



# THE LAMPLIGHTER



## DECEMBER 2011

WOODRUFF GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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### Musings from Pastor Phred

“Happy New Year!” Part 2

Last month’s *Musings* was about the church calendar which begins with the First Sunday in Advent. This year Advent began on Sunday, 27 November. This month I’ll write about the four colors of the calendar.

Through most of the Church’s history illiteracy has been the norm. Therefore, symbols have been used to teach the Gospels. You have probably noticed the paraments (alter cloth and pulpit and lectern hangings) change from time to time. These different colors represent different aspect of God. The Church calendar starts with Advent. The color of Advent is purple. In biblical times everyone wore off-white. There were no bleaching agents as now and dyes added to the cost of cloth. Therefore, clothing was raw wool, raw cotton, and raw linen - all off white. Rich people had clothing with colors (which is why Joseph’s coat of many colors caused such a fuss). Purple was the most expensive dye. The richest people wore purple. Usually the only people who could afford purple clothing were the nobility. Therefore, purple became an emblem of nobility. In the Church, purple signifies the nobility of Jesus - the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The color of Christmas is white. White - without blemish or stain - signifies the purity of Christ.

Christmas closes with the Epiphany, which is on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Epiphany is the traditional celebration of the visit of the Wise Men. The color of Epiphany is green, the color of living

plants, therefore the symbol of life. God is the life-giver. God has given us life in the creation. God will give us eternal life in the resurrection.

Then we skip to Lent and return to purple. The color of Easter is white. Easter ends with Pentecost. The color of Pentecost is red which has two meanings. Red represents fire and the Holy Spirit. On the first Pentecost the Holy Spirit descended onto the Disciples as tongues of fire. Therefore, fire and red are symbols of the Holy Spirit. Red also represents blood - the blood Jesus shed on Good Friday to cleanse us of our sins. Then the calendar returns to Advent and purple.

So, the four colors of the calendar are purple, white, green, and red. There are two more colors that we do not use at Woodruff Grove.

Black is the color of Good Friday. When we celebrate Good Friday we know Easter is just three days away. When the Disciples experienced the first Good Friday they did not know what to expect. Black represents the ignorance and fear of the Disciples before the first Easter. A set of paraments can be very costly. Few churches bother with that expense for something used one day a year.

Marian blue (a light blue) is the symbol of Mary. It is used in Catholic Churches on holy days dedicated to Mary.

As you notice the changing colors of the paraments, meditate on their meaning and what they teach you about Jesus. See ya’ Sunday, with the saints, in the Lord’s house.  
Peace

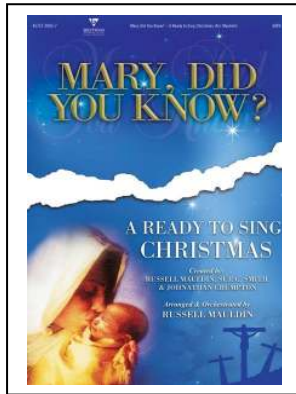
Pastor Phred Cain

**“Mary did you know?”  
Christmas Cantata  
Woodruff Grove  
United Methodist  
Church Choir**

**Sandy Ringler, Director  
9:30 am, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Arranged by Russell Mauldin

This Cantata is filled with classic carols and hymns, along with stirring new songs which offers a joyous message of hope and was created around one of the most dramatic and inspired Christmas songs ever written. Make sure to invite your friends and neighbors to come join your family!



## Calling all Voices!!

Greetings from the choir loft! Well, we are making great progress with this year's Christmas Spectacular. Yes, I keep changing the name of it. Cantata, Musical, Spectacular all one in the same! It is not too late to come and join us. By the way, we have new collars to wear with our choir robes too. Now, who can resist that? See you Wednesday night at 7:00.

*Sandy Ringler*



We have several people we would like to thank:

Thank you to Lester and Joyce Robinson for finding our new Choir Robe Collars! They not only found them, they ironed and delivered them! Thank you Lester and Joyce!

Thank you to Betty Runkle for helping us with a special sewing project. We found some old Altar Clothes that needed repair and she helped us right away with her special talent! Thank you Betty!

## Ladies Bible Study

The ladies have finished the first half of their Bible Study on Angels and will reconvene in the first part of January. Please stay tuned for an announcement after Christmas when we begin our second half.



## Kids Club

Thanks for all the support given to Kids' Club. We are averaging 61 children a session. Our angels are flying in the sanctuary thanks to Amy Thompson and Rosy O'Brian. When you are in church, pick out a Kids' Club person to pray for that week. Thanks to our new helpers: LaDonna Whetzel, Darlene McKowen, and Janae Garretson!

Our Kids' Club kids made table favors to honor our veterans and gave them to the Rome City and LaGrange American Legion Posts while we learned what a veteran was and to thank them for serving our country.

Our Kids' Club will have a "Christmas Celebration" on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. We will start in the Sanctuary with the program followed by a light meal in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all of our Woodruff Grove Church family and friends to come and welcome "Our Kids" and their families to Woodruff Grove Church.

*Karen Grossman*



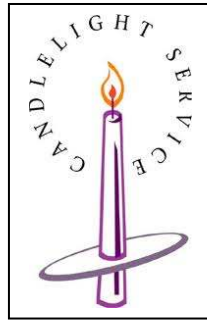
## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on November 9<sup>th</sup> in the Cunningham Hall with 5 members present. Mildred Prough gave the devotions reading articles honoring our men and women in the armed services. Marty Young is to order 3 boxes of pecans, 1 box of halves and 2 boxes of pieces. These will be for sale very soon! Please see any United Methodist Women member to purchase your pecans for your holiday baking needs! Plans were made for the Christmas dinner, shut-ins and missions projects. Delicious refreshments were served by Doris Emke. We will not meet in January, February and March.

*Mildred Prough, Secretary*

# Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

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



There will be some opportunities for several people to participate with reading parts. Please let Pastor Phred know if you could help with this.

## Thank You!



Thank you for the Sunshine Jar to celebrate Clergy Appreciation Month. I read two of your messages every morning and start my day with sunshine, even on the cloudiest day. Thanks for the Twin 6 gift card. I am putting it to good use!  
Pastor Phred

## Pecans for sale!



The United Methodist Women have Pecans for sale just in time for holiday baking. Please see Marty Young or Jacque Young to purchase these today!

16 oz. Halves \$9.75

16 oz. Pieces \$9.50

16 oz. Baker Choice Pieces \$7.75

## Remind your prayer partner that you're praying for them!

*We will be getting new  
prayer partners in the beginning of 2012*



## 2012 Slate of Officers & Budget

A list of the 2012 elected officials and the 2012 budget was an insert in our November 20th bulletin. Want a copy? Just let us know!  
*(These positions officially begin January 1, 2012)*

## Morning Fellowship

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

Susan Young



## LaGrange County Council on Aging

The LaGrange County Council on Aging in LaGrange has loaner equipment for our LaGrange County Seniors or those with disabilities. Items are loaned at no charge, however donations are accepted. If you are in need of any of these items, please contact the Council on Aging at 463-4161. Also, they have a pantry for low income seniors that need help with groceries (a 2010 filed tax paper or proof of household income are need for pantry eligibility). Need a ride? The Council on Aging also helps our Seniors with this - just call 463-4161 weekdays from 8am-4pm for more information! If you know of someone who could benefit from the Council on Aging please share this information!



## Campbell Soup Labels

While you are cooking your Christmas dinners SAVE those Campbell labels (the bar code is needed) for Henderson Settlement. Please see Jeanie Park with your questions.



## Helping Hands

A ministry for the community located on Front Street in Rome City, Helping Hands is open on Thursdays from 2-5pm serving people in need of food and clothing. Anyone that God sends will be helped. They serve about 100-150 people a week!



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at 9:30am on the first Tuesday of the month. We always welcome new faces! If you know how to knit or crochet or would like to learn please join our group!

If you would like to contribute yarn for prayer shawls it takes 18 oz of 4 ply worsted size yarn. Cash donations are always welcome too!

Our group would also like to encourage those with family or friends in need of God's comforting love to take a prayer shawl from the rack any time.



## December Birthdays

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



## December

### Anniversaries

10. Monroe & Beverly Gage
18. Jeff & Rosy O'Brian
30. Keith & Amy Thompson



## When Christmas Comes Again

Author Unknown

Some of us may not be here when Christmas comes again.  
So spread around your words of cheer to ev'ry one you can.  
Look with joy to Christmas time and sing in sheer delight.  
Listen to the bells that chime, their gladsome "Silent Night".  
In such happy Christmas days be you a friend indeed-  
Know the joy your giving pays to help some friend in need.  
All may join the Yuletide cheer and give as best they can  
Some of us may not be here when Christmas comes again.

Why defer until too late the good we could have done?  
Why forget, or pause, or wait, and thus be friend to none?  
Tho' some never understand the good we tried to do-  
Blessings, love for others planned, come back to me and you.  
Then remember friend or foe and, tho' your gift be small,  
Let your love to others flow, ere comes the last low call.  
Some kind deed or word of cheer may ease the sting of pain-  
Some of us may not be here when Christmas comes again.

## FIXING BICYCLES



There once was a little girl who was late coming home for supper. Her mother made the expected irate parent's demand to know where she had been.

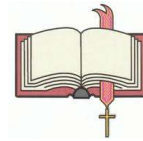
The little girl replied that she had stopped to help Janie, whose bicycle was broken in a fall.

"But you don't know anything about fixing bicycles," her mother responded.

"I know that," the girl said. "I just stopped to help her cry."

Not many of us know anything about fixing bicycles, either. And when our friends have fallen and broken, not their bicycles but their lives, NONE of us knows how to fix that. We simply cannot "fix" someone else's life, even though that's what we would like most to do. But like the little girl, we can stop to help them cry. That is the best we can do. And that is a lot!

- Murray Lancaster



## Scriptures and Sermon Titles December 2011

**Sunday, 4 December 2011**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture: Mark 1:1-8**

**Sermon Title: What Good News!  
What Grace!**

**Sunday, 11 December 2011**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

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

**I Thessalonians 5:16-24**

**Sermon Title: He Will Do This**

**Sunday, 18 December 2011**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Christmas Cantata "Mary Did You Know"**

**Woodruff Grove Choir, Sandy Ringler Director**

**Saturday, 24 December 2011**

**Christmas Eve**

**Lessons and Carols with Communion**

**Sunday, 25 December 2011**

**Christmas Day**

**Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10**

**John 1:1-14**

**Sermon Title: The Incarnation**

If you have any news items you would like to have put in the January 2012 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 12th. 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!