

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of BELLA VISTA

The Good News

MAY 2023

MAY IS PENTECOST MONTH ~ PENTECOST SUNDAY IS MAY 28



Named from the Greek word: pentekoste meaning 50, Pentecost Sunday is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 50th day after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the 2nd chapter of Acts.

COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME.

CATCH FIRE

Have you filled out your **Catch Fire** brochure yet? There are many ways to **Share the Flame** Which ones will you choose?

HOW WILL YOU SHARE THE FLAME?



FIRE SPREADS

It only takes a spark to get a **FIRE** going, so we've hidden some flames inside the newsletter for you. Find the 3 🔥 inside. The winner will receive **FREE** refreshments at our 10:00 Morning Fellowship Hour **EVERY** Sunday!

CAN YOU FIND THE FLAMES? 🔥



“The May Menagerie”

Reviewing the calendar for the month ahead is always exciting for me. The month of May brings so many days to celebrate and recognize as well as some events to enjoy and actively participate in as the days are set apart for each purpose. I’m not sure whether to call the collective set of events a menagerie (usually diverse group of wild animals), a cornucopia (an abundant supply of good things), or a richness (state of being full of bounty) for us all to enjoy. But a quick list includes Mother’s Day, Graduation/end-of-school-year days, Memorial Day, and Pentecost Sunday. As you might guess, that last one is one of my favorite Sundays.

Before we move on to more about Pentecost, here at Bella Vista FUMC in May, we also look forward to a special United Methodist Men (UMM) Dinner, “Ladies Night Out,” on Friday, May 19th, at 6:00 p.m. There will be great food, wonderful music, and a time to relax and enjoy connecting and reconnecting with each other.

We will also break bread with a Potluck in the Parlor the following Thursday, May 25th, at 6:00 p.m. for an important opportunity to learn more about the ‘Care Navigation’ program our local Circle of Life chapter provides. The meat, Honey Baked Ham and Turkey, will be provided and everyone that can should bring a special side dish or dessert to share as well.

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4a, 42-44: ¹When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. ⁴They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴²The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. ⁴³A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were united and shared everything.”

Sunday, May 28th, is Pentecost Sunday this year. Next to Easter and Christmas, Pentecost and Ash Wednesday have been referred to as the best-of-the-rest Holy Days. Tacky, but true. I guess Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Ascension Day should be in there, too. Oh, not meant to be relegated to tertiary status: Trinity Sunday, All Saint’s Day, Christ the King Sunday, Epiphany, and Transfiguration Sunday. Pentecost is the “50th Day” of Easter or the Eastertide. It is really special when everyone wears bright red, orange, and yellow to worship. We celebrate the Holy Spirit as found in the 2nd chapter of Acts. The Holy Spirit, also called Paraclete, or Holy Ghost, in Christian belief is the third part of the Trinity. Numerous outpourings of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in Acts. Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit to be with us until the time of His second coming.

I also seek to focus on verses 42-44 of this second chapter where the believers lived into the vision of receiving and sharing Christ’s love. My mind’s eye sees the sense of awe on each face. We realize and acknowledge that God is still performing many wonders and signs through those who believe. One of the best ways to live into these verses is to share meals and pray together. Do others see the sense of awe on our faces each day? Our journey includes seeking more opportunities to break bread together and know and share praise reports and prayer requests, the big ones and the small ones, as part of our daily discipleship.

Pick up a few copies of the new pamphlet, “Catch Fire – Share the Flame”. Take time and pray about how you are gifted and called to share the flame, the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit. Complete the information requested on one copy and keep the other one (or two) where you’ll see them most days. You aren’t called to only catch the fire ‘one day’ or only catch ‘one fire’. God is still performing wonders and signs through His believers. God’s kin-dom needs your passion, your fire received from God, and your gifts – also received from God.

Peace and blessings,



SHOEBOX MINISTRY HAS BEEN BUSY THIS MONTH!

With Pastor Ron's help, we were able to send over 100 shoeboxes of hygiene products to the Little Rock area after the tornado hit. We were so thankful to be able to help out those in need.

A week ago, I was happy to have Becky Collier help me deliver about 175 Shoeboxes to the Salvation Army locations in both Bentonville and Fayetteville, as well as to 7 Hills in Fayetteville. We had 2 cars packed full of boxes!

The St. Bernard's Catholic Church, BV Presbyterian Church, and, on occasion, one of the area Lutheran churches also pack men's and women's boxes for us to distribute.

Martha Circle is a big help in packing Hygiene Bags for the Cooper Elementary school children in need. We thank those who support this ministry by bringing small bottles of shampoo, lotion, soap, tissues, toothpaste, child-size toothbrushes, Kleenex, combs, and regular-size band-aids. The need is growing at Cooper, so we are so appreciative that we are able to help these children in some way. Financial help is also welcome as the cost of supplies keeps rising.

~ Karen, Maryann, Cheryl ~ Your Shoebox Ministry Team

SNACK PACKS for BACK PACKS

is our on-going commitment to provide 30 snack packs per week for students of Cooper Elementary who are in need of food for the weekend. **Help us continue to provide 30 kids with snacks per week!**

Bring your quarters! Write a check!

Feed a Child!



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

**THURSDAY, MAY 4,
AT 12:30 PM
PARLOR**



Blessing Box Food Collection

This month, the **Blessing Box** is in need of jars of *peanut butter and canned meats (like tuna, chicken, etc.)*. Please make sure any food you donate has not expired and is not open. You may drop off your donation to the church office or place them in Room 5. Look for the **Blessing Box** sign on the door!



Lay Leader's Message

Dave Broers, Lay Leader



May Reflection-The Mission of the Laity

The last few days the word MISSION has been in a number of my emails. So I write this reflection.

May intention: That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

St. Paul writes in his First Letter to the Corinthians, "Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues." (vv. 27-28)

Consider the first people Jesus called to follow Him: fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot...all ordinary laymen. Consider how many of the saints were, essentially, ordinary people! You are baptized into the Body of Christ for a purpose, and countless saints have gone before you in faithful service to Jesus, living out His call to be "the salt of the earth...the light of the world...a city on a mountain" which "cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:13-16)

Every member of the Body—from the newly baptized infant to the shut-in who can pray and watch church on social media or television has a part to play in Christ's work to redeem the world. Much of this work is the day-to-day, unseen, little tasks unseen, little tasks done

with great love and fidelity: the raising of children, the honest day's labor, showing kindness to a stranger, making a hidden sacrifice for the sake of another, and so on. We are the living stones (1 Peter 2:5) which build up the Church, not only in the sense of bricks in the wall, but also laborers adding onto it. As a little salt flavors a great deal of food, as a little light dispels a room full of darkness, as a city on a hill is seen from miles around, so each of us is to follow and serve Christ in the way only we can, living our Methodist faith in the world as an ambassador for Our Lord.

How am I living out my baptismal call to serve Jesus in the world? Is this enough, or is Jesus calling me to more? How do I desire to serve Him? What gifts do I bring to the Body of Christ?

Peace and Blessings,
Dave Broers, Lay Leader





What's the (Hi)Story? Jill Hale, FUMC Historian

This month, we are taking a break from personal stories. Instead, we are going to review some of the history surrounding the beginning of our church and beautiful worship facility. Part of the following information is from "The History of Our Church" published in the bulletin from the Second Anniversary service held on June 4, 1978, with other information provided by Merle and Ivan Lantz with the caveat that they are relying on memories of some forty-plus years ago.

The official organizational meeting, which led directly to the formation of the United Methodist Church at Bella Vista Village, was held at the Hill 'n Dale Restaurant on May 25, 1976. The meeting, which included some 54 new members, was the climax of a year-long study, a survey, and informal sessions at Bella Vista conducted by Rev. Vernon Becker, then associate pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Bentonville. Rev. Samuel Teague of the sponsoring Bentonville church served as pastor of the new church until such time as a full-time pastor would be appointed.

The first official church service was held on June 6, 1976, in the Activity Center at the Hill 'n Dale Restaurant, with 98 persons in attendance. The church held its first Charge Conference on June 28, with Rev. Harold Spence presiding. Bella Vista United Methodist Church was officially approved as its name. Officers were elected, and committees were formed. The Bella Vista UMC men held their first prayer breakfast on August 12. The Bella Vista women held their first organizational meeting on August 23.

At a Charge Conference held on September 12, 1976, the membership approved selection of a building site and elected members to a building committee. The first full-time pastor, Rev. D.M. (Max) Whitfield, began his ministry on January 1, 1977. On Sunday, October 9, 1977, the ground-breaking ceremony was held at the site of the new church building. Appropriately, one of the hymns sung at that ceremony was "How Firm a Foundation."

The first phase of the building included a fellowship

hall (used as a sanctuary), narthex, classrooms, and offices. Here are some memories from Merle and Ivan:

"The original church frame had wings. The offices and classrooms were to the left of the narthex and the sanctuary, kitchen, and library were to the right. The chapel, choir room, and library were later put in where our sanctuary, kitchen, and library were located. The office wing has been changed over the years, too. The narthex was later made bigger to accommodate the third addition and took space from the former wing."

"The hallway from the narthex to the current chapel was part of the sanctuary, with the kitchen to the left as you entered from the center and the library to the other side. However, the library was open to the sanctuary at the back, perhaps for added seating. There were two storage closets toward the front on each side for tables and chairs. These were used for our many potlucks, pancake breakfasts, and many bazaars."

Thank you, Merle and Ivan, for your contributions to our history. If any of you have other memories of the "early years," we welcome all memories and stories regarding those early years or any other aspect of our church or its history. Call me at 479-344-6074 or 928-710-3612 or send email to rjhale68@cox.net.

Jill Hale, Historian




**Ground Breaking
Ceremony
October 9, 1977**

**Fellowship Hall/
Sanctuary
circa 1978**



May



SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY			
	1	10:30 Staff Mtg - Rm 6 12:30 Womens' Chorus - MR 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:00 Book of Acts Study - Rm 6 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	2	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor	3	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 9:30 UWF Board Meeting - Par. 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	4	9:00 Bazaar Wkshop - Quilt Rm 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 12:30 Caregivers Support Grp-Par 2:00 Praise Team Practice	5	Offices closed 11:30 BVPS Board Mtg - Rm 28	6	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28			
7	9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Phyllis Wible Birthday Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Adult Sunday School-Rm6 11:00 Casual Service - BH	8	10:30 Staff Mtg - Rm 6 12:30 Women's Chorus - MR 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:00 Book of Acts Study - Rm 6 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	9	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:00 Sarah Circle - Parlor 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor	10	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	11	9:00 Bazaar Wkshop - Quilt Rm 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:30 Friends of Christ - Parlor 2:00 Praise Team Practice 6:00 Evening Circle - Youth Rm	12	Offices closed	13	8:15 Young@Heart - PM 8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28		
14	 MOTHER'S DAY 9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Adult Sunday School-Rm6 11:00 Casual Service - BH	15	9:30 Martha Circle- Qilt Rm 10:30 Staff Mtg - Rm 6 11:30 BVPS Lunch/Learn - Rm 28 12:30 Women's Chorus - MR 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:00 Book of Acts Study - Rm 6 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	16	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:30 Naomi Circle - Parlor 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor	17	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary 5:30 UMM - Papa Mike's	18	9:00 Bazaar Wkshop - Quilt Rm 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 2:00 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Cancer Suppt Grp - Parlor	19	Offices closed 6:30 UMM Ladies' Night Out-BH	20	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28		
21	9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Adult Sunday School-Rm6 11:00 Casual Service - BH 12:15 Finance Meeting - Parlor 1:30 CCM Meeting - Parlor	22	10:30 Staff Mtg - Rm 6 12:30 Women's Chorus - MR 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:00 Book of Acts Study - Rm 6 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	23	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor	24	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	25	9:00 Bazaar Wkshop - Quilt Rm 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:30 Friends of Christ - Parlor 2:00 Praise Team Practice 6:00 Circle of Life Meal and Presentation - Becker Hall	26	Offices closed	27	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28		
28	PENTECOST SUNDAY 9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Adult Sunday School-Rm6 11:00 Casual Service - BH	29	MEMORIAL DAY Offices closed 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	30	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor	31	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 10:30 Staff Mtng - Rm 6 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAG Please remember to wear your name tag at all church events and activities. This will make it easier for our newer members to learn your name, and you theirs. Please let the office know if your name tag is AWOL and you need a new one. If you see someone you do not know, introduce yourself and welcome them to FUMCBV!							



MAY ANNIVERSARIES



- | | | | |
|------|---------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| 5/04 | Lou & Judy Kaufmann | 5/20 | Kacy & Shelby Spears |
| 5/04 | Johnny & Charlene Rayburn | 5/21 | Kevin & India Hight |
| 5/08 | Darrell & Verna Bottjen | 5/22 | Arthur & Marian Lawless |
| 5/08 | Wayne & Jeanette Horner | 5/26 | Tommy & Lynn Runnels |
| 5/16 | James & Amy Gilmore | 5/27 | Terry & Cynthia Augspurger |
| 5/17 | Herb & Kathy Ayres | 5/28 | Glenn & Carolyn Roach |
| 5/19 | Billy & Sandra Beverage | 5/31 | Harry & Kandi Mount |



MAY BIRTHDAYS

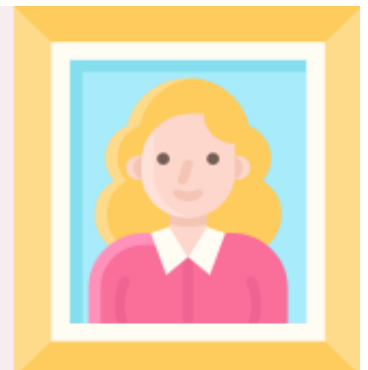


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|------|------------------|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|
| 5/08 | Jenna Gilmore | 5/10 | Lynden Forst | 5/19 | Roy Vogel |
| 5/08 | Arlyn Richardson | 5/10 | Bill Miller | 5/20 | Cheryl Campbell |
| 5/08 | Jacob Smith | 5/11 | Wesley Dean | 5/21 | John Justice |
| 5/08 | Phyllis Widle | 5/11 | Keagan Magee | 5/23 | Lara Sandusky |
| 5/09 | Jon Baker | 5/11 | Genie Shupp | 5/23 | Galen Thiele |
| 5/09 | David Frisby | 5/15 | Jessica Mendoza | 5/27 | Evelyn Weigel |
| 5/09 | Jean Justice | 5/15 | Nancy Spangler | 5/28 | Jeneda Mickelson |
| 5/09 | Rick Mayes | 5/16 | Mary Hixson | 5/29 | Don McMahon |
| 5/09 | Glenn Roach | 5/17 | Marc Engle | 5/30 | Charlene Marshall |
| 5/10 | Sharon Andrews | 5/18 | Marian Lawless | 5/30 | Mary Verkest |
| | | | | 5/31 | Larry Marshall |

Mother's Day

IS MAY 14!

WE STILL NEED PHOTOS OF YOUR MOTHERS FOR A SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY SLIDE SHOW. ONLY 4 OF YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOURS SO FAR. PLEASE EMAIL OR DROP THEM AT THE OFFICE SO ANDREA CAN SCAN THEM IN BY MONDAY, MAY 8 (EVEN IF YOU'VE PROVIDED THEM BEFORE).





United
Women
in Faith

GREETINGS FROM UWF!

As we approach May when all of the trees and flowers in full bloom The UWF is also working hard with our BAZAAR Workshops and preparing for our annual RUMMAGE SALE. Our workshops are EVERY Thursday from 9am till 2pm. It is a great time for fellowship and helping to make items for our Bazaar that helps women, children, and youth in BENTON CO. As I mentioned last month if you are down sizing or spring cleaning put aside thing that the Rummage Sale can use, and if you cannot store it till the last week in July let Verna know and she will assist in finding a place to store it.

The UWF also collects all BEST CHOICE bar codes. For every 1000 we collect and send in, we receive \$60.00 to help people in Benton Co. Just drop off any bar codes in the library. Right now we are 40 short of reaching another 1000.

OTHER ITEMS WE ARE IN NEED OF FOR OUR BAZAAR ARE:

***Small Spice bottles are needed
for our Special Seasoning Salt***

Several women who make jams, jellies, salsas, pickles, relishes, green tomatoes, and other homemade items are in need of jars:

***Large-mouth Quart and
large-mouth Pint Jars and ½ Pint jars***

*We are also still in need of an
Administrative Chairperson for the Bazaar,
anyone interested should talk to Judy Bilyeu.*

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Luncheons: **June 28th, Sept. 27th, Dec. 6th**

June 11th UWF Sunday
with speaker, Karen Anderson from Rogers
July 26-29 Mission U 2023 at Hendrix College
Call President, Barbara Brooks at 876-5353
for questions or comments.

**YOU, TOO, CAN BECOME A MEMBER AND
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Got TOO Much Stuff ?

*Begin Now To Set Aside Your
Usable Discards For the*

UWF



Saturday, AUGUST 5th

*If you don't have room to store your
donations, we do have some space
available call Verna Bottjen 876-1392
No Clothes, TVs or heavy furniture,
and please have it in clean and
working order. THANKS !*



<p>MAY Circle Meetings</p>	<p>Sarah Tuesday, 5/9, at 1:00pm in the Parlor Speaker, Brenna Drindak, Civil War re-enactor</p>	<p>Evening Thursday, 5/11, at 6:00pm in the Youth Room Mental Health Research</p>	<p>Martha Monday, 4/15, at 9:30am in the Quilt Room Pack hygiene bags for Cooper</p>	<p>Naomi Tuesday, 5/16, at 1:30pm in the Parlor Program TBD</p>
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MEET THE JUNE 11th UWF SUNDAY SPEAKER, KAREN ANDERSON



Karen Anderson is a cradle United Methodist who has found herself in many different areas of ministry throughout her lifetime. She has served on a local church staff as the Christian Education Director and the district staff as registrar for the District Committee on Ordain Ministry. Karen volunteers as the Northwest District Director of Lay Servant Ministries and is the assistant director on the conference level. She is passionate about ministries for children and youth and feeding ministries. Karen Works as the Community Development Coordinator for Ozark Mission Project. She and her husband are empty nesters living in Rogers where they enjoy all 5 of their grandkids.

May 2023 Newsletter Financial Data—as of March 31, 2023

	Actual	Budget
Month of March Contributions (Income*)	\$ 31,233.94	\$ 31,340.33
Month of March Expenses	\$ 34,035.21	\$ 34,649.57
Difference	\$ (2,801.27)	\$ (3,309.24)
Year-to-Date Income Contributions Only	\$ 299,324.90	\$ 282,062.97
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$ 290,151.67	\$ 305,502.83
Difference	\$ 9,173.23	\$ (26,439.86)

**Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest*

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Next UMM Meeting—Wednesday, May 17, at 5:30pm at Papa Mike's.
Ladies Night Out—Friday, May 19, at 6:00pm in Becker Hall. **WE NEED TO SPONSOR 7 TABLES, BUT ONLY HAVE 5 SPONSORED SO FAR.

Pancake Breakfast—Saturday, October 14, at 6:30am.

****UMM will not meet in June or July. Meetings resume in August in Becker Hall. \$5 Hamburgers**



OUR FAMILY

Welcome New Member, Jane Lewellen!



We welcomed Jane Lewellen into the FUMCBV family on Sunday, 3/31. Originally from Texas, Jane moved to Bella Vista in 2014 to be closer to her daughter in Bentonville. She has three children and three grandchildren. Jane is a retired 1st and 2nd grade teacher. She is an avid reader and a member of a book club. Jane is active in several organizations, and hopes to be involved in the UWF now that she is in a Methodist Church again. Be sure to welcome Jane if you haven't already done so. We look forward to getting to know you better!

CIRCLE of LIFE Dinner & Presentation

Circle of Life will be here **Thursday, May 25, at 6:00pm** in the **Parlor**. Join us for dinner and a presentation. Their Care Navigator, Debby Holmes, will be speaking about their **Care Navigation** services that are available to help you navigate care during a serious illness. Honey Baked Ham Co. ham and turkey will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. *Please sign up in the office to attend so we have enough ham and turkey for you.*

Phyllis Widle is turning 90!
Come celebrate her on Sunday, May 7, at 10:00am in morning fellowship

☆☆☆☆☆☆ **Bella Vista Cemetery Memorial Day Observance** ☆☆☆☆☆☆



In honor of departed loved ones, especially our esteemed veterans, the Bella Vista Cemetery Association will host a celebration on Memorial Day, May 29th, at the Bella Vista Memorial Garden Cemetery at 34 Buckstone Dr. A hotdog lunch will be served at noon. The program starts at 1:00pm and will feature speaker, Dr. Mark Galloway, a retired National Guard Major and current pastor of First Christian Church in Eureka Springs. Also participating are the Boys and Girls Scouts of America, American Legion Post #341, as well as the Bella Vista Honor Guard. For questions, please call Marian Lawless at (479) 212-4996.



OUR FAMILY

Local veterans interviewed for Library of Congress

Stories collected for Veterans History Project

By **RACHEL DICKERSON**

rdickerson@nwaonline.com

Veterans at Concordia are being interviewed by U.S. Sen. John Boozman's office for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

Kathy Watson, constituent service director for Boozman's office, said the project started in 2000, and Boozman's office began capturing stories in 2011 when the senator took office. She said Boozman's father was a World War II veteran who had died years ago, and when the senator learned about the project he realized how much he did not know about his father's service.

"It's really precious to us to understand the time period and the veteran's role in it," she said.

The project is open to all branches of the military and all members. The only rule is the service person must have completed their service, she said.

Watson said samples of interviews conducted by Sen. Boozman's office are available online at: boozman.senate.gov under



Rachel Dickerson/The Weekly Vista

Veterans (from left) Lora Burch, Bill Dieleman, Ronald Madsen and Gerald Vnuk are pictured at Concordia on Monday. They have all agreed to be interviewed by U.S. Sen. John Boozman's office for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

others throughout Arkansas can capture the stories, she said. They can train organizations, such as a high school civics class, for example, or an individual like an Eagle Scout, or just someone who wants to record their own family history.

She said there were few Arkansas stories recorded in the beginning. Now they have interviewed everyone from an Afghanistan veteran to a 105-year-old veteran who flew with the Tuskegee Airmen.

Watson said they are in the process of interviewing 10 veterans from Concordia.

A small group of veterans, some who had been

interviewed and others who were going to be interviewed, gathered in the library at Concordia on Monday.

Bill Dieleman, Ronald Madsen and Gerald Vnuk all served in the Army during the Korean War era, and Lora Burch served in the Navy during the Vietnam War era.

Dieleman, originally from Iowa, said he went to college on the GI Bill. He said half the young men in his rural area of Iowa did not go to high school. He enlisted in the national guard in 1951 and was drafted into the Army in 1953. He worked as a teacher for 17 years and served in the Iowa state legislature for 29 years.

Burch enlisted in the Navy

at age 19 and served six years. She was also originally from Iowa, and during her service she was stationed in Maryland, Japan and San Diego. Following her service, she used the GI Bill to pay for child care while earning a degree in public administration and then worked in higher education. She said she wanted to be interviewed because she thought it would be interesting for future generations of her family.

Madsen served in Korea in the construction engineers and was a cook for 10 months, feeding 200 people at a time.

Vnuk served at Fort Lewis, Wash., in AWOL and apprehension at division headquarters. He said he got the job because he knew how to type.

Colleen Marie Thompson, Business Development Director at Concordia, said there are at least 40 veterans at the retirement community, but some do not wish to talk about their service.

Look who was in the *Weekly Vista* recently: Lora Burch!



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bella Vista

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CHURCH SECRETARY - ANDREA FOBES
MUSIC MINISTRIES DIRECTOR -
DR. LAWRENCE ZEHRING
ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST - LAMAR PUCKETT
PRAISE BAND LEADERS - RICK & GLORIA ATHA

PHONE: (479) 855-1158
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FACEBOOK.COM/FUMCBV

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION **DEADLINE: 20TH OF THE MONTH**

To the Home of ...



PRESENT

Ladies Night Out



It's time for us to show our appreciation for our ladies who do so much for the church and our community. The **United Methodist Men** will host a **Ladies Night Out** dinner on **Friday, May 19, 2023, at 6:00 pm in Becker Hall**. We will serve a meal, enjoy entertainment, and plenty of good fellowship. *There will be a limited number of tickets for sale in the church office for \$15 each.* You can also purchase a **table for 8 at \$120**. Please call the office to order them or stop by and pick them up. All are encouraged to buy extra, treat as many members as possible, and encourage them to come. Just think about how great it would be to get some of our shut-ins and non-driving members there.

PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

As a church family, we lift each other up in prayer for both our joys and our concerns. **Send your Praises and Prayer requests to**

Pastor Ron at his email: ron.hayes@arumc.org or call him: **(479) 366-9725**.

You can also call the church office **(479) 855-1158**, email our secretary, Andrea, at: andrea@fumcbellavista.com or stop by **20 Boyce Dr.**

You may also complete a **Prayer Request Card** in the Narthex or Becker Hall and drop them in the Prayer Boxes there. They are checked during office hours.