



It's Almost Christmas! Are You Ready?

Have you finished your shopping? I finished mine weeks ago. Have I wrapped any gifts? Nope. Not a single one. I have friends who wrap them as they buy them. That sounds good in theory, but then where do you put them they so they won't get all ruffled? I can't wrap until the tree is up and ALL of the decorations are on the tree. Being a short girl means I need a ladder and I can't get the ladder close if there are gifts under the tree. Thus, the gifts go unwrapped until the ladder is put away.

Every year I promise myself I will not wait until the last minute to do all of the wrapping, but every year I find myself still awake on Christmas Eve after the late service when everyone else has gone to bed and the only Christmas special I can find on TV to keep me awake is from a small town church who paid their local cable station to run their Christmas music. It's usually horrible, but it tends to make me grateful for the music in our church.

I do remember one year finding a local church singing selections from Handel's *Messiah* at 1 am. The singing wasn't that bad, but everything was sooooo

sloooooowwww. I noticed that a friend was playing in the orchestra. I also noticed that he kept drifting off to sleep on the songs where he wasn't playing. I asked him about it later and was told that the station promised to air the music if they could fill up 30 minutes. The problem was, the choir only knew 20 minutes of music, thus the slow tempos. I wondered why the director had committed to doing something when he knew his group wasn't up to the task.

How many times have I done the same thing, promising to do something that was *just* out of reach of my abilities? Did I do it to push myself? To see if I could learn something new *in time*? Did I just say yes before really thinking it thru? Or did I not want to admit I couldn't do it?

Sometimes God calls us to do things that we don't think we're ready to do. Steve & I had three kids in 33 months; not because *we* thought we were ready, but because God did. He was right, of course, as He always is, but I'll admit, it was more than a little frightening.

Is God calling you to do something you're not ready to do? Maybe you don't think

you're ready to come back to church. Christmas Eve services are at 5:30 and 10 pm on the 24th. Wouldn't it be great to be in church on Christmas Eve? I can get you a ride to one of those services if you're ready to come.

Maybe God's calling you to phone some of the other homebound members and chat. Maybe sending cards is more your speed. Just because you're at home doesn't mean God isn't calling you to do something. God doesn't stop using us until He calls us home. We just need to be ready and say yes even if we don't think we're ready.

Now, on to the important stuff.

The Week December 18-24 is:

-Last Minute Shopping Week

Some celebrations only last a day:

18th-Roast Suckling Pig Day

Answer the Phone Like Buddy
the Elf Day

19th-Oatmeal Muffin Day

National Hard Candy Day

20th-National Sangria Day

Go Caroling Day

21st-Crossword Puzzle Day

Humbug Day

National Flashlight Day

Short Girl Appreciation Day

22nd-Date Nut Bread Day

Be a Lover of Silence Day

23rd-Pfeffernusse Day

24th-National Egnog Day

Christmas Eve

Have a great week & call if you need anything!

Serving Him & Loving it!

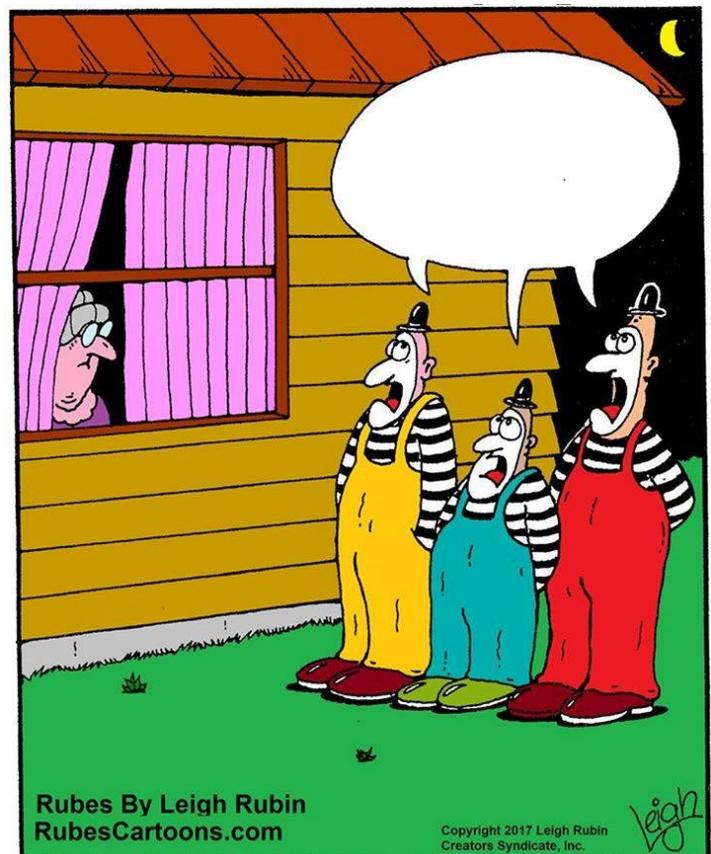
Carol 🤗❤️

Pastor Bill 901-569-1428

Pastor Cassie 678-492-3956

Carol 803-360-7137

CHRISTMAS GIGGLES



The mime Christmas carolers performed a heartfelt rendition of "Silent Night."