



Rev. Norwood N. "Woody" Hingle III, Ph. D; Sunday School: 9:15 AM; Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
(504) 288-2242; email: office@LakeVistaUMC.org website: <http://www.LakeVistaUMC.org>; Vol. 19:12 –December- 2018

A Word from Woody...

Getting to Know Sue Johnson

One of the great gems of Lake Vista UMC is tucked away nicely on the North Shore at Christwood Retirement Community in Covington. This gem is known as Sue Johnson, who at 96 is still amazingly alert and spry. She lives with her aptly-named cat Sweetie. Her church membership, along with that of her late beloved husband Pittman, goes back to the early years in the 1950s. I had the privilege to visit with her recently.

Woody: Where were you raised in New Orleans?

Sue: I grew up uptown on Short Street, and then on Sycamore Street.

W: What were your parents like?

Sue: They were great—**couldn't have been better.** I loved them both, and I think they loved me. My Mother was warm and tender and loving. My Daddy was loving too. We had a special thing too—he and I. My brothers thought my Daddy would go along with anything I wanted! When I got be older, I was still his girl. We had a special love for each other. I liked everything about him—he was loving, he was smart, he was a hard worker. He was in the insurance business. Around 1912 he graduated from LSU. I also had two brothers—Johnny was 6 years older than I, and Stephen was 3 years older than I. Stephen died at the age of 35 after a surgery from which he never recovered. Johnny was killed in an automobile accident.

W: What was Christmas like when you were growing up?

Sue: It was great. All the family was together; we loved each other. Our grandparents on both sides were in Baton Rouge. **My Mother's parents were on Highland Road, and my Daddy's parents lived in the country off Highland Road. We would visit them at Christmas.**

W: What was your home church?

Sue: Carrollton Ave. UMC. I went to Sunday School as a child, and I was married there.

W: How did you meet your husband Mr. Pittman?

Sue: My brother Johnny introduced us at LSU around 1939. We were at the Student Center at LSU and he and Pittman were in the same fraternity—Delta Sigma Phi. I was in the sorority Delta Delta Delta ("Tri Delta"). I was dating a boy in New Orleans, but then I decided I wanted to date Pittman. We went together for three years before we got married.

W: How did you like going to LSU?

Sue: I liked everything about LSU—the people, the activities.

The people were friendly. My major was French, and I studied at the French House, where you were not allowed to speak anything but French. The trip back to New Orleans from Baton Rouge at that time was two hours.

W: How long were you married?

Sue: We got married on July 28, 1942, and he died in 2008, so we were married 66 years. I liked being married to him, and I still miss him. I miss his being there and knowing we loved each other. On Saturday afternoons we liked to go to the matinee movies, and we liked to dance together—like the fox trot. We did not like the waltz—it was too slow!

W: Tell me about your children.

Sue: We got both our children through adoption. It was difficult to get our first child, but the second one was easier. We got my son Pitt first in 1952 at four months old, and we got our daughter Patti in 1955 at two months. Pitt now lives in San Antonio with his wife, and Patti lives in Folsom. I have one grandchild,

Pitt's daughter Allison, and two great-granddaughters.

W: When did you start following Jesus?

Sue: I hope from the time I was born! I was brought up in the church. My Mother brought me up in the church when I was small. My Mother was Baptist, but became Methodist, and my Dad was Catholic, but he did not become Methodist.

W: How has your relationship with Jesus enriched your life today?

Sue: I get the Upper Room devotional book and try to keep up with that, and I read the Bible passage with that. The Bible is by my chair. It helps me be quiet and feel **God's love.**

W: Is there anything you would like to say to the members of Lake Vista UMC for this Christmas?

Sue: I say it for all times, not just Christmas—your fine memories of this experience at church will go all through your life. Be with your church and do what is right in the **Lord's name!**

Amen! Many thanks to Sue Johnson for sharing from **her life with us. She reminds me of Proverbs 11:16a, "A gracious woman gets honor. . ."** Sue is a gift from God to Lake Vista UMC-- every visit I have with her is a blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Woody



Youth Corner Christmas Breakfast

We had a great time going to Adventure Quest Laser Tag last month. We not only enjoyed breaking up into teams for laser tag, but also had the chance to try out our driving skills with bumper cars!

This month on Saturday, December 8th we will have a **Christmas Breakfast at the Goudeau's home (4600 N. Turnbull, Metairie)** from 10:00-12:00 Noon. We will enjoy a yummy breakfast, devotional on the meaning of **Christmas, and our "white elephant" gift-giving-and-taking game!** All one needs to do to participate in this game is to bring a wrapped gift costing no more than \$5. Please be sure to invite friends!



Church Family Night

Church Family Night will meet on Wednesday, December 5th with a Christmas ham supper from 6:00-7:00 PM. Rev. Dr. Mark Crosby, senior pastor of Live Oak UMC in Watson, LA, will share his testimony and tell about his **church's joining the Wesleyan Covenant Association.** Please make plans to come, and bring friends!



Last month's speaker, Beau Crosetto (L) with Norwood and friend.

Have a Strong-willed Child?

If you have a strong-willed child, help is here! Pastor Woody is leading this class based on psychologist **Dr. James Dobson's book and workbook *The New Strong-willed Child*** this month on Tuesday, December 11th from 6:30-7:30 PM. This is a nine-session class, and this month will mark its sixth meeting. Free childcare will be provided. The two books can be purchased through the church for \$22, or you can purchase them yourselves at Amazon.com. Please help get the word out on this important class, and feel free to attend any of the gatherings.

Christmas Day Luncheon

All are invited to a potluck Christmas dinner at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall, which Linda Scherer hosts. She will provide turkey, and all are asked to bring side dishes or dessert and a \$10 new gift item suitable for man or woman for the Naughty Santa game.

Christmas Cheer



Stewardship and Planning for 2019

The Finance Committee is preparing to meet to **plan next year's budget.**

If you have not yet turned in a pledge card for 2019, you are urged to do so as soon as possible. Cards are available at both entrances to the sanctuary, or you can call the church office at 504 288-2242 to have one mailed to you (or to check whether you have submitted yours).

To date, we have \$91,200 in pledges for 2019. While any of these commitments may be revised or **cancelled at any time at the pledger's request**, your pledges help the committee to project how best to use the funds God will make available to them through the **congregation's planned giving.**

Christmas Tea and Angel Tree Party

: On Sunday, December 16th we will celebrate Christmas together as a congregation in a special way. After worship we will adjourn to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious lunch with the Angel Tree children and their families! We will have a fun time together with a party after lunch and then distribute the gifts to the Angel Tree families. Linda Gilmore is organizing the luncheon.

Christmas Eve Service

On Monday, December 24th we will worship the Christ child in our Christmas Eve worship service from 5:00-6:00. We will hear the gospel proclaimed, share in communion together, and close the beautiful service with a candle-light singing of "Silent Night". This is a great opportunity to invite friends and relatives!

Advent Devotionals Are Here!

If you have not gotten your Advent Devotional book, please contact the church office (288-2242) to get yours.

Prayer Focus

- ✠ Barbara Velasquez, health
- ✠ The UMC, unity and faithfulness to the Bible and its doctrines
- ✠ Beryl Lynn Jones, recovery from surgery
- ✠ Susan Doyle, recovery from surgery
- ✠ Cheryl Strauss, in the death of her beloved husband Jim
- ✠ Herbert and Brenda Marks, in the death of his beloved son Robert
- ✠ Celebrate with Scott, Colleen, and Mairin Bond in the birth of Emmeline Adair Ellen Bond on November 28th

Christmas Sermon Series

Pastor Hingle will take a brief break from the sermon series on the Gospel of John called "Good News for Life" to give an Advent sermon series called "What Difference Does Christmas Make?" You are encouraged to invite friends to this series as Pastor Hingle explains **God's original intent for us with the birth of Christ, as opposed to the secular world's frequent take on Christmas** as more of a focus on time away from work, abstract proclamation of peace and love, and gift giving. **Pastor Hingle's messages will highlight important themes in the Bible on Christ's advent**—expectation, contemplation, revelation, salvation, fascination, and sanctification.

Finally, a Time for Guys!

We have a new adult Sunday School class which is geared for men! Pastor Woody Hingle is leading this group that meets in the Library at 9:30 AM, and we are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. Also, the men will enjoy their monthly supper together on Tuesday, December 18th from 6:30-8:00 PM at New Orleans Hamburger and Seafood, 817 Veterans Memorial Blvd. in Metairie—and please bring your Bibles. All men are invited and encouraged to bring friends!



Read your newsletter online at <http://www.LakeVistaUMC.org>

Angel Tree Returns!

We are blessed to be participating again in Prison Fellowship's outreach ministry to prisoners called Angel Tree. Paper angel ornaments will be available beginning Sunday, December 2nd on the Christmas tree in the sanctuary's front foyer. Each paper angel ornament represents a child who has a parent in prison, and we have the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for that child on behalf of the parent—a clothing gift and toy/fun gift, both combined costing no more than \$40. These gifts should be wrapped, tied together, and have the paper angel attached to the gift bundle, and returned to the church office by Wednesday, December 12th. For more information please call the church office (288-2242).

Skeptic's Corner

This event will return on Friday, December 14th at a new time—11:30 AM-12:45 PM-- in the Parlor at church. We will continue our discussion of Paul Copan's *Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God*. We will discuss chapter 13 and the latter part of Thom Stark's rejoinder to Copan in his online book *Is God a Moral Compromiser*, pages 180-205.

Prayer Walk Around the Neighborhood

Prayer Walk: Saturday, December 15th from 10:30-11:30 AM. Please join us for this wonderful ministry!

Small Group Offerings

Wednesday SONset and Wonderful Wednesday Bible— The SONrise service will meet only on December 5th and 12th, and the Bible study will just meet on the 12th, which is led by Pastor Woody and will go over the previous Sunday's sermon. The Bible study meets in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00-8:00 PM. All are welcome!
The S(tudy), P(ray), A(ct) Ladies' The SPA ladies are taking a break from Kelly Minter's study on 2 Corinthians, *All Things New*. Beginning December 4th at Debby's house they will participate in a four week advent study of Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christmas*. The study alternates between Debby Grimm's and Cheryl Richard's houses on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. All are welcome to participate.

Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings. Adult classes meet in the Parlor and library. Youth and children meet in the Education Building. Sunday School is cancelled Sunday, December 23rd for Our Christmas Pancake Breakfast.

Christmas Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday, December 23rd we will enjoy a relaxing time of Christian community at a pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. The breakfast will be from 9:00-10:00 AM, and *in lieu* of Sunday School we will have a brief devotional at 10:00 AM.

A lighthouse for Christ in the heart of the lakefront.

Lake Vista

United Methodist Church

6645 Spanish Fort Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124