

MESSENGER

A monthly publication for family and friends of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church



We're so grateful for all the love and dedication Haley Greenway and Angie Eastridge have poured into our SMILE & Style Foster Closet! Read their stories on pages 7-8.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



REFLECTIONS FROM LIBERIA: PART I

The distance between Johnson City, Tennessee, and Monrovia, Liberia, is 4,935 miles as the crow flies. However, getting there is much more complicated. Flights from Knoxville to Chicago, then to Brussels, and finally to Monrovia involve roughly 18 hours of flight time and 8,000 miles of travel. Liberia remains one of the poorest countries in the world in terms of GDP per capita. Founded in 1821 as a colony for freed African Americans, the country gained its independence in 1847, making it the first democratic republic in African history.

Methodism came to Liberia as early as 1822, and the first Methodist conference was held there in 1833. The roots connecting the Holston Conference and the Liberia Annual Conference run deep.

Some of the most notable partnerships between the two conferences over the last forty years include the Holston Conference's United Methodist Women helping to build a prenatal clinic at the Ganta United Methodist Mission Hospital in 1989, the construction of a new wing of the J.J. Roberts United Methodist School in Monrovia in 2004, and ongoing hands-on-mission collections to support United Methodist schools, recovery centers, and orphanages.



Left: Ganta Prenatal Building funded by Holston UMC in 1989; Center: new and old hospital beds at Ganta Hospital; Right: New science lab materials for the science lab at John Lewis Morris United Methodist School in Paynesville funded by Munsey and friends

On September 8, I arrived in Liberia for the fourth year in a row, representing the Holston Conference to help distribute hands-on-mission supplies. Rev. Dr. Sam Dzobo, the District Superintendent of the Smoky Mountain District, and I visited several schools to distribute the many gifts of love from the people of Holston. We also helped dedicate a new science lab at the John Lewis Morris School in Paynesville, just outside Monrovia, which is partially funded by the Send Team at Munsey and a retired Eastman scientist from Colonial Heights UMC.

On another day, we visited Ganta Hospital to meet with the hospital administrator about the ongoing needs of this vital facility in northeast Liberia, which serves approximately 400,000 people both locally and in neighboring Guinea. Many of the stories we heard from patients were heartbreaking. The hospital does the best it can to provide healthcare, but the X-ray machine they use was donated by the US Army in 1945. The OB unit is in dire need of repair and renovation to better handle the scorching heat and humidity. While Holston was able to include two newer-model hospital beds in the recent shipping container, the hospital needs more beds to support its growing population. In next month's article, I will share more details about the trip.

GROUP PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ~ Philippians 4:6

PRAYER TIME

Our new prayer ministry meets each **Monday at 11:15 a.m.** in the Parlor. If you have a heart to pray for those in need, our church, and the world, please consider becoming a part of this new ministry. Please contact Emily Ham (parishnurse@munsey.org) for more information or to share prayer needs.

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Our men's prayer group meets each **Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m.** in the Conference Room. Members take turns leading a devotion with the group and share life and prayer requests together.

ANDERSON-BERRY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Anderson-Berry Men's Bible Study meets **Thursday mornings at 6:30 a.m.** in the Christian Life Center Meeting Room. We invite all men from all churches to join us for study, prayer, and fellowship.

THE NEW & NOW LIST

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

In the spring, we enjoyed great success in getting a large number of the congregation out for directory pictures. It was honestly inspiring and wonderful to see so many faces pass through our halls for photography!

Since then, we've been taking next steps on directory preparation behind the scenes. This includes getting pictures of families who couldn't join the main photography, making logistical and design decisions, and sorting through literally hundreds and hundreds of pictures from our church activities over the past year to find ways to incorporate highlights that celebrate who we are. (Hat tip to Lillian Ellis for her hard work.)

We will submit our material back to Universal for proofing in the coming one to two weeks. From what we know, this will result in a complete proof back in our hands four to six weeks after that. After review and approval, we'll receive the directory copies four to six weeks later. This means we're probably looking at December or January.

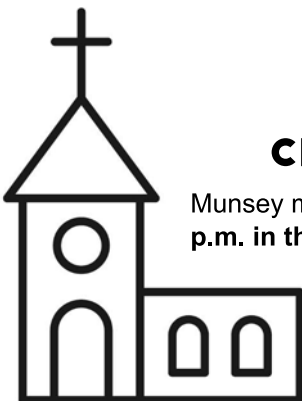
We will receive enough copies of the directory for every family and also have enough to give to new members as they join. Some folks have asked about buying extra copies. Extra copies are \$10 each, and we would appreciate you registering your interest with the Connection Point or at munsey.org/church-directory by the end of October, so we can include the extras in our production order.

This is a long process, and I really appreciate the overall buy-in from everyone. I am also humbled by the grace you have offered me as I've taken a little extra time this summer to focus on some family and work topics, which has extended our timeline a bit past my original goal.

It's so wonderful being part of a church family that can do so many things when we work together!

Thank you for your patience and grace as family and work commitments extended our original timeline. I'm grateful to be part of a church family that accomplishes so much together!

Sincere appreciation and thanks,
James Culp, Care Team



CLUSTER CHARGE CONFERENCE

Munsey members are invited to attend the fall Cluster Charge Conference on **Thursday, October 29, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

In addition, there are many places to serve at the district and conference levels. If you're interested, visit <https://holston-reg.brapp.com/MinistryOpportunityForm> to see available opportunities and register your interest by October 18. We're always grateful to have people from Munsey serving throughout our Appalachian District and Holston Conference!

MUNSEY'S ENDOWMENT

Long before Sheldon Cooper, Howard Wolowitz, Leonard Hofstadter, and Raj Koothrapalli, the main characters on *The Big Bang Theory*, made it cool to be a nerd, I qualified as one in the fifth grade. No, I didn't carry a briefcase. Let me explain.



My Grandmother Taylor's younger sister, Kathryn, would come with my Uncle Don from their home in Knoxville to visit us often. They never had children but seemed to take a shine to my older brother and sister and me. Aunt Kate was sweet and kind and always brought good things to eat. She also collected rare coins and persuaded me to do the same. At her suggestion, I would go downtown to the old Hamilton Bank on Saturday mornings (yes, banks were open then with real people) looking for valuable coins, especially pennies. The teller furnished me with a small, dimly lit cubicle and then brought in a heavy canvas bag full of pennies, with the label "\$50 dollars." I would pour them out a handful at a time and sift through, looking for—as Aunt Kate instructed—anything dated earlier than 1940 or stamped with an "S" below the date, indicating it was minted in San Francisco. Every Saturday, nine to noon, for months I did this. I missed Bugs Bunny and the Road Runner on this quest. I found nothing worth giving up school for.

I'm reminded of the parable in which Jesus tells of the woman who lost one of her ten coins, only to rejoice when it was found. This, of course, preceded the story of the Prodigal Son, and both speak to repentance and the joy that comes from finding one's way after being lost. While my 10-year-old self never found an uncirculated 1909 SVDB penny, as an adult I derived this lesson: pursue eternal riches, ignore those who scoff, and celebrate when that which is lost is found.

As Chair of Munsey's endowment, I ask you to consider a gift or bequest that reflects God's blessings and your own journey seeking true riches. Thank you. ~John Taylor

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

MAKING EVERY MINUTE COUNT

So, what happens at 11:00 a.m. Spark?

Sunday mornings move quickly. Between balancing family routines, finding lost shoes, and rushing out the door, we know how precious every moment of your family's weekend is. That's why we want to share a little bit of the heart behind 11:00 a.m. Spark—our Sunday morning program for elementary-aged children.

Right after the Children's Moment in the 11:00 a.m. worship services, our leaders gather the kids and walk together up to the "Kids Floor" (2nd floor). While it might look like pure fun from the outside—and it certainly is!—11:00 a.m. Spark is designed with a deeply intentional purpose.

We know we only have a short window of time with your children each week, and we take that opportunity to heart. Spark isn't designed as simple childcare to fill the hour. Instead, it's a focused, engaging space crafted specifically for how elementary kids learn best. Our goal is simple: we never want to bore kids with the Bible.

Each Sunday, we take the morning's Bible story and bring it to life through high-energy games, hands-on crafts, and meaningful group discussions. Everything we do points back to a single "Bottom Line"—a practical, memorable truth that helps kids understand how to follow Jesus and apply God's Word in their everyday lives at school, at home, and on the playground.

Whether your child attends every week or joins us once in a while, please know they are always welcome in our circle. We love getting to walk alongside your family in encouraging your children's faith journey, and we would be honored to have your child join us upstairs this Sunday!

Looking ahead, please mark your calendar for our annual Jingle Jam festivities on **Sunday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Christian Life Center Gym. And the fun doesn't stop after the main event—stick around for our Christmas After-Party, complete with even more games, crafts, festive treats, and photo opportunities worthy of your annual family Christmas card!

For more information about Spark Kids activities and ways to get involved, please contact:

Charity Damrau
Director of Children's Ministries

423-461-8070, ext. 231
charity.damrau@munsey.org



WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

- Sunday School meets weekly on the Youth Floor at 10:00 a.m., with fellowship and snacks at 9:45 a.m.
- Life Groups (small groups) meet Wednesday nights on the Youth Floor from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- High School Prayer Breakfast is Thursday mornings from 6:30-7:00 a.m. at the W. Market Street Chick-fil-A for high school students. Transportation is not provided to schools, and students need money for breakfast.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

It's time for an all-youth fellowship lock-in this month! All youth (and their friends) are invited to a lock-in starting at **6:00 p.m. on October 23, and ending the next morning, October 24, at 10:00 a.m.** There will be pizza for dinner, a fun adventure out and around town, games, snacks and a midnight movie. We will wrap up the event by helping with Shepard's Breakfast Saturday morning. Please RSVP by October 21, to Mindy Moore (mindy.moore@munsey.org). And remember, we like meeting your friends!

MIDDLE SCHOOL PICK-UP

Middle School Pick Up is **Wednesday, October 21!** The plan is have our snack and adventure at the Johnson City Mall. **Youth will need money for snacks and any shopping they may want to do.** We pick up students from Liberty Bell, Indian Trail and University School. **If your youth needs to be picked up from University School, please email penleye@etsu.edu, saying that your student will be picked up by Pastor Gary Ihfe from First UMC on Wednesday, October 21.** Please RSVP by October 19, to Mindy (mindy.moore@munsey.org). Friends are always welcome!

For more information about Munsey Youth activities and ways to get involved, please contact

Mindy Moore
Director of Youth Ministries

423-461-8070, ext. 224
mindy.moore@munsey.org



See our Family Ministries Newsletter in brochure racks and at munsey.org for more information on children and youth programs.

MUSIC MINISTRY

CHILDREN

Each **Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.**, our young worshippers have been meeting with Mr. Matt in the Music Room on the upper floor to prepare music for a few special services. The Children's Choir is open to children ages 3-5th grade and helps children grow in faith through music, worship, fellowship, and service.

The children sang in worship on September 27, and it was a beautiful way to include our young worshippers in the service.

Our Worship Arts session has been such a wonderful time! Our young worshippers made a banner for the Narthex and made communion bread for our World Communion Sunday.

We have a few more Worship Arts opportunities coming up and will be held **4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** on the following dates:

Session 1: Blessing of the Animals
~ October 11

Session 2: Advent & Christmas
~ November 8
~ November 15
~ December 6 (ends with Jingle Jam)



HANDBELLS

The Carillon Ringers have begun rehearsals— it's not too late to join us. **Each Sunday at 6:00 p.m.**, we rehearse in the Bell Room on the Lower Level. We are preparing to ring in morning worship on November 1, and as part of our

annual Community All Saints' Service that afternoon at 3:30 p.m. And with Advent and Christmas upon us, we are beginning to put a few things together for our special combined service on December 13, as well as some community outreach opportunities! If you are interested in ringing with us, come join us!

CHANCEL CHOIR

A lot of exciting things are happening with our Chancel Choir. We are welcoming old and new Scholarship Singers through the Carol G. Transou Choral Scholars program. Our Choral Scholars this year are Cole, Jackson, Peyton, Sarah, and Tanner. If you see them around, give them a shout out and a warm welcome. More information about them will be coming soon.

Last year began our annual Community All Saints' Service. Each year, singers from the area get together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have died in the last year. The Munsey Memorial Chancel Choir will be joined by members from The Civic Chorale, St. John's Episcopal Church, Voices of the Mountains, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This special service will be held on **November 1; the prelude begins at 3:30 p.m., with the service following at 4:00 p.m.**

Did you know members of the choir are traveling to England next summer? Being invited to sing in England with choirs from around the world is a huge honor, and it takes a great deal of support to get there. Following our Community All Saints' Service, we will hold our first fundraising event: a chili cook-off. This public event will be held in the gym immediately following the service. There will be a few categories to compete in. For more information on how to register as a competitor, please contact Justin Boazman (justin.boazman@munsey.org) or Eric Smith (ericsmith33@comcast.net).

If you have a desire to share your gift of music, the Chancel Choir meets each **Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** in the Choir Room on the Lower Level.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Munsey Memorial has a new ensemble in the mix! Our chamber orchestra, comprised of musicians from middle school to adults, meets each **Tuesday in the Gathering Place at 6:00 p.m.** If you or anyone you know is interested in joining us, don't hesitate to reach out!

For more information about how to join in or volunteer with our Worship Arts ministries, contact Justin Boazman at justin.boazman@munsey.org or 423-461-8070, ext. 212.

**Church Council Meeting
(to approve Charge Conference paperwork)
October 18 ~ Sanctuary
Following 11:00 Worship**

FALL FOR NORTH SIDE FESTIVAL

OUR ANNUAL FALL TRADITION

Thank you to all who made the Fall for North Side Festival such a success! Over 350 North Side friends attended, and more than 80 Munsey and community volunteers helped make the afternoon a huge success! 50 pizzas and 450 snow cones were shared, and we gave away 100 door prizes that totaled over \$5,200 in gift cards and experiences. We loved seeing all the fun of the train ride, inflatables, face art, snow cones, pizza, Scouts monkey bridge, and fellowship! We are so grateful for all who volunteered and everyone who came to enjoy the day and build community with our North Side families. Thank you!



FROM THE COVER: HALEY GREENWAY

"I saw a note in the weekly Update a while back saying that the Church & Society Committee was seeking new members. I looked up more information about Church & Society on the Munsey website, and after reading about some of the things they promoted, I contacted Chair Angie Eastridge because I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I liked how they championed several social justice issues and brought awareness to the congregation.

One issue that is very personal to me is child welfare and foster care. My husband, Chad, and I were foster parents for over two years, and during that time, we saw just how difficult it is for children and families to navigate the system. We did not remain an open foster home when we were finally able to adopt our two wonderful children



after they were in care for over 1,100 days, but I wanted to stay involved somehow.

I told Angie and the rest of our Church & Society Team about my passion for foster care and desire to somehow incorporate that into Munsey's missions. I was delighted to learn that other members of the committee also had ties to the foster care and child welfare community and were 100% on board with us being involved somehow. I began researching and found that churches can be considered 'Foster Friendly' through a special designation, and one step to that is offering some sort of wrap-around service to children and families.

I'd seen firsthand how some children in the foster care system arrive at their foster families' houses – trash bags full of old, tattered or stained clothes or just barely any clothes at all – and loved how SMILE Foster Closet in Kingsport filled in the gap for those children. Under their traditional model, SMILE packs a week's worth of clothing, shoes, pajamas, undergarments, hygiene items, etc., inside a duffel bag and gives them to any foster child in need. I reached out to Amanda Messer, a contact I had made from the Tri-Cities Foster Parent Facebook community, because she works at SMILE and I wanted to see how Munsey could help. Amanda and her boss, SMILE co-founder Rachel Lawson, came to visit one of our Church & Society meetings to explain the purpose of the SMILE closet and share her hope for a space available for teens and tweens to come "shop." Clothing can be such an important part of self-expression, especially for teens and tweens. Giving a child the opportunity to shop for themselves, make their own choices, and leave with something that reflects their personality can bring a sense of

normalcy and confidence during a time that may otherwise feel very uncertain.

Our committee was very excited about this possibility. A proposal was drafted and submitted to church leadership, and as soon as we got our approval, our team started working tirelessly to set up this space. Our goal was to make it look like a boutique that someone would want to shop at – not a charity closet. SMILE helped us with clothing racks and storage and a huge supply of initial inventory. That, along with generous contributions from Church & Society members, the congregation, and friends, led to our full racks you see today. We have a one-stop shop, where our shoppers can get not only clothes, but shoes, hygiene items, jewelry and accessories, school supplies, and more.

We have served 12 teenagers to date, with hopefully many more to come as the word gets out to our foster families in the region. It is so wonderful to see our shoppers light up with excitement when they see our space and begin picking out items that are just right for them. This partnership with SMILE Foster Closet would not have been possible without the enthusiasm of the Church & Society Committee, support from church leadership, and the generosity of our congregation. We hope this ministry will have a lasting impact on our community for many years to come."

~ Haley Greenway



Pictured in top left photo: the Greenway family

Pictured in bottom right photo: Angie Eastridge, May McInnis, and Haley Greenway, Church & Society Team

FROM THE COVER: ANGIE EASTRIDGE

"When Haley presented the idea of partnering with the SMILE Closet in Kingsport to provide a shoppable clothing closet for teens who are in foster care to the Church and Society Team, it was easy to jump on board with excitement! Several members of the team, including myself, have personal experience with the foster care system or at least knew of other families within the Munsey family that were either current foster families, had adopted foster children, or had cared for foster children in the past. We saw this as an opportunity to meet a unique community need and to promote the importance of supporting foster families.

Couples make the decision to open their home to foster children for many different reasons. For me, it wasn't necessarily a decision, but God's unexpected way of answering my 10 year-long prayer to give me children. Although the days Blake and Emorie came to me were full of excitement, it was also scary because until they were officially adopted, I always stood the

chance of losing them. During those years, I had to rely heavily on my faith that God was in control and would care for Blake and Emorie, no matter the outcome of their permanent placement.

I will always be grateful for the support we received from family, friends, and church family. Blake and Emorie were treated no differently than other children who lived with their biological parents.

I feel honored to be a small part of the SMILE and Style Closet at Munsey. It is a small way that I can help other families whom God has chosen to care for children whose biological families, for whatever reason, cannot. The closet is yet another way that our church can extend our love and support to a community that needs extra love. It is the hope of the Church and Society Team that we can lead Munsey into being a foster friendly church: where all children, no matter how they come into our midst and whether they are for a short while or long term, feel loved and accepted and are treated with dignity, kindness and respect. For some of the

children, it may be their first encounter with the love of Christ."

~ Angie Eastridge



Pictured in top left photo: Angie and Mike Eastridge; pictured in top right photo: Angie with her children

Pictured in bottom photos: the opening event for the SMILE & Style Foster Closet



LADIES' LUNCH

All ladies are welcome to join us on **Monday, October 19, at 12:00 p.m.** at Ole's Guacamoles, and we look forward to lunch and fellowship together! Please let Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) know if you plan to be there so we can save you a seat.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Chris hosts a Bible study for young adults each week! The group meets on **Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.** in the Parlor, and all young adults are welcome.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

It's Flu Season! Did you know that over 65% of flu deaths occur in someone over age 64?

Flu Myth #1 — You can get the flu from the flu vaccine.

Truth — You can **NOT** get the flu from the vaccine, but the vaccine can cause some slight body aches and low fever as your body's immune system gets stronger to fight the flu if you are exposed. This time of year when there are lots of illnesses going around, it may be just coincidence if you get sick around the time of a vaccine.

Flu Myth #2 — You definitely won't get the flu or covid if you take the vaccine.

Truth — While your chances of getting the flu or covid decrease if you get the vaccine, you may still get sick. However, if you've had the vaccine, your length and severity of illness are drastically reduced, along with risk of hospitalization and death.

Flu Myth #3 — You should wait until lots of people are getting the flu until you get the vaccine so the vaccine doesn't wear off.

Truth — It takes about 2 weeks until the vaccine offers protection against the flu, so don't wait too long!

Munsey, in partnership with ETSU, is hosting a free vaccine clinic on **October 14, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Please make plans to stop by the Christian Life Center Gym to get your vaccinations!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

We have age-level programs for children and youth and adult studies from **6:00-7:00 p.m. each Wednesday!** If you would like to bring your dinner with you before programs begin, tables will be available around the gym floor from 5:30-6:00 p.m. We won't have programs on **October 7** during Johnson City Schools' Fall Break. We have these groups available for adults:

- Pastor's Bible Study led by Rev. Chris Brown: a discussion-based study of the lectionary text for the following Sunday (Christian Life Center Meeting Room); a daytime option is available at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.
- Book Study led Rev. Beth Sullivan: a small group study on *Holy Hurt: Understanding Spiritual Trauma and the Process of Healing* by Hillary L. McBride (LL10).
- Women's Community Group led by Gwen Sitsch and Amanda Onks: a group of women in various stages of life who are looking deeply into the life of Jesus and encouraging one another to recognize the presence and movement of God in the day-to-dayness of life (Gathering Place).
- Men's Community Group: a group of like-minded Christian men from diverse backgrounds wanting to strengthen their faith through weekly discussions and fellowship (Parlor).
- Yoga led by certified yoga instructors, Melissa Curran and Krista Wright: a rejuvenating class that combines deep breathing with flow and yin yoga practices, offering a peaceful and restorative experience for all skill levels; on a pay-as-you-can basis (LL16).

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Our Women's Study Group meets on **Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m.** in the Parlor and is studying *A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity* by Debie Thomas. We won't meet on **October 5** during Johnson City Schools' Fall Break. All women are welcome, and please let Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) know if you have questions or would like to join us.

NEW MEMBERS

We are always interested in adding new members at Munsey. If you are interested in joining the Munsey family or have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Chris at chris.brown@munsey.org.

GET YOUR

FLU SHOT

Free Vaccine Clinic
Wednesday, October 14 • 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Christian Life Center Gym
Provided by East Tennessee State University

MISSIONS

NORTH SIDE ELEMENTARY – A GREAT PLACE TO BE!

There is a poster in a classroom that says, “You can’t achieve your dreams if you don’t show up to chase them.” Educators know that consistent attendance is linked to higher grades and better academic performance. Regular attendance is also crucial for personal development since it instills a sense of responsibility and time management in students. For these reasons, North Side has attendance reward parties for their students.



Munsey was asked to help collect snacks for their party in October, and we responded in a very generous way. We collected 328 bags of snacks (potato chips, Fritos, popcorn, Cheetos, Doritos, etc.), 40 fruit bars, and 16 packs of crackers. We were also asked for hand sanitizer, and we donated 10 containers of those plus 3 more jars of disinfecting wipes.

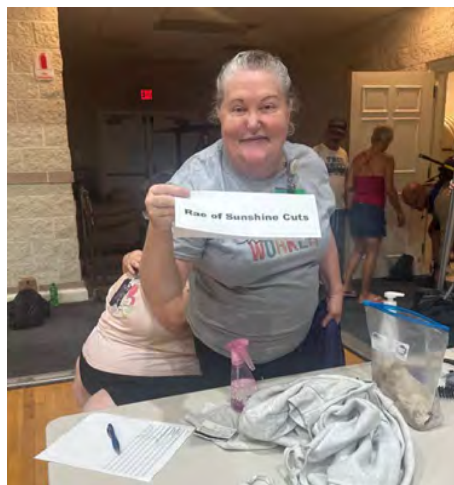
North Side has a very diverse population of students. When the teachers asked their classes to draw their families, the students found that the regular crayons are limited in skin color. The counselor requested packs of Colors of the World crayons. Thanks to the Open Door Sunday school class, we were able to give them 20 packs of these unique crayons.

On September 27, Munsey sponsored the Fall Festival at North Side. Thanks to our Munsey staff and our wonderful volunteers, this yearly event is greatly appreciated by the students and teachers. These donations of snack items and volunteer time show that Munsey’s partnership continues to make North Side a great place to be! ~ Susanna Chinouth

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

We sponsored our third Health and Wellness Resource Fair of the year for our downtown community on Saturday, September 12. A total of 168 people were in attendance – 55 volunteers and 113 people seeking services. We were joined by Johnson City American Jobs Center, Johnson City Recovery Center, Appalachian Highland Care Network (Ballad Health), Mooney’s Pharmacy, Rae of Sunshine Cuts, Tri-cities Mutual Aid, TN Department of Health, Greg’s Pop Rocks, One80, Inc., Shepherd’s Flock, ETSU Health – Johnson City Family Medicine, Bread of Life, and Ballad Health. Our ministry partner, Feeding in Action, provided breakfast and lunch; Bigbbq Thangz also provided lunch.

Our next Health and Wellness Fair is scheduled for **November 21**. Do you know an organization who might like to partner with us for our next Health and Wellness Fair? Or maybe you would like to volunteer to help? If so, please contact Anthony Jackson, director of local missions, at anthony.jackson@munsey.org.



MISSIONS

ALEXANDER UMC SEPTEMBER MISSION TRIP

A team from Munsey spent September 17-20 on a mission trip to Alexander UMC in Bishop, Virginia. The team included Pastor Chris Brown, Dave Culberson, Ed Temple, Nate Spivey, Karen Peko, and Joe and Mary Wolfe.

We assisted Pastor Daniel Bradley in completing renovations of the recently acquired mission storage building. The mission storage building will house miscellaneous kitchenware, household items, blankets, clothing, shoes, and hygiene essentials that will be available to those in need in Bishop and the surrounding communities. The team cleaned and painted the interior of the building, built and assembled shelving, installed several security cameras, and sorted and organized all the many donations that the church has received. All this was made possible through the generosity of Munsey members, whose contributions included donations of clothing, miscellaneous kitchenware, five new heavy-duty metal storage shelves, twenty heavy-duty storage bins for supplies, the lumber to replace deteriorated shelving, 16 gallons of paint (interior and exterior), painting supplies, two dehumidifiers, and security cameras and cabling for the mission building.



For more information on this ministry, and how you can get involved please contact Karen Peko at ktpeko@hotmail.com.

MELTING POT: AUGUST NUMBERS

In August, we served breakfast to 319 people on Saturday mornings, seven to-go bags for latecomers, plus 3 food boxes for hungry families through the small Melting Pot food pantry. We also provided lunch on 2 Saturdays, while our ministry partner, Feeding in Action, provided lunch on the remaining Saturdays. For the light meal and worship on Sunday mornings, we had 178 people to participate.

In addition, we partnered with New Hope Church and New Collective Church to provide Sunday afternoon meals. On Sunday evenings we hosted Bingo and Bible study at the Tapestry at Roan Hill.

For additional information about our Melting Pot Ministries and ways to help, please contact Anthony Jackson, director of local missions, at anthony.jackson@munsey.org.

Mark Your Calendar!

Rise
AGAINST HUNGER

**OCTOBER 17
1:00-3:00PM
MUNSEYGYM**

Join us as we pack 30,000 meals in a wonderful mission opportunity that's fun for all ages! Visit www.munsey.org to volunteer or donate.



SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE & WEEP
An All Souls' Day Choral Evensong

featuring

Nov. 2 **REQUIEM** **4 pm**
Gabriel Fauré

sung by Johnson City area choir members

Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church
Sanctuary

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Join us on **Sunday, October 26, at 4:30pm at King Commons Park** for a Munsey tradition sponsored by our Church & Society Team! Bring your pets to be blessed during a short worship experience (on a leash or in a carrier). There will be singing, prayer, and a whole lot of fun with our beloved pets. We're excited to make this a community event at a public park and hope you'll share the date with others and invite them to join you. Physical donations will be accepted for the Washington County Animal Shelter, and information on needed items can be found at [Washington County Johnson City Animal Shelter | Wish Lists](#).



MAHJONG AT MUNSEY

Whether you are an experienced player or a newbie who wants to learn how to play the centuries-old Chinese game of mahjong, the Munsey group is a great place to play and learn. The group meets on alternating Wednesdays (2:30 – 4:30 p.m.) and Fridays (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) in the Gathering Place. For more information, please contact Tricia Nguyen at tricia.nguyen@yahoo.com.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRY: TAYLOR MEMORIAL

OCTOBER WORDS FROM REV. AMY YEARY HOLMES

Hello, again. I left off the story of Taylor Memorial UMC (the little white church on South Roan, on your way to Erwin) with three aging parishioners weighing if Taylor should close. There were only three, THE THREE.

THE THREE decided to postpone the decision about the closure of Taylor Memorial UMC. We turned to prayer. By the grace of God, St. John's Episcopal was hosting an all-day contemplative prayer retreat. With expectations of hearing from God, the whole church showed up (THE THREE and me). Here is the thing about contemplative prayer – you must be quiet. The retreat instructed us not to speak all day and methods of prayer taught tended to lead us into a more peaceful state and a deeper contemplation on God's love. Even during lunch, not a word was spoken. This was a new concept for THE THREE, yet they complied and took the opportunity to speak to God about their church in that silence and listen for God to return guidance to the decision at hand.

The Sunday after that retreat had a different feeling to it. I wasn't sure if THE THREE had gained peace about closing the church or if something else was beginning.

Now for the next part of the story, I must slip into church administration for a bit. When it comes to doing God's work in the community, churches have four tools: the people, the pastor, the building and the money. After careful consideration, THE THREE observed that they had one tool that was particularly strong: the building (moreover the location). With great faith, THE THREE decided to not close the church, but rather open the building to ministries with shared visions. After a quick survey of the population of South Roan, the knowledge of Tapestry (that would soon house the John Sevier population) and a trailer park within walking distance, it seemed clear that God had set Taylor Memorial in a geographic location for a purpose, and we felt that the purpose was to serve the poor.

Without listening for God through the contemplative prayer workshop, would Taylor have closed? What happened on that day of silence? I can only speak for myself and share that God told me (as a pastor) to love them, no matter the decision. The following Sunday, they shared they wanted to stay open and seek other ways to get out of the building, my heart jumped! The decision had a God-spark to it and I felt it.

What did we do? We hung a sign. I'll tell you all about it in the next newsletter.



Taylor Memorial Church
3031 S Roan Street,
Johnson City, TN 37601

Ya'll Invited

Sunday
October 4
1:30pm
at our outdoor pavilion

ART with us!
Help us start a painted rock garden!
Come paint rocks October 4th Sunday
1:30pm
Snacks and supplies provided

YOUR WEEKLY GIFTS & ATTENDANCE

	9-6	9-13	9-20	9-27
Weekly Offering	\$20,907	\$22,646	\$7,211	\$29,680
Weekly Budget Requirement: \$32,278				
Worship Attendance	277	277	257	278

WORSHIP AT MUNSEY -- OCTOBER SUNDAY SERMON SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 4	OCTOBER 11	OCTOBER 18	OCTOBER 25
9:00 a.m. Sanctuary <i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i> Rev. Chris Brown preaching	9:00 a.m. Sanctuary <i>Philippians 4:1-9</i> Rev. Chris Brown preaching	9:00 a.m. Sanctuary <i>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</i> Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching	9:00 a.m. Sanctuary <i>Deuteronomy 34:1-12</i> Rev. Chris Brown preaching
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary <i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i> Rev. Chris Brown preaching	11:00 a.m. Sanctuary <i>Philippians 4:1-9</i> Rev. Chris Brown preaching	11:00 a.m. Sanctuary <i>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</i> Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching	11:00 a.m. Sanctuary <i>Deuteronomy 34:1-12</i> Rev. Chris Brown preaching
11:00 a.m. Journey <i>Psalms 19</i> Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching	11:00 a.m. Journey <i>Matthew 22:1-14</i> Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching	11:00 a.m. Journey <i>Matthew 22:15-22</i> Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching	11:00 a.m. Journey <i>Matthew 22:34-46</i> Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching
9:00 a.m. Open Door Anthony Jackson preaching	9:00 a.m. Open Door Tom Campbell preaching	9:00 a.m. Open Door Anthony Jackson preaching	9:00 a.m. Open Door To be announced

WORSHIP SERVICES AT MUNSEY

- **9:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary** features served communion weekly
- **11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary** features traditional music with the Chancel Choir
- **11:00 a.m. Journey Worship in the Christian Life Center Gym** features contemporary music with the Praise Band
- **9:00 a.m. Open Door Worship in the Melting Pot** is our most informal service with breakfast available **8:30 – 9:00 a.m.**

Holy Communion is traditionally offered the first Sunday of the month in all worship services.

MESSENGER DEADLINE: The deadline for November Messenger submissions is October 23.

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