

Saints and sinners: Christmas lives on in story album

From an album of my favorite Christmas stories ...

Agnes' happiest Christmas was also her saddest. She had always dreamed of opening her presents on Christmas morning and finding a fur coat in one of the brightly wrapped packages. But fur coats were expensive, and she knew her husband couldn't afford one.

On this Christmas morning, she was surer than ever that there would be no fur coat under the tree. Her husband had been ill with heart trouble much of the year.

So, after she opened a 5-pound box of chocolates, a pair of gloves and a sheer nightie (John

had never lost that gleam in his eyes), she put her arms around him and thanked him.

"There's another box for you behind the big chair," he said as she hugged him.

It was a big box — the kind a fur coat would come in. But she knew it couldn't be.

But it was! And it was beautiful.

"Put it on," he said. Her hair was up in curls and she was wearing her bathrobe. She was just about to make breakfast for them.

"Oh, not now, John," she said. "I'll wear it for you when we go out tomorrow night."

But he insisted, so she made breakfast that Christmas morning in her house slippers and fur



george
plagenz

• saints & sinners

coat.

She is glad she did. That was the only time John was to see her in the gift she had waited so long to receive — and the gift John had saved so long to get her.

Agnes took him to the hospital that night, and

he died the next morning.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care ...

The custom of hanging stockings by the fireplace on the night before Christmas has been traced to St. Nicholas, a bishop in Asia Minor in the fourth century. An immensely wealthy churchman, he is credited with helping those in need — always in secret, however.

According to legend, St. Nicholas knew an old nobleman who was very poor but who did not want anyone to know of his poverty. Wishing to give him a gift of money, St. Nicholas

crept to a window and saw the old gentleman asleep by the fire. As the good bishop did not want to be seen, he climbed to the roof and dropped his gift down the chimney, thinking it would fall on the hearth at the nobleman's feet. It happened, however, that the nobleman's daughter had hung her stockings by the fire to dry, and the money fell into one of them. When the daughter went to take her stockings down from the fireplace the next morning, she found the money. And so the legend goes, dear children, from that kindly deed of St. Nicholas has grown the custom of hanging stockings by the fireplace on Christmas Eve.

Two owners of organ firm feel their business is a special ministry

By Jason Keyser

Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Just before Pope John Paul II's visit to the United States in 1987, workers at a Miami cathedral had made all the preparations, including spray-painting the grass green. The only problem was the pipe organ.

Sometimes it played, sometimes it didn't. Sometimes it played by itself when notes stuck.

So the Miamians called Phil Minnick and Robert Bunn, who started a pipe organ business in a basement in Columbus, to make the repairs.

"It was a speechless moment," Minnick says about seeing the pope. "I could tell that he loved the sounds of the organ by the expression on his face, the way he applauded the organist. I can't even describe it."

The two owners of Bunn-Minnick Company Pipe Organs wish that everyone showed the kind of excitement the pope did at hearing the boom of a cen-

turies-old pipe organ.

They and some of their 25 employees say working with instruments of worship brings together their jobs and faith.

"It's a relief from the modern world," says Minnick, speaking of the organ's unique, medieval sound.

Some churches opt for electronic or digital organs, but the sound is not the same. Besides, electronic components and plastic keys wear out over time.

So some churches still opt for pipe organs, even though they can cost \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Bunn and Minnick's 31-year-old company has long since moved out of Robert Bunn's basement and into a large three-story building cluttered with hunks of poplar and lead pipes.

The company, one of about 100 pipe organ makers of its size nationwide, is booked with orders and restoration work nearly two years in advance.

Religion plays a central role in their work, Bunn and Minnick say. They call

it a ministry.

Above the entrance to the building is written: "Soli Deo Glori," a Latin phrase Bach inscribed on his manuscripts. It means, "To God alone, the glory."

The building even has a chapel. The cross above a small altar is made of the wood from a utility pole that carried power into the building, which in the early 20th century housed a company that made steel oil derricks.

Bunn worries about finding younger workers to continue the craft.

"I hate to think that Phil and I built all this up and it would go to pot," Bunn says. "There are not a lot of young people interested at this point."

One younger worker drawn to the spiritual craft is Scott Gorsuch, 38, a rock guitarist and cabinet maker who showed up on the company's doorstep about four years ago.

"Ninety percent of my friends sit in front of a computer at their jobs," Gorsuch says. "They can't grasp what

it is that I do."

Gorsuch sets the pitch of the pipes, making slight adjustments in their openings to give them their voice.

He sees himself as an ambassador as he introduces his rock audiences to an older sound.

"Pipe organs are not terribly hip," Gorsuch acknowledges.

Other workers say they don't worry

about the music catching listeners' attention. Some of them say that God has always helped.

Karen Freudigman, 43, sometimes prays in the building's chapel in the mornings. She has worked for the company for 11 years repairing the small leather pouches that allow air into organ pipes when the keys are pressed.

Religion and music are bound to-

gether for her. "Music is real important. It is how I connect," she says, raising her hands toward the sky, "through the music."

She also does her part to ensure the future of the trade by teaching others, including a young organist and student.

"I'm teaching him something that he'll keep with him for the rest of his life," she says.

Methodists show gain in new Congress

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) — A survey of the religious affiliations listed by members of the new U.S. Congress shows Roman Catholics in first place with 150 representatives and senators, a drop of one from the outgoing Congress. Sixty-one percent are Democrats.

Baptists ranked second with 72 members (a gain of three), closely split between Republicans and Democrats.

The third-ranking Methodists posted the biggest gain, from 59 to 65. Demo-

crats have a majority among Senate Methodists, including Hillary Rodham Clinton and four other new members, while two-thirds of House Methodists are Republicans.

Sheriffs' group urges a halt to inmates working for churches

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, Fla. — The Florida Sheriffs Association has recommended an immediate halt to using jail inmates as free labor for churches. The association's notice to sheriffs

says the practice could expose them to claims of violating the Florida constitution by improperly spending public funds.

Prophet's Church Universal and Triumphant selling off Montana properties

LIVINGSTON, Mont. — The Church Universal and Triumphant says it is selling a 9,300-acre ranch in Paradise Valley. The asking price is \$12.5 million.

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Don Crutcher
Fifth & Broadway
899-7368

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor:

Fourth & College • 899-3605

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Family Night: 7 pm
Adult Bible Study and Youth Group
Saturday: Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm

If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
899-6185

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Jerry Farr

Third & Caldwell

899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor:

Fifth & Center • 899-3450

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm

Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 5:30 am
Thursday: Ladies' Bible Study: 10 am

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Bobby Potter • 332-3956

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am



First United Methodist Church

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Loren Strait

Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am
Junior & High School Youth Group: 5:30 pm

Tuesday: Bible Study: 7 pm
Wednesday: Devotions: 10 am

Choir Practice: 7 pm

Judi's Rainbow Preschool: Wednesdays and Fridays - 9-11 am
(Handicap Accessible, Nursery Provided)

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman

899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

Minister: Tony Kafka

Youth Minister: Doug Bean

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am

Wednesday:

Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

Pastor: Scott Grimshaw

Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am
Worship Service: 10 am

Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado

United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox

399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor:

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

Priest: Father Charles Schneider

Deacon: Gretchen Talitha

Saturday: Church School: 4 pm

Holy Communion: 5 pm

Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470

Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th

899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh

Sunday: Worship Celebration &
Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

Daily Prayer: Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead

307 W. 13th • 899-7205

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 6 pm

Sunday: 8 am and 10:30 am

Spanish Mass:

1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community for over 100 years

Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70

Pastor: Jim Cress

899-5784

Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am

Sunday School: 10 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

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