HAPPY NEW YEAR

The new year, like a new born child, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away. The days and weeks to come are God's gift; they carry God’s blessing. As a blessing we welcome them. Our hope for the year ending is that all that was good in it remain with us an all that was harmful be left behind.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father, brothers all are we, Let me walk with my brother, in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow, To take each moment and live each moment in peace, eternally. Let there be Peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

THANK YOU

The words “Thank You” cannot express the feelings we have for your gifts, many anonymous, this Christmas season. There are so many they have overwhelmed us. We are truly blessed and we thank God for blessing us with the Hickory Grove Church Family.

Paster Ken and Trina

GOLDEN AGERS

Under a brisk and sunny 10 degree sky the Golden Agers were beckoned to the Hantschel house by the gentle flutter of an American and a “Welcome” flag. One by one, two by two they arrived. Following the FIFO (first in, first out) principle, Don Dill and Bob Tobey arrived at 11 o’clock. Next came Arleen and Bud Stangle, Ruth Crawn, Marilyn and John Crowel, Jo White who brought Maxine White, Martha and Gary Reedy, Brice Crowel and Jonah Peterson, accompanied by Betty Taske. Sorry to say, there were a few "regrets" from some of the Golden Agers who attend the regular meetings. Nevertheless, the fellowship on this December 8 was a blessing for all. Bob Tobey started writing these minutes and only a portion is quoted here because your scribe would be red faced with pride to include all. "We gathered together at Sherry and Dieter Hantschel’s house for our annual Christmas party and I tell you they have a beautiful place...beats USA (Restaurant) by twice times ten." To call everyone to the tables, I got attention by swinging a genuine Swiss cowbell. We then joined hands and I was honored to give the blessings for the gathering. Abundant food was brought for all to share. We sat at two long tables to partake of the delicacies and we peppered them with ample delightful conversations. Even though there still was much food left, the belts and elastic were soon at limit and, therefore, we made room instead for a circle of fellowship of devotions, given

(Continued on page 2)
Pastor’s Pen

2011 Already?

The song goes: “Fast away the old year passes, fa la la la la, Hail the New Year Lads and Lasses, fa la la la la, la la la la”. Well it has done it again. The year 2010 is history; there is no going back and changing it. No re-writing of the events of days gone by that didn’t end well. It is done, finished. Every page of it is written down in history somewhere. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could bring back certain conversations and change them; take back words spoken and speak words unspoken? If only we could re-wind the clock on some days so that we could stop and talk to that person we almost stopped at.

Well as wonderful as that might seem, we cannot. Some sayings echo in our minds: “hindsight is always 20/20”, “you can’t un-ring a bell”, “you can never take back words spoken”, “you can’t turn back the hands of time” and “you can’t undo the past”. These are true sayings. Here is another fact: “The whole year of 2011 lies in front of you”. You are going to write the pages of history; perhaps not the pages of history in the schoolbooks. You may not create a science experiment that will win a Nobel Prize. You may not be the person that everyone remembers as: “Do you remember when that guy made history?”

There are certain things in this world we cannot control; but there are certain things that you can control. God is giving you, should Jesus tarry His coming, and He decides not to call you home to heaven, 365 more days to invest in His Kingdom. What are you going to do with them? If you do not decide today what you are going to do with them, at the end of 2011 you will again say: “Where did the year go?” So I ask you again: “Are you going to start each day in the Word and in Prayer? Will you be able to look back and say: “I did it!” Are you going to take time this year to visit the sick and shut-ins? Remember, you have to decide now! Are you going to take the time to be in Worship each Sunday? Remember, you have to decide now. Many times this past year we have all said: “I know I should have stopped there” or “I know I should have told them how much I cared, I just didn’t take the time.”

Psalm 27:5-7: “Commit your way to the Lord and wait patiently for Him and He will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently before Him.” Let me suggest a good way to start each day. First spend some time in God’s Word, you can read the Bible in a year if you spend 15-20 minutes each day. If you spend the same time in the New Testament only, you can read it 4 times in a year. Then spend some time in prayer. Talk to your Father and make your joys and concerns known to Him. Then close it in this fashion: “Father there are only 24 hours in this day. When it is over, it is over, no going back and changing it. I know what I want to get accomplished today. But I realize what I want to get accomplished and what you want me to get accomplished may not be the same things. Father, as I go through this day, if there are things you want me to stop and do, please have the Holy Spirit speak clearly to me. If I am not listening, you have the right to get my attention. Father, help me to be obedient to you, because when I hear from you, I know I will have a better day. God, when this day is over, if there are things I did not get done because I stopped to do what you wanted me to do, it will be ok, tomorrow is another day”.

Have a great new year in the Lord. Start it with Him and end it with Him. He loves you more than you will ever know.

Blessings,
Pastor Ken

Golden Agers (con’t.)

(Continued from page 1)

by Ruth. Arleen added a Christmas-based riddle with many questions. Had it been a test, we all would have failed. Many anecdotes and reminiscing followed and we thank Betty for witnessing to the Lord’s grace and how he brought her through her bout with cancer. We also paid tribute to the unwavering faith of our beloved Della Dill who was missing this Christmas gathering for the first time. The main theme, the birth of our Savior Jesus, was not neglected. Many shared their feelings and values. Our traditional gift exchange followed with a circle of ladies and a circle of gentlemen passing gifts back and forth to the instructions of Arleen’s ever popular story of “right” and “left.” (One just had to be here to understand.) The meeting lasted quite a bit longer than usual and then, one by one, two by two, the Hantschel house became empty again but for a hostess and host feeling very blessed to have had the pleasure of being an alternate to this Christmas-time venue, usually staged at the Stangles’.

The next meeting of the Golden Agers will be at 11:30 a.m. at the USA Restaurant (Main at Rickey/Francis Sts. in Monticello) on January 12. All, including "Silver" Agers are welcome.
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<td>John Harvey</td>
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Check out our website at [www.hickorygrove.info](http://www.hickorygrove.info)
Our December 1, 2011 meeting was held at the home of Marilyn Crowel. President Judy Crowel opened meeting with prayer. She then read devotions from the Chicken Soup Christmas edition “A Timeless Gift”, a moving story about helping others.

Claire Hill passed cards to be signed for the sick and shut ins while 19 women answered roll call, “Are you a stocking stuffer?”

Secretary and Treasurer reports were read and approved with a Dec 1, 2010 balance of $1455.38.

Lonetta Felz read correspondence from White Co Food Pantry thanking us for $300 donation last month. Vicki Criswell read correspondence from Jesse and Meagan Miller thanking us for the gift card for their recent marriage.

Committee reports. Shower committee recommended gift card for Adam and Jasmine Upton for their marriage in November. All agreed.

Emmaus Dinner and Bingo was discussed. Signup sheet passed around for those items not already chosen to provide for the dinner. Everyone was encouraged to make or buy bingo prizes. This will take place the evening of Saturday, Dec 11th.

Discussion took place regarding decorating for Mother, Daughter, Friend Banquet. It was agreed to have each family or group decorate their own table for a friendly contest.

Marilyn Crowel is to look into entertainment she has in mind for Family Night in March of 2011.

Meeting was closed with reading of the collect. Marilyn provided drinks and we shared in the cookies that everyone provided. We then divvied up the remainder of the cookies to take home.

Jo White will host the January 5th meeting at the Church, Helen Hanna has devotions and Jo will provide refreshments.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP DECEMBER 2010

The worship and social life at many congregations are encountering enormous stress these days. Everybody is just too busy, carrying an unhealthy amount of stress and just being crazy busy. It seems as if every family with children in school is busy all the time. It’s non-stop. They’re too busy with soccer, football, dance, piano, hockey, etc. Sunday after Sunday, entire families are absent from church. Good, faithful, active families. Then one of the parents will tell me they were away because of some soccer match on Sunday morning 100 miles away.

And it’s not just the kids. Attendance is down for committee meetings and church-wide events. Everybody’s busy all the time.

Problem is, people reach a point where they are so busy that even going to church or attending a congregational social event – which ought to be refreshing – seems like just another thing on the "to do" list. I think there is a fundamental problem with how our culture treats stewardship of time. It’s as if every second has to be invested in doing something, lest it be a "waste of time."

In fact, it is a bigger waste of our lives and energy to fail to allow time for reflection, renewal and recreation. That’s recreation, as in re-creation, to make new again. People have forgotten the simple wisdom that has guided faithful people for thousands of years: “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”

By Ron Blezard

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The time to start wasting time

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By Ron Blezard
Mom and Dad scrimped for months to buy their son Eric, an electric train for Christmas. Not a fancy one, since money was scarce, but a nice one. Then, just before Christmas, a well-to-do uncle brought a large gift and put it under the tree. Eric could hardly wait to see what was in the box with his name on it. On Christmas morning he eagerly opened the gift. It was a large, fancy electric train, with all the whistles and bells. Wow! Then he opened the gift from his parents. Ho hum. Another electric train but not nearly as extravagant. Guess which one Eric played with most?

Mom and Dad were hurt. Their outlay was more sacrificial then that of his uncle. But all Eric could see was the glamour of an expensive train. The gift from his parents was merely a nice accessory.

Our heavenly Father spends many disappointing Christmases. Amidst the glittering ornaments and flashing Christmas lights, the hurry and hustle of shopping and wrapping and family get-togethers, parties and presents, trees and turkeys—who really cares about His gift?

What gets more attention from us: our Father’s gift of life in Jesus Christ or the quickly-wrapped department store gifts from family and friends?

### The Electric Train

Across

1. At church we meet with others to worship and also to study or ____ about God.
2. The way we ____ can show respect on the outside of us.
3. Treating others the way we would like to be treated is called this.
4. Church is a ____ place to worship God together no matter where it is.
5. Instead of running and being loud it’s better if you ____ and speak nicely to others.
6. When we ____ God we are telling him how much we appreciate and love him.
7. When we sing and pray to God this is the way we do this for God.
8. These people care about you and spend time preparing a lesson for you to learn.
9. The church isn’t about where we meet but about the ____ we meet with there.

Down

1. It’s important to do this to hear what the people at church are trying to teach you.
2. The way we ____ can show respect on the outside of us.
3. Treating others the way we would like to be treated is called this.
4. Church is a ____ place to worship God together no matter where it is.
5. Instead of running and being loud it’s better if you ____ and speak nicely to others.

- anytime
- anywhere
- ask
- believe
- communicate
- daily
- example
- eyes
- forgiveness
- hands
- hears
- heaven
- listens
- power
- praise
- simple
- talk
- temptations
Did you miss a Sunday recently? No problem. You can now borrow a taped copy of the Sunday service. Copies are made every Sunday to be distributed to shut-ins or those who were absent for whatever reason. Just contact anyone from the church, and they can get you a copy!

People who may appreciate your cards, prayers and visits:

- Dee Davis 306 S Illinois St. Monticello, IN 47960 574-583-7234
- Mary Rishel Carroll Manor 6409 W 100 N. Delphi, IN 46923
- Irma Jenni (Marlene Joseph’s mother) 662 W. 6th Street, Monticello IN 47960
- Jesse Kelly 746-564-6800
- Paula Johns 574-965-2737
- Ron Feil 574-965-5429
- Bryan Feil 574-965-5429
- Brenda Johns 965-690 N. Delphi, IN 574-965-2795
- Brenda Johns (amy spelzter’s sister) Delphi, IN 609 W. Vine Street
- James Bailey Whispering Pines, 410 Tioga Road, Room D-3 Monticello, IN 47960
- Maxine White 162 S. Illinois St. Monticello, IN 46960
- Sam Lashbrook 162 S. Illinois St. Monticello, IN 47960
- Tanna Lewellen 2048 Delray Dr. W Lafayette, IN 47906
- Sam Lashbrook 162 S. Illinois St. Monticello, IN 47960
- Judy Miller 574-453-4447
- Jean Shuster 746-453-3096
- Harold Welker 746-564-6800
- Bryan Feil 574-965-5429

Any questions? We can be reached at:

- Amy or Brenda. We can be reached at:
  - Amy Spitzer 605 W Hanawalt Rd, Monticello, IN 47960 574-870-0793 alspitzer@ffni.com

If you have any minutes to meetings, class party info or anything you think the rest of us might enjoy hearing about, please get it to us. We can be reached:

- Brenda Johns, Pastor 9714 N 700 W Delphi, IN 46923 574-965-2731

*In Your Moment of Need...*