



January, 2026

The Prairie Press



Volume 18, No. 5

Beautiful Christmas Sightings Abound At Rock Prairie Church



Meals On Wheels Delivers Again

by Judy Jaggard

Again, a big THANK YOU to all our Rock Prairie members and friends who answered the call to deliver Meals on Wheels Dec. 8-12 and Dec. 15-19.

There were lots of challenges these two weeks, including snowy weather, unshoveled walkways and porches, an escaping cat, a cold snap—even a rainstorm!

But we struggled on in spite of the challenges and got all the meals delivered.

A word of gratitude to all who helped would be much appreciated.

People who helped with deliveries included Kay and Tom Ward, Kathy and Jerry Gibbs, Chris and Ed Stried, Karen and Richard Johnston, Pat and Dale Rozeboom, Judy Jaggard, and several

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What Are Your Spiritual Growth Goals For 2026?

by Rev. Bruce

As we begin 2026, the new year provides a natural invitation to pause to reflect on the past as well as to set goals for the future.

Many will make New Year's resolutions to set aside bad habits and begin good habits.

In our spiritual life, the new year provides us an opportunity to assess our relationship with Jesus and to realign our life with God's purpose.

Throughout Scripture, we discover a consistent framework of new beginnings as opportunities for transformation, trust, and deeper discipleship.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation . . . (2 Corinthians 5:17) God delights in our renewal and offers us a fresh start, so we can embrace God's providence and plan for our life.

We may need to heed the prophet Isaiah, "Forget the former things . . . I am doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:18-19.) God forgives us for our former things that distance us from the Lord but continues to do new things with us, for us, and through us.

• Choose one area of life to

"release"—a habit, resentment, or fear;

- Then pray for God's renewing work and see what new things God does.

Root yourself in God's Word to build your spiritual foundation. We grow in faith and understanding when we study Scripture.

The Psalmist declared, "Your Word is a lamp to your feet." (Psalm 119:105.) The Psalmist multiple times invites us to continually meditate on God's Word. (Psalm 119:15, 97,148).

"But his delights in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates night and day." (Psalm 1:2)

- Follow a Bible-reading plan (chronological, thematic, or Gospel-focused);
- Memorize one verse per week;
- Join a Bible study or study one book with online help.

Scripture calls us to continually form our faith through Spiritual growth, not a one-time event. "Be transformed by renewing your mind" (Romans 12:1-2), so you may " . . . press on toward the goal." (Phillipians 3:12-14)

- Pick one spiritual discipline to cultivate in the new year;
- Strengthen your prayer life;
- Grow in love and service.

Spiritual maturity always expresses itself in love. Put your faith into action and discover the meaning of faith in new ways. "Love one another as Christ loved you." (John 13:34-35)

- Choose a person to bless—a note, a phone call, a meal, a prayer;
- Volunteer regularly in a ministry or mission project of RPPC;
- Practice hospitality: Invite a

friend to Worship, welcome a guest to our Worship and invite them to stay for fellowship and to return next week.

The New Year invites us to trust God's faithfulness in every season. Instead of a resolution, write a "personal rule of life"—a simple framework for living intentionally with and for God in 2026.

Practice gratitude daily for God's goodness and train your heart to serve the Lord and our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Bruce

Pastor's Schedule

Rev. Bruce will observe the Sabbath on Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

Preaching Schedule

Jan. 4—2nd Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany, Installation

*Matthew 2:1-12; **Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a; Jeremiah 31:7-14; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23; Luke 2:41-52; Psalm 84 or 84:1-8.

"A Spirit of Wisdom"

Jan. 11—1st Sunday After Epiphany, The Baptism of our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9; **Acts 10:34-43; *Matthew 3:13-17; Psalm 29.

"Anointed With The Spirit"

Jan. 18—2nd Sunday After The Epiphany

*Isaiah 49:1-7; I Corinthians 1:1-9; **John 1:29-42; Psalm 40:1-12.

"Look, Listen: The Lord Calls"

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How To Contact Us

The Prairie Press is a publication of the congregation of the Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church.

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for all the cards and phone calls—especially, a great big “thank you” for all the goodies that Rev. Bruce brought from the “Christmas on the Prairie.”

They were all so yummy!

A special “thank you” to “Jean” for her cards throughout the year!

God bless you all!

Shirley Barlass

Dear Editor:

Living Waters For the World is an organization that works every day to provide clean drinking water to residents of Africa that have never enjoyed such an asset that we take for granted.

Earl Marquis has headed up a committee at our church to support the efforts of this group. He reminds members periodically to bring in their aluminum cans, and he and his volunteers take the donated cans in for cash payment, which he deposits in the church account. Then our banker, Sandi Fogle, writes a check for the amount collected and sends it off to Africa.

Despite the fact that the checks are often for \$50 or less, the group always sends us an enthusiastic and appreciative thank you letter.

I have been impressed enough by this mission that Chris and I

will be matching whatever the future collected amounts are and donating that amount to Living Waters.

I only mention this because we think it’s possible that some of you will also decide to match the collected amount (each month or two.)

We’re motivated by the fact that daily we can get safe water at our home whenever we want it—and lately we have not been taking that fact for granted.

Earl tells me that there are others in our church who are already donating anonymously.

Maybe you will join us in helping provide clean water to some of our brothers and sisters in Africa. Even though we have never met them, it is a blessing when we can find a way to show God’s love in even a very small way.

Sincerely,

Chris and Ed Stried

Dear Editor:

I’d like to recognize Martha Johnson and Sandy Fogle for doing a great job with the weekly news updates and, especially, with the Rock Prairie Church website.

I became particularly aware of the service these two provide to church members who are unable to attend services, due to illness (like me) or due to other circumstances.

Thanks, Martha and Sandi—I really appreciate what you do!

Sincerely,

Jackie Davis

Letter Policy

The PRAIRIE PRESS

welcomes letters from our members and friends.

We will print them all, as space permits.

Send or email or drop off your letter to the Church office,

attn: **The PRAIRIE PRESS**

Rather than buying that Starbucks for the person in line behind you, call a local school and pay off a child’s overdue lunch account. Clearly the person behind you in line can afford their own coffee, but the child . . .

Meals . . .

(Continued from page 1)

much appreciated substitutes.

It would be wonderful if we could increase our pool of deliveries for the Meals on Wheels Program.

We’re continually looking for some more new blood to carry on the wonderful tradition we have developed here at our church.

The hospital requires some paper work for all volunteers, but it is not too painful. If you think helping deliver meals might be something you would enjoy, speak with some of our current drivers and keep an eye out for our next delivery dates coming up in March.

Join in this wonderful way that we can continue our Rock Prairie mission within our own community.



After her Meals on Wheels delivery route, Chris Stried returns the food carriers to Mercy Hospital.

The next requested item for the Food Pantry Cart for January is packaged hot cereal.

Let’s fill up the cart and help our less fortunate and struggling neighbors as we show God’s love by joyfully sharing our own blessings.



January 2026

January 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 26 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant	3
4 9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am Worship Fall 11:45am Fellowship	5	6 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Christian Ed Committee Meeting	7	8 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant 10:30am Prairie Pals	10
11 9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am Worship Fall Schedule	12 3:00pm NO Finance Committee Meeting	13 9:30am Bible Study	14 6:30pm Outreach & Communication Committee Meeting	15 2:00pm Personnel Committee Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant	17
18 9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am Worship Fall 11:30am Worship	19	20 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Session Meets	21	22 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant	24
25 9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am Worship Fall Schedule	26	27 9:30am Bible Study	28 6:00pm Paint & Sip #2	29 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30 6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant	31

Rev. Bruce . . . (Continued from page 5)

Jan. 25—3rd Sunday After The Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4; **I Corinthians 1:10-18; *Matthew 4:12-23; Psalm 1:5-13.

“Same Mind and Purpose”

Thanks For Giving To The Lord

January opens opportunities to rededicate our lives in service to our Lord. We set forth a plan to grow our faith with service to God and one another.

We give thanks to the Lord for those who . . .

- Visited our home-bound members and brought Christmas cheer;
- Decorated the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas;
- Participated in lighting our Advent Wreath during Worship;
- Assisted with the Children’s Christmas Program;
- Shoveled and salted our sidewalks;
- Participate in making the decisions on closures of Worship or activities;
- Purchased plants in memory of or honoring loved ones;
- Watered and cared for Christmas poinsettias;
- Sang faithfully in our choir to enhance our Worship;
- Created the Wardrobe for our entrance to Narnia;
- For providing special piano and organ duets during Advent;
- Led Worship on the Sunday following Christmas;
- Attended Worship and other church activities during some challenging weather situations.

We give thanks for those who live their faith with actions and service to Christ Jesus.

Inclement Weather and Possible Cancellations

Reminder: Session set a sub-committee to make a decision of whether to close/cancel church or activities at church.

We will attempt to make the decision far enough in advance to notify everyone of any changes or cancellations.

- First, use your best judgment. Even if we don’t close, you may not feel comfortable driving. Staying home and connecting to Worship online is an option.
- Second, once a decision is made, WCLO and Madison TV will be notified to announce any cancellations.
- Third, we will send out a Constant Contact notification (similar to The Prairie Weekly.) If you did not receive the Nov. 30 notification, please check with Sandi in the church office to make sure we have your current email address in our system.

If you don’t have email, please call other members who may have received a message. Remember, God wants us to worship but to do so wisely and safely.

Faith Exploration and Membership

In February, Rev. Bruce will lead a Faith Exploration Class. The two-part series will be on Feb. 8 and 15 following Worship.

On the first Sunday, we will explore themes of being a Christian and our Presbyterian foundations. On the second Sunday, we

will explore more about Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church and the responsibilities of membership here.

Anyone can attend to learn and explore our shared Christian faith at RPPC. If you are interested in membership, Rev. Bruce expects participation on both Sundays.

Other arrangements can be made, however, if these dates don’t work out. Those who are interested in membership will be asked to meet with Session on Sunday, Feb. 22, before Worship.

Invitations will be sent to individuals who worship with us regularly. We will receive those who desire to make a commitment during Worship that day.

Rev. Bruce invites anyone interested in the Faith Exploration class to meet one-on-one over a light meal or refreshment. Contact him at (608) 205-7428 or at

rev.bruce@gmail.com

to set up a time.

A New Year, New Committees

We give thanks for those who live their faith with actions and service to Christ Jesus.

(Continued on page 6)

January Birthdays

Jan. 3 Jackie Davis

Jan. 4 Krista Jones

Jan. 6 Cindy Morse

Jan. 8 Barb Hass

Jan. 20 Jean Van Acker

Legacy Fund Reaches \$100,00 In Assets

by Lynn Gustafson

The Legacy Fund is the formal name of the endowment fund for Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church.

The Fund was launched in 2017 to establish a long-term financial asset to sustain and grow the life, ministry, and mission of the church.

Recently, the Fund has reached a milestone of \$100,000 in assets. Now that that amount has been reached, proceeds can be used to fund projects to sustain and support the church, but we are still looking for donations to the fund.

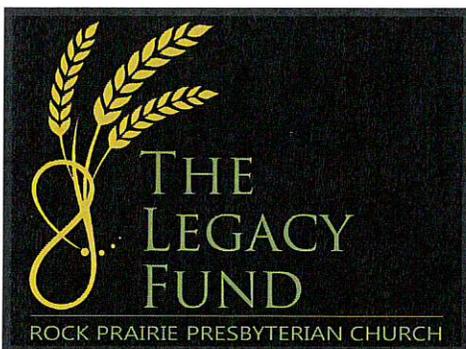
Here are six ways to make a donation to the Rock Prairie Legacy

Fund:

- Give a one-time or recurring cash gift;
- Give from your IRA (if your 70.5 years of age or older);
- Donate an appreciated stock to avoid capital gains;
- Make a grant from your Donor-Advised Fund—quick, easy, and effective;
- Designate Rock Prairie Church as a full or partial beneficiary of an insurance policy;
- Make a bequest in your Will or estate planning documents.

Donating to the Legacy Fund is not just a financial act; it is a powerful expression of your values and commitment to the church. It honors your faith while ensuring that the mission of the church continues to thrive.

During the time of giving, please consider donating to the Rock Prairie Presbyterian church Legacy Fund today



But If I Can Just Do A Little . . .

I lie to my boss every single day. I'm 72 years old, and I'm a deacon in my local church. I pay my taxes, and I've never even gotten a speeding ticket.

But for the last nine years, I've been running a scam right under the nose of the corporate management at the Second Chance Thrift Store.

If they found out, they'd fire me before I could hang up my apron. But I don't care enough to make me stop. Because in a world that loves to strip people of their pride, I've found a way to give it back.

My job is simple. I sort the do-

nations. I tag the jeans, the heavy winter coats, the work boots that still have a few miles left in them. Most customers don't look at me.

To them, I'm just part of the furniture—an old man with arthritic hands and reading glasses, pricing items that smell like mothballs and other people's memories.

But being invisible has its perks. It means I see everything.

I see the single mothers calculating the prices of groceries. I see the veterans staring at suits they need for job interviews, checking their wallets, and walking away.

And I remember the boy.

Rev. Bruce . . .

(Continued from page 5)

We have new Elders leading some of our committees. Other committee members who've served are taking a sabbatical and stepping off from serving for a while.

If you are interested in serving, contact the committee chair and discover how God's gifts given to you can enhance the ministry and mission of RPPC:

Christian Education Ministry—
Katie Blija kblija@yahoo.com

Communication & Outreach—
Sandi Fogle—
office@rockprairiechurch

Finance Ministry—Tom Wolfe
tomwolfe1207@sbcglobal.net

Fellowship Ministry—Lindi Paull
bobandlindipaull@gmail.com

Worship Ministry—Pat Rozeboom
pkrozeboom@gmail.com

Buiding & Grounds Ministry—Ed Hale
eddyphale@gmail.com

Mission Ministries—Cathy Wagner
clw8090@gmail.com

Personnel Ministry—Pam Hatfield
hatfield.pamela@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry—*Kristin Barlass
Paul kabarlass@hotmail.com

*Not an Elder but coordinating the work of the committee

Deacons—**Kay Ward
tkward726@gmail.com

Legacy Board of Trustees—**Bo Plank kplank@gmail.com

** Elected boards of the church

It was mid-November in our rusty little town. The wind was already cutting through the streets like a knife. He walked in wearing a hoodie so thin I could see his t-shirt underneath.

He couldn't have been more than

(Continued on page 7)

'Am I Doing Wrong?' (Continued from page 6)

14 years old. Skinny, shivering, with that guarded look that kids get when the system has failed them one too many times.

He went straight to the coat rack. He found a heavy, navy blue parka—brand name, down-filled, barely worn. It was priced at \$25. A steal for regular folks, but a fortune for him.

I watched him from the corner of my eye. He held the sleeve, feeling the warmth of it. He checked the tag. His shoulders drooped about three inches. He didn't groan, he didn't complain. He just carefully put it back on the hanger and started walking toward the door.

My heart hammered in my chest. I couldn't just hand it to him. I've learned the hard way that charity tastes bitter to people who are trying to survive. If you offer a handout, they feel small. They feel like a project.

So, I grabbed the coat and intercepted him at the counter.

"Hey, son," I called out.

He froze, looking ready to bolt. "I didn't steal nothing."

"I know," I grumbled and walked toward him.

"I know," I repeated, "but I got a problem. That coat there? It's got a defect. Zipper sticks.. Store policy says I can't sell 'damaged goods' for more than three bucks. You got three bucks?"

Over the next few years, "store policy" became my secret weapon.

When Mrs. Miller, a widow living on Social Security, needed a new toaster but only had \$5, the \$20 model suddenly had a "dented cord" discount.

When a young father needed steel-toed boots to start his first construction job, I invented a "Tuesday Morning Workwear Clearance."

I kept a ledger in my head. I'd pay the difference out of my own pocket when the drawer count didn't match, or I'd mark items "Unsellable/discarded" in the system. I was terrified of getting caught.

Then, one afternoon, a woman in a cashmere scarf caught me in the act. She watched me sell a pristine baby stroller to

a terrified young girl for \$10.

After the girl left, the woman approached the counter. I braced myself, expecting a lecture or a threat to call the manager.

Instead, she slid a folded \$100 bill across the glass.

"For your . . . inventory errors," she said winking.

It rippled out from there. Quietly. The regulars caught on. They never said a word aloud. They'd just buy a \$5 trinket,

He leaned in, his voice low and thick with emotion. "I knew you were lying. Even back then, I knew. But you didn't make me beg. You let me buy it. You let me be a customer, not a beggar. "You let me walk out of there feeling like a man."

He reached into his pocket and pulled out an envelope.

"I'm a paramedic now. I have saved lives. But I don't think I would have made it through that winter without that coat. Or without knowing that someone actually cared about me."

He placed the envelope on the counter.

"There's \$500 in there," he said. "Use it. I know 'store policy' is expensive."

I tried to push it back, my hands shaking.

"I can't . . ."

"It's not for you," he stated firmly, "It's for the next kid who comes in shivering. Make sure his zipper is bro-

ken, too."

He turned and walked out, head high, into the autumn sun.

I'm 72 years old. My back hurts, and my feet swell after a long shift. But I have the best job in the world.

We live in a country that tells you your worth is tied to your bank account. We tell people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps even when they have no boots.

But I've learned something powerful is the dusty old store: Dignity is more important than charity.

Sometimes, helping someone isn't just about giving them what they need. It's about how you give it to them.

If you can help someone while letting them keep their pride—if you can help them without making them feel small—you don't just feed their body or warm their back. You save their spirit.

So, I'll keep lying. I'll keep bending the rules. I'll keep making up policies that don't exist.

Because the price tag doesn't matter. The person wearing the clothes does.



"How do you like this damaged one?" the clerk asked the customer.

hand me a \$20, and say, "Keep the change for the next time 'the system acts up'."

We built a secret economy based entirely on dignity. We weren't giving handouts, we were leveling the playing field.

Last Tuesday, the bell above the door rang.

A man walked in. He was tall, broad-shouldered, wearing a crisp EMT uniform. He looked confident, solid. He walked the aisles with purpose. But he wasn't shopping.

He came straight to my counter.

"You're Arthur," he stated.

I adjusted my glasses. "I am."

He smiled, and suddenly, I saw the skinny, 14-year-old boy in the shivering gray hoodie.

"You sold me a navy blue parka 10 years ago," he said. "Told me the zipper was busted."

I felt my face heat up "I process a lot of coats, son."

"The zipper wasn't busted, Arthur."

New Members

Delight, Russ Antos Make It Official

by Chris Stried

It doesn't really seem like Delight and Russ Antos need too much of an introduction, since they have spent many years being involved in Rock Prairie Church activities.

But let's see if you can learn some new details about our recently-confirmed new members.

Delight and Russ presently live in Milton, where they have resided for 37 years, with their three-year-old English Golden Retriever, Kosmo.

Delight was born in Ft. Worth, Texas, but growing up, she moved often, and her family also lived in Minnesota, Michigan, and Illinois.

Russ grew up on the southwest side of Chicago, in the Marquette area.

Delight's father was an American Baptist/USA pastor. When he took a pastorate in Chicago, the family moved into the manse that happened to be next door to where Russ' family lived.

So they met as backyard neighbors, became over-the-fence friends, and eventually fell in love.

After their marriage, they lived in Reedsburg, Clinton, and finally Milton. Next May 22 will be their 50th anniversary.

They have three children: Melanie Rose, 43, who lives in Sun Prairie; Anna Rae, 40, who lives near DePere; and Rudi, 37, who lives in Cudahay. Ava Mae, 8, is their only grandchild.

Delight works for the Milton School District as a pianist for all the choirs at both Northside School and Milton High School.

She works every day and adds special concerts and programs throughout the year. She has been doing this since 1993, when she started part-time, and, it has devel-

oped into full-time.

"It's so wonderful to do something you love doing and having people and God appreciate it," she says.

Delight and Russ both like gardening and have many beds of flowers and hostas in their beautiful yard. When the kids were young, the family did all sorts of puzzles together, and that interest has carried on for Delight, who continues to do puzzles, some of which she does on her phone.

Russ' job history includes working for Rockford Memorial Hospital and, for 32 years, at Mercy

sin Dells, Reedsburg, Clinton, and, most recently, at Ixonia, where he worked for nearly 10 years, up until the time that he and Delight returned to Rock Prairie Church.

Russ' spare time finds him gardening, woodworking, and renovating his house. These renovations have kept him working on projects, like dry walling, plumbing, carpentry, and anything else a homeowner of a house over 100 years old might need to do.

He also pays attention and listens to folks who are in difficult times and offers to help them with minor maintenance and repairs (pro bono.)

In talking with Russ, I heard him use a phrase that maybe all of us could adopt as a life motto: "See a need, do a deed."

In 2006, Delight answered an ad for a pianist/organist position at Rock Prairie Church. This became their introduction to our church, and over time, they have grown to love it here. Russ says, "There is a spiritual vitality and a friendliness which is contagious in this church."

Russ has answered the call to be a Deacon and will be installed in January. He also will continue to be a regular liturgist.

He has served on the Refugee Committee, working with the Mutabazi family.

I'm sure we all appreciate it when Delight drops back into her roles as a pianist and organist whenever she is needed and whenever she and Sylvia put their talents together to enhance the Worship music we all enjoy.

Welcome back, Delight and Russ. We love having you here!



Russ and Delight Antos

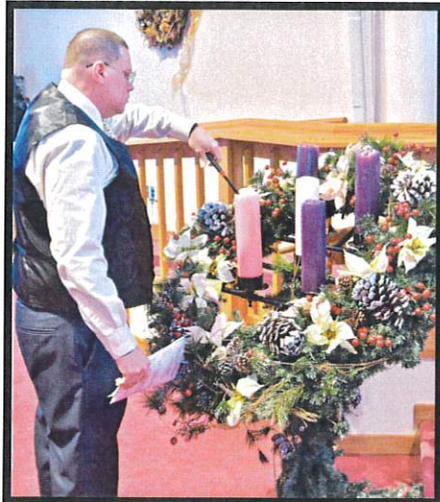
Hospital as a Respiratory Therapist. He retired just at the onset of the COVID epidemic.

Russ attended the Central YMCA Community College in Chicago, earning an Associate Degree in Respiratory Therapy, and then at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he earned a degree in history.

In addition, Russ earned a Master's of Divinity degree from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois, and has served as a pastor since 1980 at several small churches in Wiscon-

Advent Wreath Lighting Is An Old Tradition

Carrying on an ages-old tradition, RPPC congregation members lit Advent Wreath candles



Jason VanMeter

during the Sundays preceding Christmas.

While the Bible doesn't say anything about this observance during what we now call Advent, the practice has existed within the global Christian church for many centuries.

In fact, this is nearly as old as the church itself, with the earliest mentions of the tradition happening as early as the 380 A.D. at the



Georgia Waterman

Council of Saragossa.

“Advent” (from the Latin for “coming”) is defined as “. . . the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and also for the preparation of the Second Coming of Christ.”

The season of Advent lasts four Sundays leading up to Christmas. During Worship, candles are lit that represent Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

This year, our Worship on the first Sunday of Advent was cancelled due to the weather.

So on the second Sunday of Advent, two candles were lit. Georgia Waterman lit the first candle, Hope; the second candle, Peace, was lit by Maya Eichelt, with Elizabeth Sarauer doing the reading.

The next Sunday, Jason VanMeter lit the third candle, Joy, with Kristin Schultz doing the reading; and Leon Beebe lit the fourth candle, Love, with Cindy Kuter doing the reading, the Sunday before Christmas.

There was a final candle—the Christ Candle—which was placed in the center of the wreath. It was lit during the Christmas Eve service by Nicole Barlass.



Leon Beebe



Maya Eichelt



Nicole Barlass

Our Children Portray 'The Birth Of Jesus'

by Katie Blija

The Christmas Story was once again brought to Life at Rock Prairie during Worship on Dec. 21.

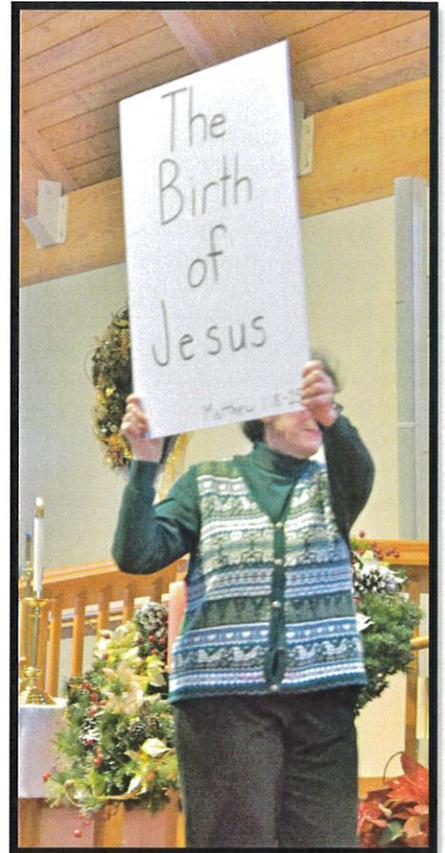
Narrated by youth members Kennedy Paul and Madison Sarbacker, the story unfolded as Sunday School members portrayed Joseph, Mary, angels, shepherds, and animals.

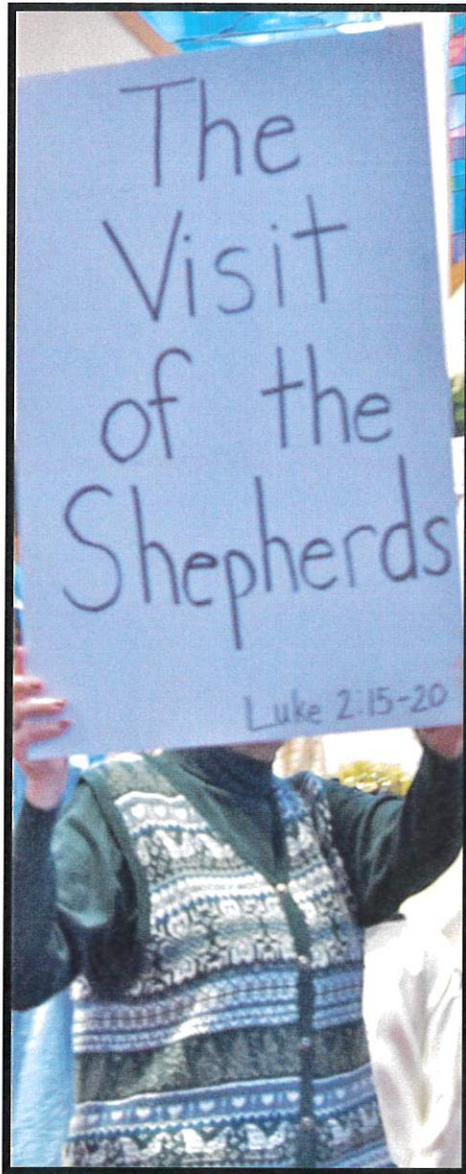
Music was a key part of this year's program, as the Adult Choir joined the children in singing carols and ending with a rousing version of "We Wish You A Merry

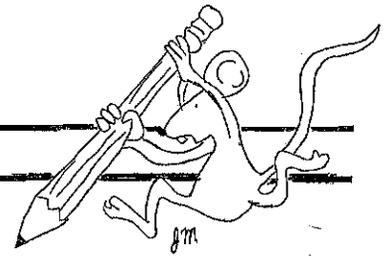
Christmas!"

Students who participated included Sawyer, Kylee, Harper, Prince, Lion, Anna Lou, Huntley, Joyeuse, Melanie, Daxton, Jenson, Gregory, Colt, and Theo.

Thank you to Krista Jones for putting this performance together, and to Chris Zhe, Jessica Wellnitz, Gail Wolfe, Jean Van Acker, and Pat Rozeboom for providing valuable support!







The Church Mouse

Dear Friends,

A new year is dawning!

It is a blessing . . . ours to use, not abuse.

Here are some things for you to think about that might help you get off to a good start:

GOOD ADVICE

(Part 1 of 3)

1. Give to God what's right . . . not what's left.
2. Man's way leads to a hopeless end . . . God's way leads to an endless hope.
3. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
4. He who kneels before God can stand before anything.
5. In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma—but never let him become a period.
6. Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
7. Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a face lift.
8. When praying, don't give God instruction—just report for duty.

* * * * *

—The Church Mouse

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