

# Bookwalter United Methodist Church

4218 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

December 21, 2018

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director

Rusty Boggs, Pianist

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Web Page: [www.bookwalter-umc.org](http://www.bookwalter-umc.org)

Edie Jo Hall, Children's Director

Zach Smith, Youth Director

*Ministry to God through prayer and worship.*

*Ministry to one another through caring discipleship.*

*Ministry to others by meeting needs and winning them to Christ.*

I was looking through some of my old articles and found my own words speaking to me again. The below was originally written 20 years ago. That year I had pneumonia while this year, it is merely bronchitis. Some things are just tradition I suppose. At the time, I was ruminating on all the work to be done around this time of year...

**December 22, 1998:** Christmas chores. You know what I am talking about... those things that we have come to feel obligated to do in order for it to seem like Christmas. These chores are different for everyone, but they are the kinds of things that make us think about "getting through" Christmas. This year has been extremely different for me. I have been sick or recovering since before Thanksgiving. Frankly, it makes me very angry when I am not well. I do not recommend this kind of Christmas nor do I care to ever repeat it. And yet, is there something good to come out of it all?

If I have learned one thing this year, it is that Christmas is not held up on the stilts of parties, plays, presents or my presence at anything. I have preached every year of my ministry that we should not get caught up in all the activity surrounding Christmas and focus worshipfully on what we celebrate. Yet, I have never practiced what I preached. If anything, I have been the worst about getting overwhelmed with the chores of Christmas to the point of cynically being glad when the whole mess is over. 1998

is the year when I will remember the entire Advent season was one of little else than worship and prayer for me. The effect has been to help me focus more clearly on the Christ child and how little all this other junk has to do with his birth.

If I were in the pulpit, I may get some knowing nods at this point. "Yes, we agree...you are right preacher." Then absolutely nothing changes. We have expectations about Christmas! Do you see the irony here? Advent is a worship season designed to raise expectations. Like the expectant Mary, creation groans looking for the Savior to come. We are expecting Jesus to come ... into our hearts... into our church and community. We expect Jesus to come now in new ways and we expect Jesus to come again to establish His kingdom.

I hope that you all will find a moment of pause and prayer during this holiday season. I wish you a Merry Christmas. Steve

**Next Newsletter will be January 11, 2019.**

**Wednesday evening activities** 6:30 p.m. for children, youth and adults **will resume meeting again on January 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve** candle light service, 5:30 p.m.

**Calendars.....Calendars.....Calendars**

It's time again!! Calendar information is being collected for 2019 so please see Rusty to

receive your past info to make additions or corrections. If you are new to the church and want to be included, Rusty will have blank forms as well.

For several years we have been receiving a **special offering during Advent for the Helping Hand Fund**. If you would like to make a donation, envelopes are available in the pew racks.

**Christmas Post Office:** The Youth Group's (In-house) Christmas Card delivery to the congregation will be on Sunday, **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Sponsor a Youth for Resurrection.** Cost per youth is \$40 and we have 12 attending. Partial and full sponsorships are accepted. Please see Zach before January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Check out the bulletin board** to see Christmas cards and thank you notes.

**December 30<sup>th</sup> is Holston Home for Children Sunday.**

## Our Service

December 23, 2018

**4th Sunday of Advent**

<b>Acolytes</b>	Rachel Byrd, Emily Laws
<b>Nursery</b>	Heather Banks
<b>Ushers</b>	Peyton Allen, Ed Bryson, Pam Ferguson, Ray Mills

**Come join us for worship this Sunday as we worship the Lord on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.** Scripture reading will be Matthew 1:18-25, and the sermon is **“ENTERTAINING ANGELS.”**

## Our Presence and Our Gifts

December 16, 2018

Morning Worship	91
Sunday School	55
Budget Offering	\$6,392.00
Roof	\$70.00
Christmas Orchestra	\$3,006.45
Helping Hand Fund	\$60.00
Youth	\$200.00

### Prayer List:

Betty Bays  
Eddie Cox  
Leroy Cox – cancer  
Bill Dake - cancer (friend of Liz Jett)  
Howard Darnell  
Irvine Jones  
Jo Ann Learn  
Sharon Morris-Dagangon, friend of Pat Newman  
Stephanie Melton  
Bill Ogle, comfort and healing from cancer  
Marilyn Faith Plemons (requested by Carolyn & Sue Wilson)  
Patricia Sutton  
Billy and Wesley, Sharon Wilson's sons

**Note:** Please let the pastor or the office know if we need to add someone to the prayer list. Also, let us know if someone is doing better and needs to be removed,.

### Continuing Care:

Shirrell Baker, Joe Broom, Kermit & Betty Campbell, Samantha Collier, Bill Ferguson, Sarah Hawkins, Joe Hurst, Margie Johnson, Jama Newman, Jean Painter, Ann Turner, Betty Uhlman, Carolyn & Sue Wilson, Joanne Wilson.