



THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume XLIX

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ORGAN HISTORY

J. Dan Gullett

1924 Austin Pipe Organ, *opus 1279

In 2023, the original church structure, including the Sanctuary, turned 100 years old. This year marks another century milestone in our church's history. The pipe organ in the Sanctuary was built in 1924 by the Austin Organ Company, headquartered in Hartford, Connecticut. The exact date of installation in the Sanctuary is not known; however, handwritten notes by the late church member Mrs. M.A. McGaughey indicate that the 1924 organ may not have been installed for several years after the church structure was completed. Mrs. McGaughey writes "In 1923, we moved into the new church for which we longed. We had only pews and pulpit – no carpet, no organ, no choir rail."

Mrs. McGaughey's notes go on to say, "The old organ had been sold to the Methodist church in Ridgely. The money received was turned over by the ladies of our church and was the beginning of a new organ which was not to come for several years. The ladies were continually thinking of something to do to bring in a little cash to pay for a new organ. But first came the carpet but only in [the] aisles."

Eventually, the 1924 Austin pipe organ which cost \$12,500, was installed, and congregations over the years have been blessed by the music of that organ as well as by the musical talents of several organists. The longest-serving organists were Miss Gerster Neal and Mrs. Charline Fisher. The most recent organist was Mr. Dakota Hill.

Even though the pipe organ continues to be serviced annually, there are much needed repairs for an instrument that is a century old. Unfortunately, these repairs are structurally prohibitive as well as costly.

For example, in 1988, one organ company was asked to make tonal modifications to the twenty ranks of pipes located above the choir. The company declined to submit a quote on the repairs due to, in their words, "the organ is packed in very tightly and it would be necessary to delete important existing stops to accommodate additional pipework." And, in September, 2021, representatives from a different organ company inspected the organ pipes for possible repairs and reported that modifications would be financially impossible.

Since repairing the organ was not an option, consideration was given to replacing it. In January 2010, the cost that we were given to replace the pipe organ with a comparable new instrument was \$391,000.00. However, by September, 2022, the cost of replacing the organ had risen to \$810,000.00.

And so, in September 2023, the Worship Team began to seriously consider options for our 100-year-old pipe organ, realizing that these options would directly impact the future of organ music for worship, weddings and celebrations of completed lives at Dyersburg First United Methodist Church.

(Continued on page 3)

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

LITURGIST

Will Bird

VIDEO RECORDER

David Wagner

USHERS

Charles Brown
Mark Hayes
Patrick Lemons
Steven Parker
Eddie Dunagan

GREETERS

David Hayes
Sandy Prince

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Eddie and Ann Anderson
Steven and Virginia Parker

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION STEWARDS

Joetta Yarbrow
Lisa and Duane Traverse
Porter Ryland

Our Mission Statement

To Know, Love, Share,
and Serve Christ

Our Vision Statement

We seek to love God above
everything and to love our
neighbors as ourselves

Our Values

Hospitality, Outreach, Loving,
Tradition, Community, Teaching,
Family

RECORD OF LOYALTY (2/25/2024)

ATTENDANCE

Online Worship	170
In Person Worship	122
Sunday School	82

OFFERING

Monthly Income (January)	\$45,199.43
Monthly Expenses (January)	\$35,925.13
Income Year to Date	\$45,199.43
Expenses Year to Date	\$35,935.13
January Communion (Lakeshore)	\$665.80
February Communion (Pantry Fund)	\$150.00

FUMC Dyersburg KidMin UPCOMING EVENTS

3/8/24

Coffee Talk @ Green Frog

7:45 - 9:00am

We'll share highs and lows of life at the moment, spiritual/Bible questions, and anything else that you may be needing to talk about. Drop in and leave when you need to.



3/30/24

Kid's Night In @Education Wing
6:00 - 9:00pm

Theme: Easter Eggstravagnaza
Food: Chicken Nuggets & Fries
What: Easter Escape Room, Easter Hide-n-Seek, Egg Coloring, and more!



5/3 - 5/5/24

KidMin Retreat @ NaCoMe Camp & Retreat Center

Who: 1st - 6th Grade
(invite your friends)

Cost: \$50*

Registration:

<https://min.link/Frg>



6/3 - 6/7/24

WinShape Camp
@ Dyersburg Middle School

Who: Completed K - 5th Grade

Cost: \$235

Registration opens 3/4/24 @ 9:00am
Links:

<https://linktr.ee/winshapedyersburg>

**WinShape
Camps™**

*Make sure you find a KidMin Kid to participate
in our Camp Fundraiser: "KidMin Bake Sale" All items are \$1, and all proceeds send us to our retreat and summer missional opportunities!

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

GENERAL FUND

In memory of:
Jerry Weaver

Given by:
Steve and Tempe Stafford

GOLDEN CROSS SENIOR MINISTRIES

The mission of GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries is to enhance the quality of life for all seniors served by Wesley Living. (www.wesleyliving.com)

Serving approximately 2,200 senior residents in 29 independent living and two assisted living affordable housing communities across West TN, Murray, Kentucky, and Jonesboro, Arkansas, GOLDEN CROSS is dedicated to help fill in the gap seniors face when living on a fixed income. The majority of those served live at or below the National Poverty Line. One third of their income is used for rent which leaves very little left when their average income is \$750.00 monthly.

Through donations Golden Cross is able to assist with small medical needs such as glasses, walkers and incontinence wear as well as funding for social and recreational activities that promote a healthy lifestyle. They also offer daily use items such as paper goods, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products- things needed on a day to day basis that may be difficult to obtain after medicine, food and other living expenses are covered. When a senior arrives at a community and they are noted as homeless, we are able to provide them with new furniture and a move-in kit which holds everything one may need when starting over in life.

We are only able to do what we do because of the generosity of others who give to GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries. 100% of your generous donations directly support the 2,200 seniors GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries, Inc. faithfully serve daily.

Your Mission Team

TEA PARTY **LADIES ALL AGES**

13 APRIL 2024
10:30 A.M.

SAVE THE DATE



The Evangelism Team is calling all "Ladies, Little Ladies, & Little Gents" to a "Fancy" Tea Party!

There will be eight round tables each with seating for eight people. Each table will be decorated differently. Hats and pearls are suggested. Finger foods and tea will be served. If you plan to attend please contact Nancy West to reserve your spot. Please extend hospitality to others in our community!

(Continued from page 1)

We sought proposals from two different vendors, and we received prices on five different instruments. We considered each of these proposals but eventually decided upon an electronic organ at a price well within the current amount in the church's Organ Fund, which is a little more than \$56,000. The cost of the organ, including installation and without having to make structural changes, is \$22,300. The entire purchase will be paid from the Organ Fund and will not impact the church's general budget.

Consequently, after one hundred years of enhancing worship services, accompanying brides as they processed to the altar and consoling grieving families at the conclusion of a loved one's life, the time has come to take this venerable instrument out of service. An order of decommissioning will take place during the worship service on March 10.

(*Opus 1279 indicates that our pipe organ was the 1,279th organ built by the Austin Organ Company and is registered in the Pipe Organ Database, which is a project of the Organ Historical Society).



We had a blast at our youth retreat!



LAKESHORE SUMMER CAMP

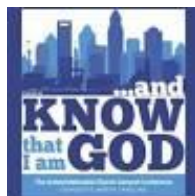
While you are looking forward to the warm days of summer and making plans for your children's activities, don't forget our United Methodist camp, Lakeshore. Lakeshore is for kids from seven-years-old through Senior High School. There are also specialty camps.

For years, Dyersburg FUMC has encouraged our kids to attend Lakeshore by paying \$100 toward the camp fee. **This year, the church will pay \$200 of each of our camper's fees.** Those of you whose child attended Lakeshore last year have received registration forms and camp information in the mail. You can go to lakeshorecamp.org for more information.



Exploring General Conference Free-Self-Guided Course

General Conference is the top legislative assembly of The United Methodist Church. The course, Exploring General Conference, will help you learn more about the historical roots, legislative processes, and happenings that make the General Conference an important function of The United Methodist Church. [This free course](#) is self-guided so you can complete it at your own pace.



TWK Annual Conference June 17 - 19, 2024

The third Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference will be held June 17-19, 2024, at Murfreesboro First UMC.

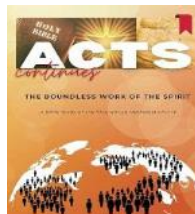
The Clergy Session will be online on Tuesday, June 4 at 1:00 p.m.

The deadlines and submission guidelines for REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, Meal Hosting, and Exhibitors is available at twkumc.org/AC2024. If you are interested in financially sponsoring an aspect of the Annual Conference, please contact us at AC2024@twkumc.org. **Hotel information will be available soon and announced via the Conference e-newsletter.**



Book of Acts Annual Conference Bible Study Now Available!

"Acts Continues: The Boundless Work of the Spirit," is a seven-week Bible Study and Sermon Series that [the bishop encourages everyone to study](#) in preparation for the TWK Annual Conference.



You can access a free version through The Vine UMC's website; you may also purchase a copy via Amazon in print (\$15) or through Kindle (\$9). [Learn more and access the study!](#)

HOSPITALITY CORNER

FROM YOUR EVANGELISM TEAM

WE ARE CHRIST'S
AMBASSADORS. WE START
THE REAL WORK OF
RADICAL LOVE AND
HOSPITALITY.

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Do you have information to be printed in the newsletter? Maybe you have a birth announcement, a wedding announcement, a prayer request/update, or an upcoming Sunday School social. Please give your information to Tori in the church office. It's easy. Call—285-6454 or email—tfrazier@fumcdyersburg.com.

Deadline is Tuesdays at noon each week.

The **March/April** Small Upper Rooms are in! Please remember to save and recycle your previous devotional. Bring it with you when you pick up your new devotional. Both can be dropped and picked up in the Connect Center.



JOINING US THIS SUNDAY!

We are pleased and honored to welcome a team from the Middle Tennessee State University Wesley Foundation to worship with us on March 3, 2024! This group of twelve students and leaders will stay in the dormitories at Reelfoot Rural Ministries while working on disaster relief in our area. Rev. John Weaver is the Executive Director and Beth Morris is the Chief of Staff and Student Formation. Please make sure to say hello to them and make them feel at home in our worship service!



**HOSPITAL AND
RECENTLY ILL**

*In order to keep our teams informed about persons you've requested prayer for, please send updates every **three weeks**.*

Patti Lou Parker
Patty Johnson
Cherry Robertson
Amy Pope McIntosh - Steven Parker's cousin
Carolyn Cooper - Bells Nursing and Rehab. Center,
213 Herndon Drive, Room 218, Bells, TN 38006
Jake Gold - Ginny Acree's nephew
Andrea Young Pope - Steven Parker's Mom
Beverly Tipton
Eddie Anderson
Bill Troy
Jimmy Wilkes
Patti Hill
Lorna Donaldson
King Rogers
Marilyn Armstrong

**Please continue to remember the Home Bound.*

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The mission and ministry of Dyersburg FUMC is now more vital than ever. Although you can bring your offerings with you to church on Sunday, you can also still mail them or go online. It's easy: mail your check to the church at P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38025 OR give online by going to <https://fumcdyersburg.com/donate>.

Send form #3579 to The Word, P.O.Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38025, FUMC

Sunday, March 3, 2024
Third Sunday in Lent

Series:
**"Wandering Heart;
Praise the Mount"**

Matthew 16:13-20

9:00 am Sunday School
9:45 am Fellowship
10:15 am Worship
Rev. Dr. Mary Beth Bernheisel,
preaching

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