



2018 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SOMMER

REMEMBERING THE TRANSITIONS

I remember a year ago at this moment I was thinking about the wonderful and exciting opportunity that my family and I were about to step into. It had been nine years of discerning, working, changing, and growing for me especially. I felt I was ready, hopefully. It has happened before, where God just puts me in situations without any real warning regarding what is about to happen. You see, if I knew even ten years ago all the struggles, the intense changes, the mistakes and the heartbreak that I would experience with family, friends, work, and ministry while answering the call; I may be in a different place. God has told me only each singular step to take at a time. With God by my side, I have also seen many exciting things, like hearts changing for the Lord, love being shown in supernatural ways, successes in things I never could have done on my own.

Ten years ago, I was working for a company that was planning a major downsizing, which I was totally unaware was going to happen. However, God was preparing me for this transition, as I began feeling the tug towards working for the church in any capacity I could find. I had a dream which led to a desire to learn more about God, and with the help of my pastor, I began to discern what being in full-time ministry meant and if this is what God has for me in this life. It was eighteen months before I would start seminary and find a job working for one of the Methodist general agencies. But those eighteen months I started meeting with my mentor, Rev. Pat Smith who would walk with me until my ordination.

Eight years ago, I declared and was approved as a certified candidate for Ordained Ministry in the Order of Elder. I loved the seminary classes that taught about taking God's Word out into the world, and always would. I loved being in Seminary, each class stretched me and encouraged me. Many times, it was the people I was in class alongside or the class subject itself that showed me many blessings.

Six years ago, I was in the middle of my seminary education. During the summertime I would take two week-long intensives on campus. During the first class, while I was four hours away, John was with Cutler at the doctor's office as he was given the word "Autism." That was in June; my second summer class was in the middle of August. While asleep in my dorm room, I get a call from John, his dad just had a major heart attack. He would pass a week and a half later. He had asked me, right after I publicly announced that I had accepted the call from God to go into the ministry if I would do his funeral when he died. That was my first

funeral. The first day of classes that Fall semester was two days after the funeral.

Four years ago, was the craziest year yet. In January, I had lost my job at the end of the year from GSFA, being laid off yet again; but we also found out that I was pregnant with Savannah. I was taking my last two on campus classes leading up to graduation in May. I interviewed with the Board of Ordained Ministry in March and was approved to be Commissioned in the Order of Elder at the June Annual Conference gathering. We moved here to Crossville as I began my first full-time ministry appointment. Gabriel was heartbroken to leave the youth group he had just gotten to know. John was able to secure a job rather quickly which we say was certainly God's faithfulness and providence.

One year ago, I was grieving the tragic death of my uncle which happened right after Christmas. In March, I was once again going before the Board of Ordained Ministry where I was approved for Ordination. I also heard that we would be moving to a new appointment, however, it would not be too much of a life changer for my family since we were staying in the same town. The Friday before my Ordination, I got the devastating news that my grandfather had passed away. Once again, I felt that I was on an emotional roller coaster. As life goes on, I thank God for His grace, providence, love, faithfulness, and glory.

I have said many times, that I know God is real for there is no way I could have made any of these choices or lived through any of these changes without the gentle nudge of God or by God's guiding hand. Looking back over the last ten years, I know I am called, I am set-apart for ministry. This past year, I have learned a lot and grown a lot. I am a life-long learner and will always strive to grow into the person God wants me to become. I believe we should all be life-long learners and following God's lead for our lives. As a church, God will lead us all in a unified direction, yet each one of us will have our own steps to take in that direction. I am encouraged by each of you and know that because God is faithful, life may have ups and downs, but if we faithfully follow, our lives will lead to God and His Glory.

So, what is your story? When you look back over the years of your life, especially for all those graduating and going through transitions, where have you seen God leading you? Where is God leading you in the future? Where has God saved you, or from what has God saved you? Step by step, God is faithful. Follow him!

Pastor Sommer

Trudy's Corner

Trudy Hill

In Full Bloom

I love the month of June, the warm weather is finally here and everything seems to be alive and growing. I have been dwelling on the passage in John's gospel lately, about the vine and the branches.

Jesus says: "I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up and thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you. This is my father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:1-8)

What a comfort it is to know that God loves us, in this passage Jesus is helping us understand that "abiding in the vine" simply means that we are to live with the full knowledge of the Father's love of Jesus and Jesus' love of us, being obedient to Jesus we will remain in his love and if we remain in his love we will bear much fruit.

If only we could fully understand the measure of God's love of us, we would never hesitate to embrace God's ways, his love and God himself! Go with God, into this month of June, and find him in his creation everywhere you go. I pray that our lives this month would blossom into the full bloom of God's love and express said love everywhere we go.

thevisiontrudyhill.wordpress.com



No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Aesop



ALICE training will be held at HUMC on June 3rd at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to attend!



TREASURE SEEKERS

Vacation Bible School
June 25th—June 28th
5:00—7:45 pm
Dinner will be provided!!

Stewardship

Serving and Spiritual Growth

Faith is very simple. In Hebrews we read that faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen.

I hope that because I am faithful, God's righteousness will be revealed to me.

I have faith that I can face anything because God is with me.

I dedicate my life to God and acknowledge Him in all that I say and do.

Our church family is full of faithful people who have set their sights on a mission; a strong desire to

worship God, a commitment to serve, and a sincere love and caring for other people.

We are all growing spiritually. We are all growing in faith. We are on a great adventure to follow God's will for our lives, and to be his hands and feet on earth.

Christ is challenging you and me. While we are doing his will, God will give us new tasks every day. It is through this work that we will make Christ known to the world.

At the end of the day, having done these things, we will hear our Master's voice say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master."

VBS NOTE - We are in need of cases of water and donations of cookies for VBS. Volunteers are also still needed! Please talk to Jessica to volunteer ASAP. You can bring donations to church office. Thanks!

VBS IS A TEAM EFFORT!!



IT'S A BOY - BABY BRISTOW!!

You are invited to a baby shower for

John and Abby - June 16th from 2:00-4:00

In the HUMC Fellowship Hall.

They are registered at Amazon.com

Food Pantry

The May Food Pantry went well. I had been concerned about having enough help because the Postal Food Drive was the same day and would require at least ten of our usual workers. But....the outpouring of help and people willing to give up their entire Saturday was amazing.

The Food Pantry served 142 households for a total of 391 people. The Postal pick up brought in 2,666 pounds of food which then needed to be date checked and sorted by year.

This was necessary to comply with Second Harvest rules to ensure that the oldest food is given out first. What a team of workers, it was like a finely oiled machine. But even with all the help, the day did not end until 4:00 pm.

THANK YOU to everyone that helped in whatever way they could. I've said this before but it cannot be said enough because this ministry could not happen without all of you!!

God Bless You All

County-Wide Methodist Church Picnic Saturday, June 9th 11:00am-1:00am

Old Methodist Campground Old Jamestown Highway



Crossville FUMC would like to invite you to join us for a CountyWide Methodist Church Picnic at the Old Church Campground located at 73 Methodist Campground Loop off of Old Jamestown Hwy. We are truly looking forward to this day of fun and fellowship together!

Please bring a dish to share and a chair.

Crossville FUMC will provide the drinks, tables for food and paper products.



BRING YOUR OUTDOOR TOOLS AND
 COME ON OUT ON SATURDAY, JUNE 23 AT 9:00 AM
 FOR THE OUTDOOR CLEAN-UP DAY AT HUMC



The Bulletin Board

Church Office Hours:

Monday 9:00 - 2:00
 Wednesday 9:00 - 2:00
 Thursday 9:00 - 2:00

NOTE: NEW WEDNESDAY HOURS!!

My Shepherd by Helen Gleason

The Lord is my Shepherd
 He leads me along
 He gives me His peace
 And keeps me from wrong.

If in the Dark Valley
 Of life I may be
He's there to protect me
 And give strength to me.

His arms will uphold me
 Through dangers and woes
He'll lead me to victory

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE RECIPE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? EMAIL TO JACKIE AT HOMESTEADERSSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

*****Church Cookbook*****

Pull out those favorite recipes and send to Jackie ASAP. We are going to print a church cookbook for Homestead and Dorton to sell as a fund raiser. All categories of recipes are appreciated!!

Dates to Remember!!

- Jun 3 VBS Meeting—after church. Lunch to be served.
- Jun 3 ALICE Training—5:30 pm
- Jun 9 Food Pantry—Everyone welcome! 7:30 am
- Jun 9 Methodist Community Picnic 11:00-1:00
- Jun 17 Father's Day
- Jun 23 HUMC Outdoor clean-up day, 9:00 am
- Jun 24 Ice Cream Social at Dorton UMC 5:00 pm
- Jun 25-28 Vacation Bible School
- Jul 1 VBS Celebration at HUMC
- Jul 27-29 Summer Sizzler

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary please contact Jackie in the church office.



June 1 *Andy & Paula Szaflarski*

June 6 *Robert & Jamie Taylor*

- Jun 2 Dinah Goodwin
- Jun 7 William Freeland
- Jun 11 Ingrid Perry
- Jun 12 Kayleigh Corwin
- Jun 12 Jim Kydd
- Jun 13 Kelly Thompson
- Jun 15 Elle Turner
- Jun 15 Vickie Williams
- Jun 19 Rose Shillings
- Jun 23 Leonard Perry
- Jun 28 Ian Honcoop
- Jun 28 Maureen Staley



July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 VBS CELEBRATION	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 WNL/Dinner 5:00, Class 6:00	12	13 Food Pantry Prep - 5:00 pm	14 Food Pantry Distribution 8:00-10:00 am 7:30 am for helpers
15	16	17	18 WNL/Dinner 5:00, Class 6:00	19	20	21
22 CHURCH COUNCIL	23	24	25 WNL/Dinner 5:00, Class 6:00	26	27 Summer Sizzler	28 Summer Sizzler
29 Summer Sizzler	30	31				