

THE CIRCUIT WRITER

Volume 37

Issue 1

"THE END, FROM THE BEGINNING"

If you have not yet gone to see the movie



then don't worry. There is no need of a **spoiler alert** in my column. I'm not revealing the end, nor sharing anything else about the plot. You will have to see it for yourself. I took the pledge not to tell.

Now that I have your attention, I must say it fascinates me what a buzz about the film has been generated in social media, which was not available when the original movie played in 1977.

All the world is asking questions, but nobody wants the answers just yet. I heard that a threat was made by some group, to reveal all the secret twists and turns of plot if not paid a high ransom for keeping quiet. Has the world gone crazy?

It is amusing, and a bit of a relief in times of much anger, fear-mongering, and tension over killings, politics, and societal upheavals, that entertainment is taking our attention to a distant galaxy for a little while, and spoiler alerts, not terrorist alerts, are what worries us.

But in real life, we do worry about the future sometimes; what we can know about it, and what we can do about it. We would like to know how things are going to come out in the end. Good news! There is a book which tells the end, the good ending, which has been planned from the beginning. Of course I mean the Bible. The book of Revelation, for all of its curious imagery and seemingly coded messages, yet tells one simple truth - God wins in the end. When the end comes, nobody knows, but the how gives us some comfort.

The story is told of a football fan who became so anxious watching his favorite team play, that it was hurting his health. His doctor's recommendation: record the game without viewing it, then after it was over and the final score was known, go back and watch, play by play, already aware of the outcome. He could enjoy the game more in the midst of it, knowing the outcome was inevitable.

Another story I heard has a little old lady, who suffered much in life, yet met the world with undaunted cheer, being asked how she remained so happy, "Well," she says, "I recall how the day Jesus was crucified was the darkest day in all of history, but three days later came Easter, and the resurrection, and history was changed forever. So when I

have a bad day, I just tell myself to wait three days and see what God can do."

Knowing God's good plan for an end where Grace has the final word may relieve much tension in our world. Let us keep the secrets of movies and such, so others may delight in their surprises. But let us tell all we can, to whomever we can, about the Good End God promises; *"Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for harm, to give you a future with hope."* Jer. 29:11 Peace, tom

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. TOM GIBSON:

Jesus, The World, and John Wesley
Sundays ... 2:30 to 4:00 - January 10, 17, 24, 31
Register by: Jan. 1, 2016 - Mark your calendars!

MONTHLY & WEEKLY CHURCH SCHEDULING

Pastor Tom's Scheduled Day off	Fridays
Rev. Connie's Scheduled Day off	Thursdays
Sunday School	Sundays at 10:00am
Youth Group	Sundays at 10:00am
Staff Meeting	Mondays at 9:15am - 10:30am
Monterey Hilltop Chorale	Mondays at 6:30pm
Civitan Club	3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm
Standing Stone	4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm
AGAPE Chapel	Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:30am
Girl Scouts #1581	First Wednesday of the month
GIRL SCOUT COOKIES ARE ON SALE STARTING JAN. 4TH	
Cub Scouts #15	Fridays at 6:00pm
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesdays at 6:30pm
<i>(Resumes on January 6th)</i>	
Cottage Ministry	Friday & Saturday, 9am - Noon

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgist	Sandra Gilmore
Ushers	Bob & Susie Cournoyer
Acolytes	<i>if interested please see Rev. Connie</i>

A RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS DECEMBER 27TH, 2015

By Our Gifts

2015 Budget income needed/week	\$3,057.75
2015 Budget income received last week	\$1,721.88
2015 Budget income this week (under)	\$1,336.47
2015 Budget income year to date (under)	\$21,323.88

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Burks Honor Roll Party	Friday, January 15 th at 8:45am
Youth Pancake Breakfast	Sunday, January 10 th at 9:30am
Bible Study with Rev. Tom Gibson	Sundays in January from 2:30pm - 4:00pm (January 10 th - January 31 st)
Youth Warmth in Winter weekend	January 29 th - 30 th

AGAPE PRESCHOOL FUN



AGAPE PRESCHOOL TAKES PART IN OUR COMMUNITY PARADE

MONTEREY'S JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to update our records and to include your information in the newsletter, please send the church your birthdays and anniversaries. *(Please list the name(s) and date(s) of all in your family who are connected to the church. Thank you!)*

- | | |
|------------------|--------|
| Priscilla Ford | (1/1) |
| Sara Sheffler | (1/2) |
| Haley Swafford | (1/4) |
| Frank Swafford | (1/4) |
| Drew Henley | (1/5) |
| Josie Heady | (1/5) |
| Ramona Harmon | (1/7) |
| Tammy Phillips | (1/8) |
| Richard Jensen | (1/10) |
| Judy Webster | (1/13) |
| Ronda Sauls | (1/15) |
| Judith Bruce | (1/17) |
| Aimee Webb | (1/19) |
| Ginger Arthur | (1/22) |
| Richard Godsey | (1/24) |
| Allison Phillips | (1/27) |

MONTEREY'S JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Al & Jeanne Bevan | (1/3) |
| Bill & Mary Phelps | (1/3) |
| Raymond & Betty Higgins | (1/9) |

NOTE FOR THOUGHT

*If our greatest need had been information,
 God would have sent an educator.
 If our greatest need had been technology,
 God would have sent us a scientist.
 If our greatest need had been money,
 God would have sent us an economist.
 But since our greatest need was forgiveness,
 God sent us a Savior!*

YOUTH NEWS:



The Youth Pancake Breakfast was a success. Donations were approximately \$364.00 and will be used for our Warmth in Winter trip in January and Youth activities. Thank you to all who participated

Next upcoming events are...another pancake breakfast on January 10th and Warmth in Winter on the weekend of January 29th.

Keep listening/reading and we will keep you updated on upcoming events
 Frances

JESUS, THE WORLD, AND JOHN WESLEY STUDY

Pastor Gibson will be leading the upcoming bible study 'Jesus, the World, and John Wesley'. Please register your intent to attend at the podium so ample materials are made available. Sessions will be an hour and a half on Sundays at 2:30 beginning Jan. 10th and continuing through Jan. 31st. What a glorious way to start off the new year in growing your understanding of the faith in community with others.

In joining Tom in walking with Wesley you will explore the heritage that came to be known as the United Methodist Church. In the process you will explore what it means to be Methodist and be given the opportunity to review the churches foundational beliefs learning how those beliefs came into being through Wesley's experience. You will learn how the church is structured and what it means to be sent as a Pastor, that practice common place to Wesley and the faith's early day circuit riders.

You will see how what began as a small movement in Colonial America managed to grow into the largest Protestant Church of the 19th century. The true history of the church is tremendously interesting and you will come to realize that we inherited a powerful and dynamic legacy. So whether one is new to the faith or just wanting to review or know more ... we suggest you mark those dates on the calendar to walk with Wesley and to grow in your faith in community.
 Rev. Connie Hall

CONGRATULATIONS KEN, CRYSTAL & GRACE



WISHING YOU MANY HAPPY YEARS TOGETHER

POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY IN DECEMBER WERE OFFERED IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

Provided by:

Elora Stringer
Darlene Greene

In Memory of:

*Margaret Elizabeth (Beth) Tyson
McCormick & Tudor and Countiss*

Families
Nick & Joan Axen *Their Parents*
Lynn & Mike Connor/Ellen & John McPherson
Jess & Helen Williams & Jim & Ella Williams
Byrnie Gilmore Hicks *Loved ones*
Pam Dove & Megan Moore *Pepper Dove*
Connie Hall *Bob Hall*
Edwin & Louise Vail *Ted & Ruby Vail, The Roth Family &
The Nimmo Family*
Judy Powell *Francis Powell*
Tom & Vickie Gibson *Joyce Kathleen & Gregory Scott Gibson
& Ed and Ruth Gibson and J.D. and Geneva Barrett*
Carolyn Phillips *Harlon Phillips*
Wanda Balsley *Stan Balsley & Georgia (Nib) Hargis*
Harold & Clara Broughton *Their Parents*
Morris Stamps *Loved Ones*
Chuck & Kim Talbot *Jack & Nancy Talbot*
Janet Erskine *John Tom & Marianne Winkler & Betty Marsh*

Provided by:

Linda Jensen
Patsy King

In Honor of:

*Family
Loved ones*

MIRIAM'S PROMISE:

If you would like to know more about Miriam's Promise, the organization we support with our *Baby Shower for Jesus* each January, listed here is a description of some of the services they provide: (*copied from Miriam's Promise website*)

Pregnancy Counseling

Miriam's Promise has been providing pregnancy counseling since its inception in 1985. Services include:

Helping women and families with unplanned pregnancy cope with emotional stress, access to medical care and long term goals

Preparing them for the mature life decisions of pregnancy, such as pre-natal care, labor and delivery and related issues

Educating and assisting them in making decisions related to the best-interests of their child(ren)

Providing practical assistance with baby items, diapers, and in some cases, medical and housing needs

For clients choosing adoption: providing healing, caring support before and after the placement of their infant and continued assistance with maintaining contact with adoptive families and children when appropriate.

For clients not choosing adoption: providing post-pregnancy counseling and parenting support for both the birth parents and the child.

International/Domestic Adoptions

Many families experiencing fertility challenges turn to Miriam's Promise for help in building their family through adoption. We work closely with each family to explore adoption possibilities and their capacity to parent, offering education, and continual support.

More families choose international adoption each year as the avenue most suited to them. Miriam's Promise is unique in the training we offer - Parents in Process, a 12 hr adoption preparation class focusing on all aspects of adoption and information unique to international adoption. The life-long process of adoption, cultural/racial issues, grief and the special needs of orphaned children are addressed. We are Hague Accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

Services include training, home studies, post-placement supervision and support through the life cycle of adoption. Training for domestic adoption includes open adoption, the impact of infertility, trans-racial parenting and grief and loss pertaining to adoption as well as coping with attachment issues.

"Expecting the Best" for Incarcerated Women

Miriam's Promise is the only entity that currently offers this type of program to women in Middle Tennessee correctional facilities. This is an ongoing program consisting of weekly group sessions of 7-8 pregnant/parenting inmates. The sessions cover issues that positively impact:

- decision making
- parenting
- family planning
- life skills
- past traumas

Since many of the women have experienced chaotic childhoods, attachment issues are also addressed to enhance parenting skills and help them understand and deal with the emotional challenges of children of incarcerated parents. Following incarceration, Miriam's Promise continues to offer support services and counseling to insure positive outcomes for these women both as individuals and as mothers.

Children's Counseling Program

Miriam's Promise offers a counseling program designed to provide a safe haven for children, parents and families who are going through a difficult time. A thorough assessment is done to assess each child's individual situation before deciding on a comprehensive treatment plan. We offer specialized counseling in different areas of focus including attachment disorders, trauma due to abuse or neglect, grief and loss, and behavioral issues. We see many children who have been adopted domestically or internationally. While we do see children on an individual basis, most therapies include a component designed to include parents and equip them to deal with their children in a more effective way within the home environment. Our approach is a very holistic and comprehensive one and includes working with schools, physicians, and others who play a significant role in the child's life.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK...

The Trustees committee and church staff convey our gratitude for all who have contributed to our building fund and have made these upgades possible.

Roger Garrett and Keelan Milligan, Trustees Chairman, working on the new awning outside the preschool room in the first picture. Since this was take the awning has been completed.

The other pictures are various phases of the new heating and airconditioning unit that has been installed by Cookeville Heating and Cooling. This has made an immediate improvement in our Sanctuary, Welker Room and side offices.

If you have not been able to see these improvements first hand, please feel free to check out the awning (it is a 100% improvement!) and visit the room we refer to as the "dungeon" off the Fellowship Hall to see the heating and air conditioning unit. Some have referred to it as "a work of art."

Again we express our appreciation for your contributions and ask you for your continued support as we move past Phase I onto Phase II for our heating and air needs for the church.



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The people of The United Methodist Church*

Church office: 931-839-2597
Church e-mail: church@montereyumc.com
www.montereyumc.com

Come worship with us at Monterey at 11am



*The mission of Monterey United Methodist Church is to make
Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Monterey United Methodist Church
124 North Holly Street
Monterey, TN 38574

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Monterey United Methodist Church

January 2016



God treated me with kindness. His power worked in me, and it became my job to spread the good news. I am the least important of all God's people. But God was kind and chose me to tell the Gentiles that because of Christ there are blessings that cannot be measured. God, who created everything, wanted me to help everyone understand the mysterious plan that had always been hidden in his mind. Ephesians 3:7-9 (CEV)

The people of The United Methodist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	2 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
<i>Baby Shower for Jesus</i> 3 Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service	4 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale Rehearsal	5	6 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel 6:00p-Girl Scouts #1581 6:30p-Choir Rehearsal	7 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel	8 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	9 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
Youth Pancake Breakfast 10 Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service 2:30p-Bible Study	11 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale Rehearsal	12 6:30p-Civitanis	13 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel 6:30p-Choir Rehearsal	14 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel	15 8:45a-Burks Honor Roll Celebration 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	16 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
17 Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service 2:30p-Bible Study	18 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale Rehearsal	19 6:00p- Standing Stone	20 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel 6:30p-Choir Rehearsal	21 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel	22 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	23 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
24 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Luke 4:14-21 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service 2:30p-Bible Study	25 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale Rehearsal	26	27 6:00p-Girl Scouts #1581 6:30p-Choir Rehearsal	28 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel	29 Warmth In Winter 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	30 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
31 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service 2:30p-Bible Study	NOTES:					