

Hiawassee United Methodist Church



Email: humc@hiawasseeumc.org
Website: www.hiawasseeumc.org
706.896.2818
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

SUNDAY:
9:00 a.m. Prayer
9:30 a.m. Integrative Bible Study
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

WEDNESDAY:
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Our Mission:

*Worship Jesus Christ;
Grow as Disciples;
Serve Others*



HUMC Mountain Messenger



Pastor Sam Hamby
Church (706) 896-2818
Cell (706) 400-2618
Visit us online at www.hiawasseeumc.org



Out With The Old



It happens every year! As we come to the end of one year and begin a new year, we resolve to make some changes with hopes for a better life. Maybe we want to start doing something better than before or stop doing something we don't want to continue. Whether we call our new plan a New Year's Resolution or something else, we begin a new year with a desire for a better life than we had before.

I remember going through this process and resolving to make positive changes in my life a few years ago. I wanted to eat better and exercise more, so I made a New Year's Resolution to stop drinking sugary sodas, eat more vegetables and less fatty food, and run 3 days a week. I had the desire to make these changes, but there were some problems. I still had to deal with busy work days and travel that made healthy eating and exercising more difficult. The desire to make these changes alone carried me through most of the month of January, but could not sustain me for the long haul. I lapsed without a good accountability plan.

This cycle sounds familiar to most of us, but the Bible certainly speaks about this condition that is so common to all people. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." This scripture reminds us that we need change in our lives, but we cannot sustain real change on our own. We will lapse back into our old ways without help. Our help comes through Jesus Christ, the One that pays our debt, sets us free, and gives us new and eternal life.

We've just celebrated Christmas and been reminded that God reached out to us and brings us the gift of salvation through His son, Jesus Christ. Now, what do we do with the gift of eternal life that Christ brings us? Do we set out on a course and resolve to make changes on our own and try to sustain a better life. Or, do we accept the gift of life that Christ brings us and allow Him to do a great work in us that reconciles us to God and one another. With this new life in Christ, God forgives us of our trespasses against Him and others and empowers us to walk with Him for a new purpose. Our new life is no longer about glorifying ourselves, but about glorifying God and sharing this Good News with others.

Have you been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ? Have you claimed your identity as a new creation whose name is in God's book of life? If you are planning to set a New Year's Resolution and make changes to your life in your own strength, consider that God wants to help you and make you a new creation. With God's help, you will begin living a life that changes for the better over the course of your life because God is leading the change. Allow God to accomplish the work He wants to do through you and trust that He is able to do this!

Happy New Year!

Sam
Pastor Sam



Hiawassee United Methodist Church

1139 U.S. Highway 76 P.O. Box 609
Hiawassee, GA 30546



From Our Director of Music & Worship: Hope Horkavy

Another year is dawning;
 dear Father, let it be,
 In working or in waiting,
 another year with Thee;
 Another year of progress,
 another year of praise,
 Another year of proving
 Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies,
 of faithfulness and grace
 Another year of gladness
 in the shining of Thy face;
 Another year of leaning
 upon Thy loving Breast;
 Another year of trusting,
 of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service,
 of witness for Thy love;
 Another year of training
 for holier work above,
 Another year is dawning;
 dear Father, let it be,
 On earth or else in heaven,
 another year for Thee.

Admittedly, most verses on greeting cards are not very memorable, so sometimes Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), the well-known British hymnwriter, sent a New year's poem to her friends that she had written herself. In 1872, when she was thirty-six years old, she wrote "Another Year Is Dawning," printed it on a specially designed greeting card, and sent it to her friends. Over it was the caption, "

A Happy New Year! Ever such may it be!"

Havergal always gave God the credit for her work, and she liked to refer to God as her King. When she was asked about the process by which she wrote her hymns, she replied, "I believe my King suggests a thought, and whispers me a musical line or two, and then I look up and thank Him delightedly and go on with it. This is how my hymns come."

- The Complete Book of Hymns by Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers ©2006, pg. 168



¹³ Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
 - Exodus 33:13-14

Going Solo Christmas Dinner

On December 1st, twelve of the Going Solo Ladies enjoyed a night out at The Copper Door in Hayesville! As our missions project for November, we collected our small change to give to the Towns County Foster Children Christmas Angel program. We put our money together at dinner and it totaled \$110.03! Thanks to all who participated!

We meet on the first Friday of every month at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for food, fellowship, and growing in Christ. All single ladies are welcome!



How will you serve the Lord in 2018? Use your gifts ... whatever they are!



www.hiawasseumc.org



Happenings on the Hill

We are on Facebook as **Hiawasse United Methodist Church**. Please **LIKE** and **FOLLOW** us.



Support the Towns County Food Pantry when shopping at Amazon. Once you sign into Amazon with the following link, Amazon will donate a percentage of your sale to the Food Pantry. This is no additional cost to you. Shop for great deals at smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0206686



HUMC has elected to support the Towns County Recreation Department by sponsoring this 4 x 4 foot banner. The proceeds will be used to assist children, who could not otherwise afford uniforms, shoes and related equipment needed to participate in the sports programs offered by Towns County. Our banner is the second banner to the right of the scoreboard on court B.



- 1/1 New Year's Day—Office Closed
- 1/5 @ 6 pm Going Solo
- 1/7 Epiphany Sunday
- 1/10 @ 2 pm Worship Meeting
- 1/17 @ 2 pm Finance Meeting
- 1/18 @ 2 pm Admin Council Meeting

Dear HUMC Friends:

I want to thank you for the special love gifts I received. This is such a giving church and I am so blessed to be a part of it.

.....Joan Ghiotto



Dear church family, Thank you all so much for your cards, notes and gifts. What a loving, caring and generous church! I am very blessed and grateful to work at HUMC.....Betty

To my Church Family:

Your love for me has sustained me this year; your generosity to me has blessed me tremendously! THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

.....Hope

To my church family, Thanks for the remembrances given to me in November. I am so blessed to play here.

.....Marilee

IN THE Spotlight New Member



Pam Allen

A very grateful Thank You to my Secret Santa. Blessings to you!.....Petie

HUMC and Hospitality- hos•pi•tal•i•ty, noun. the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.

UMM Breakfast is the 3rd Saturday of the month. All men are welcome to gather in the Fellowship Hall @ 9:00 am for breakfast and a business meeting

Answers: 1. False. When written Paul had not yet been to Rome. 2. 1:17 3. True; 16 4. Jews 5. True Bonus: Romans 4 and James 2; justification by faith/works.



From Our Lay Leader: Dale Gardner

I hope the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas seasons were a blessing to each of you and I hope that 2018 will be even a greater blessing. As I write this, in mid-December, I must admit I did not have a clue about what I wanted to share. But then, Dr. David Jeremiah's December 13 devotional struck a chord, and his inspiration came from 1 John 2:16 which says, "All that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not from the Father but is of the world." In this verse the apostle warns us against falling in love with worldly things and highlights three dangerous areas:

1. The "lust of the flesh" - As humans, we need food, water and shelter and God knows this. But, the devil sticks his nose in our business and we eat too much (think thanksgiving dinner), drink too much (maybe party hardy) and engage in addictive behavior (smoking, etc.). Perhaps we need to pray for the Holy Spirit's control.
2. The "lust of the eyes" - The reference here, I believe, refers to the fact that we live in an era of materialism, and worse, of instant gratification. We see it! We want it! We go on the net and order it! This may be an updated version of keeping up with the Jones's.
3. The "pride of life" - We seek approval of our peers. We like the applause and the slaps on the back and the "well done." This may be acceptable at times. We all need the help of others sometimes and those helpers should be acknowledged and those accolades should not be the end desire of the Christian. Our rewards are not found in men but in God.

If we are not careful, the world and its temptations will take priority over our lives. So perhaps we need to be more selective of what we need, what we see and what we hear and how we react to praise. Just maybe we need to make more purposeful choices and focus on growing in our faith.



Finance: Joan Whitaker



Financial Report as of December 18, 2017 Year to Date Figures

General Budget Income	\$	200,779
Debt Retirement/Mortgage Income		73,355
Total Budget Income	\$	274,134

General Budget Expenses	\$	194,747
Debt Retirement/Mortgage Expense		67,907
Total Budget Expenses	\$	262,654

Present Net Gain **\$ 11,480**

Outstanding bills to pay in December:		
(General Expenses)	\$	3,260
(Mortgage Payment)		3,851

Still in a Positive/Net Gain status as of 12/18 with two more Sundays of tithes and offerings.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS December

- ◆ We continue to be in a Positive/Net Gain position year to date. We will end the year 2017 with more than \$6,000 net gain. Praise God!!
- ◆ We still have more than seven mortgage payments in our Debt Retirement/Mortgage Account.
- ◆ The balance in our General Checking Account is \$225,635 and the balance in our Debt Retirement/Mortgage Account is \$29,456.
- ◆ We extend a special thanks to everyone for your continued support of our ministry here at Hiawassee United Methodist Church. God has blessed us greatly this past year. Please join us in praying for His continued direction and blessings.

Library News: Dawn Lamade



There are several new books in the HUMC library, including the following:

- Ergun Mehmet Caner. **Unveiling Islam.** (Social Holiness)
- Joyce Meyer. **The Power of Simple Prayer.** (Devotionals)
- James Dobson. **Stories of the Heart and Home.** (Family Issues)
- Elsa Tamez. **Jesus and Courageous Women.** (Bible Study)
- Brennan Manning. **The Ragamuffin Gospel.** (Inspiration)
- Philip Yancey. **The Jesus I Never Knew.** (Bible Study)

Please check out your book or movie and leave the card, found in the back of the book or movie, in the box in the library on the shelf near the return box. This gives us an opportunity to find out what is being used and we can send you a gentle reminder if you have forgotten to return a book or movie.

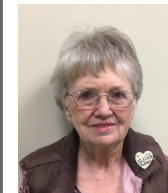
A listing of titles in the library is now available online. Go to our website for a direct link under "News."

Book listings can be found at <http://cloud.collectorz.com/HUMC/books>

DVD and video listings can be found at <http://cloud.collectorz.com/HUMC/movies>



Jail/Prison MinistryElaine McEver



Some people tell me they could not do what I do, but "we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us"..... *Phil. 4:13*. This is a story I tell pretty often and each time I learn more from it. I was working for MUST, Inc. (Ministries United for service and Training) in Smyrna, Ga. when I met a middle aged black woman who was living with her boyfriend in a truck in the woods. She came in dressed in a hospital gown and wanted clothes so we helped her but immediately called the police. She was a regular customer after that so I got to know her very well. One Sunday afternoon I got a call from an officer with the Smyrna Police Department. He said, "Mrs. McEver, Mary is standing in the middle of the road drunk and screaming. They want us to come get her but we do not want her. We heard that you can talk to her. Would you mind seeing what you can do?" When my headlights fell on her I could see he was right. It was raining, thundering and lightening, so she was wet, had messed on herself and her clothes were half off. I prayed about what to say. Getting out of the car I did the only thing I knew. I put my arms around her and whispered, "Mary, you cannot do this, God loves you and I love you." She immediately calmed down and I asked her where we could take her. She said to the Mental Health Facility which was near by. When I touched her I felt the love of God flow through me to her and I thought, if God can love her like this, then He can love me. I have never questioned the love of God since then. That is what I feel when I go to the jail. Each week it is a reminder. (By the way, the next morning she checked herself out and said she was brought there against her will). Lots of lessons learned here. I still keep in touch with her. She is in a nursing home diagnosed with Alcoholic Dementia. They tell us her brain is basically pickled.

One day this week a woman called from Blairsville, to say her pastor had picked up a woman off the street, during the snow, and she was living in the woods. I found out that she was the granddaughter of a dear friend of mine who passed away a couple of years ago. I remember when the family decided they had to give up on her. But we have already prayed, and I believe God is the only one that can help her.

Two women moved into Ms. Elaine's House this month and the new house mother is in the hospital, so we are still in need of volunteers. I can stay part time, but not all the time. Malinda Gray has stayed some, and she has recruited some volunteers from McConnell Baptist. Our purpose is to give them a safe place to live while recovering from issues which have held them captive. This month we received a new stove and a car from donors. God is good and faithful.

Love you all, "Ms. Elaine"



Let mutual love continue.
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-2



Missions MinistryRobin Broom

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May I take this opportunity to say THANK YOU so much for partnering with me in sharing God's love and Truth with the beautiful nation of Uganda!!! It is truly my blessing to begin this new year right where God created me to be!

With much love, Robin



Trust in the LORD with all your heart;

do not depend on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

This was the very first scripture I ever memorized. It was a desperate time for me. My life was spiraling out of control and I knew that what I knew, what I was trying to figure out was not working. I read and studied this scripture again this morning and it hit me: I am once again at a complete loss on how to help in a situation I face daily here in our village. My days are spent full of desperate stories from the youth trying to figure out the next step of life. The harsh reality is most of them will not finish their education. I have shared many times that "life" here doesn't and will not look like anything you and I are used to. They will get married at a very early age, start having children, and then begin a life of long hours digging, struggling for something to merely survive. This has been a source of much anguish and sorrow for me. I know that God has more for them. I long to help our youth grow, to want for more, to dream that they CAN do more. My passion is helping them to **hope** by growing in their relationship with our LORD. All the while, they are hungry, and they are desperate for practical ways to try and make a life for themselves.

I recently sat and listened to a young man tell me how he was able to complete high school. He was around age 20 when he finished. Keep in mind—education here in Uganda is not free. He told me that his father never gave him one single dime to attend school. But as a small child his dad allowed him to work their family land to earn money. Then when he moved into town to attend secondary school he had to work just as hard. His teachers were very concerned because this young man was only attending school about 3 days a week and yet he showed great determination to finish. They finally discovered the reason for his absences. He was working the other days from sun up to sun down as a porter to earn money to pay his school fees. He then would rush home, borrow the class notes from a friend and stay up into the wee hours of the morning copying the notes from the days he missed. This young man also went on to complete in one year, a Word of Life Bible Institute, and is serving with our ministry. His exact words to me were, "God gave me the strength in my body to work hard so I could finish."

I wish I had many more "success" stories to tell. I have more stories of desperate youth or parents coming and asking me to help their child. Because of lack of school fees, children are "chased from school" and forced to sit out for semesters or years over the duration of their education. Many of the youth who are in their late teens are still in Primary 7 (equivalent to 7th grade). Again, reality is that most of them will not finish high school. They will end at Primary 7 or soon thereafter. My burden and dilemma is—what is next for them? How can we help them prepare for their future? There are some technical schools to learn trades, but once again, these cost money they simply do not have. The solution to this problem is so much bigger than I can even begin to solve. And then I recall the scripture—"do not depend on my understanding". I am trusting God to show us, to show me what is next. My desire is to invest in the young people of this community not only spiritually, but physically and practically as well.



I share my burden, their burden, with you to ask you to pray. **Will you please join me in prayer** for these so dear to my heart—these precious youth who truly desire to walk in His ways, but are struggling to hang on.



Financial Support can be mailed to:

Answer God's Call Ministries

215 W. Mesa Ave. Gallup, NM 87301

(Please include a note for Robin Broom-Africa)



Administrative Council ...Tom Ramsey

Food for thought

I thought this was so interesting ... I had to pass it along especially at this time of the year – **Our God is an Awesome God!**

"Is the Bible the Inspired Word of God?"

By Jason Carlson and Ron Carlson, 5/25/11

During a question and answer session at a recent speaking engagement, a university student asked me, "**Why do you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God?**" Now this is a very interesting question; and probably one of the most important questions any Christian could ask themselves. What is so special, so unique, about the Bible that Christians believe it is literally the inspired word of God? **In answering this student's question, I encouraged him to consider the following facts about the Bible:**

First, the Bible is not just one single book.

This is a more common misconception than many people realize, especially with people who do not come from a Judeo-Christian background. Rather than being a single book, **the Bible is actually a collection of 66 books**, which is called the canon of scriptures. These 66 books contain a variety of genres: history, poetry, prophecy, wisdom literature, letters, and apocalyptic, just to name a few.

Second, these 66 books were **written by 40 different authors**. These authors came from a variety of backgrounds: shepherds, fishermen, doctors, kings, prophets, and others. And most of these authors never knew one another personally.

Third, these 66 books were **written over a period of 1500 years**. Yet again, this is another reminder that many of these authors never knew or collaborated with one another in writing these books.

Fourth, the 66 books of the Bible were **written in 3 different languages**.

In the Bible we have books that were written in the ancient languages of Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic; a reflection of the historical and cultural circumstances in which each of these books were written.

And finally, these 66 books were **written on 3 different continents**: Africa, Asia, and Europe. Once again, this is a testament to the varied historical and cultural circumstances of God's people. Think about the above realities: **66 books**, written by **40 different authors**, over **1500 years**, in **3 different languages**, on **3 different continents**.

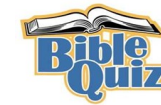
What's more, this collection of books shares a common storyline- the **creation, fall, and redemption** of God's people; a **common theme**- **God's universal love** for all of humanity; and a **common message**- **salvation is available to all who repent of their sins and commit to following God with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength.**

In addition to sharing these commonalities, these 66 books contain no historical errors or contradictions. God's word truly is an amazing collection of writings!

After I had shared the above facts with this student, **I offered him the following challenge:**

I said to him, "**If you do not believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, if you do not believe that the Bible is of a supernatural origin, then I challenge you to a test.**" I said to the student, "**I challenge you to go to any library in the world, you can choose any library you like, and find 66 books which match the characteristics of the 66 books in the Bible. You must choose 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, written on 3 different continents. However, they must share a common storyline, a common theme, and a common message, with no historical errors or contradictions.**" I went on to say, "**If you can produce such a collection of books, I will admit that the Bible is not the inspired word of God.**" **The next time** you encounter someone who asks you **why** you believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, try sharing this challenge with them.

Let's spend more time reading God's word in 2018 –
our next Council Meeting is: January 18th @ 2:00 p.m.



This month we will be spotlighting the Book of Romans. Written by Paul about 30 years after Christ's death, it went largely unnoticed, especially in Rome. But as it grew in readership it also grew in influence. It is passionate and exuberant. The Message says, basically, that Paul has woven "logic and argument, poetry and imagination, Scripture and prayer, creation and history and experience" into what has become a premier document of Christian theology.

1. True or False: Paul knew the Romans well, having visited there several times.
2. Which verse contains the theme of this book? 1:17; 2:17; 3:17 or 14:17.
3. This book comes between Acts and 1 Corinthians (True or False) and contains _____ Chapters.
4. Chapters 9-11 concerns the salvation of what group(s)?: Jews, Gentiles, Samaritans, all three.
5. Romans 14 discusses judging others. true or false.

Bonus: One Chapter in Romans is seen by some to disagree with a chapter in James. What chapters and what issue.

Church Member Services Directory

Massage

Coin Collecting Club and Stamp Collecting

Contact: Geri Baker 706-896-6108

Contact: Tayo Leduc 706-896-6001