



THE LAMPLIGHTER



OCTOBER 2009

WOODRUFF GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Musings from Pastor Phred

REFORMATION

On 31 October 1517 Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. This was a common practice in his day. A professor or student would post a statement (thesis) on the church door and then students and professors would gather at the local beer garden and debate these statements. Martin Luther was a monk, a priest, and a professor. He thought the teachings of the Church had wandered away from the Bible and his 95 theses were about this issue. He planned to debate in Wittenberg. He thought it would go no further.

It went further. The students uploaded his 95 theses to the internet and it went around the world. O.K. the internet of the 16th century was the printing press, a brand new invention. Students copied down his theses and took them to a printer. They quickly spread throughout Europe (well, quickly for 16th century standards) and all Christendom was debating Luther's theses.

In summation the Lutheran Reformation was: "For by grace you have been saved through faith and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the results of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Luther told the Church salvation could not be earned, could not be purchased, and was not from the Church. Salvation is God's gift through Jesus' self-sacrifice on the cross. Church leaders did

not want to hear this message. The Lutheran Reformation and Protestant movement were begun.

When Luther debated other theologians he would make his stand on *sola scriptura*, *sola fide* - by Scripture alone, by faith alone. What better place to stand? If only all we Protestants would stand where this great reformer stood!

I pray God would send a Luther to America today, to bring us back to the Bible. The popular theology in America today is wacko.

So many people who call themselves Christians are biblically ignorant. Oh, the number of times I have heard Ben Franklin and Nostradamus quoted as the Bible. When someone who knows the Bible quotes the Bible people are shocked and refuse to believe such a thing is from the Bible.

Some people who claim to be Christian propose theologies which have nothing to do with the Bible. I have asked these people, "Where in the Bible does it say that?" To which they reply, "Oh, it is not in the Bible but we know . . ." While others come up with far out biblical interpretations that leave one saying, "Huh?" (Did you know the Bible is chock full of space aliens?)

I have found those who thump the Bible most frequently and the loudest often have the least understanding of the Bible. There are those who seek the narrowest interpretation rather than the best understanding of the Bible. There are those who rip a biblical quote out of its continued...

context and run off the field with it. Others misquote the Bible and base their theology on that misquote.

I find many of the wacko theologies common in our country can be summed up as ME and Jesus theologies. Church, religion, worship, Jesus have all become consumer commodities. Going to church is at the same level as going to the mall: This is what I want, this is what I am willing to pay, and you better make ME happy! Too many churches are filled with goats while there are too few Christians who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned (Matthew 25:31-46). Christianity is not about me. Christianity is about what of my neighbor's needs I am called to fulfill in the name of the Lord.

How I pray God would send a Luther to America to bring us back to the Bible. To bring us back to a healthy and holy understanding of the Bible.

Study the Bible and pray for understanding. Study and understand the Bible that you may be reformed in Christ's image. Study and understand the Bible that the Church may be reformed in Christ's image.

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

Tape Ministry - CD Ministry



We have good news and bad. The bad news is our cassette tape ministry is no more. Our cassette recorder broke down and because it was such outdated technology, it was replaced by new equipment. The good news is that we are now able to burn CD's (make a copy). If you are interested in obtaining a CD of one of our Worship Services, please call our church office at 854-2067.

This also brings a new dilemma: we are now looking for a few CD players that we can loan out with this ministry. If you have a portable, working CD player that you no longer want, and are willing to donate, please contact Rosy O'Brian.

Kids' Club

The registration forms have been handed out to the school children for our Fall Session "Friends" of Kids' Club! Would you like to participate in a mission project but do not have the time to travel to another country? This is a great opportunity, right in our community!

We will need a lot of help in many different ways. This is a great way for Woodruff to reach out to our community's youth and share with them about Jesus' love. Please let Karen Grossman know if you are available any of the following Tuesday evenings from 3-5pm:

**October 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th,
November 3rd, 10th, 17th
and December 1st**

If you would like to help with donations of snacks for Kids' Club - there are boxes near the fellowship hall door and on the table in the old dining room. We are asking for paper plates, cups, napkins, chips, sugar for Kool-Aid (we have enough Kool-Aid donated already!) or money to purchase these items. Please see Marilyn Grossman or Jacque Young for more ideas of specific items. As always, thank you for your continued support with this local mission project!

Movie Night



"*The Ultimate Gift*" will be shown on Wednesday, October 14th at 6:30pm.

"As the self-absorbed grandson of billionaire oil baron Red Stevens, Jason Stevens lacks nothing—except purpose. But when the old tycoon dies and leaves behind an unorthodox will, Jason embarks on a journey that will yield an inheritance cash alone could never match."

...We will have popcorn, as always, during the movie. All of this is free. Please consider using this opportunity to invite friends and family to join us. We will not have babysitting services. Last month we only had 7 people. We hope to double that this month! We hope that you will plan to come to this Movie Night and help us welcome our visitors to Woodruff Grove. Please see Jim or Susan Young with your questions or ideas!



Fall Walk

Our annual Fall Walk will be Sunday, October 4th. The walk will begin at 5pm at Travis and Erin Young's home (4035 East - 450 South) and we will walk to Gary and Marilyn Grossman's Farm (2635 East - 400 South). If you choose to ride, there will be a hay wagon, or you may meet at Grossman's. There will be a bon-fire with hot-dogs, s'mores and more! Plan to come to this great evening of exercise and fellowship with a campfire dinner following.

Clergy Appreciation Month is October

We are honored to continue the tradition of supporting our pastor, Phred Cain, at Woodruff Grove during the month of October. We will celebrate on October 18th at our Worship Service and show our appreciation for the job he is doing for us.

Becoming a minister is a unique calling - it can't be compared to any other job, with a boss like no other! As a congregation, we have the remarkable power to make a difference through our prayer, support and encouragement.

**Let your minister be who he is – real. Let him be!
Give him the latitude you want for yourself.
Give him the same amount of room
the grace of God affords you.
Don't force him into some traditionalistic mold.**
Rise & Shine, pp.235-36

Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him. Philippians 2:29 NIV

Public Supper Gift Certificates

Public Supper gift certificates are available. You may use these gift certificates as an 'Outreach' to someone, family, friends, neighbors, or as a gift. Any reason! The best part of these certificates is that if they are not used, you do not have to pay for them. *Of course, if they are used, you do have to pay for them!* If you would like to try this, please see any Ladies Aide member for your gift certificates or for more information about them.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will be serving a dinner and playing Bingo with the residents of Country Place Apartments for our October meeting. We are waiting to hear from Country Place for an acceptable date. We will be asking for donations of vegetable casseroles, salads and desserts. If you would like to donate or join us for this local mission project, please call Jeanie Park at 463-3525. The residents enjoy a home cooked and an evening of fun.

Our outreach mission project is 20 Birthing Kits for UMCOR. Each year more than 600,000 women in developing countries die from complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Approximately 9 million infant deaths occur each year. UMCOR's birthing kit provides traditional birthing attendants with the basic tools they need to ensure a safe, healthy and clean delivery.

Jeanie Park

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl ministry group has changed their meeting time to 3:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in our fellowship hall. There are a nice variety of shawls on display in the sanctuary that have been prayed over and just waiting to be given to the right person. Be sure to check the size when selecting a prayer shawl as they vary and some are lap robes.

Remember that you are our hands and feet to share the love and comfort of God to persons in need. They can also be given at times of celebrations. If you have a specific need, color, size, etc. see Jeanie Park, Karen Grossman, LaVada Grossman or Marty Young. We are always looking for new knitters or those who crochet or if you have an interest in learning to knit you are most welcome.

Jeanie Park

Cluster Charge Conference-Host

Make sure to put Sunday, November 15th, 2pm on your calendar. We will host the Cluster Charge Conference at Woodruff Grove this year! Let's have a good showing from Woodruff to welcome our Outer Circle Cluster's Christian brothers and sisters!

Administrative Board Meeting

The Administrative Board Meeting held on September 15th was very productive. Our financial situation is getting much better. We are able to pay up all of our tithes for this year, to date. We approved rearranging of the Church office furniture and some minor (paint cabinet) re-decoration. We are in favor of building a Church web-site. We will be placing a large barrel in the back of the church for collection of new and/or good used toys for "A CHRIST-mas Wish for LaGrange County" (something you would not be ashamed to give to your own child or grandchild). This project is similar to Toys for Tots, EXCEPT all toys will stay and help families in La Grange County. The barrel will be in place by the 1st of October. Toys should be collected before November 15th.

John Russell

Choir Notes...



Choir began it's first practice on September 23rd at 7pm. We will meet on Wednesday evenings for about an hour. It's never too late to join us! Sandy Ringer, our Choir Director, is always looking for new voices. The name of the Cantata is "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year". It is a approx. 40 minutes long and we will taking songs out of it and having them the 3 Sundays before Christmas as Specials. (Something a little different!)

We need lots of voices. If you have ever considered singing in the choir come and check us out. It really doesn't matter how well you sing as long as you make a joyful noise!

Sandy Ringer



Scriptures and Sermon Titles October 2009

Sunday, 4 October 2009

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: James 5:13-20

Sermon Title: When Do You Commune?

Sunday, 11 October 2009

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 10:17-31

Hebrews 4:12-16

Sermon Title: How Rich Is Rich?

Sunday, 18 October 2009

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Job 38:1-11

Sermon Title: Our God Is Awesome!

Sunday, 25 October 2009

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Sunday

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52

Psalms 34:1-8

Sermon Title: Reformation Sunday: Let Us See Again



...Think of the church like a huddle at a football game: You and I know that the teams don't show up simply to huddle. They huddle only long enough to learn the plays. Through the week we run the plays. Sunday after Sunday we return to the huddle and get the plays.

Charles Swindoll, Rise & Shine, p69



Our last 2009 Public Supper...

"Baked Steak"

October 24th 4-7 pm

Please be sure to invite your family,
friends and neighbors!

To prepare God's people for works of service,
so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:12



October Birthdays

2. Jeanie Park
Sam Young
7. Molly Grossman
8. Beverly Jordan
10. Michelle Young
12. Chuck McKinley
Susan Jones
13. Jake O'Brian
15. Weston Voirol
18. Travis McNall
Chuck Troyer
21. Jacob Morris
22. Jenna Henschen
Angelina Jordan
Mary Rietdorf
24. Sheri Ringler
30. Greg Ringler



October Anniversaries

1. Brad & Sandy Ringler
Lawrence & LaVada
Grossman
4. Danny & Marty Young
9. Harold & Betty Runkle
25. Bob & Marie Strater

FUTURE DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALDENDAR...

- November 15, 2 pm - 2009
Cluster Charge Conference
-Woodruff hosts!
- November 29, 2:30pm -
Hanging of the Greens
- December 6, 6pm - Kids' Club
Christmas Program
- December 20, 9:30am -
Christmas Cantata
- December 24th, 10pm -
Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service

How Can I Participate?

There are many different ways to help around Woodruff Grove. Some of these ways are made known very often, others are hardly heard of. Please consider:

- We need someone to **clean and restock the pews**. This job would include making sure the pews are tidy and restocked. Weekly - at your schedule. Please let Pastor Phred or Rosy OBrian know if you would be interested.
- Help **folding newsletters**. This job is once a month and only takes about an hour during a week day. Please let Pastor Phred or Rosy OBrian know if this is something you could do.
- Kids' Club** needs volunteers for two hours on Tuesdays from 3-5 pm. Contact Karen Grossman soon and let her know you can help us! We also need donations of sugar, chips, napkins, paper plates and cups.
- There are several **sign up sheets** on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider the following opportunities: Nursery Worker, Altar Flowers, Special Music Coordinator or Greeter.
- We are collecting several different items:
 - Broadway Christian Parish** is collecting donations of **personal care items like what you've picked up in hotels**. They make up packages of soap, shampoo and conditioners for their patrons.
 - You may **recycle** your outdated **Upper Rooms** (or any like item). LaVada Grossman has a box on the table in the old dining room for this. They will be used again and continue God's blessings.
 - We are collecting **used greeting cards** for the **Life Care Nursing Home** for crafts. There is a box on the table in the old dining room to put these.
 - If you have a **portable, working CD player** that you no longer want and are willing to donate for our **CD Ministry**, please see Pastor Phred or Rosy O'Brian.

Everyone

*Some can preach and some can sing,
And some can do 'most everything.
But whether it's big, or whether it's small
There's plenty a job for one and all.
God knows our talents.
If we seek His will,
He will show us the way to develop skill.
We will all be blessed, if our time and love
Are pledged to serving the Lord above.*



Woodruff Library

There is a nice Library area in the old dining room. You are welcome to look through and borrow any of these books. There are located in the large bookcase. There are some very good and current titles. Some food for thought!

Prayer Partners



We chose new Prayer Partners a few weeks ago - have you contacted your prayer partner yet? Please make this a commitment to your prayers each day. Remember them and try to make a difference. This can be a lot of fun with cards or small gifts - or any way to may your prayer partner feel special!

Rummage Sale

It's a long way off yet, but keep in mind when sorting through your closets, we will have another Rummage Sale in the spring of 2010 and will be happy to accept your donations. Please see Jacque Young or Marilyn Grossman if you are unable to store your items until then. (No date has been set yet - but we'll let you know when it has!)



Youth Fellowship

Our Youth Fellowship (YF) plans to meet at the Fall Walk on October 4th. This month's leaders are Kim McKibben and Molly Grossman. We hope you come and join our fun - you'll be glad you did!



woodruffgrove@yahoo.com

Pecans

Pecans are for sale by the Ladies' Aide -all times of the year. Halves are \$6.75 and pieces are \$6.50 for a 16 oz. package. Please see Marty or Jacque to get yours today!

Public Service Jobs

Has your group, school or club asked that you do some Public Service jobs or activities? We would like to remind you that you could do this at Woodruff Grove United Methodist Church! We have a list of many small jobs that you can choose from to do around our church. This not only will help you - BUT it also will help us!!! Please contact Jacque Young or Pastor Phred if you are interested in a project.

*Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.*

- John Wesley

If you have any news items that you would like to have put in the November 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 October 26th. 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!