

THE CHURCH BELL

Christmas 2013:
Special edition

Issue 38
November 25, 2013



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Luke 2: 10-14 (NRSV)



As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ we invite you to share all the joyous wonders of the season. This is a time to come and let GOD BREAK IN to your life.



TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST, WE WILL:
TELL, TEACH, TOUCH THE WORLD

CHRISTMAS: When GOD breaks in!

Mary was little more than a child. She was having an ordinary day for a peasant girl in her parent's home. **God broke in** and her life was changed forever. Did life get easier? No. But life took a sharp departure from the expected script. Who expects to be greeted by the angel Gabriel in the little out-of-the-way town of Nazareth? Who expects that God's business is to be conducted with a little known and unremarkable peasant girl doing her daily chores? Who expects to hear the impossible being announced and then to be told by God's messenger, "For nothing will be impossible with God"? Who expects to make the journey from "How can it be" to "Let it be"? Read again this amazing story from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke.

This Advent and Christmas season, the theme overarching the variety of services, events, and ministries at 1st UMC-Maryville is: **Christmas—When God Breaks In**. This theme means several things for the way we will live out these high holy days.

FIRST, we will be watchful. If someone tells you to count the number of times you see the color blue today, you will suddenly become aware of blue everywhere. People see what they are looking for. We want to be looking for the signs of God breaking into the ordinary moments of our lives. We want to be aware of God entering this stage of history during Advent 2013. Be watchful.

SECOND, expect the unbelievable, the impossible made possible as God's work unfolds in our midst. Often we talk ourselves out of believing and trusting in the greatness of God. Often we write the script and expect God to follow it. This Advent, expect God to be at work with a vision and a wisdom and a power that is so much greater than ours. Allow the possibility of traveling that road from "How can it be" to "Let it be."

THIRD, pray every day, for hearts and lives, communities and churches, nations and the world to be changed by the in-breaking of God through Jesus. "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel."

Brenda

Whether you are struggling with hurts, hang-ups, or habits, or are just looking for an uplifting and energetic time of worship, why not consider coming to Recovery at Maryville. This year, Christmas and this relatively new worship service coincide.

Join us for **Recovery at Maryville on Christmas Day!**
5:30 Light Meal 6:30 Worship 7:45 Sharing Groups



Christmas memories

I cannot remember a Christmas Eve that my parents and I were not in church. I remember being excited about knowing what was coming the next day. Despite my childhood excitement about Santa Claus "coming to town" I loved the Christmas Eve service.

As a child I simply loved hearing the Christmas story. Like all children hearing about the incarnation I was curious with the idea of this invisible God in some other "place" coming to live here. Admittedly my curiosity was overshadowed by St. Nick's impending arrival but it was there for a little while. The music and feeling in the sanctuary told me that something special was happening.

As I got older my excitement transferred from the generous old elf to the generous and loving God. As a pastor today, I look out on the congregation and pray that the incarnation has a life-changing effect. There are fewer moments in the year that mean more than raising our candles together- claiming that the light of Christ defeats the darkness of life.

May this season be a time that reminds all of us that light has come and that the light is coming. No matter our circumstances God is with us and we walk surrounded with God's loving light.

Asa



Come see how these famous characters let **God break in** to their lives starting December 1st at "The Crossing" (Sundays at 10:30 am)



Silent Night: The Birth of a Carol
 Sunday, December 8th
 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary
 (Followed by finger foods & crafts for the children in Wesley Hall)

Back in the early 1800's during a Christmas Eve service in Germany, one of the most beloved Christmas carols of all times was born. *Silent Night* has been sung, recorded and played countless times since its introduction nearly two-hundred years ago. This year on **December 8th**, the children's choirs of 1st UMC bring you a special "mini-musical" that tells the story of the "birth of the carol." The evening begins at **5:00 pm** in the Sanctuary and ends with finger foods and crafts for children in Wesley Hall.

Making Advent more special for your children



What does advent mean to you? The dictionary defines Advent as "the coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important!" The

Christian church defines the Advent season to be the four Sundays before Christmas. So what can you do with your family to help prepare hearts and minds for the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ?

can also give children straw whenever acts of kindness or service to others are done, letting them then put the straw in the Nativity.

Open Christmas Cards together! Why not wait to open those cards after dinner taking time to pray for the people who sent the card to you?

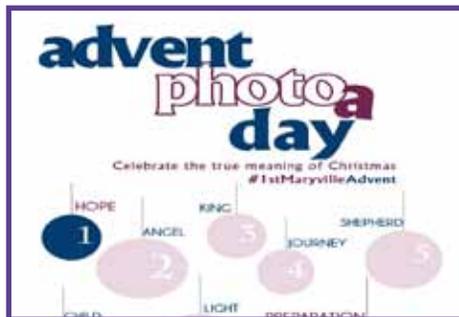
Take time to share. There are so many ways you can help others as a family. Go visit a nursing home, cook for someone who lives by themselves, shop for someone less fortunate. Help children to understand that we show God's love for us by loving and taking care of others!

And last, but not least.....
Come to church each Sunday!

Christian church defines the Advent season to be the four Sundays before Christmas. So what can you do with your family to help prepare hearts and minds for the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ?

Make an Advent Wreath One of the most common signs of Advent is a green wreath with 3 purple candles, 1 pink candle and a usually large white candle in the center. Everyone can have an advent wreath in their home and talk to their children about the significance of each candle.

"Build" a Nativity As you talk about the birth of Jesus have your children pick a special place for the Nativity and each day move the Mary and Joseph figure closer to the manger. You



Go social during Advent this year! Beginning December 1st and going through Christmas upload your photo each day to Instagram, inspired by the word provided for that day.

Tag it with **#1stMaryvilleAdvent**. You can also share it on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest or wherever you want.

Let **God break in this Christmas** and share the spirit of the season with others.!

Youthful reflections

During this time of year, it is difficult to not get caught

up in the commercial side of the season. That's especially true for our youth, but they can look beyond this bombardment of messages about spending and look closer at the true meaning of Christmas. Katie Brinkley says you should be "giving something up for someone you love just because of the spirit of the season, because Jesus did that and through God, did that for us when he sent his son." Katie said she saved up her money one year, not to buy something for herself, but for her little brother. As far as what Christmas has become, Katie isn't so sure Jesus would approve. Still, Evelyn Richardson has faith in our abilities to see beyond the urge to buy, buy, buy. She believes people understand "it's not just about getting, it's about giving."

The holidays can be a difficult time for the homebound and people living in Assisted Living facilities. Here are 6 easy ways you can help make this a happier and more meaningful season for ALL!

1. Visit. Take an Upper Room or other book to read to them.
2. Call
3. Send greeting cards.
4. Send flowers or small gifts.
5. Take a meal to those in their homes.
6. Pray

If you would like to "adopt" someone please contact Ginny West Case at 982-1273 or ginnywc@fumc-maryville.org.

This is a great way to make new friends or renew old relationships. It could also be a learning opportunity for the young ones to know and appreciate seniors.

"Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam."
Advent Study
Beginning, December 1st
Sundays at 9:15 am
9:15 am (room 213)



"A Swingin' Christmas"
December 17th @ 8 pm
Bus leaves @ 6:30 pm
Tickets \$45
Reservations needed by 12/9
Call: Ginny West Case at 982-1273

There are few nights more magical and meaningful than December 24th. It is a special time when we "prepare" to welcome Jesus, "the light of the world."



Throughout the evening hundreds of people will join in the celebration here at 1st UMC. The first service of the night begins at 5:00 pm in Asbury Hall (lower level). The service includes a special time where children will help "tell" this wonderful story about the birth of Jesus Christ.

At 6:30 people will gather in Wesley Hall (upper level) for a Covered Dish Supper (please bring a side dish). It will be a time for sharing and revelling in the spirit of season with family and friends.

Finally, there are two services in the Sanctuary (7:30 pm & 10:00 pm). Come share songs, scripture and Holy Communion as we help spread the message of hope that is Christmas!

Christmas Eve at 1st UMC

5:00 pm - Worship in Asbury Hall

6:30 pm - Covered Dish Supper in Wesley Hall

7:30 pm - Worship in Sanctuary

10:00 pm - Worship in Sanctuary



Join us for our Modern Worship Christmas Program on **December 22**, downstairs in Asbury Hall at 10:30am. We will have breakfast foods to share together as we celebrate the coming of Christ. We will worship together with old favorites like *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* and *Joy to the World*, and you will also hear newer songs to add to your Christmas traditions. Come and worship and celebrate the birth of Jesus with our worship band!

Early on the morning of **December 8th**, Asbury Hall becomes filled with the magic of Christmas as the Morning Glory Chorus and Men's Chorus along with piano and instrumental ensemble present *Sing a Song of Christmas*.

The music of Christmas is a miracle of melody and message. On the wings of song, the good news of Christ's birth animates our dreams and sets our spirit's soaring.

Sometimes the sounds are sweet and soft as a mother's lullaby. Other times the angel choirs surprise and delight us by bursting forth with jubilant shouts and acclamations.

Morning Glory and Men's Chorus December 8th @ 8:15 am

These words are descriptive of *Sing a Song of Christmas*. The music you will experience will be a mix of traditional carols, songs with a gospel flavor and even tender manger lullabies.

Come and hear this exciting work where in each note rests the assurance of hope and in each phrase, **breathes the spirit of promise.**



Chancel Choir Cantata December 14th @ 6:00 pm (Recorded for WVLT-TV)

December 15th @ 10:30 am
December 15th @ 7:00 pm

On the morning of December 15th, choir members and 1st UMC member are urged to park behind the Jr. High School. There will be a continuous shuttle running from 8:45 am to 12:15 pm. from there to the Porte -Cochere.

presented by:
1st UMC Chancel Choir
with Orchestra and Pipe Organ
Including guest choir:
Tennessee Wesleyan Chorale

Terry Wilson - Conductor
Susan Dave - Assistant Conductor
Dwain Pesterfield - Organist
Dr. Nathan Windt - Chorale Conductor

This Christmas season marks the 32nd annual Chancel Choir Christmas cantata. As in other years, you will hear some of your favorite Christmas carols such as *O Holy Night*, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, *Ding! Dong! Merrily*

on *High*, *Silent Night*, and *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*. New selections this year will include, "Do You Hear What I Hear?", *Pat-a-Pan* (for women's chorus) and *The Friendly Beasts*. *The Friendly Beasts* is a unique arrangement where soloist, John Cherry, vocally portrays the animals represented at the manger (Donkey, cow, sheep, and dove). The choral parts are even more imaginative as the Chancel Choir presents the sounds of the animals interwoven between solo verses. As difficult as it is to explain, this choral selection invites singer and listener alike, into the nativity scene with as vivid a musical portrayal as one could imagine.

Adding to this year's cantata weekend will be the guest choir, Tennessee Wesleyan College Chorale. This fine chorale will present *O Magnum Mysterium* and *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming/ The Rose*. At the conclusion of the program, they will join the Chancel Choir in John Rutter's exciting arrangement of *Joy to the World*.

If you love the carols of Christmas, you will want to attend one of this year's presentations and invite your friends and neighbors to come with you!



Chancel Choir Cantata TV Schedule

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th
Noon - 1 PM on MyVLT (15)

Christmas Day, December 25th
6:00 am - 7:00 am on WVLT (8)
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm on WVLT (8)
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm on WVLT (8)

During this year's Chancel Choir cantata and Christmas Eve services there will be a special offering. This year, the money will go to Good Neighbors of Blount County and toward the 2014, 1st UMC Habitat for Humanity build.





1st United Methodist Church
 804 Montvale Station Road
 Maryville, TN 37803
 Phone: 865-982-1273

www.fumc-maryville.com



Sunday, December 1, 2013

- 7:35 AM Morning Glory Chorus rehearsal, 249
- 8:15 AM Morning Glory Worship, Asbury Hall
- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM The Crossing, Asbury Hall
- 3:30 PM Youth Praise Band
- 4:00 PM Morning Glory Chorus & Men's Chorus, Asbury Hall
- 5:15 PM Evensong Handbells, 252
- 6:00 PM Youth, Asbury Hall
- 6:00 PM 12 Steps for Christians, 213, 215

Monday, December 2, 2013

- 3:30 PM Primary Praise Singers (K & 1st grade)
- 3:30 PM Merrymakers (2nd & 3rd grade)
- 3:30 PM Joy Singers (4th-6th grade)
- 7:00 PM Building Committee, 214
- 7:00 PM Troop Meeting, Asbury Hall

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

- 10:00 AM The True Christmas Story, 214
- 6:00 PM Devoted Fitness, Asbury Hall
- 7:00 PM AA, 128

Wednesday, December 4, November 27, 2013

- 3:45 PM Girls Bible Study, Vienna Coffee
- Recovery at Maryville, Asbury Hall
 - 5:30 PM Light Meal, Asbury Hall
 - 6:30 PM Celebration Service, Asbury Hall
 - 7:45 PM Sharing Groups (assigned room)
- 7:00 PM Ladies Bible Study
- 7:00 PM Young Adult Trivia Night, Smoky Mountain Brewery
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 5, 2013

- 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study, 214
- 10:15 AM Asagao, 252
- 11:00 Circle 1, Janet Garbutt's, 670 Pine Lane Friendsville
- 11:00 AM Circle 2, Mary Helen Peery's, 425 Nottingham Ct.
- 5:00 PM Welcome Table, Asbury Hall
- 7:00 PM AA, 128

Commitments for Sunday, December 1, 2013

Greeters:

- 8:15
 Fran & Bill Beaty
 Bruce Kerr

Acolytes:

- Megan Carroll
 Drew Barton

- 10:30 The Crossing
 Steve & Kristy Crandall
 Kathryn King

Kids Own Worship

- Preschool
 Kirt & Julie Lowe
 Elementary
 Todd & Whitney Davis

- 10:30 Sanctuary
 Frank & Jewel Rankin
 Rob & Fran Goddard

Our Church Family



Joyce Bennett
 Rev. Bill Bennett (retired)



Paislee Alexis Mendence
 (infant baptism)