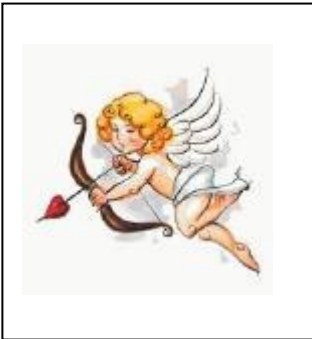




THE LAMPLIGHTER



FEBRUARY 2010

WOODRUFF GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Musings from Pastor Phred Reclaiming a Holy Day

Right in the middle of February is a holy day, the feast day of St. Valentine. When I was a kid (I think that was way back in medieval times) every calendar had Saint Valentine's Day. We always called it Saint Valentine's Day. Some place along the line the "Saint" was lost. Now it is just Valentine's Day.

The name Valentine (Valentinus) means "worthy." So, who are these SS Valentine, anyway? Yes, SS, plural. There are two of them, both remembered on February 14th. One was the Bishop Terni who was beheaded in Rome c. 270. (Terni is both a town and a province in Italy, north of Rome.) The other was a priest who was martyred c. 269 under the Emperor Claudius. There is possibly a third martyr named Valentine from Africa. They have no clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

One possible source of our Valentine customs is the Roman pagan mid-February season of Lupercalia, a festival to honor the goddess Februata Juno. At this time boys drew by lot the names of girls to court. The Church replaced the pagan custom with the drawing of saint's names on St. Valentine's Day.

According to Chaucer, birds chose their mates on St. Valentine's Day. Well, Chaucer was a poet, not an ornithologist.

Celebrating romantic love on the festival day of two martyrs seems strange. The more I think about this oddity the more it seems right. The

ultimate definition of love is Christ's self-sacrifice on the cross. This act of love is the definition of all acts of love, including romantic love. So, let us put the "St." back into St. Valentine's Day and celebrate it as a holy day. Then get together with your sweetie and celebrate the holiness of your romantic love.

As an aside, who is this little cupid dude? The name Cupid means "desire." Cupid (Eros) is the Roman (Greek) god of erotic love and sex. He is the son of Venus (Aphrodite), the goddess of love, and Mars (Ares), the god of war. So, he uses a weapon of war to spread love.

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

"Bind Us Together Revival"

We are privileged to have Pastor Ron Verlee as our speaker at our "**Bind Us Together Revival**" February 10, 11, 13 at 7pm (Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday) and on the 14th during our 9:30am Sunday Worship time and at 6pm. Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to attend as many services as you can. You will be so glad you did. Begin praying now for the success of this revival in your life and those who attend. Pray for guidance for who to invite to come with you too.

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

We are now picking new prayer partners!

*Please see Marty Young
to draw your new name today!*

Kids' Club



Please continue to pray for Kids' Club. We have some serious decisions to make about transportation and how to continue Kids' Club in the future.

Upcoming Rummage Sale...

The date for our annual Rummage Sale has been set for May 6, 7 & 8 (with set-up May 2, 3, 4 & 5). Please let your family, friends and neighbors know these dates. You do our best advertising! **We are now accepting Rummage Sale donations.** Please bring them in any time and put them in the back of the fellowship hall. *Avoid the rush and bring them in as soon as possible and miss the back-up when we get nearer our sale date!* **We need any card board boxes** (egg boxes are the perfect size and have handles!). **Please save your brown paper grocery bags for us too** – which will be used for our “bag day” on May 8th.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will meet on Monday, February 1st at 7pm at the church to make Valentine cards to send to shut-ins. Please join us for this fun local mission activity and the fellowship.

Wanted: Mission minded person or persons to join a mission team going to Henderson Settlement June 20-26, cost is \$300.00. Please see Jeanie for more information or call 463-3525.

Jeanie Park

Missions and Social Concern

The Mission and Social Concern Committee met the beginning of December and chose the monthly mission emphasis for 2010. Make sure and check the newsletter each month because we have added some new missions!

Just a reminder, **we are no longer doing the Community Mission Fund**, but urge you to continue your support for your community members in need by donating to the Clothes and

Food Basket. Once the holidays are over the donations drop drastically but the need does not. Contact Susan Young if you need help getting your donation to the Clothes and Food Basket.

The mission emphasis for the month of February is The Shedd. Taylor Patterson is on the youth board for this ministry. This is a wonderful outreach for teens in our area. The Shedd, like everyone else, has been working with very little funding and could really use a boost. Let's show our area teens that they are important and we care about them by generously supporting this mission. *Susan Young*

Ladies Aid

Ladies' Aid will be taking a short recess during January, February and March. We encourage you to go to the United Methodist Women meetings and fellowship with these ladies throughout this time.

**We have our new
2010 Calendar of Events
For Woodruff Grove that was an insert
in the Bulletin.
Request your copy from
our Church Office anytime!**

Movie Night, on Thursday!



We were sorry to cancel our January Movie Night, but felt we should do so out of respect to the family of Wayne Miller. We are skipping our February movie night due to an extremely busy calendar. Please put March 11th (second Thursday of the month) on your calendar as our next movie night!

Administrative Board Meeting

We had a good meeting on January 19, 2010. We heard a report from the Mission committee with the outline of mission projects for the coming year. These were all approved. We also heard about our Spring session of Kids' Club and the possible problem with transportation from Wolcott Mills. After discussion, a letter was approved to send Brad Tarrgart, Principal at Wolcott Mills. We heard a report on the very successful toy drive for CHRISTmas Wish for La Grange County. Mike Rassbaugh sent his heartfelt thank-you for the great response from Woodruff Grove. We had eight attend our

meeting which was completed in an hour. We still would like to encourage more attendance by our Church Family.
John Russell,
Chairman



Scriptures and Sermon Titles

February 2010

Sunday, 7 February 2010

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-13

I Corinthians 15:1-11

Sermon Title: Our Uncleanliness, Our Sins

Sunday, 14 February 2010

Transfiguration Sunday

St. Valentine's Day

"Bind Us Together" Revival

Pastor Ron Verlee

Scripture: Romans 8:1, 28-37

Sermon Title: The World Ain't Big Enough"

Sunday, 21 February 2010

First Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Romans 10:6-13

Sermon Title: You Will Be Saved

Sunday, 28 February 2010

Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Esther 3-1-6

Sermon Title: Purim



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1. SANDY RINGLER
2. AMANDA VOIROL
CHARLIE WETZEL
6. BOB RUSSELL
JOYCE ROBINSON
8. DIANA GRAY
11. SANDIE RASLER
12. TOM REKINS
15. ED HUGUENARD
16. DREW GROSSMAN
DEB EBERHARD
17. CARTER MURPHY

COREY GRAY

19. KAY ROSS

22. JANA GARRERSON

23. JOYCE VOIROL

MARIE STRATER

25. JIM YOUNG

LLOYD FOLTZ

28. GOLDA RUSSELL

We have no ANNIVERSARIES LISTED FOR FEBRUARY

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl group continues to meet and provide shawls for any occasion. These may be given to those who are ill, suffering losses, or times of celebration. Please feel free to take a shawl from the rack if you know someone who could benefit from the comfort of God's love through a shawl. We welcome anyone who knits or crochets or is interested in learning how to join us. We meet at 3:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month at church in the fellowship hall

Choir Notes

I know it's hard to believe but choir will be starting up again in February. We don't have an exact date yet but we'll let you know. Easter Sunday is on April 4th this year so we'll have to get an early start.

If you have ever even thought about joining our choir please consider again. We are small but mighty. And, we have a lot of fun. So.....until next time, let's all make a joyful noise!!

Sandy Ringler

Church Promotion Week at Rural King

Rural King will have another church Week Promotion on February 14 through 21. This is when Rural King will give us a percentage of the amount we spend during this week. Please save your original receipts and give them to Rosy O'Brian to be able to participate in this program. Keep this in mind for your future purchases!

Confirmation Classes to Start

We plan to start a Confirmation Class in the end of February, during Sunday School time. All youth who are 11 years old and older, and those who are not members already of Woodruff Grove

are encouraged to sign up for this at the table in the old dining room.

Child Protection Guidelines and Renewal Classes

...We have had our first Child Protection Guidelines and Renewal Classes and are very happy to say we had an attendance of 41 people! Thank you for your participation in this matter.

...We are required by our insurance carrier and by our United Methodist District Office to update our files each year. The meeting does not take a long time, but is very necessary. Everyone who works with children: in the nursery, Vacation Bible School, Kids' Club, Sunday School Teachers, or involved with children in any way at Woodruff Grove must take this class or renew this class each year. **Our next chance to participate in this class or to update your forms will be on Thursday, February 11th at 6pm (before our Revival).** Please see Pastor Phred if you have any questions – he will be our instructor.

**Come see Woodruff Grove on the web at: 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 March 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 February 22nd. 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!