

## SHARING



### Hohenwald United Methodist Church

(November) – (December) 2017

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#### From the Pastor's Desk

*"They will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven...But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the son, but only the Father."* **Mark 13: 26-27, 32**



Theologians have a little phrase which I think can give us the proper perspective on celebrating Advent. It is the phrase: **"Already; not yet."** The promised Messiah has come **already**, and he has **already** accomplished much of his work. But this work is not yet complete. He came the first time as a Suffering Servant; he comes the next time as Conquering King. **Already, Not yet.** The final defeat of evil...not yet.

The final eradication of disease, and death, and oppression...not yet.

Still, because of the **already**, the **not yet** is certain. The final victory is secure because of the Christ who was born in Bethlehem. As wonderful as the Advent chapter is, it is incomplete without the other chapters. We know now what John the Baptist and others could not see—that Christmas is incomplete without Good Friday, and Easter, and Pentecost. Christmas is but the first chapter of the story. So we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come again and finish what you began. Come bring your work to its final realization."

Of all the different names for Jesus, my favorite title is one which is used near the end of the New Testament. Jesus is called "the Bright and Morning Star." The bright morning star is the star that appears in night when darkness has reached its darkest point. The bright morning star is the star which signals the coming of the dawn. We are, and we have been since the first coming—the first Advent—living in the light shortly before sunrise.

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My life and your life are not yet what they shall be. Because we live in the midst of incompleteness, our lives are filled with disappointments; behind most theological struggle and controversy is personal hurt. We wrestle with the affirmation; “Our God Reigns!” not because there is not evidence of it, but because our personal histories are not going the way we think they should be going if God is reigning. This is the tension of Advent...the **already** and the **not yet**.

Jesus Christ often responds to our disappointments in surprising ways. He comes in power and glory, but he also comes in a cloud. But that does not mean he is not the King. He often asks us to lay aside our expectations and trust him to be the Christ, in his way and in his time. That is not easy to do. But we do have a star to guide us all the way to the morning. It is bright. And it does mean that one day all our **not yet**s will be **already**s.

—Drew

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### **“A Christmas Memory of Long Ago”**



We are all blessed to have childhood memories that will forever be ingrained in our minds and our hearts until we take our last breaths. For me it was the Christmas of 1962.

At five years old I was a rather quiet child, the smallest girl in my first grade

class. Another classmate, Bob McCurdy was the smallest boy in my class. We were often victim to being conned into doing various things on dares like slipping into a crack too small for other classmates to fit into. Often times it would get us into trouble or situations that were hard to get out of.

But on the momentous occasion that I am about to tell you about, we were both little angels, participating in the Dyer First United Methodist Church Christmas program. I was chosen as Mary and Bob was to be Joseph. We looked like a pair of those little Precious Moment manger scene replicas from Hallmark.

My mom was so proud of the part I had acquired. Being the seamstress she was, she was only happy to make the outfit for the Virgin Mary. She helped me as we gave my favorite doll a good cleaning to play the role of Baby Jesus. I also got the part of standing up during the manger scene and singing to the Baby Jesus. I will never forget the little song for as long as I live. "Little Baby, in a manger, I love you. Lying there, to earth a stranger, I love you. Wise men saw the star and answered, I love you. Shepherds heard the angels saying, I love you." It was my first and last debut as a singer. Even during the practices, I felt great pride as I looked out and saw my parents, all smiles and teeth, as I stood up to quietly sing the tune.

We had all the usual characters—someone narrating the Christmas story from the Book of Luke, two shepherds with their staves close to their sides, and three wise men all decked out in silks, satins, and jewels, carrying their treasures to the Baby Jesus. There in the choir loft was the angel of the Lord, there to make the profound announcement that a child had been born to save the world.

All was going well during the program as we sang the normal Christmas hymns to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Bob and I stood majestically in the spotlight for the congregation to see. However, what the adults of the event had not planned for was the heat of the spotlight. As it beamed into our faces, it was like looking up at the sun for a long time on a blistering summer day, growing hotter and hotter. Under all the glorious costumes, we began to melt like lit candles. I could feel sweat begin to roll down my back, but I was determined to tolerate it to keep from embarrassing my parents. Bob, on the other hand, started swaying like an American flag blowing in a breeze. From the corner of my eye, I could see him teetering and growing pale. Right in the middle of the three wise men coming down aisle of the church, Bob began to fall face first into the bale of hay that surrounded the Baby Jesus just as Mrs. Winnie McKelvy, our preacher's wife reached out to catch him. The music stopped and looking out amid the audience, all I could see were gaping mouths frozen in time. I did not know whether to acknowledge my husband Joseph lying in Mrs. Winnie's arms beside the Baby Jesus or just pretend all was well. Fanning him with a church bulletin, she began to try to revive a very limp and ashen Bob.

Needless to say, Bob survived, and the program went on; but that Christmas program was one the Methodist never forgot. Bob and I still laugh about it to this day when we see each other. We thank God for these fond childhood memories and for parents who instilled in us how important church participation was.

Manger scenes have become an obsession of mine. I am the proud owner of at least four, made in all sizes. Last year, our first Christmas in

Hohenwald, I could not help but notice the manger scene on the court house lawn. I had to stop and take a picture in the quiet of the night as all the stars shone their brilliance. I don't think I will ever see a manger scene that I will not think of that Christmas Eve night and those precious memories. But more importantly, I never see this scene what I don't think about the miracles of all miracles, the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

**(Respectfully submitted by Sally Thornton)**



**(Poem Submitted by Cindy Graves)**

## Outreach Committee

**White Christmas** giving will begin December 10<sup>th</sup>. Non-perishable food items wrapped in white tissue are placed under the Christmas tree for delivery to the Lewis County Food Bank. Items they frequently run out of are: macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, and canned salmon. Monetary gifts are placed under the tree in white envelopes or placed in the offering plate and clearly marked as White Christmas

giving. These monies are used to support our United Methodist larger ministries (apportionments).

**Cherokee Children's Ministry** is collecting items for the children in this orphanage. Shipments are being delivered regularly to serve these children ages preemie to 18 years old. Boxes are available in the UMW workroom in the Sunday School building for donated items. For specific information regarding this ministry, contact Linda Graves (931-729-9397) or Joyce McCutcheon (931-628-6948).

The Committee on Christian Outreach would like to thank those who participated in the **Kairos Cookie Ministry**. We collected 72 dozen cookies for those who are incarcerated. Thank you for your kindness.

**(Respectfully Submitted by Joyce McCutcheon, Jerry and Retha Tibbs, and Myra and Dewey Hinson)**

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### **Thanks to Prayer Shawl Ministry**

This is to the entire HUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry,

I wanted to write to all of you and thank you so much for the beautiful shawl. Not only is it beautiful but is very warm and comforting.

This has been a very difficult year for me. The kindness you have shown me with your craft and graciousness is wonderful. The prayers you have woven into my shawl really do make me feel like loving arms are around me. I like to wear it when I pray. It adds a comfort to my life that I have lost with Bill.

I love the prayer that came in the pamphlet that came with the shawl. It is also beautiful and comforting. It does add

a shelter for my times of immense grief. It has helped give me strength to face my new beginnings. I am taking my unfolding life one step at a time. The wonderful gift comforts me when I take time to pause, reflect, and be grateful for what I still have. And one of the things I still have is the many beautiful friends such as ya'll.

Much love,  
Peggy Anderson

### **Thank you from Cherokee Children's Ministry**

Thank you for helping support our mission. Your gift provides items for delivery to the children. We work directly with Cherokee Children's Services and the Children's Home. May you be blessed.

Gary and Kathy Collier  
First United Methodist Church  
Paris, TN

### **Three Churches Neighborhood Street Party and Chili Cook-off**

This event was held on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> and was sponsored by First Baptist Church, Hohenwald Church of Christ, and Hohenwald First United Methodist Churches. The proceeds from this event were donated to the Lewis County School System and Hohenwald Police Department.

There were numerous chili varieties, many that were entered in the cook-off competition, which was won by our fellow church member, Tony Kozlinski, winning the Golden Ladle of the event.

This event was the first event held of its kind to bring together members from several churches in the community with the hopes that others will join in next year. The weather was great, the chili was delicious, and the fellowship was wonderful.



### Remembering Our Loved Ones

As we approach the Christmas holiday, many individuals in our church have chosen to remember a lost loved one with a red poinsettia in the Sanctuary. The beauty of this helps us remember all the wonderful times we had with our friend or relative. It is one way we can honor their memory during the Christmas season.

As we lose loved ones, we can never erase the memories each of these individuals left with us. Truman Capote said it best in his short story, "A Christmas Memory," "I could leave the world with today in my eyes." Capote wrote this story about an elderly relative and her childlike excitement of making fruitcakes, creating homemade gifts, and spending each and every

holiday with her until these events are only memories. The story makes us remember that memories keep those we have lost precious in our hearts and minds forever so that we shall never forget them and the impact they made on our lives.



### United Methodist Women

The UMW bazaar held on Saturday, November 11th, was a wonderful success. Many handmade goods, including two fabulous quilts, were sold and lunch was enjoyed by many. Our sales surpassed last year. Thanks to all who provided goods to sell and worked so hard to make this bazaar outstanding.

Barbara Lewis and Betty Stilts graciously hosted our December meeting and Christmas party. During the meeting the budget for next year was set. All attendees enjoyed the food and fellowship.

This will be my final article as UMW President. It has been a rewarding three years, but it's time to pass the torch to our new president, Cora Criss. Ladies, please give her your full support.

**(Respectfully submitted by Debby Campbell, President)**





**United Methodist Men**

The United Methodist Men will not meet again until Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian Learning Center. We wish everyone Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

**(Respectfully submitted by Mark Warrington, President)**



**Annual Christmas Cantata**

On Thursday and Friday nights, December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the Hohenwald United Methodist Church Adult Choir and Guests presented *Come Messiah King* by Randy Vader, Jay Rouse, and Rose Aspinall. The choir was directed by Kenny Graves and accompanied by Brenda Duncan on the piano. Brother Drew Brewer welcomed guests.

The two performances were well received with a standing ovation each night. Much thanks to Susie Cullinan and Larry McCutcheon who were narrators. All participants of the choir would also like to thank Graham Kilsby for the poster design, Ralph Tackett for the sound system, the United Methodist Youth, United Methodist Women, and

**Winners of the Quilts  
Twanette Nichols and Margo Palmer**



anyone else who helped provide refreshments both nights.



**(Information respectfully submitted by Kenny Graves)**

### **First United Methodist Church Youth Choir**

Our Hohenwald FUMC Youth Choir continues to grow in size as well as ability and self-confidence. Once again, these amazing kids did an outstanding job of praising our Lord and Savior through song during the morning service on November 19<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by our extraordinary pianist, Brenda Duncan. They undoubtedly went above and beyond in meeting the challenge of presenting a partner spiritual entitled, “Somebody’s Calling My Name.” Partner songs are ideal for developing independent two-part singing. First, one melody is sung by certain vocalists, then the second melody by different vocalists. The third time through, they partner all together in creating beautiful harmony. Following their performance, the congregation lifted them up with a strident applause, thus motivating them to continue on for even bigger and better. Thank you to Brother Drew Brewer, Jennifer Bowen, Cora Criss, and our wonderful church

family for supporting the time and effort brought forth by all our youth, no matter in what church activity they are participating.



Members of the Youth Choir are: Beginning front and left to right—Xavier Shook, Gabriel Shook, Hadley Spitzer, Katherine Cruz, Rebecca Robbins, Star Holmes, Christopher Spitzer, Damien Seiber, Christian Ganus, Lorrel Sood, Nevaeh Groves, Siarra Mayberry, and Conner Ganus. Not pictured, Chris Fierce.

**(Respectfully submitted by Cindy Graves, Youth Choir Director)**

### **Junior/Senior High Sunday School Class News**

We are taking a slight break from the David textbook to study the religions of the world. It would seem to be one of the most important challenges of the next generation to familiarize themselves with other religions and to learn what Christians believe. I have studied world religions all my life and feel qualified to address the major religions, but especially Islam since I have spent considerable time in the Middle East and have many Muslim friends.

After each Sunday when Brother Drew has covered a religion in his afternoon session, using the Adam

Hamilton booklet, this class will visit the same subject matter the following Sunday in a more abbreviated format and without the video material. The first Sunday will deal, therefore, with the Hindu religion. Due to previous commitments, Jan and I shall have to miss the Sunday after Thanksgiving, but we shall resume these discussions upon my return and finish the entire series during the month of December.

In January, we shall return to the Beth Moore text entitled *David*, and we should finish that book in its entirety during the first quarter of next year.

**(Respectfully Submitted by Dr. Jerry M. Turner)**

### Getting to Know Church Family



In the words of Mother Theresa, “Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.” These words could not fit the couple highlighted in this article any better than if I had said them myself. I learned this after spending time with them on several occasions. Have you ever met someone and felt like you have known them all your life? That describes spending time with **John and Rose Fricot**. Their kindness, smiles, and genuine

friendliness are contagious. You won’t be with them long before you are reminiscing and laughing and feeling like you have known them forever.

John and Rosemary (Rose) Fricot moved to Hohenwald, Tennessee after visits with Rose’s family and loved the community from the start and what it had to offer in terms of small town ambience. John says coming to Hohenwald felt like going back 50 years in time, while Rose was impressed by its hometown feel. Both were born in Rhode Island, John in Coventry and Rose in Providence. They have owned homes in Florida and made long term trips there during the winter months. This fun-loving couple has been married for 46 years after meeting on a blind date.

John was a musician for fifteen years and then worked in high tech sales. Rose was a medical office manager. After moving to Hohenwald and meeting friend, Susie Cullinan, through Rose’s brother and sister-in-law, they were invited to the First United Methodist Church where they felt the warmth and welcome of the church family.

It does not take one long to figure out that these two are very outgoing. John and Rose both enjoy getting to know others over a good meal and talking about all sorts of topics. They both pride themselves on having a great marriage and two wonderful children, Jason, age 45 and Cortnie, age 42. Many of the church’s members have met Cortnie who often attends church with her parents. John and Rose also have an eighteen year old Maltese named “Miss Piggy.”



Over the years of their marriage, John and Rose have traveled to many areas all over the world, including Japan, France, Germany, Mexico, the Caribbean, and many of the fifty states. John's favorite has been Alaska while Rose loved Tahiti. There are still many other places they would like to travel on their bucket list. While these two are not traveling, they enjoy individual hobbies. John, an accomplished keyboardist, loves music and enjoys teaching others to love music by providing methods that make the learning process of playing an instrument a little easier. He also loves reading and being around friends. Rose knits, crochets, gardens, and reads. She has produced beautiful items for the UMW bazaar. John has also volunteered on many UMM projects. Both have been assets to the Methodist men's and women's groups.

This neat couple resides at a beautiful home on their farm on McCord Hollow Road, where they spend time going on nature walks and sometimes just sitting and listening to the calming influence of a melodic spring on their property. If you haven't met or spent time with this couple, you don't know what you are missing.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

- **Sunday evening worship church-wide study, "Christianity and Other World Religions" meet at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.**
- **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Third Sunday in Advent**
- **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Fourth Sunday in Advent,**

### **Christmas Eve Worship and Candle Lighting—5:00 p.m.**

- **Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>--- Christmas Day**
- **Monthly breakfast at the "Southern Skillet" for December will be at 8 a.m. December 29<sup>th</sup>. Make plans to attend.**

"Sharing" is the newsletter of First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald, TN, published six times a year as a service of the Christian Witness Program. To submit news for "Sharing," please contact Sally Thornton at 931-295-3302, or call or text 859-58-2707, or email at [slt2017fmc@gmail.com](mailto:slt2017fmc@gmail.com)

You can also contact other members of the Christian Witness Committee.