

The Shepherd's Messenger

Pastor Sunny's Rays



December 2011

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.



Thanksgiving 2011 is now over. It seems unbelievable. Time goes so very fast and it seems to me that it is going even faster every passing day. But there is one thing that stays the same. That time between Thanksgiving and Christmas that we refer to as Advent.

The word "Advent" means the time of expectant coming and preparation. So what is it we prepare? We prepare our homes with the appropriate decorations. We put up trees, and wreaths, lights, candles, manger scenes with angels and wise men, sheep and camels, with ribbons. We prepare our churches with trees, garland, advent wreaths, and pretty much the same sort of things we put in our homes. We begin singing advent songs and slip in a Christmas song or two.

My question is, however, not just how we prepare our homes but how do we prepare our hearts for the second coming of Christ? Or do we even think about Christmas in that way? Are we so caught up in preparing to celebrate the birth that we forget that the baby grew up to be the man? How often do we think about being prepared when Christ returns for us?

Will we be ready? Now we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. That is a given because we are human beings with the freedom to choose how we live our lives. Sometimes we don't make good choices. But even when we make those bad choices we have forgiveness just waiting for us. Do we really think about that at this time of the year or at any time of the year? What if Jesus were to return today, right now, would we be ready?

Now you are probably thinking it is strange to be pondering this at the beginning of Advent. But remember that it is about preparing for the coming of Christ.

So as you are preparing your homes for the celebration of the coming of the Christ Child. Try preparing your souls and your hearts for the coming of Christ the Son of God.

Merry Christmas to one and all, and remember that God loves you and so do we.

Pastor Sunny

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United Methodist Women

submitted by Patti Petroni



UMW Meeting Saturday, November 12, 2011

Our meeting on this brisk Saturday morning was opened with prayer and a most delicious spread prepared by Mary Ann and Shirley P. We then read the UMW purpose and proceeded into the meeting with a short history of the first Thanksgiving. Afterwards, Mary Ann gave the treasurer's report noting in meeting our budget obligations that we have \$303.02 left in the treasury. Some of our latest expenses have been in helping the Trustees purchase kitchen mats, coffee, and solar cookers. We have begun to collect for the Holiday Assistance program with \$600 coming from our rummage sales and will do so until the end of November. We have received many "thank you" cards and they are displayed on the bulletin board. Patti and Sue addressed the reading program and there is material on the bulletin board regarding the reading program so check it out, if interested. Sue can answer any questions. This program is open to all ladies of our church. Mary Ann and Patti will be working on the 2012 UMW budget to present at the January 2012 meeting. Mary Ann and Judy are working on the UMW cards for future use. We have decided to seriously consider becoming a five star unit next year. We used to do it every year and we know we can again with some effort. Judy has agreed to co-chair the meetings beginning in January but we need one more lady to step up to the plate and be the other co-chair. Come on ladies....is it your turn?? A list of duties to be facilitated by the co-chairs was passed out and discussed. Copies can be obtained from Patti. Judy purchased material and will make the valances to grace the windows in the nursery. Future projects are purchasing new dishes, cleaning the kitchen, painting Wesley Hall, No Bake Sale, Women's Sunday, and Prayer and Self Denial.

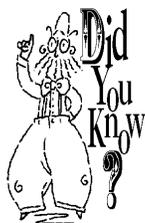
NO MEETING OF THE UMW IN DEC. Next meeting is Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 10 am. Hostesses are Judy and Patti.

A good UMW web site is www.umwmission.org

Check out the "NEWS" on the bulletin board.

WANTED: MORE WOMEN TO ATTEND THE UMW MEETINGS.

Cheer Lady: Sue Simmons takes care of this local project and you can help her by informing her of people who could use a "get well" card as well as sympathy cards.



Submitted by Dean Wildrick

More than 1.1 million children, pregnant mothers and working fathers are alive today because of gains in preventing and treating malaria. Since 2000 the malaria death rate has been reduced by 20 percent. United Methodists have played a role in that fight, and the church's work drew praise from philanthropist Melinda Gates Oct. 18 during the Malaria Forum sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Mobile device users can access information about The United Methodist Church on the go with a new, free United Methodist app. Developed by United Methodist Communications and Music City Networks, the app is now available for free download for iPad and iPhone. Plans are for the app to be available for Android smartphone users soon.



Birthdays

- 1 Raquel Kasperski
Kala Nugent
John Riley
- 2 . Adam Freeman
Julie Mouser
- 3 Robert Amundson
- 4 Rhonda Cornell
- 5 Cheryl Steen
Morgan Sweet
- 8 Austin Parker
Elyse Petroni
- 9 Jared Battistoni
Sue Osborne
- 10 John Visser
- 11 Adam Mouser
- 12 Lucille Wildrick
- 13 Phyllis Hodge
- 14 Shawn-Day Frederick
- 15 Pamela Higby
- 16 Virginia Clayson
- 17 Frederick Edwards
Byron Hamilton
- 18 Patti Metler
- 20 Jeanine Rose
- 21 Janice Sutphin
- 23 Caitlin Metler
- 25 **Jesus Christ**
Zachary Metler
- 27 Bryan Manhardt
- 28 Sandra Allen
Scott Emerson
Andy Nelson
Shirley Pugh
- 29 David Cox

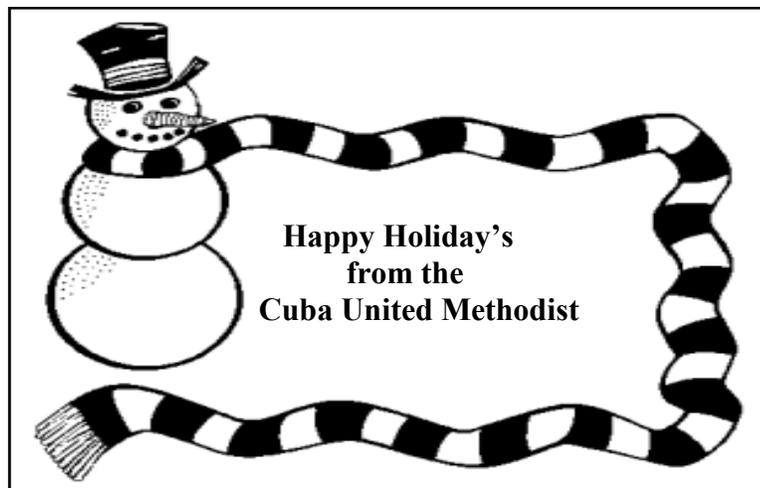


Happy Anniversary!

Anniversaries

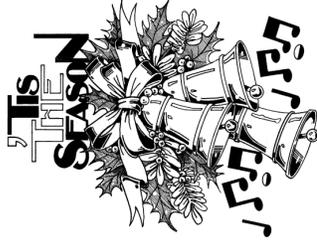
- 1 - Marc & Sylvia Subject
- 12 - John & Mary Hupp
- 15 - Alan & Judy Zayac
- 26 - Art & Jean Higby
- 28 - Jerry & Donna Burdick
Dean & Cheryl Wildrick

Please submit any changes to any month's celebrations to cubasec@roadrunner.com or call the church office. Thank you for your help!





December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Kung Fu Class 6-8a
4 Worship 10am Cantata 5:00pm	5	6 Ad Council 6:00p	7	8	9	10
11 Worship 10am Charge Conference 1:30pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship 10am Sunday School 11:15a	19	20	21	22	23	24 Candlelight Service
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION 
				OFFICE CLOSED		
				OFFICE CLOSED		

The Shepherd's Messenger
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Return Service Requested

A Child's Perspective

The first graders at an Episcopal Sunday school in San Diego were told to draw on paper their conceptions of the "flight into Egypt" by Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. One little girl turned in a picture of an airplane with three people in the back, all with halos, and a fourth up front without one. Perplexed about the picture, the teacher asked the little girl to explain.

"Oh," replied the youngster, "that's Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus in the back."

The teacher went on, "And what about the fourth person?"

"That," said the little girl with emphasis, "is Pontius, the pilot!"



The Shepherd's Messenger is a publication of the Cuba United Methodist Church, and is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about the *Messenger's* people.

Deadline for article submission is the third Monday of each month at noon. Please email articles to Editor's email address, or drop articles off to the church office.

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