

REFLECTIONS

a Quarterly Newsletter of



Southern Hills
united methodist church

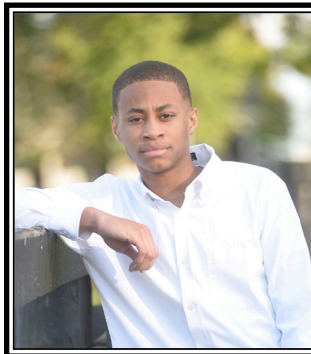


Summer 2023

Congratulations, 2023 Graduates!



McKaylee Linn Copher, daughter of Phillip and Sandy Copher, niece of Linda Little and Tommy and Donna Griggs, and granddaughter of Myrtle Little, graduates from the University of Kentucky with her Master of Public Health, Epidemiology.



Joshua Preacely, son of Michael and Rev. LeTicia Preacely, graduates with his high school diploma from Carter G. Woodson College Preparatory Academy. He plans to attend Eastern Kentucky University in the Professional Flight Program of the Aviation Department.



Brynne Galloway, daughter of Eddie and Angie Galloway and granddaughter of Dennis and Virginia Liptrap, graduates from Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Risk Management Insurance, a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and Accounting, and a Financial Literacy Certificate. She will work as a Production Underwriter and Lead Associate in a Leadership Training Track at Great American Insurance Group in Cincinnati starting in August after a summer of travel to England, Colorado, Texas, and New York!



Katie Simon, who helps with our children's ministry on Sundays, graduates from Asbury University with her B.S. in Elementary Education. She plans to teach in a local elementary school.



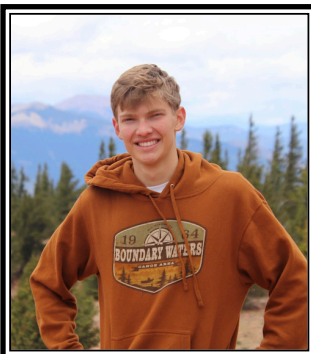
Morgan Slone, daughter of Keith and Stacey Slone, graduates with a BIND in Industrial Design. She will be joining the Build the Future Graduate Program at Prysmian Group in Missouri.



Richard Claiborne "Clay" Monohan, grandson of Terry and Kathy Rodgers, graduates with his high school diploma from Sayre School. He will attend Washington and Lee University in the fall.



Gabe White, son of Jason and Kristina White and nephew of Becky Horne, graduates from Somerset Community College as an Aviation Maintenance Professional. He will be working in aviation maintenance at NexGen Aviation.



Tyler "TJ" Nichols, son of Rev. Jim and Joy Nichols, graduates with his high school diploma from Henry Clay High School and Locust Trace AgriScience Center. He plans to attend Eastern Kentucky University in the fall and pursue a degree in Animal Sciences with an Associate focus on Business.

Senior Pastor's Note

Now that it's warmer, I've started running again. Well, I'm trying to run again. I hate running in the winter. Actually, I just really hate winter. I don't like the cold, and running in the windy cold is just the pits. But when the days get longer and the sun shines brighter, I am in my happy place.

Running is therapy for my soul. It is the place where the only goal is to keep my feet going. Often, I get lost on my runs – not literally lost, but lost in thought or in the simple cadence of my feet hitting the pavement. I get lost in the sights of houses and trees and lakes. I get lost in a breath of late-spring or early-summer breeze that refreshes me.

One of the most important sets of practices in the Christian walk is the combination of silence and solitude. For years, I rebelled from these two partners in deepening the faith. It probably won't surprise you that I have not always been good at silence. I like noise. I love music pumping in my earphones. I like people, so being alone has not always been a practice I have sought. But seeing how often Jesus got away alone and spent time in silence, I realized this was something I needed to embrace.

I'm glad I struggled through the awkward and difficult phase, because my life is richer in times when silence and solitude are part of my weekly rhythm. In quiet moments, I can sense the gentle wooing of God speaking to my soul to remind me of how loved I am. It's in those times that I don't have to achieve a single thing or impress anyone. I get to just be. I get to be real and open and free with the God of Heaven, who says, "I love you. I like you. And I'm especially fond of you."

St. Basil the Great, who was a bishop in Asia Minor and a great defender of the faith, was someone who prized being quiet for the sake of hearing God's whisper. He says in one of his sermons that we do harm to ourselves when we forget that God's love always goes first. Certainly He loved us before we turned and responded to the offer of salvation. But it's more than that. God loves us first at every moment of our day. God loves us first before we take our next breath. God loves us first before we get in the car and pull out of the driveway. God loves us first before we even have time for a thought when we wake up in the morning. God loves us, still, first.

I don't know what your days and weeks look like, but I hope as we turn toward summer, you will find a way to incorporate a few moments of silence and solitude into your routine. I hope as you do, your heart and mind and body will tune in to hear God's whisper of first love. I pray you will feel the gentle breeze of God's favor on you. And I pray you will know just how incredibly fond the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are of you.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Jim



Backpack Ministry Update

We are ending another great year of serving our elementary schools: Arlington, Picadome, Millcreek, Ashland, and Maxwell. We are blessed with an absolutely wonderful group of volunteers! Every month they show up to pack food bags, pick up food from Sam's Club, and deliver food to the schools. We are so thankful!

As we move into the summer months, we ask for your prayers for this ministry and for your continued financial support so that we can have a smooth start to the 2023-2024 school year.

We welcome everyone to our group! If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please reach out to Sarah Hicks at sarahhhicks@aol.com.



United Women in Faith

New Life Circle

New Life Circle joined other women at the annual May United Women of Faith Dinner. At that time, circle members brought paper products and diapers to shower The Nest. There will be no regular meeting in June as the members will serve as ushers at the Gotta Dance Recital. This is the major fundraiser for the circle. In July, members will hold their annual retreat/luncheon at Wesley Village. Plans for the coming year will be made. For more information, please contact Sue Coyle at 859-229-3159.

Joan Wooden, Director of Music and Worship

Sing...and Catch a Wonderful Glimpse of God's Glory!

Why is it that I find myself exhausted on Wednesdays and Thursdays...until I hear our choirs sing? I can muddle through my daily tasks with little to no energy, but once our choirs come together and start singing, life is good again, and I am certain that I am in the presence of the Holy One. Is it their actual singing? their choral blend as they sing together? their friendships? their desire to praise the Holy One? Yes, yes, yes, and YES! God is in the midst of all of it, and God delights in each one of our singers!

All of our choirs are open to everyone who has the desire to praise God through singing, so why not give us a chance? You can make a short-term commitment to choir, or you might just fall in love with it and decide to make a year-round commitment to singing through our music ministries! All three of our adult groups will meet throughout the summer:

Chancel Choir – Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Sundays, beginning at 10 a.m.
MOVE (Men's Ensemble) – Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.
LOVE (Ladies' Ensemble) – Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m.

What if singing in a choir isn't something that you feel is your "gift"? What if you don't have time to make such a commitment? Moreover, how in the world can I get through Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays without hearing one of our choirs sing?!! (Try as I may, I can't get them to come to church every single day!) It occurred to me, recently, that my voice professor in undergraduate was right. He said, "Joan, you **MUST** sing! You have no right to **NOT** sing!" He wasn't a particularly religious fellow, so I took what he said with a grain of salt. I never became a soloist, and as I've aged, my voice is certainly not what it once was. Lately, however, I've been wondering if God could use *my* singing to reveal God's holy presence to me...just me. So, I've added songs into my daily devotion, and the answer is YES! God is in the midst of all of our singing! It doesn't need to be perfect; it just needs to be offered to God with our whole hearts! If you wonder what to sing, think about the hymns you learned as a child or youth. How much of them do you remember? If need be, borrow one of our used hymnals from the church (we have an abundant supply, with many stored in the sacristy and choir room). Sing the hymns; pray the hymns; offer those hymns to God...and you will catch a wonderful glimpse of God's glory...God delighting in YOU! Thanks be to God!

Music and Arts Camp at Southern Hills

Our annual Music and Arts Camp at Southern Hills currently has over fifty campers registered and will close soon. However, if you have a friend or relative who would like to join us, please encourage them to sign up! It promises to be an exciting week!
<http://southernhillsumc.org/camp>. Also, if you would like to volunteer to help out with the camp, whether it be for a few hours or the entire week, please contact Joan Wooden. You will be blessed to be a blessing!

Southern Hills UMC Foundation

Southern Hills Endowment & Planned Giving Quiz

- Yes No ???
 1. Does Southern Hills have an endowment?
- Yes No ???
 2. Do I know what our endowment is used for?
- Yes No ???
 3. Does Southern Hills have a permanent endowment committee?
- Yes No ???
 4. Does Southern Hills have an endowment and planned giving brochure?
- Yes No ???
 5. Do I know who to refer church members to if they asked me about creating an endowment for our church?
- Yes No ???
 6. Do I know who to contact in my church if I wanted to create an endowment or set up a planned gift?
- Yes No ???
 7. Does Southern Hills receive bequests from its members that die?
- Yes No ???
 8. Will all of our church members die eventually?
- Yes No ???
 9. Has my church had a Wills & Bequests workshop?

Turn your computer upside down for the answers...

1. Yes, 2. Ministry outreach not fully covered by the budget, 3. Yes, 4. Yes, 5. The Business Office or any member of the SHUMC Foundation's Permanent Endowment Committee including Chair David Bowles, 6. Same, 7. Yes, but it is up to the member to make a plan, 8. Probably, 9. Not yet – but watch for an announcement of a special luncheon for that purpose in early August.

Steven Stuckert, From the Business Office

Financial Condition

The first four months were very good for Southern Hills UMC. We show a positive net income of \$118,000. However, we did receive two payments of \$264,000 from The American Rescue Plan, which bolstered our net income. We plan on receiving \$600,000 total for the year under this program. Keep in mind we are fairly certain we will not be receiving these payments after this year. That factor will certainly be a large influence on our 2024-and-beyond budgets. SHECP was the main factor in our positive net income year-to-date, but most departments are doing a good job of controlling expenses so far this year.

*Note: Through April is 33% of the year. Income and expense percentage over 33% is over budget.

Current Income / Expense April 30, 2023

Income	(in thousands)	% Budgeted
SHECP	844	25.3
Contributions	341	32.4
The Source	65	41.9
Other Income	8	.1
Total Income	1,258	28.0
 Expenses		
SHECP	612	20.7
Property	78	38.7
Personnel	256	30.5
Debt Retirement	32	33.3
Designated Funds	50	43.1
Administrative	44	23.5
Education & Worship	14	25.0
The Source	65	28.4
Leisure & Outreach	2	23.0
Ministry	2	5.7
Music	3	18.5
Total Expenses	1,140	26.0
Balance	118	

Faith Formation

From Kristina White, Director of Faith Formation:

Being “on mission” is one of the focuses of our Faith Formation Team. The churchwide mission statement is “Building true reflections of God’s amazing love.” In Faith Formation, we work toward this mission in many ways! We also get to partner with others who are focused on this mission within the church. As a team, we are immensely grateful for the work that the Southern Hills Foundation is doing, and we are honored to have been selected to receive their gift of \$4,500. This money has been designated for our children, youth, and young adults to be serving in the community in various ways! The Foundation has also permanently sponsored one of our Milestone Ministries: the annual giving of our Bibles within all age groups. Thank you for your generosity and your devotion to the young people in our church family.



From Shawne Carter, Director of Children’s Ministry at The Source:

Milestone Ministries are an integral part of faith formation. One of the Milestone Ministries children and youth celebrate toward the end of the school year each spring is the Fifth Grade Blessing. This is an opportunity for fifth graders from both the Harrodsburg Road campus and The Source to come together with their families to share in a time of faith and fellowship. We invite families to write and read letters of blessing, reflection, and encouragement to their fifth graders as they make the transition from children’s ministry to youth ministry. This year we celebrated this milestone on Sunday, May 21st, with families from both campuses.

We all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon honoring and blessing these precious members of our church family. We can’t wait to see how God continues to work in their lives!

From Sequoia Wheeler, Director of Children’s Ministry at the Harrodsburg Road Campus:

Since our last update, “growth” has been the key word for children’s ministry at Southern Hills!

Children’s ministry hosted an amazing Easter event at the Harrodsburg Road campus on April 2nd. We had a total of 16 families sign up, and of those, 9 were families from the community with whom we had never connected before. Easter was an amazing time to be able to reach out into our community and get some new faces into the building – not to mention, everyone had a great time hunting for their designated rooms and Easter eggs throughout the building! We are hoping to be just as connectional in June with our Shepherds Camp! This year we are hoping to spend time with as many families from the community as possible.

Faith Formation



From Tori Brown, Director of Youth Ministry:

Our faith can move mountains! During Holy Week, our youth ministry journeyed to the Henderson Settlement for our spring break mission trip. While on our trip, we completed multiple service projects, such as painting foundation blocks on homes, cleaning out rain gutters, and scraping and painting exterior window frames. We met so many amazing people during our trip, but memories with few of them will stick with us for the rest of our lives.

The first person that we served on our mission trip was a woman named Catherine. She was previously living in a trailer that was infested with mold, and her living conditions had become so dire that her and her family's health was at risk living there. She told us about how much she prayed for God to provide her with a safe home. She waited and prayed, waited and prayed, and waited and prayed some more. She told us that God's timing is always perfect, and it was in His perfect timing that people just like us on a previous mission trip built her family their own house, where they would safely live. Catherine told us that she never gave up hope on God's plan for her life. She knew God was never going to let her down, that God had never failed her, and that he wasn't about to start now. God called our very own youth to her house that day to help finish what others had started. We were the hands and feet of God. It brings me to tears just thinking about how God used us to help answer someone else's prayer.

My prayer is not only for the youth but also for our entire congregation – that you go out into the world and do all the good you can as long as you ever can. May you be the answer to someone's prayer. I know that YOUR faith can move mountains, because we know that ours did on our mission trip.

From Chelsey Clark for Young Adult Ministry:

Young adults need a space where they can build community, foster authentic friendships, and grow in their faith in Jesus Christ. This semester has allowed our young adults to do just that. In April, we helped with and participated in the church's animal blessing along with the Southern Hills youth group. We were able to help bless so many different animals, and we enjoyed seeing the passion that our church has for their pets! We have also been learning more about the spiritual side of Christianity. By studying the cultural and geographical history of the Bible, we've learned more about the world that God designed for us and our ancestors. We can't wait for the summer and for the exciting plans we have!

Staff

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Head of School, Southern Hills Early Childhood Program

Barbara Williams
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Top: (L) Students paint bricks on a house at the Henderson Settlement on the youth spring break mission trip. (R) Terri Bagby teaches painting at the How Great Her Joy Conference hosted by Southern Hills on April 15th. **Center:** (L) Jenn Cathey leads a group of women in a breakout session about writing at the women's conference. (R) TJ Nichols blesses Winnie the dog at the recent Southern Hills pet blessing. **Bottom:** (L) The youth group visits the original KFC in Corbin, KY. (R) Youth and chaperones working hard at Henderson Settlement.



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Southern Hills United Methodist Church

Building true reflections of God's amazing love.

859-277-6176

southernhillsumc.org

thesourceumc.org

Harrodsburg Road Campus:

2356 Harrodsburg Road

Lexington, Kentucky 40503

Worship Services at 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sundays.

Sunday school classes offered at 9:30 a.m.

The Source:

3330 Partner Place, Suite 130

Worship Services at 10:30 a.m. Sundays

Source Studies Sunday school classes offered at 9:15 a.m.