



THE LAMPLIGHTER



MARCH 2011

WOODRUFF GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Musings from Pastor Phred “Do You Want to Be Well?”

A man who had been sick for 38 years sat by the pool called Bethzatha. He hoped to enter the water to be healed when it was stirred (John 5: 2-9). Jesus asked him, “Do you want to be made well?” What a question! Jesus, what do you think he was doing there?

In college I met a blind girl. She shared that friends were praying for her. Praying that a miracle would happen and she would be healed of her blindness. These prayers troubled her. She finally decided she did not want to be healed. If she regained her sight she would no longer be special. If she regained her sight she would have to give up her seeing-eye dog. I imagine a blind person and her dog are very, very close. She did not want to be made well and that is OK.

Let me pose a slightly different question: Does Woodruff Grove UMC want to grow? What a question! Think about it.

In my marriage and family therapy classes I learned every addition to a family changes the whole family. Think of when your first child was born. How did that affect your family? Think of when your first child went to college, joined the military, or married. How did that affect your family?

So it is with the church. Every time someone joins the church, every time someone leaves the community, every time someone dies the whole church changes. Which changes do we want at Woodruff Grove? The changes of

growth or the changes of death? A stupid question? Some churches find growth to be so traumatic that they opt for a slow death. Let Woodruff Grove United Methodist Church choose to be a growing church. Even though growth means change - becoming new.

See ya' Sunday, with the saints, in the Lord's house.
Pastor Phred Cain

Kids' Club



Kids' Club starts March 1. We will meet on Tuesdays (March 1, 8, 15, and 22) from about 3:30 to 5:00. This spring session is called "Hugging the World". The lessons are about God's mission to spread His message around the world. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) God's love goes far beyond any of our boundaries and reaches the whole world. Please help spread God's love to the children of our community. Help is always needed and appreciated. Keep Kids' Club in your thoughts and prayers. *Karen Grossman*

Newsletter Saints



Thank you to all the faithful newsletter helpers: Amy Thompson, Betty Kreigh, Dot Smyers, Karen Grossman, Susan Jones, Barb Young and Betty Runkle. They have been available to fill in at a moment's notice! Because of their faithful assistance the newsletter arrives in your mailbox in a timely fashion. Thank you again!

Meetings, What an Awful Way to Die!

There are two types of churches. Those who have many and long meetings but accomplish nothing. Those who have short, to the point meetings and do a lot of things. Thank God! Woodruff Grove UMC is in the second category!

I have come to the conclusion meetings are about communications. Churches which accomplish nothing are churches whose meetings are gossip and complaining sessions. They do not communicate and they accomplish nothing. Churches which accomplish things are churches whose meetings are to the point. Then they put on their Nikes and "Just Do It." This is Woodruff Grove. Little talk and lots of action.

So, come to meetings! You will not die!

I have also come to the conclusion the one meeting that is most about communications is the Administrative Board. The Administrative Board is when every chairperson reports on what his or her committee has done and is planning to do. This is not a time of groveling and asking for permission. It is a time of sharing what the parts of the body are doing for the edification of the whole body. It is a time of reporting and rejoicing! We have moved the Administrative Board to Sundays in hope more people will attend.

So, please, if you are a member of the Administrative Board, come. Report. Rejoice!

Our next Administrative Board meeting is on Sunday, 20 March, after Sunday School.

I plan to see you there.

Peace & grace, *Pastor Phred Cain*

Rummage Sale



Our Rummage Sale dates have been made.

Set up dates: May 9, 10 & 11

Sale dates: May 12, 13 & 14

We will need a lot of help with this fund-raiser and hope you will plan to participate.

Please put these dates on your calendar.

Remember to tell your friends, family and neighbors - you are our best advertisement!

Please start bringing your donations to the back of the fellowship hall as soon as possible!

We also need medium, large and big cardboard boxes.

If you have any questions please contact Jacque Young or Marilynn Grossman.

Report from the Treasurer



As I learn more and more about my job and strive to do it to my best ability, I start to learn how much has been contributed by our past Treasurers. God bless you for all you have contributed to God's work.

I am continually amazed at the support from all of Woodruff Groves parishioners. Every time I start to get concerned over finances God reminds me that He will always take care of our needs. In the past year, not only have we been able to pay the bills, but you as a congregation have contributed a substantial amount of support to our monthly mission outreaches. God's work is being done, by Woodruff Grove, and in great ways.

God Bless, *Jim Young*

Remember Others



Please keep our shut-ins and our college students in your prayers and consider sending them cards or paying a visit to those who are unable to come to church.

PLEASE notify the church office of any changes, corrections or additions to addresses or phone numbers.

Evangelism Committee



Our Committee recently met and made some exciting plans for 2011. One activity we hope to involve our church family with is to give away Easter bags on Saturday, April 23. We hope you will join us for this fun activity. We will need help with gathering items for our bags (candy), putting our bags together and distributing our bags. We hope to do this very similarly to our "Trunk or Treat" last fall in the Farmers State Bank parking lot in Wolcottville.

Look for our box in the Gathering Place to donate candy or other items for this project. If you have any questions, please see Beverly Jordan.

Baptism or Church Membership



If you are interested in becoming Baptized and/or Church Membership, please share this with Pastor Phred or call him at: 854-2067 or at revfgcain@yahoo.com

Outer Circle Cluster



The Outer Cluster is planning a trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) in Chatham, Illinois (near Springfield) on Thursday and Friday, April 15th and 16th. We will travel Thursday morning, work in the afternoon and Friday morning and then return home Friday evening.

This is an opportunity for you to see "mission" at work and also be a small part of touching someone's life. . Following are the totals of what the mission and people like you accomplished in 2010.

2010 Totals: Looking back at 2010, it's important to see what has been accomplished; what God has done through MMDC in 2010.

In 2010 MMDC Distributed:

- 72,563 Health kits
- 1,810 Layette Kits
- 2,772 Cleaning Buckets
- 12,859 School Kits
- 655 Sewing Kits
- 122 Birthing Kits
- 7,646 Haiti Student School Bags
- 137 Haiti Teacher School Bags
- 192 School Desks

Volunteers helped make this happen. In total, in 2010: 28,214 volunteer hours were served at MMDC. God is good! But there are others, other faithful volunteers who do the work within their churches and homes making kits, sewing items, your hours are not in this total, but you are not forgotten. Thank you for your service.

Thank you to all of those who served in 2010; we hope you will partner, volunteer, and serve with us in 2011! *Jeanie Park*

Daytime Bible Study



The blizzard put a damper on our first attempt to meet! We were able to begin our 10 week study on February 9th and are enjoying tackling the interesting subject of Angels with Dr. David Jeremiah. Angels were created the second day of creation. Did you know that all angels were created on that same day, no new ones were created later and they never age, get sick or die? We have a great group and are eager to learn and fellowship! We are also having fun with our show-and-tell of Angels we've collected over the years! *Rosy O'Brian*

Campbell Soup Labels



DO YOUR MENUS INCLUDE products from Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, Prego, V8 or Pop Secret? Or do you use any Bic products? All of these brands contain a Labels for Education symbol which we at Woodruff Grove are collecting for Henderson Settlement..

Maybe you think your few won't matter- but they DO! How exciting it was to be sorting and counting them at Henderson as we were getting closer to enough for a van- Yes! A van for transporting the youth to and from the activities at the Settlement. They have several in use now, but they are always looking to add or replace the vans.

This MISSION project doesn't cost you any extra, but says a lot to those in need. There is a box in the Gathering Place to place your UPC codes or the label and I'll see they get cut and delivered to Henderson! Thanks, *Jeanie Park*

Youth Fellowship



Our Youth Fellowship will have a "lock-in" starting on Friday, March 4th at 6 pm until Saturday, March 5th at 9am. We hope we have all of our Youth Fellowship kids in attendance - and that each brings a friend! Please let Marty Young know if you plan to attend and how many guests you will bring.

Ash Wednesday Services



Our Outer Circle Cluster Churches are grouping to have two services on Wednesday, March 9th for your convince.

March 9th, 9am - Ash Wednesday Service at
Topeka United Methodist Church

March 9th, 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service at
Shipshewana United Methodist Church

Community Lenten Services



Please see the back cover of the newsletter for a full schedule! We hope you will join us as we meet as a community at each other's churches. We will host the Community Lenten Service on April 3rd. Please make an effort to not only come while we host, but join the worship services at our neighboring churches too! You will be glad you did!



Dates to put on your calendar:

"Anointing of Hands": May 15
Woodruff Grove Rummage Sale
Set-Up dates: May 9, 10, 11
Sale dates: May 12, 13 & 14
Graduate Recognition: May 22
Vacation Bible School:
9am-2pm June 18



Scriptures and Sermon Titles March 2011

Sunday, 6 March 2011

Last Sunday after the Epiphany
 Transfiguration Sunday
 Scripture: Matthew 17:1-8, 14-18
 Sermon Title: After the Mountaintop

Bishop Mike Coyner has requested the pastors of the Indiana Conference preach a Lenten series of sermons on the Theme "Called by God." Seems like a good idea to me. The following sermon titles are those suggested by Bishop Mike.

Sunday, 13 March 2011

First Sunday in Lent
 Scripture: I Samuel 3:1-11
 Matthew 4:18-22
 Sermon Title: Called by God
 Sermon Series: Called by God

Sunday, 20 March 2011

Second Sunday in Lent
 Scripture: Matthew 5:1-2
 Sermon Title: Called to Discipleship
 Sermon Series: Called by God

Sunday, 27 March 2011

Third Sunday in Lent
 Scripture: I John 4:7-21
 Sermon Title: Called to Love
 Sermon Series: Called by God



An Irish Blessing

I wish you not a path devoid of clouds,
 Nor a life on a bed of roses.
 Nor, that you might never need regret,
 Nor that you should never feel pain.
 No, this is not my wish for you.
 My wish for you is:
 That you might be brave in times of trial
 When other's lay crosses upon your shoulders.
 When mountains must be climbed and chasms crossed,
 When hope scarce shines through.
 When every gift God gave you might grow along with you,
 And let you give the gift of joy to all who care for you.
 That you might always have a friend who is worth that name.
 Whom you can trust.
 And hope will be, in times of sadness,
 Who will defy the storms of life by your side.
 One more wish for you:
 That in every hour of joy and pain,
 You may be close to God.
 This is my wish for you and those who are close to you.
 This is my hope for you, now and forever.



March Birthdays

2. Larry Sweet
4. Evan Thomas
6. Terry Voirol
10. Deb Miller
13. Pastor Phred Cain
Norma Shultz
16. Caleb Young
19. Lizzy Grossman
21. Jacque Young
22. Harold Runkle
23. Joel Huguenard
24. Ty McNall
26. Joe Cassel
Jan Russell
27. Fay Sturtz
Jim Thomas
30. Korey Penick
Linda Patterson
31. Scott McKibben



March Anniversaries

1. Larry & Birdeen Sweet
15. Jack & Betty North
25. Lester & Joyce Robinson

If you have any news items you would like to have put in the April 2011 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 March 21st. 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 with this information. Thanks!