



Why Moving into the Manor Makes Sense for Us?

By Al &
Barbara
Williams



We moved to our Neighborhood Home six years ago and it was one of our better decisions.

It felt right when we decided on Timbercrest and we still feel it was the right decision. It felt like home from day one and we were welcomed by our wonderful neighbors. We are comfortable and contented on Willow Way. Why would we decide to leave the comfort of our home and move to the Manor at this time?

A major reason we chose Timbercrest was the breadth of services available, and the support offered through the expected transitions (Neighborhood Home, Manor, Assisted Living, Health Care) as residents age. Experiences with our parents convinced us that transitions postponed too long are not pleasant or of benefit to the resident.

We have both had significant health issues over the past few months, which is not really unusual at our age. In fact, they are expected. We recovered well and returned to our home. However, it was a clear reminder that health can change rapidly, and waiting is risky. Currently we can both be involved in all necessary decisions: choosing a new apartment, the desired

support services, and how our portfolio may need to be adjusted. We can both decide what to keep and what to part with as we downsize to a smaller apartment. Waiting would probably leave the entire burden on either one of us. It would not prevent transitioning to the Manor, only making it more troublesome. We decided to move while we could both be involved in all decisions, enjoy our new home and the increased social activities.


We now look forward to the move to a new apartment and Manor living.

Christmas in Paris All-Resident Christmas Party

Have you ever seen Paris at Christmas time? The Program and Service Department is bringing Paris to the Assembly Room this holiday season.

Timbercrest will host an All-Resident Christmas Celebration on **Monday, December 23**. Start the celebration off with a special **Parisian themed noon meal in the Courtyard Dining Room**. There will be a fun, interactive crepe station for your enjoyment! The cost of the meal is \$12 if you are not already on a meal plan. If you do not routinely eat the noon meal in the dining room, please call the front desk at 260-982-2118 to **make a reservation by Friday, December 20th**.

At 1:30 p.m. Master Organist Matt Gerhard will perform in the Assembly Room. He will bless us with songs of the season. Parisian deserts will be served afterwards.



SHEPHERD'S CENTER PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Current Events
 Current Events in Agriculture - John Hartsough, Local Farmer

Adventures in Learning
 Vision for El Salvador - Mission trip to El Salvador with the Eye Care International group - Brian Daniels & Lin Metzger

The meetings begin at 9:30 AM for Current Events and 10:30 AM for Adventures in Learning.

Transportation is available leaving from the Hub at 9:15. Sign up in the Notebooks at Rose Garden and Courtyard.

TUG

The TUG (Technology Users Group) meeting will be on **Thursday, December 12, 10:00 a.m., in the Conference Room.** All residents using personal technology devices (computers, tablets, printers, smart phones, etc.) are welcome to attend the monthly meetings, which are usually on the second Thursday of each month. There is always good discussion including questions and answers (hopefully) to technology issues. The special topic for this month is accessibility features in Windows. This includes things like size of text and the cursor.

Parkinson's Support Group

The Parkinson's Support Group will not meet in December.

Table Tennis for Fun and Fitness

Table tennis in the Recreation Room is each **Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00 p.m.** All skill levels are welcome, and new players are encouraged.

Giant Crossword

Do you enjoy crossword puzzles? Join Carol in the **Resident Activity Room on Thursday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m.** for Giant Crossword.

happy
HOLIDAYS!



Oasis

Come for inspiration and reflection every **Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.** in-person in the Chapel.

December 4	“Messiah” sing-along
December 11	Holden Service Sabine Thomas & others
December 18	Piano/Organ Ruth Ann Bever & Carol Lindquist
December 25	Christmas Day – No Program

Come to Oasis in person. It is also broadcast live on the Timbercrest Senior Living YouTube Channel and can also be viewed at a later time on the YouTube channel.

Contemporary Book Club

The Contemporary Book Club meets every **Friday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.** They are discussing the book “Life After Doom” by Brian McLaren. The book addresses the dominant realities of our times: ecological, economic, and civilization collapse. Wisdom and courage for a world falling apart. Questions contact David Doudt at 260-578-4748.

Sewing Sisters

Join us on the **Monday, December 2 at 1:00 p.m. in the Quilting Room** to “tie” comforters for the Linus Project - no experience needed. Quilts and comforters go to children in hospitals and other facilities. We are currently at 135 quilts donated this year!

You can also volunteer to make quilt tops, or finish quilts at home. Stop by the Quilting Room, weekday mornings for details.

Timbercrest Book Club:

The Timbercrest Book Club meets on the **second Monday (December 9) of every month in the Conference Room at 2:00 p.m.**

The read for December is “The Memory Keeper’s Daughter” by Kim Edwards. The novel tells the story of a man who gives away his newborn daughter, who has Down Syndrome, to a nurse. If you are interested in joining, books can be picked up from Jennifer Gearhart’s office in the Hub. We love new members!

Hymn Sing

The Old German Baptist Brethren

The Old German Baptist Brethren would like to invite you to join them for a Hymn Sing on **Sunday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room.**

Though they currently don’t have any church members residing at Timbercrest, they would still love to welcome all of us to participate. They will host this interactive hymn sing every 4 weeks through the winter months. If you can’t make it to the December 1st session, you’ll get a second chance on Sunday, December 29 and then again on Sunday, January 26th.

I encourage you to join them and show their members what a fantastic home we have in Timbercrest!

How do you deal with Chronic Pain?

HTS Wellness

Emily Frank from HTS Therapy and Wellness is returning on **Friday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room.**

Emily will give us tips and suggestions for best practices managing chronic pain and dealing with acute pain. We always leave a session with Emily feeling empowered and hopeful. Don’t miss it!

God’s All Community Choir

God’s All Community Choir will return to Timbercrest on **Saturday, December 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room.** Led by Kent Harting, the group will present their Christmas selections for your enjoyment.

Wellness & Wisdom

The Ins & Outs of Joint Replacement Dr. Kyle Carlson, DO



Timbercrest is happy to welcome Dr. Kyle Carlson, D.O. of Ortho North East on **Thursday, December 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room.**

Dr. Carlson has recently joined the orthopedic practice located at Parkview Kosciusko Hospital in Warsaw, previously serving patients in the Goshen area. He performs surgical procedures at the hospital and sees patients in the clinic on-site. He treats a wide variety of musculoskeletal issues in adults, specializing in total hip and total knee replacements.

After completing his undergraduate work at Manchester University, Dr. Carlson went on to receive his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Bioscience.

Dr. Carlson will present on the topics of joint replacements and answer any questions you might have.

Manchester Symphony Orchestra “The Nutcracker”

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra has partnered with Wabash Valley Dance Theater this holiday season for their production of “The Nutcracker” at the Honeywell Center. With the MSO, Indiana Ballet Conservatory, and the Manchester Schools Select Choir, this beloved ballet will come to life with beautiful dancing and live orchestra music.

Reserved seating is required and can be purchased through the Honeywell Website (www.honeywellarts.org) or through the MSO website (www.manchestersymphonyorchestra.org). Timbercrest transportation will be provided for the **Sunday, December 8th 2:00 p.m. show. The bus will leave from the Hub at 1:00 p.m. Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden or Courtyard.**



Breakfast Out with Carol Egg Town Coffee (Java Jacks)

Carol is once again on the road looking to find great breakfast spots along the way. Travel with her on **Monday, December 9** down the road a piece to the **Egg Town Coffee** shop in Mentone.

Specializing in locally roasted coffee drinks, the small café also offers a pretty solid breakfast selection. The highest priced item on the menu is affectionately named “Eggzilla” costing a meager \$10.

You are responsible for the cost of your meal & gratuity. **The bus will leave from the Hub at 8:00 a.m. Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden or Courtyard.**

Memoir Writing Group

The memoir group extends a special invitation to all Timbercrest people to join us on the **second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 2:00 p.m. in D Wing lounge**. Here are our topics to write about and then read aloud for upcoming meetings:

For **December 10**: Describe an important decision you have had to make.

Christmas Eve: No meeting. See you in January!

January 14: A New Year: Looking Back. Looking Ahead

January 28: A Success

If you prefer to write about something else, that’s fine—or just come to listen.

Questions? Contact Eileen Flory, 982-0088, eflory@peak.org.

Friends of Manchester University “The Company of Books”



The Friends of Manchester program on **Tuesday, December 10** will feature Dr. Jonathan Watson, Professor of English. He will speak on his own journey with literature and the state of “book culture” at Manchester University.

Professor Watson teaches the History of the English language and a broad range of courses in literature.

Join us at **6:30 p.m. in the Chapel on Tuesday, December 10th.**

Pre-School Visitors

Join us on **Wednesday, December 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Rose Garden** as we enjoy a visit from the Manchester Community Schools pre-school students.

May we spend the hour with them absorbing and syphoning their boundless energy! We will do a small activity or craft, have fun with Play-Doh, and enjoy a snack before they load the big yellow bus and head back to school. The bus ride may be the highlight of their day but the laughs will be the highlight of yours!

Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden and Courtyard.

Our Grocery Cart Food Delivery System

Food distributed on the second Wednesday of the month comes from the Second Harvest Tailgate at the Manchester Church of the Brethren. This is a resident-sponsored program.

The schedule for food delivery on **Wednesday, December 11** is:

- 1:30-2:30 p.m. Distribution in the Manor
- 2:00-3:00 p.m. Neighborhood Home residents may pick up food in the Resident Activity Room before or after the snack in The Nook.

If you won’t be home, ask a friend to get some food for you. We can use more volunteers to drive a car to the church to get food or to deliver food in the Manor. We can use both regular and substitute volunteers. If you would like to help, please call Mary Ebey at 982-2366.

Manchester Civic Band

Timbercrest is proud to welcome back the Manchester Civic Band on **Wednesday, December 11 at 6:45 p.m. in the Assembly Room**.

The volunteer-based community band will perform their holiday set for 2024.

Walmart, Here We Come!

Shop at Wabash Walmart on **Thursday, December 12 departing from the Hub at 1:00 p.m.**

Shopping lists for those unable to go must be in **CAMPUS MAIL ONLY** by **NOON, December 12**. Remember to include a phone number where you can be reached in case the shopper has questions.

Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden or Courtyard.

Serendipity Bible Study Groups

Everett Shattuck leads Serendipity Bible studies, incorporating sharing and discussion in the context of Bible passages. These low-key studies are geared for people new to Bible study and long-time Bible students. “Serendipity” comes through mutual discovery and reflection.

- **Fridays, December 13 & 27 at 9:30 a.m. in G Wing Lounge**, led by Everett Shattuck.

Eel River Community CoB Lunch with the Pastors

The Eel River Community Church of the Brethren gathers for lunch with the Pastors on the second Friday (**Friday, December 13**) of every month. They meet at **12:30 p.m. in The Nook**.

Anyone is welcome to attend, especially those with any connections with Eel River Community CoB. The meal includes a salad, entrée, dessert, and beverage. Indicate special dietary needs when you sign up. Cost is \$12 per person, paid to the Timbercrest Receptionist. Residents that have a meal contract do not have to pay! You can call Carolyn Bollinger with any questions at 260-982-2722.

Sign up in the notebook outside the Courtyard Dining Room by Wednesday, December 11.

Timbercrest Choir Holiday Concert



The Timbercrest Choir has been working very hard this fall under the direction of Delora Roop and accompanied by Becky Cordes. Join us for their Holiday Concert on

Friday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room.

Teaching Kitchen Coming Up

Dining Services will host a Teaching Kitchen **Thursday, December 19 at 3:00 p.m.** in The **Nook**, for both Manor and Neighborhood Home residents. December’s star ingredient is **CRANBERRIES**.



Gingerbread Decorating

Timbercrest employees had so much fun decorating and carving pumpkins in October they’ve requested another friendly competition for December. The Employee Connections team is sanctioning a Gingerbread Decorating Contest and would like to invite you to participate as well!

Entries should be delivered to the Hub on Monday, December 16th. Kits may be purchased or homemade. Voting will be available throughout the week with a winner announced on Friday, December 20. Questions can be directed to Hilary Wagoner, Adrienne Kamphues or Kindra McClure. Let’s have some fun with this!

Crafting with Molly

Residents gather for fun crafts thought up by Molly Magnes from the North Manchester Public Library on the **third Monday of each month (Monday, December 16) at 2:00 p.m. in the Resident Activity Room.**

Molly is the Programming Coordinator at the library and she always come up with creative and fun craft ideas for us. There is no cost to participate!

To ensure that we have enough supplies, please **sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden or Courtyard.**

Tuesday Matinee “Citizen Kane”

Enjoy an afternoon movie and popcorn on **Tuesday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel.**

This month’s feature is “Citizen Kane” starring Orson Welles as Charles Foster Kane on his deathbed. A newsreel obituary tells the life story of Kane, an enormously wealthy newspaper publisher and industry magnate. Kane’s death becomes sensational news around the world.

Game Night with Mike and Lucy

Join Lucy and Mike McKinley for an evening of cards, billiards, shuffleboard, dominoes, board games and refreshments **Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Recreation Room.

No sign-up needed. Just come for a great evening, and maybe learn a new game.

December Chapel Schedule

Come to Chapel to hear thoughts from scripture, prayer and other inspiration. Devotions are **Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:00 a.m.** Oasis (see pg 2) is **Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.** weekly. **Worship Service at Manchester Church of the Brethren is live streamed in the Chapel at 9:30 every Sunday morning.**

December Speakers:

Dec 3 – Bob Bowman – Manchester CoB
Dec 5 – Todd Eastis – Camp Mack
Dec 6 – Marie Willoughby – Timbercrest Resident
Dec 10 – Todd Hammond – Agape CoB
Dec 12 – Bruce Russell – Baptist Church
Dec 13 – Anna Lisa Gross – Beacon Heights CoB
Dec 17 – Christy Huiras – Liberty Mills CoB
Dec 19 – Kelly Beutler – Liberty Mills CoB
Dec 20 – Conner Ladd – Columbia City CoB
Dec 24 – Nan Erbaugh – Timbercrest Resident
Dec 26 – Carol Sing
Dec 27 – Diane Quance – Warsaw United Methodist
Dec 31 – Brian Daniels – Peoria Church

Thanks to the Chapel Planning Committee for scheduling these dedicated speakers!

Weekly Bingo Games

Join the fun at Bingo in the **Resident Activity Room Mondays and Fridays at 11:00 a.m.**

Due to scheduling conflicts, we often find ourselves in need of someone to call Bingo. If you are interested in occasionally being called upon for this favor, please let Jennifer Gearhart know by calling (260-982-3959).

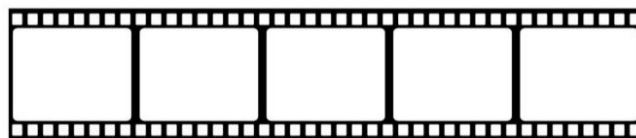
Library Committee

The Timbercrest Library is managed by resident volunteers. They meet monthly on the first Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Resident Activity Room.

A Friendly Lift Will Get You There

Friendly Lift drivers take non-drivers to non-medical destinations. They are paid independently to take people shopping, visit family and friends, for joy rides and more. For details, see Jennifer Gearhart.

- Carolyn Bollinger, 982-2722
- Tim Ritchey Martin, 982-0031
- June Stealy, 982-0055
- Marie Willoughby, 982-6970



Timbercrest Film Committee Presents December Films *Come to the Chapel for our films*

Friday, December 6: The Christmas Card

7:00 p.m. – Chapel

Run Time: 1:25 hours w/subtitles

A soldier serving in Afghanistan is deeply touched by an anonymous Christmas card sent by a woman in California. Upon completion of his tour of duty, he returns to the United States on a romantic mission to find the woman who wrote the card.

Friday, December 27: Last Holiday

7:00 p.m. – Chapel

Run Time: 1:50 hours w/subtitles

Learning that she has a terminal illness prompts introverted saleswoman Georgia Byrd (Queen Latifah) to reflect on what she realizes has been an overly cautious life. So Georgia withdraws her life savings and jets off to Europe, where she lives like a millionaire. Upbeat and passionate, Georgia charms everybody she meets, including renowned Chef Didier (Gérard Depardieu). The only one missing from her new life is her longtime crush Sean Matthews (LL Cool J).

Midweek Breaks

A tasty treat is served each **Wednesday from 2:30-3:30 p.m.** in The Nook. This month features:

December 4 Treats from *Beth Sollenberger*
(located in the Assembly Room)

December 11 Santa Claus is Coming to Timbercrest

December 18 Peppermint Ice Cream

December 25 Christmas Day – No Treats

Dementia Learning Group

Family, caregivers and friends of persons with dementia are welcome to the Learners' Group, **Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m.** in The Nook.

This group is open to Timbercrest and the general public. The mutual sharing and support are positive and helpful for those involved.

This Is Christmas Celebrating the Heart of Christmas

Celebrate the heart of Christmas with the First United Methodist Church of Wabash on **Sunday, December 15 at 2:30 p.m.**

“This is Christmas” is a Christmas Cantata by Mary McDonald. Under the direction of Susan Vanlandingham, the afternoon will begin with a full orchestra and harp music at 2:30 p.m. The Cantata will begin at 3:00 p.m. in the beautifully decorated sanctuary.

The bus will leave from the Hub at 1:40 p.m. **Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden or Courtyard.**

Oldies but Goodies

December is a very busy time of year for residents, family and staff. Take a break from the hustle and bustle and join us for a fun Christmas concert in the **Chapel on Thursday, December 19 at 2:00 p.m.**

The group “Oldies but Goodies” featuring Timbercrest resident Lin Metzger will perform some fantastic Christmas tunes as well engage us in a fun sing-a-long.

Narrow Path Gospel Concert

Make your way to the **Assembly Room Tuesday, December 24 at 2:00 p.m.** for a special holiday performance by Narrow Path Gospel.

Richard and Ladonna Hicks have performed at Timbercrest in the past (pre-covid) and are excited to be welcomed back. Their program features the guitar, piano and vocals.

B.O.L.O

Be. On. the Look. Out. You’ve all heard of the Elf on the Shelf? Bernard was on his way to a home near us for this holiday season when Amazon mistakenly left him on our doorstep.

Imagine his delight when he saw all the space and thought of all the mischief he could cause throughout the halls of Timbercrest. For the next 24 days, be on the look out for Bernard and his shenanigans. If you find him, please leave him be!

Maintenance Request Line

For Maintenance concerns, call the Work Order Request Line @ 982-1147. Questions? Call Maintenance!

Door Decorating

We challenge you to a Door Decorating Contest this holiday season! We received permission from the State Fire Marshall to decorate our office doors and apartment doors in the residential side of the manor.

Here are the rules:

- We can not decorate a fire door or a door leading to the outside.
- No Nails, per maintenance
- No tape, No Command Strips per housekeeping.
- Decorations should only be placed on the doors; not on the walls/wallpaper or hand rails.
- Decorating should not start until after the Thanksgiving Holiday and should be removed by January 6.
- Have fun!

If you need supplies, I (Adrienne) may be able to help. I will have sticky putty available as well as some paper supplies. Some door frames are ideal for using magnets. I have a handful of those as well. I also have lots of ideas and inspiration if you need help!

Shopping Guidelines

Weekly Local Shopper

- 1) **Tuesday is the only day for local shopping.**
- 2) Shopping lists are due at Jennifer Gearhart’s office **by 8:00 p.m. Monday evening.**
- 3) Shopping pick-up time is **after 2:00 p.m.** on Tuesday.
- 4) Items will be clearly labeled and available for **pick up in the Resident Activity Room.**
- 5) **All purchases will be charged to your Timbercrest account.**

Resident E-Mail Directory

Timbercrest maintains a private directory of resident e-mail addresses which is only made available to those residents who choose to be included. Please contact the front desk if you want your name and e-mail address to be listed. Then you will receive a copy of the directory. Also, if your copy of the directory is outdated, you can request an updated version at the front desk.

Exercise Opportunities

Our exercise classes have undergone some exciting changes!

- Chair Aerobics – **Monday through Friday at 9:30 a.m. in the Recreation Room**
- Chair Yoga – **Monday at 10:00 a.m.**
- Strength Training – **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Recreation Room**
- Walk & Roll – **Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.; Rose Garden Lounge**

Chair Tai Chi – **Friday at 10:00 a.m. in the Recreation Room**

Carol will host training sessions in the Fitness Center **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:00**. If the equipment seems intimidating, you find equipment difficult to adjust alone, or you just want company, join Carol for a simple workout in the Fitness Center.

Holiday Shipping Deadlines

The United States Postal Service has released their recommended send-by dates for the 2024 Holiday Season.

Mailing and Shipping dates for items sent to **addresses in the Contiguous United States (the lower 48 states):**

- USPS Ground Advantage Service – Dec 18
- First-Class Mail Service -Dec 18
- Priority Mail Service – Dec 19
- Priority Mail Express Service – Dec 21

Holiday Mailing and Shipping dates for items sent to **addresses in Alaska & Hawaii:**

- USPS Ground Advantage Service – Dec 16
- First-Class Mail Service -Dec 18
- Priority Mail Service – Dec 19
- Priority Mail Express Service – Dec 20

For customers sending packages internationally or to military addresses, USPS suggests checking the complete list of recommended holiday mailing and shipping dates at www.usps.com/holidayshippingdates. As always, Melissa Shorter (260-982-3950) is the expert on all things USPS at Timbercrest and is eagerly waiting to answer all of your questions!

Pedestrians Beware

The Timbercrest campus is a beautiful place to walk during every season. We encourage you, as well as community members, to make use of our quiet streets and wooded trails at your leisure.

However, with the changing seasons this brings added precautions. I enjoy a nice evening walk after a long day at work but often need to remember that our shorter daylight hours can be hazardous. Please walk with a flashlight and bright or reflective clothing.

We ask that you stay alert to traffic both in front and behind you. Hearing can become difficult when we add warm weather gear or musical devices. It's always a good idea to walk towards traffic, along the side of the road. Finally, always be aware of your surroundings when crossing or coming to an intersection.

Christmas Dinner

If you would like to join us for Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 25th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm., **reservations will be required by Friday, December 20th**. Please call the Front Desk at 982-2118 to make reservations. The cost for the meal is \$12.00. It is included if you are on a Timbercrest Dinner Meal Plan. Any questions, please contact Penny at 260-982-3964 or Angel at 260-982-4595.

If you have something you would like featured in the Timberline or a group you would like highlighted, please email [Adrienne @ akamphues@timbercrest.org](mailto:Adrienne@akamphues@timbercrest.org)



WATCHWORD:

¹⁸ *This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.* ¹⁹ *Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.* ²⁰ *As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.* Matthew 1:18-20

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Meditation:

Advent

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come." -- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I believe that Bonhoeffer was an exceptional theologian and Pastor, and a man of great courage and depth. So much of his writings have broadened our understanding of Christianity. But his statement on Advent, well, that requires some honest, self-evaluation. Do you consider yourself poor and imperfect? I do and, may I be so bold as to assume that you do, too? I guess that makes us troubled souls.

His contention that Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, throws me off, just a bit. I admit, I am poor and imperfect, who isn't? To me, Advent is a fact, an announcement of the coming of The Messiah. Yes, we look forward to something greater to come. We know the "something greater", but is his statement referring to the Baby Jesus, or all that His coming, brings to us through the power of God and our belief and faith?

The history of Advent is an interesting one. Scholars tell us that during the 4th and 5th centuries, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the feast of Epiphany, God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to

the baby Jesus, His baptism as an adult by John, followed by his first miracle at Cana. Those early Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration. Originally, there was little or no connection between Advent and Christmas.

Yes, it has changed, and yet it has stayed the same. It is a sacred season. We honor Christ's advent with prayer, worship services, the lighting of candles signifying the days leading up to His birth. I don't see much fasting, but, I do believe, there is some penance, and personal confessing.

As I think about the Bonhoeffer statement, I'm more amenable to its meaning. If we are honest with ourselves we would freely admit that there are times when we are troubled of soul. Our faith and commitment to the incarnate God who walked this earth, who loves us so much as to give an ultimate sacrifice and we know that is something greater, the gift of the resurrection, the central pillar of all that we believe.

So here we are. We will soon light the next Advent candle. In our quiet time with God, we say with conviction, come, Lord Jesus, come precious Savior and come incarnate God. Come. Amen.

(Days of Advent – Sunday, December 1 through Tuesday, December 24, 2024)

Advent Movie Suggestion:

Jesus Revolution. This film is based on the autobiographical book by [Greg Laurie](#), Pastor of Harvest Fellowship of Riverside California. An entertaining and inspiring true story of the start of the Jesus movement of 1971, that began in California and spread world-wide. Find it on Netflix. I highly recommend.

Closing Prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Watchwords are written by Stan Escott and sent out in e-mail every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. To subscribe to this free devotional, go to bosworth30.com/watchwords and enter your e-mail address, or call Stan Escott (578-2519).

