

# SPRING HILL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2022

## THE OLD FARMER

The old farmer came in from morning chores. He changed his ragged coat, wet boots with hurried excitement. Back out the door, in the truck, and gone before his wife could pour his coffee.

What could he be in such a hurry for on Christmas eve she thought to herself. Miles away a car slowly navigates the familiar but frozen country roads. Very unhappy kids in the back-seat. "Why do we have to go there" "That farm is dirty" "They smell funny" "They never get us anything" Their Dad looked sternly at them in the mirror. "Your grandparents are hardworking people."

"They don't have a lot of money." After the last miles in silence they arrived at the old farmhouse. Met at the door with big warm hugs that only mamaw can give, and fresh cookies. "Where's Dad" "He took off to town right after milking," said the old lady.

Soon the old man returned. After the usual lukewarm greeting, and a few ruffled heads he sat a cloth alfalfa seed bag beside his worn but comfortable chair without notice from anyone. He brushed that white hair from his

wife's face for a peck on the cheek as she poured his coffee.

It wasn't long "til the old man rose from his chair, pulled on his old coat, stuck a couple cookies in his pocket, and headed out to the barn. Followed quickly by the younger man doing his best to keep up. Leaving the disinterested kids with their electronics.

In the barn the young man was transported to the simpler days of his childhood. The vacuum pump humming outside, the clicking pulsators overhead, the calm gentle way the old man talked to the cows. Everything just the way it always had been. Without being told he knew exactly what to do to help. Like riding a bicycle he jumped right in, strangely the tedious tasks of forking hay, scooping feed, and cleaning cows seemed more gratifying to him now than at 16.

To the old mans surprise everything was soon finished. With a tired ole hand on his shoulder he jokingly said, "good help is hard to find."

Soon they returned to the tiny farmhouse to find a Christmas eve supper fit

for a king. Everything from their farm, the good simple kind of food that can only come from loving experienced hands, well cared for animals, and a well manured garden. After his last sip of coffee, and his second piece of pie the old man headed back out the door.

"Clara is supposed to calve tonight" he told his wife "be back soon."

Time went by. The old lady looked worried as she peered out the kitchen window. "I'll go get him mamma" the young man said as he pulled on his coat.

He found the old man in a dark corner of the barn shoulder deep in an old cow who looked close to death.

His first thought was for his boys to see what was about to happen. He ran back to the house and without explanation grabbed the young boys and all but dragged them out to the old barn. They found the old man still struggling to untangle the calf inside while the cow bawled faintly in the deep straw.

"That's disgusting" "What's he doing"

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## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- TERRY & SHANNON
- MAXINE
- SHARON
- TOMMY & ANGIE
- TRACEY
- CAROLYN
- JAMIE, LACEY & KIDS
- FREDDY, JO ANN & KIDS
- DALE & DONNA
- CINDY
- FLOYD & ANGEL
- DENNIS, SANDY & ANDY
- MIKE & MARY
- JESSE & FRAN
- CAROL
- BRUCE & PATSY
- LAWRENCE & JAN
- DON
- JESSE & CAROL
- THE CHURCH
- OUR MISSIONARY'S
- THE LOST
- CHRIS & JENNA
- JAKE, ASHLEY & KIDS
- MIKEL
- CODY, LAURA & KIDS
- LONNIE
- THE OLD, POOR, SICK & NEEDY





*continued from previous page* .... **THE OLD FARMER**

"Hush and watch"  
Finally the old man managed to free both back legs. Recognizing the urgency of the situation the younger man jumped the gate to help his already tired father. Together they freed the huge bull calf from its mother. Decades of experience kicked in and the old man did what he'd done a thousand times before. Once the calf coughed to life and began to wiggle it's slimy ears he pulled it around for the cow to clean off. However she was to far gone. "Sit down Dad. I will clean it up."

Using the straw then warm towels soon the calf was trying to stand.

The young boys were amazed by what they had just witnessed. A thousand questions ran through their heads, but they couldn't find the words to ask them.

Frozen colostrum saved for just such an occasion and shortly the new calf was on it's feet.

The old man hadn't said anything for a couple hours. As he took out an old pistol wrapped in oiled rags from a cabinet he asked his son if he wanted to take the kids outside.

"No they've seen birth they need to see the rest."

"This part ain't as pretty" said the old man as he rubbed the words "Vietnam 68-69" crudely scratched into the pistol.

The younger boy began to cry asking what papaw was going to do.

He held his children close as the old man cocked the pistol.

He lovingly stroked the old cows head then put her down.

The shot rang through the old barn every animal jumped. The younger boy ran back to the house.

Having heard the gunshot the old woman knew what had happened.

As everyone quietly came back in the house the old woman

whispered to her son "Clara was born the day your brother went to Iraq"

This was a special cow to the old man. He sat quietly in his chair by the wood stove. Tears periodically rolling down his sun aged face, disappearing into his white beard.

Suddenly he wiped his face before he thought anyone would notice. "Well it's Christmas now" he sorrowfully said "Sorry I ruined it for everyone."

Before anyone could protest he pulled out his seed bag.

"Maybe I can make it a little better."

For each of the boys he presented a plain black Bible with their name inscribed on it, and a new case pocket knife.

"You boys have seen some of the best, and some of the worst parts of life tonight" the old man's voice broke as he began to speak, "Now you have the best two tools I can give you to deal with it."



When you  
are hanging on  
by a  
thread. Make sure  
it's the hem  
of HIS garment.



Being a Christian is  
not just about  
attending church  
every Sunday, it is  
about living and  
walking with Christ  
everyday.

If you feel like you're  
losing everything,  
remember that trees  
lose their leaves every  
year  
and they still stand tall  
and wait for better days  
to come.

*Smile,*

it will make you look better.

*Pray,* it will keep you strong.

*Love,* it will make you enjoy  
life more.

### **Let Go and Let God**

*"Let go of your problems  
and let God handle them.*

*Let go of your hurt and  
let God heal you.*

*Let go of your fear and let  
God sustain you.*

*Let go of all your worries  
and let God bless you. "*

Never wish

them pain. That's  
not who you are. If  
they caused you pain,  
they must have pain  
inside. Wish them  
healing. That's what  
they need.



**SPRING HILL CHURCH**  
**3038 E WALNUT AVE.**  
**DALTON, GA 30721**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL.....10:00AM**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP.....11:00AM**  
**SUNDAY NIGHT.....6:00PM**  
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT.....7:30PM**

**EVERYONE WELCOME!!**

[springhillchurchdalton.org](http://springhillchurchdalton.org)

CLOTHES THAT NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE:

**COLOSSIANS 3:12**

"THEREFORE, AS GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE, HOLY AND DEARLY LOVED, CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS AND PATIENCE."



Did you know that a Donkey is the only animal in the world with a cross on its back, Jesus the Messiah came to Jerusalem on the cross and he also left Jerusalem with a cross.

Coincidence? I don't think so.

**Thank you Jesus for taking ALL our sins on You!**

No matter how many times I read this, I just cannot do it without getting chills all over me. I bet you didn't know the following about the manger that Jesus was laid in. Of course mangers are animal feeding troughs but in ancient Israel they were made of stone-not what you would see in a modern day nativity scene. Not , but great for protection. That's why those who were experts in this matter, the priests, would put their newborn lambs in them for protection. But not just any lamb, the unblemished perfect lambs that were used in the sacrifice for sins. And Bethlehem, where Jesus was born was FAMOUS for their UNBLEMISHED LAMBS used for the sacrifice. These lambs had to be perfect so they would wrap them tightly in cloth and lay them in the manger to keep them safe. This is exactly why the only time mangers are mentioned in Jesus' birth story it is being told to shepherds. In Luke 2 it says "This will be a sign for you, you will find a baby wrapped in (*swaddling clothes*) cloth and lying in a manger." The shepherds would have understood this powerful parallel! THEY KNEW what the cloth and the manger meant! This baby would be THE PERFECT LAMB OF GOD! The Messiah who would sacrifice His life for the sins of the whole world. He wasn't just a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. He was GOD: perfect, sinless and Holy, humbling Himself to become the perfect sacrifice to reconcile us back to Himself! THAT my friend, that Perfect Lamb, is WHY we celebrate Christmas!

Always  
remember that  
there is a strength  
within you that  
is greater than  
any storm.

# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 ANDREW
4 ORNAMENT EX- CHANGE EVENING SERVICE	5	6	7	8	9	10 WORK DAY
11 CONFERENCE	12 APRIL TOMMY	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 JENNA	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 SYDNI CAROLYN	31 SANDWICH NIGHT WATCH NIGHT SER- VICE