

August

August Events

- 4th 8:30am UMW Breakfast
- 5th 6:00pm Right Now Media Training
- 6th Trustees Meeting
- 11th 12:15pm Worship Committee
- 14th 5:30pm Finance Committee
6:30 Contemporary Worship Service
- 18th 12:15pm Church Council
- 19th 7:00pm Movie Night
- 25th 8:00am UMM Breakfast

Weekly Events

Sundays:

- River of Life 8:30 AM
- Sunday School 9:45 AM
- Worship Service 10:55 AM
- Stone Soup 5:00 PM

Wednesdays:

- Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9 AM – 12 NOON

Birthdays:

- 1st Jenny Outlaw
Tianna Smith
- 6th Rose Marie Haigler
Mark Payne
- 12th Jim Gribble
- 17th Jody Rentz
- 21st Fred Moody
- 23rd Brian Parker
- 24th Mary Ann
Hildebrandt
- 25th Alison Woodard

Anniversaries:

- 2nd James & Janie
English
Ray Don & Mary
Jane Letts
- 4th Alan & Ann
Carvalho
- 8th Danny & Betty Hyatt
David & Beth
Pedersen
- 30th Dan & Margie
Trehern
- 31st Arthur & Lori
Tribble

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Thoughts about Prayer:
God is with us even when we forget to pray. – Aug 10

When we pray, God offers us a shelter from life's storms. – Aug 30

Don't forget to pick-up your free copy of The Upper Room in the narthex or back hall.

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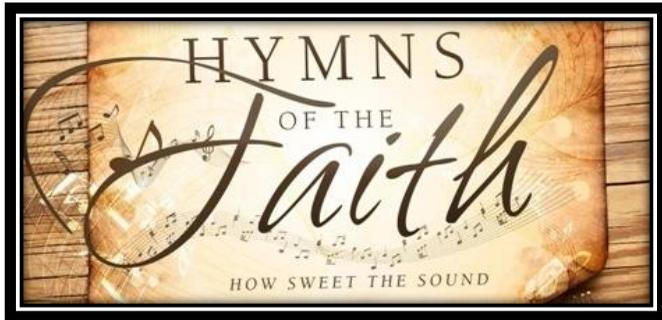
August 2013



Thanks Andrew Hammond
For a great summer of ministry and memories.

Want more photos? [See More](#) on our website.





Unlikely Sacred Space

What is your favorite hymn? Some people don't just have one but several come to mind.

Amazing Grace is usually at the top of the list. *Holy, Holy, Holy* and *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* are also popular.

For me, it's the Doxology. But there is a twist. When I was working at Camp Wesley Woods during my college years, we learned it to the tune of Chim Chimney (Chim, Chim, Cheree) from the Mary Poppins movie.

I'm not sure why that version stuck in my head but it did. Now, it is the first song that pops into my head when I want to praise God.

It pops into my head when I look out across the Great Smoky Mountains. It is also the first song that comes to mind in the

midst of pain, struggle and loss.

We usually imagine hymns are sung in worship on Sunday morning but they can be so much more. They can be a source of strength and a vehicle to freedom when we need to feel God's presence the most.

The apostle Paul knew this. He encouraged the churches to sing hymns as they worshipped God.

Paul also recognized that singing hymns could bring holiness and sacred space to one of the least desirable places on earth ... a prison.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

(Acts 16:25 NRS)

If you are not familiar

with the story of Paul and Silas' trip to prison, read about it in Acts 16:16-34.

[Click to Read It online.](#)

Theirs wasn't just a trip to prison but in Paul and Silas' case the magistrates had them stripped and severely flogged as disturbers of the peace before ordering them to be jailed.

The jailer then put them into the innermost cell, fastening their feet in stocks. Luke wants his readers to understand the intense security the two of them faced.

Take a moment to consider that prisons of that era weren't as cleanly kept as the usual jail in the United States today. In most cases, the jail cell was also the toilet. The combination of the smell, painful confinements, and sheer darkness made the jail cell repulsive to all of their senses.

It was a place which had been intentionally designed to remove all hope from each prisoner.

And yet Paul and Silas prayed and sang – full of hope! When Paul said,

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

(Phil 4:4 NRS)

he was practicing what he preached.

As they sang, their spirits were lifted. Their praise and good cheer was also a witness to God, as the other prisoners listened intently.

Their praises became clear voices that expressed the Gospel in ways that might not otherwise be heard. And then the earth shook and the prisoners were freed.

Though strengthened in their captivity and pain, Paul and Silas did not attempt to escape when they were miraculously freed. The miracle served not to deliver them but rather to deliver the jailer.

I find it interesting that the place Paul chooses to sing hymns is not in a place of comfort and community support. Instead he and Silas sing in the midst of what might be considered the most dreadful place on earth.

What if we did the same in the midst of our own pain and suffering? Can we trust God enough to sing hymns and praises giving ourselves and others strength and hope?

When that happens, it is an amazing thing ... how sweet a sound it will be.



A Gathering of the Laity

August 9- 11, 2013

Lake Junaluska

A Gathering of the Laity is a spiritual retreat weekend that brings together outstanding speakers, Spirit-filled music, and the beauty of the North Carolina mountains to create an experience that will renew your spirit and revitalize your faith!

Held at the beautiful Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center, this annual event attracts attendees from throughout the southeast United States and beyond.

“The Gathering” has become a summer tradition for many, with many frequently returning year after year to be challenged by powerful speakers, to engage with others in

worship and prayer, and to grow spiritually through times of personal study and reflection.

This year's theme is “Transformers: Transforming our communities, our churches, and our lives!” Our focus will be on the many ways we are challenged to live out our mission as disciples of Christ to make a difference in the world.

We will be providing a van for this event for those that prefer not to drive.

Learn about this year's [outstanding speakers](#) and [musical guests](#).

Register on or after August 1: \$30.00 per person.

[Click Here](#) to register online.

To learn more about this outstanding event:

[See More online.](#)



Church News

Church Council

The next church council meeting will be on Sunday, August 18 after the service.

We will be discussing old and new business including hearing more details about the new contemporary worship service. Everyone in our congregation is welcome to attend this meeting.

Trustees

The next meeting of the trustees will be Tuesday, August 6 at 6pm.

Worship Committee

The next meeting will be August 11 at 12:15pm with our new chair, Arthur Tribble

If you would be interested in being a liturgist, please contact Arthur at 488-0372 or 770-354-2941. Training will be provided.

Finance Committee

The finance committee will be meeting at 5:30pm on August 14.

UM Men

The next UMM breakfast will be Sunday, August 25 at 8am in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for a time of sharing, devotional, fellowship and of course a

hearty breakfast!

UM Women

The UMW will be meeting on Sunday, August 4 at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

The UMW and No Idle Hands are working together to create “scrub buckets” for UMCOR. They are in need of donations of clothes line & sponges to complete these buckets.

Volunteers Needed

Cornerstone Living Center is looking for someone to volunteer their time and help provide haircuts for the residents. If you or someone you know would like to help, please contact Amy Dodson at Cornerstone Living Center at 488-2780 or on her cell 779-7184.

Thank You Janis Wright

The Bryson City UMC is grateful for the many year of service and wonderful music provided by Janis. Her professional hand and manner has not only given our church heavenly sounds on Sunday mornings but on many special occasions as well. Thanks Janis for the memories and beautiful music.

Welcome Ann Steele

We are excited to

announce that Ann Steele has been selected as our new full-time organist by a unanimous vote by the selection committee. We look forward to enjoying many years of making beautiful music together.

Church Directory

PLEASE: Don't forget to submit your picture or have Mikki or Pat take one for our church directory.



Trip to Hazel Creek

A group of 19 people from Bryson City UMC paddled and rode across Lake Fontana to enjoy the scenery of some of the most beautiful places in creation, share in fellowship, and get a little exercise. People paddled, kids swam, most hiked, and all enjoyed the trip.

The energetic in the group used canoes, kayaks and paddleboards to cross the lake to Hazel Creek. However, the smart travelers rode the pontoon boat owned and captained by David Outlaw.

Watch a short movie about the Hazel Creek

trip on YouTube...

[See More online.](#)



River of Life

This year we are raising money for a filter system that can be carried by Dr. Eugene to his medical clinics with critical need for clean water.

We are currently about half way to our goal of \$4,500 needed to buy the portable filtration system.

If you are interested in contributing to this ministry of Bryson City UMC, feel free to write a check or make a cash donation and mark River of Life on the check or envelope.

If you are interested in learning more about how Bryson City UMC through the River of Life is ministering to the people of Haiti, contact Pastor Wayner at the church office or

[See More online.](#)

Small Group Survey

Be sure to take our [survey](#) and email it back or drop it by the office.



Stone Soup Update

Join us each Sunday, for a fellowship meal and study of the Psalms. Check the website or church bulletin to see what the food “theme” will be for each week. Together we will be fed physically and spiritually.

UMCMarket

If you shop online, there is a new way to give to the church. All you have to do is:

Go to UMCMarket.org

In the red box, type in your email, create a password and click the “Join Now” button

Click the “My Page” tab and enter your information (so you get credit for your donations)

Click the “Organizations” tab

In the search box at the top, type in “Bryson City” and hit search

Click on “Bryson City Bryson City”

Click the “Join Organization” button

Click the red box with the picture of a woman (on

the left side of the page) and follow the instructions to download the plug-in

You are now ready to shop and 2-10% of your purchase price from select retailers will be donated to the church

Click the “Stores” tab to see a full list of retailers that participate

Sweet Sixteen

I once made a remark about hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu: kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam especially since the names were not capitalized but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes there will be some really easy to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little old lady says she brews a cup of tea so that she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there are really sixteen names of the books in the Bible in this story.

Shared by Jeanne Keller

Contemporary Worship Service Update

Getting Started

We began our discussion with a prayer by Wayner. Bryson City UMC members Catherine Cuthbertson, Carole Maennle, Andrew Hammond (Duke Divinity School ministry intern) and Wayner were joined by River of Life leaders Dwayne Parton, Jaime & Jaime Perkins and Cricket Wise at the meeting. Then we jumped right into confirming the date and times for the services this fall. Since many of the same folks that are helping with the river services will also be helping with the new contemporary worship service we decided that the best start date would be Wednesday, October 2. It was also determined that the best start time will be 6:30 pm. That should give families a change to eat dinner and make it to the service but not keep families with small children out past bed-time. October 2nd is what we would call a “hard launch” date since it will be the first of ongoing weekly worship services. We also decided that it would be best to have a

couple of “soft launch” dates to help the team work out the kinks before October. We decided to have two separate services, one per month, leading up to October. The dates for those services will be August 21 and September 18. (These dates may be moved up a week.)

Video Break

After setting the dates, we decided to watch a few videos that were relevant to the new worship service. At this year’s Annual Conference, a video about starting a new church was shown by United Methodist “New Story Church” that was entertaining with a gospel message. Watch the video here:

http://youtu.be/LJoA8_6I9U

We also watched some videos of what the music would sound like through two different videos. The first from a Bryson City UMC worship service: http://youtu.be/OCGR_CoKvJg

The second video was shot on Sunday, July 14th at the River of Life. See the video here: <http://youtu.be/LkrYaWstJIM>

Order of Worship

We concluded our meeting by discussing how the worship service would look. We wanted a service that wouldn’t be distracted by things that didn’t point people to God’s grace. One thing that we plan on doing is very Wesleyan, incorporating small groups in to worship. Helping hold each other accountable and lifting each other up when we miss the mark. The group is very excited about the possibilities of that. We have added notes to each aspect of the worship service to give you a little background on the theological reasoning behind each part. Some of it will seem very familiar, especially if you have been to a River of Life worship service, while other areas will be a new (to us) approach such as the integrated small group sessions at the end of the service.

Next Steps

There is still plenty of planning to be done before our first worship service. At our next meetings we will be determining aspects of the worship service.

- Volunteers/helpers needed for “soft launches”
 - Worship Band

- Audio-visual
- Welcoming and hospitality
- Prayer team
- Spreading the word
- How/where/when to take collection?
- Worship presentation software

Kids at Worship

We anticipate many of the families participating in the contemporary worship service to have children. It will be extremely important to determine how they will be included in worship and kids’ activities.

- Keep them in the Fellowship Hall
 - Let them stay with their parents in the main congregation
 - Create a special Place for them in the Fellowship Hall
- Send them to a separate kid’s area.

*The grace of
our Lord
Jesus Christ
be with you.*

Order of Worship¹

FOLLOW JESUS

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Invitation to Worship & Prayer² | 2 min |
| Songs of Praise³ | 15 min |
| God Sightings & Prayer Requests⁴ | 10 min |
| Prayer⁵ | 3 min |
| Scriptural Message for Today⁶ | 10 min |

MAKE DISCIPLES

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Small Group Discussion⁷ | 15 min |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|

TRANSFORM THE WORLD

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Closing Song & Sending Out⁸ | 5 min |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|

¹ Total time for the worship service is 60 minutes. That is for worship service only and does not include the time for welcome and announcements. Church-wide and community announcements will be shown on the video screen for 15 minutes previous to the beginning of the worship service. The announcements will include a countdown to prepare everyone for the time of worship.

² Prepare the group to ready their spirits to join together as one in the Spirit

³ Three to four praise songs

⁴ The congregation shares their celebrations of how they have seen God at work in their lives and the community and what is weighing on the hearts of the congregation as they seek to be a people of God

⁵ Intercessory prayer for the people and community

⁶ A Relevant message that challenges the congregation to be transformed and be a transforming presence in the community around them. The Scripture of the day (may be included as part of the message or read before, depending on the message).

⁷ Using the Wesleyan small group model, the congregation will divide into small group of 5-10 people. The group will consider the challenge of the message together and challenge each other to live out the message throughout the rest of the week. Each week, the small group will help each member be accountable to how they had promised to live like Jesus and transform their world since the last time they met.

⁸ The song will conclude the time for the small group discussion and bring the group back together as a united congregation. The “Sending Out” is another name for “Benediction” invoking divine protection and encouraging the people to transform their world.