

UP BEAT

**Monthly Newsletter of United Parish
January 2017**

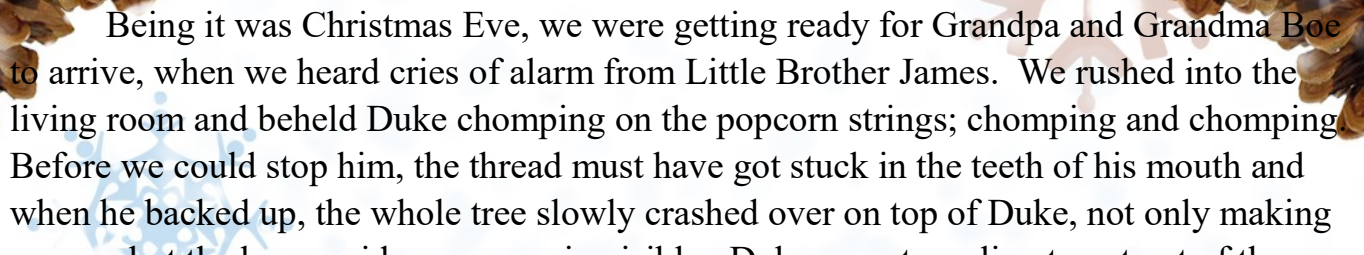
Duke and the Christmas Tree

Back on the farm when I was young, we've had a Golden Retriever dog. My Aunt Ruby surprised us with him that fall. Duke was seven-years old and papered; Duke of Wellington was his proper name, but to us he was just Duke. He got into a lot of trouble in Chicago because he was a cat-killer, plus he was completely useless as a hunting dog, so Aunt Ruby got him to give to us. It wasn't his fault he was dumber than a stick, but he grew into one of the family.

Duke got to stay in the house because his fur wasn't heavy enough to keep him warm enough to stay outside; the next winters he got to stay inside because he was spoiled. Our old Tabby farm cat quickly taught him manners the first time he charged him; cat-claws across the nose and he was a cat killer no longer.

His first Christmas with us was special. Dad would wait until December 23rd or so to buy our Christmas Tree. It would be the last tree not sold and the guy was tired and cold and wanted to go home and was willing to deal. In fact, he probably paid Dad to take it. To be fair, you could put the tree in the corner, and you don't see that there weren't any pine needles on that side at all. Big Brother Allen and Dad would set the tree up and Ma and us smaller kids would decorate it. Of course, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the decorations would be on the lower $\frac{1}{4}$ of the tree, and the crowning glory would be the angel, which took a step ladder to place her on top of the tree, and then plugged in. It's impossible to have an ugly Christmas tree.

That year, Ma decided to have an old-fashioned decorated Christmas tree. She had us kids at the kitchen table with colored construction paper, scissors, and glue making paper chains to put on the tree, then she popped pop-corn and using needle and thread, sewed them into popcorn strings to adorn the tree.



Being it was Christmas Eve, we were getting ready for Grandpa and Grandma Boe to arrive, when we heard cries of alarm from Little Brother James. We rushed into the living room and beheld Duke chomping on the popcorn strings; chomping and chomping. Before we could stop him, the thread must have got stuck in the teeth of his mouth and when he backed up, the whole tree slowly crashed over on top of Duke, not only making a mess, but the barren sides were again visible. Duke was struggling to get out of there, and when we got the tree lifted up, there was a strange look at Duke's face. It is probably the first time he was attacked by a tree.

We got the tree standing up, well, it is possible to have an ugly Christmas tree. The barren sides were no longer hidden, the paper chains were broken apart here and there, the few packages under the tree were ripped open, and the angel had one of her wings broken off. And the popcorn strings had disappeared. But all was not lost. We kids were angry at Duke, but one couldn't stay mad long at a member of the family. The angel had her wings glued on (crookedly) and she sat on top of the tree sort of lop-sided. But it was our tree, a Christmas Tree. Grandpa and Grandma and Uncle Barney came, and we ate good roast beef with all the fix'ins. Later on we opened presents and had a late desert, and laughed about Duke, and how he would have acted if there were salt and butter on that popcorn. It was a fine Christmas.

We hope that your Christmas was fine and you'd found out how much you have been graced by God. .



An Interrupted Life by Bishop Bruce Ough

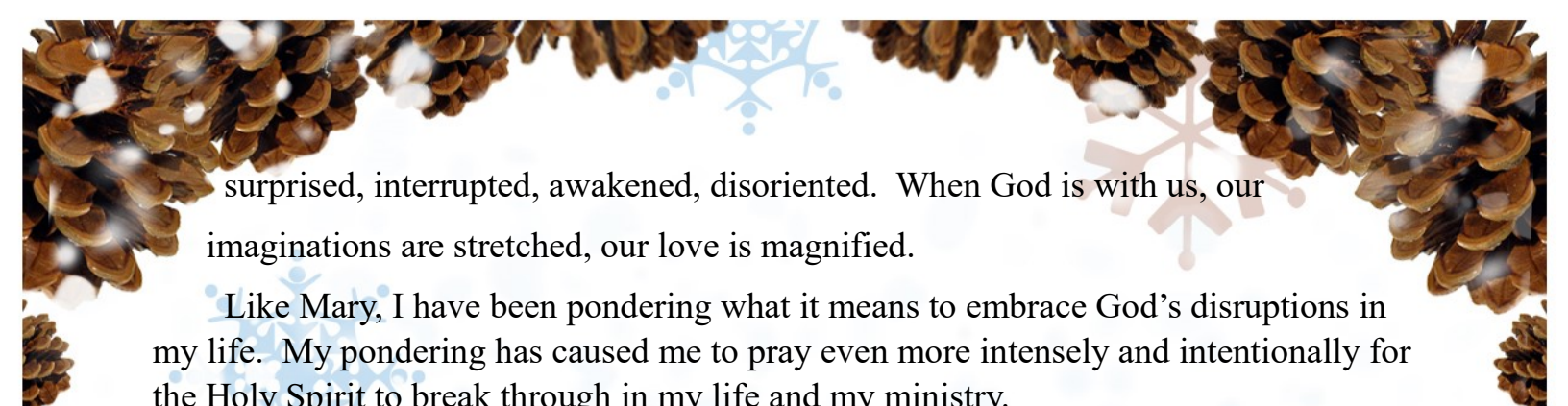
The Christmas Story is, at its core, a story of interrupted and disrupted lives. The Christmas narrative has become so familiar to us that we can't imagine what an unexpected intrusion the angels and the baby and those gawking shepherds were for Mary and Joseph.

Imagine how Mary's life was interrupted when the angel Gabriel appeared and told her she would bear God's son.

Imagine how Joseph's boat was rocked when he learned of Mary's pregnancy. An angel urged Joseph not to fear. Right! How could Joseph not fear when his whole world has been disrupted by a pregnancy so unexpected, maybe even unwanted? When is the last time an angel intruded on one of dreams without it being a significant distraction?

God fully intends to disrupt our lives. God is constantly seeking to interrupt our lives; commanding our attention; disorienting us; calling us to make room for God in our hearts and our lives.

The Christ-child is called Emmanuel, which means "God with us". Jesus is God's greatest intrusion into the world—into our lives. When God is with us, we are



surprised, interrupted, awakened, disoriented. When God is with us, our imaginations are stretched, our love is magnified.

Like Mary, I have been pondering what it means to embrace God's disruptions in my life. My pondering has caused me to pray even more intensely and intentionally for the Holy Spirit to break through in my life and my ministry.

I can see 100's, even 1,000's, of new people taking notice and seeking to make room for Jesus in their lives. I can see justice rolling down like a mighty stream. I can see fear and despair being replaced with hope and joy. I can see love and mercy prevailing over bigotry and violence. I can see transformed lives, families, political processes, and businessmen.

I can see 100's, even 1,000's, echoing Mary's response to God's intrusion into her life: "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your Word."

May it be so. And, may you each have a most blessed, merry, and interrupted Christmas.



DID YOU KNOW

that the partridge in a pear tree is Jesus the Christ? Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments. Three French hens stand for faith, hope, and love. The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The five golden rings recall the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. The six geese a-laying stands for the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit; prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership, and mercy. The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control. The ten Lords-a-leaping are the Ten Commandments. The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples. The twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points in the Apostle's Creed. So there is your history lesson for today. Merry Christmas.

10 SIGNS YOU'RE DOING WELL IN LIFE

You're staying in the faith.

You have a roof over your head.



You ate today.

You have a good heart.
You wish good for others.
You have clean water.
Someone cares for you.
You forgive others.
You have clothes to wear.
You're breathing.

YOU ARE THE WIND by Olav Hauge

I am a boat
without wind.
You were the wind.
Was that the direction I wanted to go?
Who cares about directions
with a wind like that!

North Dakota: come for the culture.

stay because your car won't start.

WE ARE SO desperate to be understood, we forget to understand.

MAN SACRIFICES his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices his money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he does not enjoy the present, that result being that he does not live in the present of the future. He lives as if he never going to die, and the dies having never lived.

Dali Lama

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD” – Proverbs 19:17

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service	2	3 6:30 Staff - Parish Parish Council to meet with Kermit Culver	4 2PW 7 Parish Council	5 10:00 Bible Study	6	7
8 9 Fellowship 9 Sunday School 10 Worship Ser- vice	9 10 Quilters & fel- lowship 7 Happy Hearts Reports are due	10	11 2 UMW	12 10:00 Bible Study	13	14
15 9 Fellowship 9 Sunday School 10 Worship Ser- vice	16 10 Quilters & fel- lowship 7 Happy Hearts	17	18	19 10:00 Bible Study	20	21
22 9 Fellowship 9 Sunday School 10 Worship Ser- vice	23 10 Quilters & fel- lowship 7 Happy Hearts	24	25	26 10:00 Bible Study	27	28
29 9 Fellowship 9 Sunday School 10 Worship Ser- vice	30 10 Quilters & fel- lowship 7 Happy Hearts	31				

United Parish Roof Fund

Myra Anderson - Ron & Marsha Martin
Gary Patterson - Karol Patterson
Edwin & LaVaughn Marquardt - Sharon,
Karen, Mary, Bob and families

Donations
Marsha Martin
Boe's



1 – Jim & Linda Berube

26 – Dennis & Evon Gravseth



Birthdays for January

04 – Mary Elise McKay

08 - Noel Sand

09 – Amy Sand

10 – Trevor Wettlaufer

11 – Lori Witteman

12 – Mark Gregg

19 – Brad Knudson

22 – Marie Faye Sand

25 – David Reinholz



Thank you to our great Sunday School teachers: Kari Jostad, Andrew Bremner, Kristen Allard, Emily Mercer, Shari Turner and Zahra Moss for the work they did on putting on the Christmas program. Special thanks to Alexis and Wyatt Heil for their great work in helping. Also, thank you to John Patterson for working with the sound system. Thank you to everyone else who helped in making this a success.

We also need to acknowledge all the children for without them there would be no program.

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for working for the potluck.

Thanks to Pat Kippen and her workers for preparing the church for the Advent Season. Beautiful job!!

Thank you to everyone who has helped in clearing snow and ice this year.

The United Parish
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Bottineau, ND 58318

Facebook

We are on the web

www.unitedparishbottineau.com

Newsletter News:

Send to

unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com

Deadline For February Newsletter Is January 23rd

Pastor Boe's Cell phone 320-305-1953

Gerry Boe's cell phone 320- 305-1340

January 8, 2017

11:30 - 1:30

Open to the public.

Baked potato chili

feed taking the place of the Fall Supper. There is a can in the back of the church for cash donations to help pay for the ingredients.



Please check to see if you have extra church keys and return them to the office.

We need them back now.

