

The Tower

Spring/Summer Edition 2026



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& Congregational Care*

Rev. Ben Garris
*Associate of Outreach
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Sexton

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A/V & Sound

Alexander Delias
Sexton | A/V & Sound

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Letter From Pastor Jay

SHPC Family, It feels strange to wonder what kind of stories might come from rest.

As I've shared a few times, in writing and in person, I will be on sabbatical this summer, starting in late May through the end of July.

A sabbatical is a gift to your pastors. There aren't many professions in which every seven years you are afforded the blessing of stepping away from the day-to-day responsibilities of one's position for an extended period of time. For this privilege, I am grateful.

The purposes of a sabbatical are seeking spiritual renewal and rest—and perhaps along with that a reinvigorated energy to one's calling. To that end, I am curious what will come about spiritually over the next few months. By definition, resting means one shouldn't be doing too much. On the other, I can sense seeds that God may have already planted, seeds connected to phrases like "surrender" or "a closer walk with thee." I wonder what those notions may grow into.

Honestly, it's because I've never done a sabbatical before that I think this feels so foreign to me. So, I really don't know what may come of it or what stories may emerge from it.

What I do sense already is an eagerness for this unknown, for a season to dedicate myself to coming closer to the Lord in a different rhythm of life.

And as a result, I hope that, by God's grace, the blessing to me will become a blessing to our congregation.

So as you consider the stories and testimonies included here, may we also consider how each instance in this publication was a time and place in which Christ may have been drawing a heart closer to himself.

May your reading of these stories, in some small way, be the instrument Christ uses to pull you a bit closer too.

In Christ,

Dr. Jay F. Howell



JOY COMING FROM A DEEP WELL

one that transcends physical discomfort and hardship

by Beth Fancher

Porch de Salomón hosts two groups from SHPC each year and strives to serve “the lost, the least, and the last.” After experiencing the extraordinary people of Guatemala, I quickly realized that I am more likely the one who is lost, least, and should strive more often to be last.

Though often underrepresented and exploited, the indigenous Mayan people are not lost. Their faith is deeply rooted in a daily dependence on the blessings and gifts of God. Their help does not come from government systems or carefully chosen investments, but from the Creator who knows their every need. The joy they exude comes from a deep well—one that transcends physical discomfort and hardship.

While some may see the indigenous people of Guatemala as “less,” I have found them to be more—more generous, more hospitable, and more gracious than I am. They give sacrificially rather than from abundance. There is no sense

of entitlement or expectation; their gratitude is genuine.

Their devotion to family, respect for elders, and strong sense of community are both selfless and deeply inspiring. In putting the needs of the individual last, they are getting the first priority right.

Some may argue that trips like these amount to missionary tourism and that resources would be better spent by simply writing a check. Yet I would argue that encountering Christ in the eyes, hands, feet, and hearts of the Guatemalan people is a priceless experience. The life of Christ reveals a God fully present in the world. Whether washing the disciples' feet, healing the sick, dining with sinners, or surrounding himself with outcasts, Christ shows us a God who willingly enters into the brokenness of creation—and calls us to do the same - even, or maybe especially, if that brokenness is within ourselves.



FROM JESUS' LAST WORDS | I AM THIRSTY

by Baylor Hollingsworth

Good Friday was never a celebrated day for me before I was a Christian. Growing up, I heard about it, but never knew what it was really about, so when I was asked to reflect on one of Jesus' last words I was a little stuck. Over the days preceding the service, I got to really dive into scripture to understand some of the things Jesus wanted us to take away from his words. It wasn't until I attended the service that I fully understood the deep reflective nature of the day itself.

It truly resonated with me the importance of reflection on what happened on that day, as it feels easy to go about my day to day life and not fully grasp what Jesus has done for all of us. He laid down his life so that we wouldn't have to, and I think in times of worry and temptation that's easy to overlook. Being able to offer some of my own reflections based on my testimony and things prevalent in my life was an awesome experience in it of itself because I feel that the church got to know me more on a personal level, and for people to understand that this day truly is about their personal relationship with Jesus through hearing about mine.

Overall, the service and scripture reflection was a grounding revelation for me in my life and the priorities I have in my walk with Christ. Watch the Good Friday Service on YouTube, click [HERE](#).

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people."

1 Timothy 2:1

KNOXVILLE CAMPUS HOUSE OF PRAYER ON THE UT CAMPUS

by Shelia White

I recently joined the staff and volunteers at Knoxville Campus House of Prayer on UT campus. This ministry routinely sets up prayer areas on the pedestrian bridge during finals to be available if anyone passing by would like to receive prayer. This experience was encouraging and enlightening.

Several people stopped to request prayer for needs, worries, and for other people. The staff made connections with students, inviting them to events. Knox CHOP's mission is to foster unity on campus by convening, connecting, and collaborating with other groups on campus. They provide space for Bible studies, help distribute a weekly food truck, have an internship program, and support the ROTC cadets at UT. They collaborate with the administration to serve students and faculty through prayer and mission.

Please consider signing up for a time slot to pray with the students during their finals this May and be encouraged by the faith of the next generation.



COME ALONG ON A WILD, CREATURE-FILLED AMAZON ADVENTURE THIS SUMMER

by Erika Morris



Who doesn't want to explore a wild, creature filled, Amazonian rainforest? And even better, one where you learn about Jesus and his love for us. VBS is one of our favorite weeks of the year. It's our kick start to summer, and there is a place for everyone.

Adult volunteers lead the groups and stations; you'll probably find me in the science room again this year! Also, children under 4 years old can attend nursery or preschool group with a parent who volunteers. During VBS week, my youngest (now a rising 5th grader) gathers every morning with all the age groups while being greeted by volunteer

VBS leaders. Together they sing and enjoy skits. Following this gathering and introduction time, the grade level groups rotate through different stations. Each station shares the role of teaching children who Jesus is through hands on activities in science, art, food, and games. My middle and high school aged kids participate in Extreme VBS. They volunteer as youth leaders in the mornings and fellowship in the afternoons with activities ranging from river tubing to rollercoaster riding. No matter where the VBS adventure takes us each year, you will find us there...and I hope it finds you there too! Sign up for Rainforest Falls VBS, June 1-4, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. [HERE](#).



STARTING THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THE JOURNEY

shared by our graduating high school seniors



Jack Carter will be graduating from West High School in May. During his time at West, Jack played lacrosse and ran cross country. He has been a regular attendee of Youth Group at Sequoyah Presbyterian since middle school, guided by Mark Benko and Clay Dye. Through Sequoyah Pres, Jack has participated in many service projects over the years with his favorites being Light Up Lonsdale and Operation Backyard. In his free time, Jack loves to fly fish and hunt. In the fall, Jack will attend Auburn University on an Army ROTC scholarship. He plans to major in Building Science.



Liam Doiron is a senior at Knoxville Catholic High school. He is a member of the chess club and a goal keeper for the varsity boys soccer team. Liam loves hanging out with his friends and even started his own pressure washing business last summer. Liam has been attending SHPC since he was three and has loved growing up in this church. One of his favorite memories is volunteering for Light Up Lonsdale. Liam plans to attend the University of Tennessee after graduation and study biology and chemistry.



Caroline Paige Dye is a senior at Webb School of Knoxville and will graduate in May. A four-year starter on the Lady Spartans soccer team, she helped lead her team to back-to-back State Championship appearances in her junior and senior years, serving as team captain. Caroline also competes in track, where her 4 x 200m relay team set multiple school records and contributed to a State Championship title. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Cum Laude Society, and has been actively involved in Model UN and Youth in Government. Caroline was baptized and confirmed at Sequoyah Presbyterian Church and has especially valued her time in the middle school youth group, including retreats and serving with Vacation Bible School. She also participated in a medical mission trip to

West Virginia this winter and plans to pursue a degree in the medical field when she begins college this fall.



Evan Fields is a senior graduating from West High School. He was baptized at SHPC in 2008 when his family joined the church, and became a member during his 8th grade confirmation. He attended SHEEP Preschool, was a member of Ms. Adrienne's nursery, children's and youth choir, VBS, Sunday School and Bible study here from a very early age. He is also involved with Young Life and Youth Fellows Bible Study. He credits the foundation he has received here as the basis of his faith.

Evan has enjoyed playing football and lacrosse for West and is also a member of National Honor Society and Youth in Government and will graduate with honors. He loves the outdoors and spends his free time playing golf, fishing, hunting and snowboarding as much as possible. He will attend the University of Tennessee in the Fall where he will major in Construction Science and Finance. He is very excited about his future as a Volunteer!



Kirby Osborne is a senior at West High School and a dedicated student and leader in her community. An avid attendee of Camp Skyline in Mentone, Alabama, she spent years as a camper before being selected as a junior counselor last summer, where she earned the camp's prestigious Honor Junior Counselor award—having previously received the Honor Camper distinction years prior. Kirby is also an active member of Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church and is one of five siblings, including her fellow triplets.

This fall, she will attend Samford University, where she has been admitted into the highly competitive Micah Fellows program. Through this program, she will take on leadership roles in Christian-based nonprofit initiatives, continuing her commitment to service and faith-driven leadership.

BUILDING TRUST, FOSTERING JOY, AND EMBODYING THE LOVE OF CHRIST

by Ben Garris and Cliff Rodgers

Our Church Neighborhood Connections Team is a simple but powerful way we live out our calling to be good neighbors right here in Sequoyah Hills. By showing up for the moments that matter in our community—helping set up race signs along Cherokee Boulevard for the Knoxville Marathon, handing out water at the Labor Day picnic, sharing popcorn with families on Halloween, and serving hot chocolate at the Christmas Tree lighting—we are building trust, fostering joy, and embodying the love of Christ in visible, practical ways. These small acts of service open doors for meaningful relationships and remind our neighbors that the church is not just a place we gather, but a people who care.

We would love to see more of our Sequoyah Hills church members join this effort. The Neighborhood Connections Team is an easy, flexible way to get involved, meet your neighbors, and make a tangible difference without a heavy time commitment. Whether you can serve at one event or all throughout the year, your presence matters. Together, we can continue to strengthen the fabric of our neighborhood and be a steady, welcoming presence that reflects the heart of Christ in Sequoyah Hills.



“Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

Matthew 21:5



JESUS' JOURNEY ON PALM SUNDAY

by Katie Culvern

Every year on Palm Sunday, our church's Easter egg hunt has become one of the sweetest traditions for our family. As we gather together, I'm reminded that this day marks the beginning of Holy Week--when we reflect on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the love and sacrifice that lead us to Easter. My boys love the excitement of hunting for eggs, carefully dyeing them in bright colors, and sharing the joy that fills the day. There's a sense of anticipation that points our hearts toward the hope of the resurrection. Even as holy week reminds us that sorrow and hard moments come, we are also reminded that they are not the end.

What makes it so special isn't just the activities, though the petting zoo, face painting, cotton candy, and balloon twisters are always a hit. Seeing the donkey each year is a simple but meaningful reminder of Jesus' journey on Palm Sunday. Watching the kids laugh and play, I'm grateful for our church family who make it all so special. It's a beautiful picture of joy, hope, and new life.



FELLOWSHIP WITH RICH CONVERSATIONS, STUDYING HIS WORD

by Rev. Mark Lampley and the Woodwards

Rick and Michelle Woodard recently shared their experience of joining a small group/LIFE group at the church. “After finding Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church in June 2025, we were ready to get more involved by the start of the new year. The monthly Disciple Group was a commitment we could honor, and we felt welcomed from the very first night. Each meeting, a casual dinner provides an opportunity to connect and get to know people. This season, walking through Paul’s journey has brought his dedication to life for us and sparked rich conversations that we continue at home. It’s been rewarding to find a space where we enjoy fellowship and study the Word, and we value having a built-in prayer team. Being part of a group helped us find our place at SHPC and we highly recommend joining a group and seeing what it can do for your faith.”

Our Christian Formation Committee is exploring a new in-depth “Disciple” introduction group held Wednesday evenings this fall, so if you’re interested please contact Mark at mlampley@sequoyahchurch.org.

MADE WITH LOVE

by Robin Anderson



Knitters & Stitchers is a welcoming, intergenerational LIFE Group where faith, friendship, and service come together. No crafting skills, experience, or equipment required. We meet every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in room 320 of the Spitzer Education Building, and newcomers are always welcome to join, even if you simply want to drop by for conversation and fellowship. Each gathering includes time for devotion and prayer, and we often pray over the items being made, asking God to bless the people who will receive them.

As we laugh, visit, and learn from one another, we create handmade items that meet needs beyond our group, such as baby blankets, cross-stitched bookmarks, baptism plaques, hats for the homeless, prayer shawls, and prayer squares, along with items for young hospitalized children, children attending medical clinics in Guatemala, and older adults receiving hospice care. Some members work on projects during meetings, while others take items home and bring them back when finished. If you’re looking for a meaningful way to connect with others while serving our church and community, consider joining Knitters & Stitchers. Feel free to invite a friend to come with you.



AN INVITATION FROM OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

by Andrew Skoog

Psalm 100 says “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, Serve the Lord with gladness and come before His presence with singing”.

Notice the Psalm does NOT say come before His presence with “outstanding, skilled singing”. I think there is often a misperception that singing in a choir requires having a trained voice and the ability to read music. While those skills are wonderful, they are certainly not required of anyone who has ever considered joining the Chancel Choir.

A church choir should never be about the business of offering up a “performance” in worship. At its core, its sole purpose is to serve as an extension of the pulpit. There are so many wonderful songs and hymns that have been written for corporate worship. These songs teach, encourage, compel, and call us to action. The choir is a marvelous mouthpiece for such things. By presenting these kinds of songs, the choir takes on somewhat of a pastoral role, bringing another rich and unique dynamic to the theme or message of that particular service. This is especially true for special services like those during the Easter or the Christmas seasons.

We are richly blessed in our church to have our scholarship student singer ministry. These young people serve as section leaders to help others that may not have a lot of musical skills to become more confident. They also fill in the “gaps” in choral parts where we might not have as many singers.

One of the most amazing things about a choir ministry is how God takes a bunch of voices – all uniquely different, some strong and some not as strong – and blends them together to create beautiful music that honors Him.

One of the greatest reasons for singing in a church choir can be summed up in one word: Worship. There’s no denying that singing is one of the best vehicles we have to worship the One True God. Singing with a room full of believers who love Him and are moved by His unique gift of music is one of greatest things you’ll ever experience.

With the summer quickly approaching, I would like to extend an invitation to you. If you have ever considered being a part of our Chancel Choir, I would love for you to join us for a Sunday worship service during the summer. The choir does not meet for rehearsals on Wednesday nights during the summer as our UT students are away and many of our volunteer choir members travel with family members. For those of us that are in town, we do meet thirty minutes before the 11:00 AM service to rehearse hymns or any other special music we may offer from time to time. No commitment. No pressure. Just come join us and worship with us from a different perspective. I can promise you there is not a more welcoming, loving and caring community of people than our Chancel Choir. Will you consider joining us?



A SEASON OF GROWTH AND FAITH IN SHPC YOUTH MINISTRY

by Madi Howell

This has been an incredibly meaningful and energizing season for our youth ministry at SHPC. It has been a joy to watch the program not only grow in numbers, but deepen in connection, leadership, and faith. A large part of this thriving community is thanks to our six dedicated interns and youth volunteers, who have poured their time, energy, and hearts into mentoring and leading our students. Their presence has strengthened relationships, encouraged discipleship, and created a welcoming environment where every student feels known and valued.

Throughout the week, our six small groups continue to be the heartbeat of our ministry. Meeting in different settings and times, these groups provide students with consistent spaces to ask questions, build friendships, and grow in their faith. Whether gathered at Chick-Fil-A before school or meeting together in the evening, these small groups have become places of authenticity, encouragement, and spiritual growth.

In addition to our weekly rhythms, our monthly “Sunday” events have brought so much joy and excitement to the entire group. From rock climbing adventures to high-energy Nerf wars, these events create opportunities for students to simply have fun together while strengthening their sense of community. Laughter, teamwork, and shared experiences have made these gatherings something our students eagerly anticipate each month.

One of the most meaningful highlights of this season has been our 2026 Confirmation class. We had 22 confirmands who spent weeks learning more about God, the Church, and what it means to claim their faith as their own. Each student also completed a service project, living out their faith in tangible ways - whether serving dinner through KARM or helping at the FISH Pantry. These experiences helped them see how faith calls us not only to believe, but to serve.

A particularly powerful part of the confirmation journey was the confirmation exam, where each student bravely shared their personal statement of faith. It was a moment filled with honesty, courage, and a deep sense of God at work in their lives. These statements reflected not only what they had learned, but how they are beginning to understand their own relationship with Christ.

Finally, on Confirmation Sunday, held on Palm Sunday, these 22 students stood before the congregation to take their confirmation vows. Surrounded by their families, sponsors, and church community, they publicly affirmed their faith, received personalized Bibles from the church, and officially joined the life of the congregation. It was a beautiful and powerful celebration of God’s faithfulness and the continued growth of these young believers.

We are so grateful for all that God is doing in and through our youth ministry. From weekly gatherings to milestone moments like confirmation, it is clear that this community is growing- not just in size, but in faith, love, and purpose.

THE LORD MOVES THROUGH US IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS, IN WAYS WE OFTEN DON’T UNDERSTAND

from UT Voice Performance Major & Chancel Choir Scholarship Student

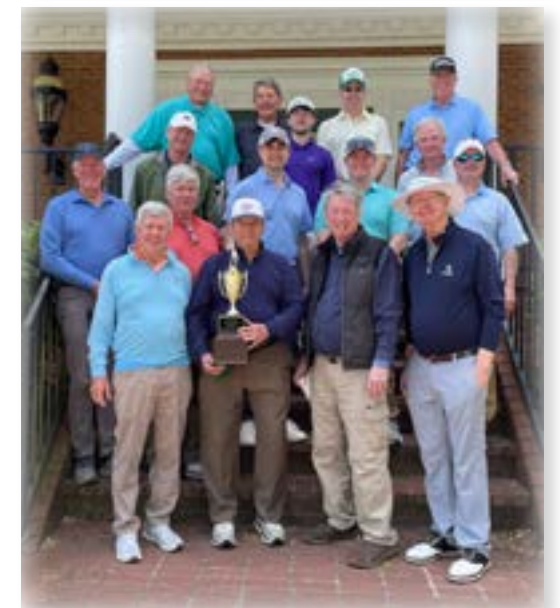
by Jacob Rinke



As I reflect on this past year as a scholarship singer in the Chancel Choir, I am very mindful of how I’ve fostered my relationship with Christ. As someone who grew up constantly being around the church when I was just a kid, it’s always been a place of safety and comfort for me. I didn’t realize how much I needed that in college, especially because through my teenage years I lost my connection to the church. Sometimes life comes at you fast and you get lost in other things, as I’m sure many of us have been in similar situations.

This realization really came to me through these past couple months. I didn’t feel fully fulfilled in what I was doing with my music in my studies at UT. I was missing a piece of myself but I couldn’t tell you what at the time. As I thought about my decisions and how I was to move forward in my life, my dear friend and voice teacher, Andrew Skoog, gave me a tidbit of advice. He said “God has given you a gift, and in pursuit of that gift, honor it.” That resonated with me, as I hadn’t even begun to think of it in that light. As I went into my practice routine the following weeks, I tried to change my thinking from craving success to honoring and enjoying the gift the Lord has given me. I found that in these moments, I felt a renewed sense of pride in my work as I felt as though the Holy Spirit moved through me in this realization. My connection to God became stronger, and so was my appreciation for the life I’ve been given by him in a way I haven’t felt before.

My hope in telling you this story is this. The Lord moves through us in mysterious ways, in ways we often don’t understand. It’s cliché, but as a young 21 year-old man I can tell you with the utmost truth that I wholeheartedly believe this affects my everyday life. Though we often may not understand these things, these things are often blessings in our lives every day more than we stand to realize. We live and breathe the air he created for us, walk the ground He has laid beneath our feet, and receive small gifts in our lives that we take for granted. If we honor him with our talents, our devotion to faith, and in our actions, He places fulfillment in our hearts. I’m happy to have learned this so young in my life, as I thank the Lord each and every day that he’s given me a gift in song that I can share with people (including myself) who need it.



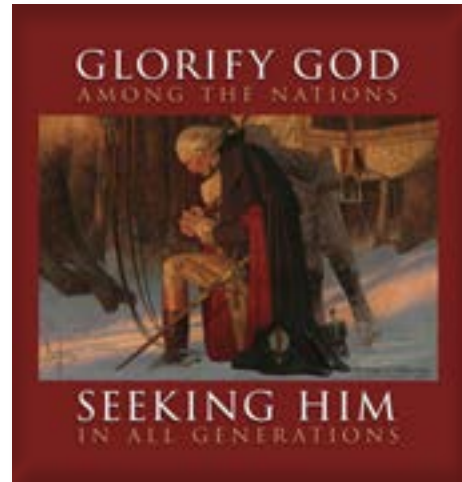
STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE

by Kenan Smith

On April 20th we celebrated our first annual SHPC Men’s Golf Tournament. It was a unique time of fellowship, golf, and food including friendly sports competition and conversations about both the ordinary and the extraordinary life in Jesus Christ. As we shared lunch, Pastor Ben led a devotion on how men can support one another, as iron sharpens iron. We look forward to next year’s SHPC Men’s Golf Tournament and hope more people will join us.

First of all, I urge you to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.

-1 Timothy 2: 1-2



SEEKING THE LORD TOGETHER

by Jan Corbitt

National Day of Prayer was Thursday, May 7. We gathered at 12:00 noon, in the alcove in Barron Hall, for a time of prayer led by Pastor Mark. Afterwards, from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. the area was open for individual prayer time.

Please join SHPC and believers across the country, uniting us as one nation under God, seeking the Lord together as we continue to lift up and intercede for our nation. It is a crucial time for us to seek God's divine intervention for all, leaders, governments, military, churches, schools and more. The 2026 National Prayer can be found on the back inside cover of 'The Tower'.

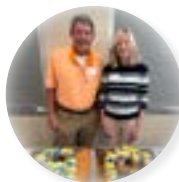
"We continually ask God to fill you with knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the LORD and pleasing Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, giving joyful thanks to the Father."

-Colossians 1: 10-11



EIGHTIES EXTRAORDINAIRE

by Janna Preston



JOY Fellowship, our Health and Wholeness Committee, Adult, Children, and Youth Ministries came together to honor and celebrate the lives of those 80 years and above with a Eighties Extraordinaire Birthday Bash.

Everyone enjoyed cupcakes, ice cream, balloons, candy, music from the 40's and 50's, and guests of all ages! One of our youngest guests even led us as we sang "Happy Birthday" to our honorees. We are so grateful for all the wisdom, faithfulness, tenacity, witness, and courage of all of these folks. They have taught us so much about God, faith, and life. Thank you all for your gifts and talents, and for the ways you will continue to teach us.



FAITHFULLY SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

by Tim Thurston

Anual stewardship giving is an opportunity for the church community to prayerfully commit their financial support for the coming year. It is more than budgeting—it is a spiritual practice rooted in trust, gratitude, and a desire to participate in God's work through the church.

Each year, members are invited to consider how their resources can be used to sustain and grow the ministry of the church in the year ahead. Annual stewardship giving is the practice of making a yearly commitment or pledge to support the church financially. These commitments help the church plan responsibly by estimating income and aligning it with ministry priorities. Rather than giving randomly or inconsistently, stewardship giving encourages intentional, prayerful planning.

Stewardship is grounded in the understanding that everything we have is a gift from God. We are called to manage these gifts faithfully and generously. Annual stewardship is not about obligation—it is about responding to God's grace with thoughtful and joyful generosity.

Why Annual Giving Matters

Annual giving provides the foundation for the church's ability to operate and thrive. It supports:

- Worship services and ministry programs
- Staff and pastoral leadership
- Community outreach and missions
- Facility maintenance and utilities
- Christian education and discipleship programs

When members commit to regular, planned giving, the church can budget responsibly and focus on ministry rather than financial uncertainty.

By Making an Annual Commitment, You Help the Church in Several Ways

- Create a realistic and balanced budget
- Plan ministries with confidence
- Avoid financial shortfalls
- Steward resources wisely

For the giver, it also provides clarity and discipline in personal financial planning, ensuring that giving remains a priority throughout the year.

Annual stewardship is not just about amounts—it's about attitude. Stewardship is a way of participating in God's mission and expressing gratitude for His provision.

Giving Should Be

- Intentional – thoughtfully planned
- Proportional – in line with one's resources
- Joyful – given with a willing heart
- Faithful – consistent and dependable

Every gift—large or small—contributes to the life and mission of the church. Stewardship is not a one-time event, but an ongoing expression of faith and community.

A Final Word

Annual stewardship giving is an opportunity to align our resources with our faith. It reminds us that our financial decisions are not separate from our spiritual lives—they are part of our worship.

Feel free to discuss annual stewardship and planned giving further with your financial team. You can make an appointment to meet with us by clicking [HERE](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



Embark on a wild, creature-filled Amazon adventure where kids learn that Jesus is Creator, All-knowing, our Refuge, Love, and Forever. Join us at Sequoyah Church from 9a - 12p on June 1-4, 2026, for Rainforest Falls VBS and invite your friends to come along! Registration is open! The deadline for VBS t-shirts is Friday, May 15. Contact Mary Emily at memorris@sequoyahchurch.org with questions. Register for VBS [HERE](#).



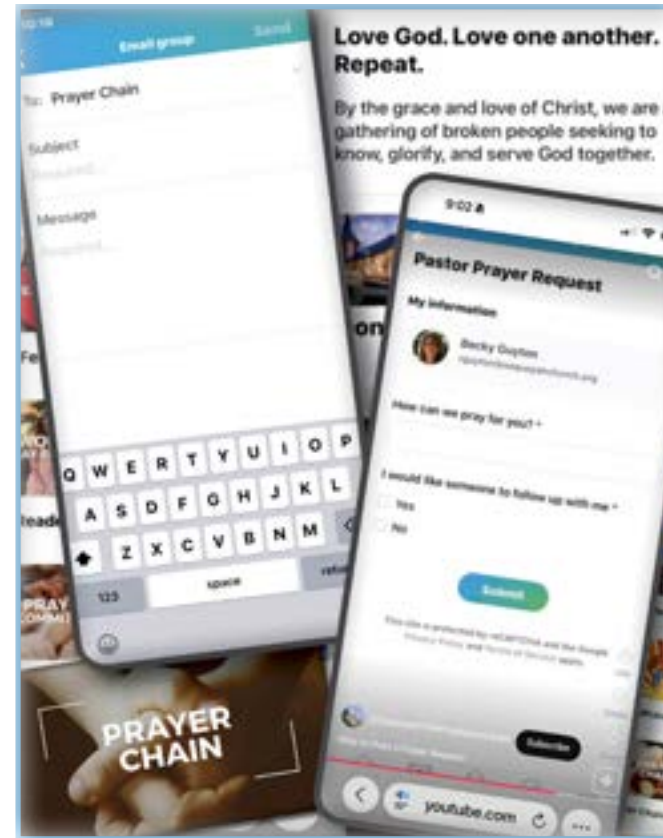
For the month of July we will gather for one Worship Service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Children's, Youth, and Adult Sunday School Classes will meet from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Please reach out to class leaders for details on specific classes. Our Sunday bulletin and social media platforms will share updates as needed.



Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about Sequoyah Church? Come to our Discover Sequoyah Gathering on Sunday, June 14, from 9:45-10:45 a.m., in the Church Office Lobby. Please RSVP to Rev. Ben Garris [HERE](#). Encourage someone you know to join us at Sequoyah Church on Sunday mornings for Worship/Sunday School. All are welcome! We hope to see you soon.



Save the Date for Rally Day on Sunday, August 9 when all Sunday school classes come together to enjoy a Congregation-wide Breakfast, fellowship, and time to learn about Christian Formation opportunities for the fall. **Take a moment now for our Christian Formation Survey [HERE](#).** Help us expand discipleship opportunities for the coming year. Email Pastor Mark for a paper copy [HERE](#).



APP "HOW TO" VIDEOS

by Becky Guyton

We're excited to introduce a new series of short "how-to" videos designed to help you make the most of our Church Center app. Whether you're new to the app or just need a quick refresher, these step-by-step videos will walk you through things like downloading Church Center, updating your profile, managing notifications, joining groups, finding service opportunities, registering for events, utilizing the calendar, giving online, and navigating the church directory.

Each video focuses on one feature at a time and will be released as part of Jay's weekly email. They will also be available on our YouTube Channel under the playlist "Get Started with SHPC's Church Center App" so you can later find what you need, whenever you need it.

If you've ever felt unsure about using Church Center, this is a great opportunity to learn at your own pace and gain confidence. Stay tuned for the first video release, and get ready to explore all the ways our app can help you stay informed, involved, and connected.

You should also feel free to reach out to Becky in the church office for any additional help. Give her a call or grab your phone or tablet and drop by her office. View the playlist on YouTube [HERE](#).

SPRING/SUMMER

- MAY 14 | Church & Community Luncheon
- MAY 17 | Officer Ordination/Installation
- MAY 22 | Men's Fellowship Dinner
- MAY 28 | Table Talk
- MAY 25 | Office is Closed for Memorial Day
- JUNE 1 - 4 | RainForest VBS and Extreme VBS
- JUNE 5 | Youth Trip to Dollywood
- JUNE 14 | Discover Sequoyah Gathering
- June 18 | Men's Fellowship Dinner
- JUNE 19 | Church Office is Closed for Juneteenth
- JUNE 20 - 27 | Guatemala Construction Mission Trip
- JUNE 25 | Table Talk
- JULY 3 | Office is Closed for Independence Day
- JULY 16 | Men's Fellowship Dinner
- JULY 13 | Table Talk
- JULY 14 | Youth River Rat Tubing
- August 2-8 | Montreat Youth Camp

2026 NATIONAL PRAYER SHARED BY OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

Almighty God, King of Glory, we confess our sins and repent of our pride that sought our own glory and comfort, allowing evil to take root instead of Your fruit in our hearts, homes, culture, and country. Please forgive us. Now, with this declaration of rededication, we humble ourselves, pray, and seek Your face, turning from our wicked ways, that You would heal our lives and our land. Please purify and renew our hearts with holy attributes, affections, attitudes, and actions-to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We give You glory as we repent and rededicate our lives and our nation to You. For 250 years You have guarded and guided America in wisdom, grace, mercy, and love. We praise and thank You for our Founding Fathers, for all who sought You in fervent prayer throughout history and answered Your call to defend justice and freedom; to protect and serve, preach and teach, innovate, communicate, learn, work, worship, and establish our laws. May Your Kingdom come, and Your will be done in our lives, our Families, the Church, Education, Business, Military, Government, Arts, Entertainment and Media as it is in heaven. We prayerfully commit to "Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations." In Jesus' name, Amen!

SEQUOYAH HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3700 Keowee Avenue | Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

865.522.9804 | sequoyahchurch.org

KEEP IT REAL, KEEP IT SIMPLE, KEEP IT UP.



A NOTE FROM THE EASONS

shared by Rev. Mark Lampley

Dear friends, Catherine and I are so appreciative of your invitation and hospitality as we shared the Winter Speaker Series with you. I was only your interim pastor for a brief period, but your friendship continues to mean so much to us. You are like a “home church” for us! The attendance was impressive. Our deep thanks to Jay and Mark for their hard work and attention to all the details. The Lutrells were excellent hosts. Your honorarium was extremely generous. The meals were superb. And we loved seeing the renovations to the facilities! Well done. (And we are converted Vols fans, watch all the games, and wear our UT orange with pride!)

Thank you for the privilege to lead this series on the topic of prayer. It was good for me to sharpen my tools for the sermon and presentations. If you ever need help or resourcing, I would not be able to say “No.” You are a “real church.” Thank you for your generosity and love expressed to us. We love you and pray for you as you continue to grow and witness to the love and grace of God in this world that needs

it more than money, power, affluence, or strength. Thank you! Steve and Catherine Eason

