



# THE LAMPLIGHTER



## DECEMBER 2009

WOODRUFF GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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### Musings from Pastor Phred

#### “Good Ol’ Saint Nick”

December 6<sup>th</sup> is the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. It falls on a Sunday this year, so I have decided my sermon that day will be a biography of Saint Nicholas. We all know Jolly ol’ Saint Nick but who knows anything about the good Saint Nicholas, Patron Saint of Children? I hope you will be interested to learn about the man whose name we know so well.

I will give a warning, in medieval times people were more interested in a good story than our modern concept of critical history. You may find the stories about Saint Nicholas a little hard to swallow. One of my pet peeves is people who judge the people of antiquity by today’s standards. To say, “Tsk, tsk what wild tales” is easy. Our job is not to criticize that the ancients expressed their faith as a bunch of fanciful tales. Our job is to accept these stories as the way our church ancestors expressed themselves. Then ask ourselves how can these stories speak to our faith? Saint Nicholas was concerned for the poor and oppressed and had a loving, giving heart. If more people were like Saint Nicholas, Christmas would be more celebrative and less about hassles and the haste of holiday preparations.

I periodically preach on the Saints, both the canonized saints of the Catholic Church (those who have “St.” in front of their names) and our Methodist saints. I surely hope everyone in this Evangelical Church knows Jacob Albright! The Saints are not superheroes we cheer on, and then continue

to live our lowly lives. The Saints are ordinary people who lived exemplary holiness. We study the Saints as examples of living our faith.

Regarding this praying to the Saints stuff. I do not get it. We Protestants always respond, we can pray straight to Jesus, we do not need to pray to the Saints. True but to the point? I have asked several people from churches that pray to the Saints, what this praying to the Saints is all about. The answer that makes most sense to me is we do not so much pray to the Saints but pray with the Saints. That makes sense to me. They are in heaven praying and praising God. We are on earth praying and praising God. So, are we not praying together?

My middle name is Gerald. When I was about 30 I discovered I was born on St. Gerald’s Day. So, I adopted St. Gerald as my personal Patron Saint. I confess, sometimes I pray to St. Gerald. When I was a chaplain I often prayed to St. Gerald - when I was called back to the hospital in the middle of the night. I knew prayer was needed but I did not have time to pray. I figured St. Gerald may like having someone for whom to pray. So I would ask St. Gerald to pray for me and the situation at the hospital.

I hope as you walk your path of faith you will have times when you find inspiration in the lives of the Saints. I hope in the hustle and bustle of the season St. Nicholas will bless you with the true meaning of Christmas.

See ya’ Sunday, with the saints,  
in the Lord’s house, Pastor Phred

## Administrative Board

The Administrative Board meeting was held two weeks early in November in order to approve several reports we are required to handle prior to the Charge Conference. The attendance at this meeting was rather small, but this might have been due to the change of date. The financial condition of the Church was discussed and we are doing a little better than we were the first part of the year. I would encourage all committees to be represented at all Administrative Board meetings. We need a good exchange of information and ideas to help the growth of our Church. This will also help us coordinate the different activities of our congregation so that they will all be successful.

*John Russell, Chairman*

## Education Committee / Missions

The Education Committee will be joining the Mission Committee to help nine children in three families this Christmas Season. We will be accepting monetary donations which may be put in the brown Mission envelopes in the pews, but if you would like to shop for this family yourself, a list is available. ***Please let Marilyn Grossman know if you plan to focus on one specific person, so that we do not duplicate for that individual.***

## Choir Notes

Our Christmas Cantata, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" practices are going well! We can hardly wait to share this with you. Our Cantata will be Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am. We hope you will invite your friends, neighbors and family to this very meaningful presentation and begin your week of Christmas with a song of love and joy in your heart!

## CD Ministry



We have good news! We are now able to burn CD's (make a copy) of our worship services. If you are interested in obtaining a CD of one, please call our church office at 854-2067.

## Kids' Club



It takes many dedicated people to make Kids' Club work. This year we had an average of 61 kids during October and November. Twice we had 66 kids. We have people who pick kids up at school, people who prepare delicious food, table workers who pass out food, help with crafts & games, and listen to our children, people who help prepare crafts, teachers, song leaders, piano players, and lots of people who pray for Kids' Club.

### **A special thanks to these people:**

Tom Atkins, Pastor Phred Cain, Barb Cassel, Judy Fetters, Gary & Marilyn Grossman, Molly Grossman, Darlene McKowen, Travis McNall, Elizabeth Montgomery, Cindy O'Brian, Jeff & Rosy O'Brian, Jeanie Park, Larry Patrick, Sheri Ringler, Betty Runkle, Bob & Jan Russell, Emily Sparrow, Larry & Birdeen Sweet, David Tubbs, Jan Uffelman, Charlie & LaDonna Whetzel, Barb Young, Jacque Young, Jennifer Young, Marty Young, Kevin Zink, & our church for their prayers and support.

### **THANK YOU!**

Our Christmas program is Sunday December 6 at 6:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy the program and welcome our kids and their families. Each child participating will get a gift. Each child attending will get a treat from Woodruff Grove.

Also please continue to pray for Kids' Club. We have some serious decisions to make about transportation and how to continue Kids' Club. *-Karen Grossman*

## Pecans



Pecans are for sale just in time for holiday baking by the Ladies' Aide. Halves are \$6.75 and pieces are \$6.50 for a 16 oz. package. Please see Marty or Jacque to get yours today!

## Upcoming Rummage Sale...

While you're cleaning out your closets remember the plans are in the works for next year's Rummage Sale. ***Please, if possible, do not bring your Rummage Sale items in until after January 1<sup>st</sup>!*** Stay tuned for the date of our 2010 Rummage Sale!

## Ladies Aid

At our November meeting, we chose to support seven different missions for Christmas with \$200 apiece including Fort Wayne Rescue Mission, Clothes & Food Basket, Living Waters Christian School, Youth for Christ, Joy in the Harvest (Lowell and Claudie Wertz), Bashor Children's Home, and Lucille Raines. On December 1<sup>st</sup> we will be taking food into the Clothes & Food Basket for the volunteer workers for the Christmas Bureau. If anyone would like to help furnish anything, please call Jacque Young or Marty Young. Marty will be taking it from the church at 9am.

We will have our Christmas dinner at Tiffany's in Topeka at 11:30 on Wednesday, December 9. If you want to carpool, please be at the church by 11:00. We have decided not to have meetings in January, February or March because of the chance of bad weather. We will start up with our April meeting on the second Wednesday.

We will take cookies for Youth for Christ any Monday that we have enough in the freezer to make it worthwhile, so anytime you want to furnish cookies, just put them in the first freezer and write "Youth for Christ" on them. They were very grateful the last time we sent them. Thanks again to all who have helped with our public suppers and any other projects we have done.

*Marty Young*

### **Remind your Prayer Partner that you're praying for them!**

*We will be getting new prayer partners in February. Please let Marty Young know if you'd like to be included or removed from this list as soon as possible.*

## College Students

We ask that you uphold these young women and men in your prayers. Let them hear from you, our church family, with encouragement and support while they are far away - especially during the holidays. A word from "back home" can be uplifting and make a huge difference! (A list is available by request at our church office.)



## **Scriptures and Sermon Titles**

**December 2009**

### **Sunday, 6 December 2009**

Second Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Mark 10: 13-16

Sermon Title: St. Nicholas

### **Sunday, 13 December 2009**

Third Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon Title: Rejoice, the Lord Is Near

### **Sunday, 20 December 2009**

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Luke 1:46-55

Sermon Title: With What Are You Clothed?

### **Sunday, 27 December 2009**

First Sunday in Christmas

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

Sermon Title: Let Us Start the Year Clothed in Love



## **Movie Night**

**"It's a Wonderful Life"** will be our movie pick on December 9th at 6:30pm. Come and enjoy this classic old favorite. George Bailey shows us the value each of us has on society - even here at Woodruff Grove!

Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have a matinee of newly released **"Up"** for our younger or young-at-heart audience. Up has had good reviews and promises to be endearing and uplifting for all those who watch it!

We will have popcorn, as always, during both movies. All of this is free. Please consider using this opportunity to invite friends and family to join us. We will not have babysitting services. Last month we again had 17 people. We hope that you will plan to come to our Movie times and help us welcome our visitors to Woodruff Grove. Please see Jim or Susan Young with your questions or ideas!

## Youth Fellowship

The Youth Council met and divided up the months to have Youth Fellowship meetings, and talked to the youth about different possibilities of youth concerts that we might attend in the next year. Plans for our new year are already underway.

We are talking about doing local community mission projects for the coming year. We are going to help at the Senior Citizens dinner at the Johnson Twp. Fire Department on December 13. One thing we are strongly considering is putting some playground equipment in the yard to the north of the church. Other possibilities are helping at the Clothes and Food Basket or the Council on Aging. A tentative date for our Lock-In this year is January 22 & 23. Molly and Brian Grossman will be in charge of that. Other things that we have discussed are paint balling, canoeing, and going skiing. We are going to either adopt a cottage at Bashor for Christmas, or help with the family the church adopts for Christmas.

We will meet December 13th after the dinner, and at that time we will be electing new officers for 2010. We invite all our youth from Woodruff from sixth grade to seniors. There are a lot of things vying for our time, let's just be sure that we give some time to our God. After all, He gives us all His time! *-Marty Young*

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to invite anyone interested in learning to knit or crochet to come on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30pm. Barb Cassel, our "master knitter", is a great teacher. Any time you know of someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please feel free to take one from the display in the front of the sanctuary.

## Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

We will again have a Christmas Eve Candle-Light Service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10pm. Plan to come and bring your family and friends and begin your Christmas celebration with this service!

## UMCOR helps in the Philippines

In late September and October, four typhoons - Ketsana, Parma, Lupit and Mirinae, hit the Philippines, leaving more than a thousand dead and an estimated 1.3 million people displaced. Causing drowning, landslides and electrocutions, the storms also had a disastrous impact on farmlands, houses, and infrastructure. The country faces a public health emergency and is struggling to fight outbreaks of infection. In addition, the storms and flooding affected more than 200,000 United Methodists in 1,372 local churches. You can help our Philippine United Methodist brothers and sisters through donations to UMCOR.



## December Birthdays

1. Alayna Rasler
2. Cole Howe  
Greg Rasler
7. Pastor Brad Garrett
13. Deb Young
15. Jeffrey Morris  
Barbara Young  
Martha Zook
17. Seth Young  
Bill Thomas
19. Amber R. Miller
20. T.J. Thompson  
Susan Howe
25. Susan Young
27. Katie Caldwell
30. Mony Howe  
Felicia Jordan



## December Anniversaries

- 18 Jeff & Rosy O'Brian  
Homer & Norma Shultz
- 30 Keith & Amy Thompson

**Come see Woodruff Grove on the web at: [www.woodruffgroveumc.org](http://www.woodruffgroveumc.org)  
Add us to your “favorite” file and check us out as we continue to grow!**

If you have any news items you would like to have put in the January issue of “The Lamplighter” newsletter, please let Rosy O’Brian know. We’d like to include them! The deadline for submissions will be the morning of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009. If you have any address updates or corrections, or if you would like to be taken off our mailing list, please let us know that too! You may contact us by e-mail at [woodruffgrove@yahoo.com](mailto:woodruffgrove@yahoo.com) with this information. Thanks!