



The Good News

JULY 2022

Meeting our Pastor and his Family—installment #1

After the Worship Service this past Sunday, my first with FUMC Bella Vista, I mentioned in a conversation that God has a sense of humor. Consider the creation of aardvarks, platypuses, and ostriches, as well as hummingbirds, cardinals, and the bald eagles. God is an amazing Creator and is still creating. The possibilities are endless with God in the center of any plan. All these years later after the first warming of my heart, I am saying YES to God's Call on my life.

Being called into ministry and now appointed to the beauty of FUMC Bella Vista, I am still absorbing the wonder of a journey into deeper faith in Christ. Only now can I look back at the many times God nudged me, carried me, lifted me, and held me back (trying to keep me from wrong pathways) that now leads me to serve here.

I was adopted into the most loving home along with my sister when I was not quite 4 years old (she was 5). In the small town of Shenandoah Iowa, we were raised with love and gentle guidance and understanding that you were expected to do the right things in the right way. Going to church and Sunday School helped teach you that and you spent time around others that also believed that was the way to apply yourself in life.

My junior year in high school I was honored to be selected to represent the class on our local community Youth Center board. Julie was selected to represent the freshman class. Those monthly meetings got something started. Almost five years later we were married and attending Iowa State. Jarrod, our oldest son, was born five years later in Temple Texas and his brother was born three years after that in Tulsa Oklahoma. That Red River rivalry only grew when Jarrod attended North Carolina State and Jeff went to UNC Chapel Hill. Like their parents who have lived in 8 states and made 16 moves, Jarrod and Sarah now live in Whiteland Indiana and Jeff and Crystal live in Whitefish Bay Wisconsin. We are blessed with four grandchildren!

There is SO much more to share about how God is shaping my life through various corporate positions and diversity of living in small towns and some of the biggest cities. Working in small family-owned businesses and in the largest corporations. I have held most of the church committees from chairing Administrative Council, SPRC, Finance teams. Served as laity on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the District Strategy team. Also served as Lay Delegate and District Lay Delegate to a lot of annual conference sessions.

Julie has done accounting work, custom sewing, apparel design and has always loved to paint. Her love of nature, God's Creation, is so evident in her paintings. Stop in and enjoy a few of Julie's paintings I have hanging in the office. We might even chat and cover more of how God has been and is shaping, preparing, and nudging me in ministry. Otherwise you will have to wait until next month for more of the journey story.

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Pastor Ron



Pastor Ron & Julie





The Discipleship Journey

Rev. Ron Hayes

July is here! I have met a few of you and I even remember at least ten, I mean five, names to go with the right person. The process of meeting people and learning more about them parallels the journey of discipleship. Any journey is a process of taking single steps – one at a time – but a lot of them. I will keep taking the steps to meet, greet, and learn more about each of you. I wish I could do it overnight, or even in a week/month, but it will be a series of steps, a lot of them. I commit to staying on the path, the journey of taking the steps, so I know all of you. We are also called to the journey of discipleship. God calls all of us into our individual and collective Christian discipleship journeys.

It's hard to see the underlying painting on the banner of this article but the original is in my office. Please come see it! Michele Wells did a masterful piece of reflecting a beautiful morning after what must have been a loud and rough night of summer storms. The mud is deep and the mist is rising as the sun warms the earth. The road is plain to see but it also rises and bends which does not allow us to clearly see all that is ahead of us. Note, it is important that the road itself leaves no doubt of its direction. This time there are no intersections, no "Y's", no dead ends in sight. We are on the journey. Once again, God calls all of us to be on the journey of discipleship. No matter what the night before may have brought, we rejoice in the warmth of God's Light in the morning, and we move ahead. We know we belong on this journey of learning more, doing more, living more, loving more, that is the journey of Christian discipleship.

July is a typical vacation month and vacations are often opportunities to go and see 'new things'. For Bella Vista First, you, me, and those living around us, it's a month when we have the opportunity to look ahead and around the curve of the road. We get to walk and see what we could not see yesterday. You and I need to walk together, stretch out our hands to others in our community and invite them to journey with us as we seek to grow in our Christian discipleship. I invite you to journey with me and be drawn into a deeper relationship with God. There are always more steps to be taken. The big question for this July, who are you going to invite and bring with you (each Sunday, each gathering)? God already loves them! May their journeys lead them into a deeper relationship with God too. May they see 'new things' and feel and know of the love and grace of God which all of us need.

Pastor Ron



Please help keep our **BLESSING BOX** filled with non-perishable food items, so that those in our community who are in need can replenish themselves here.

Do you have someone you would like to honor? If so, please consider making a one-time or monthly donation in their name.

If you are unable to shop for supplies, you can make a donation, designating it for the Blessing Box and someone will do the shopping for you. You are also welcome to drop off non-perishable items (**NO** out-of-date) in Room 6 and we will fill the box as it is emptied. The Blessing Box really is a blessing to those in need. Thank you for your support

Congregational Care Ministry

If you are in need of a little extra TLC, there are those in the church who are trained to assist the pastor with helping you meet your need. Speak to someone with a blue nametag, or contact Judy Kaufmann for more information. You may also send a private message through the CCM email address at: ccm@fumcbellavista.com . The messages will be answered as soon as possible. Your CCM Team is here for you!



Weekly Community Prayer Vigil for peace in the World. . .

. . . which has been meeting in our Sanctuary on Tuesday afternoons, will be suspended for the months of July and August. Please contact either Kandi Mount or Cathy Luck with your suggestions about how our congregation can continue to be a force of prayer for the community and the world. Thank you for your support!

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



Saturday, August 6th

If you don't have room to store your donations, we do have some limited space available—call Verna B. (876-1392) or CoEllen S. (721-2902) for more info.

No clothes, TVs or heavy furniture, please! We would appreciate all other items in clean and in working order.

THANKS!



OUR FAMILY

Each month this space is used to tell about the people who are part of our church family. If you know of a graduation, community recognition, someone moving away or moving in, a new baby/grandbaby/great-grandbaby, whatever the rest of the church might like to know to keep up with folks, please let me know so I can include the information in these pages. Send your information to me at janet@fumcbellavista.com. Thanks! Jan Walton

JOYS

CRAWFORD TIMOTHY BOUCHILLON - 4th great-grandchild of Dick and Karen Bacon, was born June 14th to Ashley and Kevin Bouchillon in South Carolina. Big sister Lily and brother, Gabriel welcomed him into the family. Dick and Karen took a road trip to see their newest little one, and also drove to Virginia to meet for the first time, Julia Mae Mercereau, (#3) who was born to Rick and Hannah Mercereau on May 29th last year. We lift praises and prayers for these wonderful families.



ED AND BARBARA JENNER will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Saturday, July 25th. They met when both were members of the U.S. Navy, and were married in 1962 at the Moffett Field NAS Chapel in Mountain View, California. They moved to Bella Vista in 2000 and have been active members of FUMCBV since they joined in September of that year.

RELOCATIONS

DARLEEN O'BRIEN will be moving back home to Texas the second week of July to be closer to her family. She has become such an integral part of every facet of the church, and she will be missed by many! Her new address is 534 Ivy Cross Lane, Sugar Land, TX 77479. Best wishes and many blessings to you, Darleen, in this new chapter of your life!



DAWN THOMPSON recently retired as our long-reigning Handbell director and has moved to be closer to family. Her new address is: c/o Silver Glen Senior Living Center, 1901 Silver Glen Rd. # 1059, South Elgin, IL 60177. Her new email address is: det.music@outlook.com. We send our prayers and good wishes for a peaceful transition for Dawn. She and her beautiful music will be missed!

IN MEMORIUM

DUANE POMMERENKE passed away June 11, after a short illness. His memorial service was in our sanctuary June 29th and he was laid to rest at Fayetteville National Cemetery the next day. He and Marilyn have been active members of FUMCBV since 1998. Cards of condolence may be sent to Marilyn and family at: 2300 S.E. 28th St #305, Bentonville 72712



MYLES STORCK – 55 year-old son of Jack & Nona Storck, passed away Friday, June 24th in Oklahoma City. His memorial service will be held July 9 at the Church of Christ in Cordell, Ok. Please be in prayer for his wife Cathy, their 3 children, and all of the Storck family during this difficult time.

RONNIE & DELORES RAKOW

were faithful members of FUMCBV from 1994 until they moved back to Nebraska in 2016. Delores passed away on February 9th and Ronnie passed away on May 16th this year. A memorial service for both of them was held in Lincoln, NE on June 11th. We hold their family in our prayers.





THANK YOU



Dear Church Family, I just want to take a moment and say “thank you”. Thank you for the beautiful Farewell Party. Thank you for the gifts. Thank you for your love and support, not just for me, but my entire family, over the last five years. I pray that God’s mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ in Bella Vista continues with you and Pastor Ron’s leadership. Many blessings! *Rev. Jeanne*



Friends, I sincerely thank you for all you have done for me over the past eight years while I have been in ministry here at FUMC Bella Vista. I want to especially thank you for the many farewell kindnesses and the Farewell Gathering you held for Rev. Jeanne and me on June 5th . It was truly a joy! Thank you for the party with yummy things to eat and fun music; thank you for your presence; thank you for the presents, for the cards, for the monetary gifts, for the hugs, and thank you for the love and support that you have always given me. You each will forever hold a special place in my heart!
Blessings, *Pastor Brenda*



Care & Share trailer will be in our upper parking lot Monday, July 18th all day. Anything you donate to them (and they truly take “anything”) goes to their Thrift Store in Gravette, and the profits of the store go directly to benefit those less fortunate in western Benton County.



If you have the UMW scrapbooks for the years 2017 and 2018, please contact the office or Maryann Johnson at 721-9987 as soon as possible. THANKS!



Book Nook



Please look around your home for any FUMCBV Library books you may have checked out. We have many that were checked out as long as two years ago. If you are through reading, please return them to the Library, so that others may check them out to enjoy .



Attention all UWF (UMW) Reading Program participants: August 11th is the last day I can accept the information as to what program you completed (I, II, III, or IV). You can leave this information in the shoebox in the church library, email me jdvvbellavista@yahoo.com or call me at 479-876-1676. Thank you. *Diane Verville*

JOB BOOK



Have you seen a burned-out bulb somewhere, or a faucet leaking, or any other “something that needs to be fixed”? There is a JOB BOOK in the office where you can fill out a job request form. The Trustees check this book frequently, and try to fix whatever needs to be fixed—but if they don’t know about it, it won’t get done! Everyone can be the eyes and ears of the church. Thanks!



LAY LEADER'S MESSAGE

Dave Broers, Lay Leader

Wesley - Focused on the Bible

John Wesley presented Christianity as “Plain truth for plain people.” Oh, sure, he was an Oxford-educated priest, a deep thinking theologian conversant in complex doctrines and religious philosophies, both ancient and contemporary. But he was also wise, able to articulate all that into simple, straightforward messages. Those messages, the key themes of the Christian faith could be understood by the people—all the people. And then the people could apply that “plain truth” to their lives. They were truly “born anew” through God’s Spirit as they pondered Wesley’s messages and applied them to their own plain, cluttered lives.

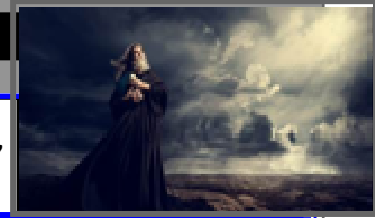
I enjoy reading and thinking of all the main themes of Wesley’s messages. One I think is particularly central: The Bible is the primary source for Christian belief and life. Our United Methodists doctrine statements say that the Bible contains “all things necessary to salvation” and is “the true rule and guide for faith and practice.” (see *The Book of Discipline*) Wesley affirmed II Timothy 3:16 that the Bible—all of it—is “inspired by God (authoritative). He suggested many practices for studying the Bible in order to incorporate its timeless message of truth into our daily lives—to make a difference, then, as new people.

How do you view the Bible in your life? Is it authoritative for you? Do you read it, study it, seeking the plain truth of God’s message for you each day? Does your church teach the Bible as central to intentionally develop peoples’ faith? Wesley considered himself a “man of one book”—the Bible.

Peace and blessings. . . *Dave*



Artie Lawless,
UMM President



Look to the Father

Hello Methodist Men! Praise the month of July!

As you all probably know by now, I’m into music. Playing in the church’s contemporary band has been both a blessing and a challenge after soooo many years away from the drums. But, like your father would have told you when you first learned how to ride a bike. “Piece of cake.” “Once you get it right, you’ll always remember how to do it.”

Well, dad was right, although he never did mention that you might slow down a bit, be a little off time occasionally, need coke bottle thick glasses to read the sheets, and of course there’s that hearing aid issue. Other than that, it came right back to me. ☺

God, our father, told us to love our neighbor, always seek him, turn the other cheek, praise his name, believe in him no matter what, keep your faith strong, and a host other commandments. What our supreme father didn’t tell us was how difficult it would be sometimes to live up to those demands.

Sure, we’ll fall off the bike, skin our knees once in a while, but then get right back on, and ride it till we get it right. In life too, we’ll lose faith, we’ll find it hard to turn the other cheek, and maybe even doubt in him for a little while, but our father will always be there to get you upright, to get you back on that bike, to put you on a faith path to heaven.

God doesn’t see these faults as setbacks, He sees them as setups. Setups to build your faith, have the courage to face obstacles as they block your joy. You will overcome anything put in front you, if you believe in him.

So, get back on that bike. Ride like the wind and as Josh Turner sings one of my favorite lines in “Long Black Train”, *Cling to the father and his holy name.*

One word: Victory...Amen

Many Blessings. . . *Artie*

Reminder: There are no UMM meetings in July and August. See you in church, on the golf course, in the bowling alley, where ever !! Enjoy your summer.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mike Roth & Cathy Luck
- 2 Jon & Jessica Mendoza
- 8 Bill & Jane Potts
- 13 Rev. Jim & Mary Verkest
- 17 Rev. Ron & Julie Hayes
- 22 Sean & Kristin Crider
- 25 Ed & Barbara Jenner
- 27 Dick & Karen Bacon
- 30 Rick & Dena Mayes

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sue Nebrig
- 1 Allan Ward
- 3 Jacqueline Beahm
- 3 Wanda Holliday
- 3 Mary Ann Kennedy
- 4 Earl Kennedy
- 5 Sandy Fitch
- 5 Pat Fox
- 5 Lou Kaufmann
- 7 LaVon Fryer

JULY BIRTHDAYS *(continued)*

- 8 Chet Campbell
- 8 Helen McBride
- 9 Jennifer Lehmann
- 9 Carmen Phillips
- 9 Mike Roth
- 10 Layne Anderson
- 10 Carol Pennington
- 11 Leota Rowison
- 13 Juanita Prior
- 15 Merle Lantz
- 15 Tommy Runnels
- 16 Ken Hammarstrom
- 17 Dorothy Phillips
- 17 Carol Zurn
- 18 Verle Shoemaker
- 19 Noah Pittman
- 24 Rachel Smith
- 27 Jack Kolbe
- 27 Katrina Sparlin
- 31 Pamela Pittman

July 2022 Newsletter Financial Data

<i>information as of May 31, 2022</i>	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
Month of May Contributions (Income*)	\$ 30,688.67	\$ 30,639.00
Month of May Expenses	\$ 41,020.59	\$ 46,035.88
Difference	\$ (10,331.92)	\$ (15,396.88)
Year to Date Income Contributions Only	\$ 142,354.69	\$ 153,195.00
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 205,170.44	\$ 229,749.17
Difference	\$ (62,815.75)	\$ (76,554.17)
Transferred from Restricted Fund to date	\$ 40,600.00	
Total	\$ (22,215.75)	

**Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest*

Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator



SPOTLIGHT on STEWARDSHIP

Shari Vermett, Finance Chair

To ALL my Church Family and Friends,

As most of you have heard by now, I am moving back home to Texas to be near my family. I will be leaving the weekend of July 8th.

This church family and friends have been a GOD SEND in my life. I found a home at First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista shortly after moving here in 2014. The members welcomed me with open arms and helped me heal after losing my husband unexpectedly. I have had the pleasure of knowing many of you for most of that time, and have enjoyed every minute. Now I must say "So Long" and I will miss each of you with fond memories. I do plan on coming back to visit in October for the Bazaar. Saying "Thank You" doesn't seem to be enough for all the help, support, chats and HUGS I have received from so many of you over the years. I appreciate having each of you in my life.

Many Blessings to you, Darleen O'Brien



I want to thank you, my church family, for the many prayers, cards, calls, and thoughts (especially the prayers) as I have been recovering from my bout with covid. I am so blessed to have such a caring church family.

Marion Korn



HELPING HANDS has continued operating with many volunteers returning and some new ones, making it a slight return to normal. The food pantry continues to help where needed but some direct monetary support has had to be suspended. Even though we're not sure what this year is going to bring, they have gone ahead and scheduled the volunteer churches to work on Saturdays. They hope to have our help on July 30 and December 3 this year. This is a great "hands on" mission opportunity and you might even find some great deals while you're working! There will be a sign-up sheet in the office. We usually help out back accepting donations and also inside straightening the sales floor etc. Many still wear masks and sanitize. If you have any questions, see Verna Bottjen or call her at 876-1392.

This month's spotlight on stewardship is on the many women who work tirelessly in our church. The United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) are women with a purpose. Their mission is to connect and nurture women so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities. They raise money by holding a rummage sale and a bazaar. You will find many of them at the church every Thursday creating items for the bazaar. They can always use more helping hands. Money raised is used to support local missions such as NWA Women's Shelter, the Bella Vista courtesy van, shoebox ministry, FUMCBV children's ministry and the FUMCBV library to name a few. There are four UWF circles who meet monthly (except July & August). One group meets in the morning, two groups meet in the afternoon and one group in the evening. Any of these groups would welcome you with "open arms".

Shari





SHOEBOX MINISTRY

...thanks, Martha Circle, for helping get together about 100 Hygiene Bags for Cooper School to deliver at the end of May. Things slow down a bit for summer months, but if you are taking a trip and see some extra shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, soap, we would much appreciate you dropping it off for us on the table in the Narthex. Also, money gifts are always welcome, as we have to order many of our supplies to give to the missions we support. Thanks to all for your help and support! ~ *Karen, Maryann, Cheryl ~ Your Shoebox Team*

PRAYER REQUESTS

As a church family we lift each other up in prayer for both our collective joys and our concerns. Prayer requests should be sent to Janet Walton at janet@lovelearnlead.com or 855-1158. You may also complete a Prayer Request Card in the Narthex or Becker Hall and drop it in the Prayer Boxes there. They are checked daily.

CIRCLE & SHEPHERD GROUP NEWS

Martha Circle enjoyed having lunch together at The Greens in Jane, Missouri on June 7th. At the last moment we found out that Haven 55 was no longer open on Tuesdays. So a quick decision was made to go to The Greens, We were all pleasantly surprised at how clean everything was, and the food was very good, with great service. We would recommend you try it. Hamburgers were very tasty and "BIG". They had a variety of items on the menu.



The Young at Heart Shepherd Group met June 11th at Papa Mikes at 8:30 (we are usually earlier??) If anyone doesn't have a Shepherd Group and would like to join us, you are more than welcome. We meet the 2nd Saturday of the month. Contact Karen Roenfeld for more information.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAG

Please remember to wear your name tag at all church events and activities. This will give our newer members an easier time of learning your name, and you theirs. If you see someone you do not know, introduce yourself and welcome them to FUMCBV!



It's time to invite a friend!

**3-Part Sermon Series:
"Three Simple Rules"**

- July 10th: Do No Harm**
- July 17th: Do Good**
- July 24th: Stay in Love with God**



What's the (Hi)Story?

Jill Hale, FUMC Historian

Here is the latest installment of member stories for our history. This one is from Jim and Judy Bilyeu. Enjoy!

We first visited and purchased a lot in Bella Vista in 1978. Starting the very next year, our family made annual 10-day trips each summer, and soon Jim, along with Jack Kolbe and other friends, were coming here each spring and fall for golf outings. During an early round of golf on #17 at Bella Vista Country Club on a Sunday morning, when the FUMC bells began to ring, Jim promised, "One day, we'll be there!" After Jack and Jan Kolbe moved down, we attended church with them, and joined in 2006 when we also moved from Normal, IL.



We had always been active in our Illinois church, and soon we were welcomed into the same areas of service at FUMC-BV. Jim loves to sing in the choir, and Judy enjoys the children's ministry and United Women in Faith. It was hard to leave our faith family in Illinois behind, but the church here and especially Shepherd Group One soon made us a part of our new faith family.

Working with friends in the bazaar craft workshops has been a blessing and a way to deepen this family relationship. The bazaars and pancake breakfasts over the years have been wonderful church relationship builders and also much welcomed by the Bella Vista community.

We look forward to the future here at FUMC-BV with time to share with all of our friends in God's service.

Jim & Judy Bilyeu

Thank you so much, Jim and Judy, for sharing your story. Who will be next? We would love to read YOUR story! You can contact me by telephone at 479-344-6074 or 928-710-3612 or by email at rjhale68@cox.net. Submissions should be about one page long. I need them by the 15th of the month. Looking forward to more great stories.

Jill



Greetings from UWF

Summer came in with a bang...Very HOT! While you are trying to stay cool, remember to stay *hydrated*. HAVE A FUN SUMMER!!!

Friendly Reminder: We are still looking for new or slightly used items for the *Rummage Sale, which will be held on August 6th*. Please keep us in mind for those items you no longer want or need. Please contact Verna Bottjen or Co Ellen Sterwald.

We have had a good group coming for the **BAZAAR workshop**, and hope to have more each week. Please know you are welcome any Thursday - come any time you would like, between 9:15 - 2:00, and stay as long as you want. We have some ladies who come for a couple of hours and some stay the whole time. The fellowship is worth coming, so don't be shy. Even if you feel like you cannot do crafting or sewing, we have a number of other things that you can do. Any questions, please feel free to contact Judy Bilyeu.

Phone Numbers to answer any questions/comments you might have:

Verna Bottjen: 479-876-1392 – Rummage Sale
Co Ellen Sterwald: 479-721-2902 – Rummage Sale
Judy Bilyeu: 479-721-9460 – Bazaar
Barbara Brooks: 479-876-5353 – UWF President

Officers who have reports to send in August: Please make copies for my records to have back up for the Oct. 8th annual NWD fall meeting at Ft. Smith.

DATES to REMEMBER:

There are no board meetings or circle meetings in July or August.

- July 20th - Mission U
- September 7th Board Meeting- 9:30 AM – Parlor
- Program for circles will be Ingathering.
- September 28th – Unit Meeting/Luncheon
Program will be Charter for Racial Justice with Sheree Miller as the speaker.

You can become a member and do your part of helping make a difference in someone else's life. You do not need to be a member of a Methodist church. All are welcome! Blessings to ALL *Darleen*

Those who are participating in the reading program must provide their information to Diane Verville by August 11th.



First United Methodist Church
20 Boyce Drive,
Bella Vista, AR 72715

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We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Rev. Ron Hayes
Church Administrator - Amy Gilmore
Church Secretary - Jan Walton
Communications Director - Kaitie Bewley
Music Ministries Director - Dr. Lawrence Zehring
Organist/Pianist - Broc Hite

Phone: (479) 855-1158
www.fumcbellavista.com
facebook.com/fumcbv

Newsletter **Deadline: 20th of the month**

To the Home of ...



Red Cross Blood Drive
FUMC BELLA VISTA
20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista
Becker Hall

Thursday, July 21, 2022
12:00pm to 4:00pm

Please call 1-800-REDCROSS
(1-800-733-2767)
or visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter: FUMCBV
to schedule an appointment

