with a focus on Jesus and a good breakfast.

Dinner Club - 1st and 3rd Thursdays 6:30-8pm @ local restaurants - This group will meet every two weeks for fellowship and study. The goal of this group is for students to have a time of friendship, fellowship, and learning. We will decide as a group what we would like to discuss and will focus on easier topics and inspirational help for daily life. The first meeting will be 9/17 at Taco Bell on Calderwood. Each week we will vote on the next place for dinner.

I hope that you can come to one or more of these and that you can bring a friend! As always let me know if you have any questions.

Nathan Irwin, Youth Director
nirwin@1stchurch.org



www.1stchurch.org
www.1stchurchevents.org

*The next edition of The Church Bell comes out on **September 28th!***

YOUR
"EXTRA"
CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE.



KARM STORES

The Thrift Store with a Mission

IT'S SIMPLE.



DONATE YOUR GENTLY-USED
CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS TO
KARM STORES.



OUR CHURCH GETS CREDIT FOR YOUR
DONATION THROUGH THE **CORNERS**
OF YOUR FIELD PROGRAM.



KARM STORES PROVIDES US WITH GIFT
CARDS TO GIVE TO PEOPLE IN NEED IN
OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY.



CORNERS
of your field

Our church partners with **KNOX AREA RESCUE MINISTRIES** and KARM Stores through a program called Corners of your Field.

At KARM Stores your donations are redeemed for dollars that are used to help the poor and homeless. KARM provides food, shelter and other services for those in need, as well as gift cards to us to help those we know. Your donation contributes to KARM's mission of **Restoring Lives in Jesus' Name**.

Drop-off at the church!

KARM Stores accept clothing, appliances, furniture, children's items, toys & games, and electronics.

Every donation brought to our campus goes toward gift cards. You can receive your personalized receipt by scheduling your donation at **karmstores.com**. (Select the last day of our donation drive as your drop-off date.)



Saturday, September 19th (9am - 1pm)
Sunday, September 20th (10 am - Noon)
1st UMC - Maryville (parking lot)

If you are unable to bring in donations yourself you can contact our Director of Youth, Nathan Irwin (nirwin@1stchurch.org or 982-1273) to schedule a pickup.