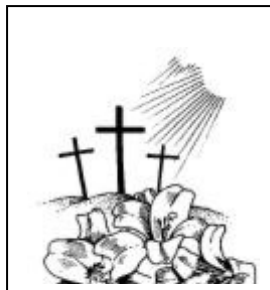




THE LAMPLIGHTER



APRIL 2010

WOODRUFF GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Musings from Pastor Phred *What Is Important?*

As Easter approaches, I hope the first answer to this question to come to mind is Jesus Christ, crucified and resurrected. When we look at all God has done for us, from the creation through the resurrection, how can we consider anyone or anything more important than God? When we consider all God has done for the Church from Pentecost to today, when we consider all God has done for us, personally, how can we consider anyone or anything more important than God? As we prepare for Easter, let us remember no one loves us more than God. No one has done more for us than God. In response, no one is more important to us than God.

The second answer I hope to come to mind is family. Family is the people closest to you, those who know you the best (and still like you?). The trouble is how do we define family? Before WWII the two most common definitions of family were 1) the extended family: grandparents, parents, a maiden aunt, and children living under the same roof; and 2) boarding houses. Since WWII family is usually defined as the nuclear family. Most people today think the nuclear family has always been the norm but through all of human history family has usually been defined as an extended unit, possibly as large as a tribe. Family was the

people needed for survival. Throughout most of history an extended family was needed to survive. Before the Industrial Revolution all businesses, the farm, the smithy, the mill were family business. A business took the whole family to run, blood relations or close friends. Who are the people you need to survive? Who is your family? Are they more important to you than everything but God?

The third answer I hope to come to mind is the church. I have gotten in trouble for putting church in third place. Some ministers have argued this point with me and some have even gotten hot under the collar. I think the problem is people confuse the Church with God. God is God. The Church is a human invention. Church is important but church is not God. I do believe church comes after family. If you have a sick child, will you leave that child home, alone, even if it is Sunday morning? If an elderly parent is rushed to the hospital on Sunday morning will you go to church or the hospital?

Church is a place. Church is the place where we gather to worship God, the place where we gather to do ministry and missions, and the place where we come to get our spiritual batteries recharged so we can face the new week. More importantly, church is a people, us. Church is a super-family with whom we gather to worship and serve God. Church is a super-family with

Musings from Pastor Phred continued...

Musings from Pastor Phred continued...

whom we have a covenant relationship. When we joined the church we made a vow to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. This is not a covenant we have made with an institution. This is a covenant we have made with the children, to teach them and be a godly example for them. This is a covenant to support those whom God has given a heart for missions. This is a covenant to support the poor of our communities through ministries as the Clothing and Food Basket. This is a covenant to pray for and help those afflicted in body or soul. This is a covenant we have made with one another. When you fail this covenant - when you are not supporting the church with your prayers, presence, gifts, and service - you are not failing an institution, you are not failing the preacher, you are failing the other members of the church.

Other things are important, jobs and school, 4-H and Scouts, the good mother earth and all we receive from her, and so forth and so on. These are priorities but where we place these priorities will vary from person to person.

In this Easter season, what is most important in your life?

See ya' Sunday, with the saints, in the Lord's house. Peace and grace,

Pastor Phred Cain

Kids' Club

Kids' Club has had great success! We have had wonderful attendance and fantastic help. We have averaged just over 53 children each week! Thank you to all of you who had a part in the 2010 Spring Session of Kids' Club!

Choir Notes

Our Easter Music is called "I Know My Redeemer Lives" created by Sue C. Smith and Russell Mauldin. It's a time to share His story...especially the story of His cross and His resurrection. Please consider inviting family, friends, and neighbors to this uplifting Easter celebration lead by our choir director, Sandy Ringler.

Upcoming Rummage Sale...

We have a **big need** at our Rummage Sale for someone to **organize the meals and food served** during this time. If you have any questions or can help with this, please contact Jacque Young or Marilyn Grossman. Some of our regular workers are not going to be able to help this year. Please also let Jacque or Marilyn know if you plan to help at our sale, either with the **set up of the sale** or during the sale itself.

We are now accepting Rummage Sale donations. 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! Please bring your donations in any time and put them in the back of the fellowship hall. *Avoid the rush and bring them in as soon as possible!* **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.

Movie Night, on Thursday!

Our movie night will be April 8th at a **new time, 7 pm** and will feature the new release, "The Blind Side". This movie is rated PG-13. (Star Wars has been announced as our June Movie)

Please consider using this opportunity to invite friends and family to join us. We will not have babysitting services. We hope that you will plan to come to our movie nights to also help us welcome our visitors to Woodruff. We will have free popcorn as always, during our movie! Please see Jim or Susan Young with your questions or ideas.

United Methodist Women

Monday, April 12 United Methodist Women will meet in the Gathering Place at 7:00p.m. LaVada Grossman will have the lesson. Are you interested in missions here in our community or around the world? Come join us to learn more. *Jeanie Park*

Youth Fellowship

Our March youth meetings have been led by Marty and Bev. The basic planning has been for the Sunrise Service. We have a neat program called "The Stones of Passion" that will be presented by our youth at 7:00am on Easter morning, followed by breakfast served by the youth. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Sunday, the 28th, we will be practicing for the Sunrise Service during and after Sunday School. On April 3, we plan on meeting at 9am to set up for the service and put together the casseroles.

We have been discussing for a mission project to put up a swing set for the church similar to the ones they did at Henderson Settlement last year. So to kick off this project, we are planning a Bake Sale to be held after church on April 25. If you can, we ask you to bake something to bring in, and then we will start the Bake Sale right after church. Plan on taking something home with you. We will be having other work projects in the near future to help pay for this swing set. Our next YF meeting will be April 18th with Marty Young & Bev Jordan as our leaders. *Marty Young*

Ladies Bible Study

Our Ladies Bible Study is going well with sixteen attendees. The title of the study is "Women Who Achieved for God." It includes studies on Miriam: Prophetess and Co-Leader; Deborah: A True Leader; Two Widows: Participating with God; Huldah: God's Voice in a Hostile Society; Esther: Divine Destiny; Mary and Martha: Friendship That Blesses; Priscilla: Disciple Maker; and Important Women Obscured by History. At the end of the lesson, we divide into small groups for sharing and prayer. It's very pleasant in the environment of our new Gathering Place. *Marty Young*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, April 7 The Prayer Shawl group will be meeting at 3:30 in the Gathering Place. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting is welcome to come. Learners or experienced are all welcome. *Jeanie Park*

Ladies Aide

Our Ladies' Aide will have their first meeting of 2010 on April 14th at 1:30pm. At this meeting Mildred Prough will give devotions, Joan Zigler and LaVada Grossman will be hostesses. We will be planning our 2010 events! All ladies are welcome to join our group!

Graduates!

On Sunday, May 23rd we plan to have a Graduate Recognition and honor them during our worship service. If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, please let Marilyn Grossman or Pastor Phred know as soon as possible - we don't want to forget anyone!

Camps

Now is the time to sign up for Summer Camp opportunities! There are a few catalogs on the table in the Gathering Place or you can go on line to find out more information at: beacamper.com

Future Henderson Trip

Henderson Mission trip: June 20- 26, Jeanie Park, Audri Young, Steve and Nathan Park will be going to Henderson Settlement with a group from Fort Wayne to participate in mission projects. Besides the initial cost of the trip, money is needed to pay for the materials for the projects that will be selected. The amount of money towards the supplies determines what projects we are able to do. Anyone who would like to donate to "Projects for Henderson" may give the money to Jeanie or put it in the offering plate being sure to identify it as the Henderson mission. Any amount would be greatly appreciated by the team and those receiving the help to improve their home or buildings in their community. *Jeanie Park*

Confirmation Classes to Start

We plan to start a Confirmation Class if there is interest, 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 - do so today!



April Birthdays

3. Norman Kolin
4. Marcia Ringler
Viola Johnson
Rosalie Bickley
5. Danny O'Brian
6. Rob Henschen
7. Terry Miller
8. Monali Grossman
10. Nikita Eagleson
12. Angie Murphy
15. Paul Witte
16. Arlene Thompson
Homer Shultz
17. Lauren McKibben
Stephanie Blake
Marian Krebs
19. Lynn Uffelman
21. Melanie Grossman
22. Chanden Lawson
23. Tyler Young
27. Don Ringler
28. Megan Boyle
Karen Grossman
29. Jessica Cassel
Dot Smyers



April Anniversaries

9. Norman & Laverne Kolin
13. Sam & Deb Young

Scriptures and Sermon Titles

April 2010

Sunday, 4 April 2010

Easter

Sunrise Service: Stones of Passion

Easter Cantata: My Redeemer Lives

Sunday, 11 April 2010

Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 20:19-29

Sermon Title: Peace Be with You!

Sunday, 18 April 2010

Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 21:1-19

Sermon Title: Follow Me

Sunday, 25 April 2010

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 10:22-30

Revelation 7:9-17

Sermon Title: On Being a Sheep

**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 May 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 April 19th. 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!

Contributed by Mildred Prough

Billy Graham's suit

Billy Graham is now 90 years old with Parkinson's disease.

In January 2000, leaders in Charlotte , North Carolina , invited their favorite son, Billy Graham, to a luncheon in his honor.

Billy initially hesitated to accept the invitation because he struggles with Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, 'We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you.' So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd, and said, 'I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who this month has been honored by Time magazine as the Man of the Century. Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there, so he looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

The conductor said, 'Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.'

Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

The conductor rushed back and said, 'Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are No problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one.'

Einstein looked at him and said, 'Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going.'

Having said that Billy Graham continued, 'See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. My children and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion. You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this:

I not only know who I am ... I also know where I'm going.'