

WELCOME TO
RUTH ENSOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
306 Bridgeway Avenue
Old Hickory, Tennessee
(The Fifth Joint Service of The Sunday Evenings of Lent, 2005
Dodson Chapel
Matthews Memorial
Neely's Bend
Old Hickory
Ruth Ensor
United Methodist Churches
6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 13, 2005

Ruth Ensor Memorial is not as old as most of the churches that are gathering together for these services, but it has a precious history, just the same. Many of the charter members helped to clean the used brick that were used to build the original building (sanctuary and the portion of the basement under it). This building housed a congregation that was so mission-minded that it changed its name from Rayon City Methodist Church, to Ruth Ensor Memorial Methodist Church, after the missions-minded daughter of a pastor at Old Hickory Methodist Church. Miss Ensor had felt the call and wanted to answer it by going on the mission field, but her health would not allow that to happen.

Up Bridgeway Avenue is another symbol of the mission-mindedness of this congregation. It is the Christian Community Outreach Center, which for several years was housed in the basement of this church building. The Center provides emergency assistance with food, clothing, essential utilities, and other necessities, such as prescription medications. Each Christmas, the Center provides food boxes for those who might have no other Christmas meal otherwise, and Ruth Ensor Memorial opens the "Alice Garrison Memorial Toy Store," in which those families having children are provided gifts for those children's Christmas. Like Dollar Tree, the Alice Garrison Memorial Toy Store puts the same price on every item. That price is "Free." This past year, the Center provided food for more than seventy-five families, and the Alice Garrison Memorial Toy Store provided Christmas for more than 130 children. That's quite an accomplishment for a church of this size.

Lately, Ruth Ensor Memorial has been pleased to provide assistance to the forming Rayon City Beautification Association. The association holds its monthly meetings in our fellowship hall on the fourth Thursday evening of each month. The association has helped to improve the relationship between Rayon City residents and Metro government, to the end that derelict properties as being cleaned up, law enforcement efforts are being enhanced with a Neighborhood Watch program, and neighbors who have lived within sight of one another, but never knew one another, are becoming not only acquaintances, but co-workers.

There is much more that we could tell you about Ruth Ensor Memorial United Methodist Church, but we don't want to wear you out. Instead, we hope that you will simply enjoy your time with us, for that is the major accomplishment of this congregation. They have created within themselves a church that makes all who come here to feel comfortable and "at home." We certainly hope that you will find this to be true of your visit, too.

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