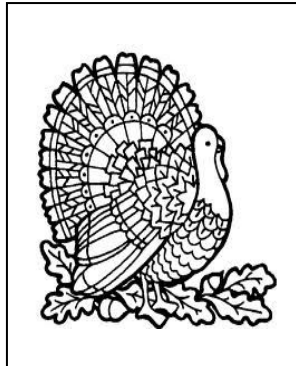




THE LAMPLIGHTER



NOVEMBER 2011

WOODRUFF GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Musings from Pastor Phred "Happy New Year!"

O.K. I can hear you. "Happy New Year? That's two months off. That preacher's gone crazy!" The New Year is here sooner than you think, the Church New Year that is.

The Church calendar starts with the First Sunday in Advent. This Sunday falls on either the last Sunday in November or the first Sunday in December. (This is why Sunday School Quarterlies start with the first Sunday in December, not January.) This year Advent starts on Sunday, 27 November.

The Church calendar is based on the three most important Holy Days, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. These three Holy Days are of equal importance.

The calendar starts with Christmas, which starts with Advent. Advent is a Latin word that means "to come." Advent is the season we prepare for the coming of Christ, as a baby in Bethlehem and His second coming at the end of time. Advent starts four Sundays before Christmas. This year Christmas Day lands on Sunday. Christmas Day is never a Sunday in Advent. The fourth Sunday in Advent is always the Sunday before Christmas. Advent is followed by the Twelve Days of Christmas - Christmas Day though the 5th of January. The evening of January 5th is known as Twelfth Night and is celebrated in some cultures. January 6th is the Epiphany, the traditional day for the visitation of the Magi, or as some call them, the wise men. Some cultures exchange gifts on the Epiphany, not Christmas Day, because the Magi gave gifts to

the Christ Child. Epiphany ends the Christmas season. The Sundays after Epiphany are ordinary time.

The next Holy Day is Easter which starts with Lent, which starts with Ash Wednesday. After John baptized Jesus, He spent forty days fasting in the desert. At the end of the forty days Satan tempted Jesus. Lent lasts forty days (not counting Sundays) in remembrance of Jesus' fast in the desert. Fasting is a common practice during Lent for the same reason. The last week of Lent is Holy Week - Palm Sunday, the remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Maundy Thursday, the remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper, which was a Passover Seder, and Good Friday, the remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross. Three days later, on Easter, Jesus rose from the dead.

I've heard it before: "Sunday is two days after Friday." Not if you are Roman. The Romans called the first day of the month the calends. The second day of the month was the second day after the calends, the third day or the month the third day after the calends, and so forth until they reached the ides. The ides was usually on the 15th, so the 16th was the second day after the ides, the 17th was the third day after the ides, and so forth to the end of the month. A Roman would count: Jesus was buried on Friday, Saturday was the second day after the burial, and Sunday was the third day after the burial. So, the Bible is right (for the culture in which it was written) Jesus rose on the third day. (continued, next page)

The Easter Season lasts for seven weeks and concludes with Pentecost. Pentecost is a Greek word that means 50 days. Pentecost was the Greek name given to the Jewish Feast of Weeks (also known as the Feast of Harvest or the Day of First-Fruits) that occurs fifty days after Passover. The Disciples were gathered in the Upper Room to celebrate this Jewish Holy Day when God anointed them with the Holy Spirit. They spoke in other tongues and when Peter preached to the gathering crowd and about 3000 people became followers of Jesus. Christian Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Easter. Like Easter, it always falls on Sunday. On Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Sundays after Pentecost are ordinary time. Then we come to the First Sunday in Advent and start a New Year, again!

See ya' Sunday, with the saints, in the Lord's house. Again, Happy New Year!

Pastor Phred Cain

An Apology



This year marks the 500th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible. Early in the year I decided on Bible Sunday I would preach on the first English translations of the Bible and the men who were martyred for translating the Bible into English. Then the English Reformation, who King James was, and why he authorized a translation of the Bible. I will continue with how Bible translations have changed over the years.

Bible Sunday falls on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Therefore, I will not be preaching on Thanksgiving this year. I apologize in advance to anyone who will be disappointed by this.

Pastor Phred Cain

Ladies Bible Study



The ladies are studying "What the Bible Says About Angels" by Dr. David Jeremiah. This is a ten week study that we are breaking up into two five week sessions. As of this writing we have only had one lesson and already we are learning that many of the things we believe about angels are not Biblical! For instance, did you know that the number of angels remains constant? Angels do not die and God has not created any new angels since the first. It is so exciting to get into God's Word and discover the truth about these mysterious beings.

Susan Young

A Thank You



The other day I was noticing the flowers in front of the church and wondered how long they would last. Then I thought this is a good time for a thank you. Keeping the outside of the church attractive is a part of reaching out to the community. Maintaining the flower beds is a part keeping our church attractive. For some people seeing the beautiful flowers is a part of the entire worship service - from coming into the church to leaving. So a big "Thank You" to all who have been a part of keeping our flowers beautiful all summer. (I also hope they last a little bit longer.)

Pastor Phred Cain



Kids Club

Kids' Club has successfully moved to Wolcott Mills School thanks to dedicated people and a lot of prayer. We have averaged 63 children and 17 flexible workers.

These very special people are: Judy Fetters, Marilynn Grossman, Lois Keck (now in Florida), Bart McNall, Jeanie Park (now in Africa), Rosy O'Brian, Karen Ottersen, Pastor Phred, Sandy Rasler, Sheri Ringler, Bob & Jan Russell, Birdeen Sweet (going to Florida soon), Amy Thompson, Jacque Young, Marty Young and Susan Young. We have or are going to lose some helpers. We do need more people to be there to talk to our kids, help pass out refreshments, be with them at Surprise Shop and lesson time, take prayer requests and pray for each child.

Continue to keep Kids' Club in your prayers. Watch for angels to appear in our sanctuary.

Karen Grossman



Calling all Voices!!

Greetings from the Choir Loft, Well, we have now started practice for Christmas. Our Musical this year is entitled "Mary did you know". It is beautiful. We are just getting started. when I ordered this music, I was feeling really, really feeling hopeful and ordered 14 books. So far, I have only distributed about 8. So, we have lots of room for anyone contemplating joining our choir. Practice is every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the fellowship hall. Hope to see some new faces.

Sandy Ringler

Administrative Board Meeting



The Administrative Board met on September 25th with 12 members present. The 'phone tree' is installed but needs to be tested before using. The old contract for the copy machine is up. Some quotes were given for new contracts. It was decided that we would go with \$94.59 per month, for 60 months, which includes repairs. Some prices were given for polo shirts to sell to members to wear at church suppers and other related church events. We will have a meeting on October 16th "Setting Vital Church Goals" seeking suggestions as to how to build up the church. Reports need to be completed and turned in before our Charge Conference on October 30th. There will be a Mens Retreat on October 28-29 at New Life Fellowship with no cost. Many churches are involved. See Jim Young for more information.

Judy Miller



Facebook / Twitter

There will be a workshop for congregations using Facebook and Twitter in Fort Wayne on Wednesday, November 16th at 11am to 1pm. The cost is \$10.00 per person. We have talked of starting a Facebook page for Woodruff Grove United Methodist Church so this could be a valuable experience. Anyone interested in attending this workshop should contact Pastor Phred.



United Methodist Women

The Woodruff Grove United Methodist Women met in the fellowship hall with seven members present. Minutes were read and approved. Rosy O'Brian reported that 16 gift cards or care packages were sent to our college students. Letters were read from Lowell and Claudia Wertz, missionaries in Tanzania. Jacque Young reported that Campus Life is in need of 2 liter bottles of soda, cookies, chips or pretzels for snacks during their meetings. Plans were made to do this in February. A get-well card was signed for LaVada Grossman. Plans were made for our last Public Supper of 2011, "Baked Steak" on October 22nd. The proceeds from one of our Public Suppers (\$1,000.00) will go to the church.

Mildred Prough, Secretary

November Mission Emphasis



The November mission emphasis is Gary and Vicki Stephenson. Gary and Vicki are missionaries living at Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. Gary is responsible for maintaining the settlement's vehicles. These vehicles include the trucks and 4-wheelers used on the settlement itself, as well as the vans that are used to transport area residents to and from the many programs offered to the community. Vicki spends her time spreading the word about Henderson Settlement and the vital work they are doing for the surrounding area. She visits churches (including Woodruff at one time) sharing materials and stories of the work that God is doing in Frakes, KY and surrounding communities. Woodruff Grove UMC has a covenant relationship with the Stephensons; we have vowed to offer prayers on their behalf and to offer monetary support. Please be in prayer for the Stephensons and consider what God would have you give to their ministry.

Susan Young

Child Protection Guidelines and Update Classes

Thank you to all of the forty of you who have taken the time to come to one of our Child Protection Guideline Classes! You have helped make our job easier! This information is needed by our District Office and by our Insurance carrier. We don't have a choice. This is required stuff, so we will catch up with those who we don't have! :))

Morning Fellowship



We are sorry to announce due to a lack of volunteers to host, morning fellowship has been canceled for the months of November and December. If you are interested in hosting, please call Susan Young. We will try again in January 2012 if there is sufficient interest.

Susan Young

Library



Ready to get into the Christmas spirit? The library has many books with a Christmas theme that may be just what you need to get your holiday mojo going. Why not check one out today? There are also many books for those seeking to grow in faith or who would simply like a good read!

Susan Young

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 9:30am November 1st. We welcome anyone who would like to join us, no matter what skill you may or may not have knitting or crocheting. Also, you are welcome to take a prayer shawl, lap robe (more narrow) or mini pocket-shawl as needed. If you would like to contribute to this ministry it takes 18 ounces of 4ply worsted size yarn to make a shawl. That's a bunch! All donations are welcome!

Setting Vital Church Goals



Thank you to all who attended our "Setting Vital Church Goals" meeting. We are encouraged by the ideas and enthusiasm given! Now, to put our thoughts into action!

*"Coming together is a beginning;
Keeping together is progress;
Working together is success!" Henry Ford*



Scriptures and Sermon Titles November 2011

Sunday, 6 November 2011

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Sunday
Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12
Sermon Title: Sainly Lives

Sunday, 13 November 2011

Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: I Thessalonians 5:1-11
Sermon Title: Now Concerning the Times and Seasons

Sunday, 20 November 2011

Christ the King
Bible Sunday
Scripture: II Timothy 3:14-17
Sermon Title: The English Bible

Sunday, 27 November 2011

First Sunday of Advent
Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9
I Corinthians 1:3-9
Sermon Title: So that You May Be Blameless

Hospital Visits



With the privacy laws, many times our pastor is not notified of a parishioner's hospital admittance. If you would like a visit from Pastor Phred Cain, the best thing to do is call or have a friend or relative call Pastor Phred at the church office 854-2067 with this information.



November Birthdays

2. Marilyn Smart
Bob Strater
4. Monroe Gage
7. JR Young
8. Jennell Miller
Audrianna Young
9. Kyle Casper
11. Travis Young
13. Mark Garretson
16. Kyle Grossman
22. Diana Morr
24. Stacie Rasler
27. Pastor Dick Frederick
28. Judy Bruner
29. Betty Kreigh



November Anniversaries

3. Bill & Deb Eberhard
10. Don & Barb Cassel



**MOVIE NIGHT HAS
RETURNED!**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7PM

"THE GRACE CARD"

*WITNESS THE POWER
OF FORGIVENESS*

POPCORN AND BOTTLED WATER
WILL BE PROVIDED — FREE!
BRING A FRIEND OR TWO!

If you have any news items you would like to have put in the December 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 November 14th. 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!