

Hickory Switch



Upcoming Events

December

1st-Red Kettle Ringing
5th-7:00 Women's Fellowship
6th-11:30 Golden Agers
7th-Dreamers class to Pastor Ken and Tri-na's
12th-6:00 Mission & Outreach Mtg.
15th-8:30AM Ladies Prayer
15th-3:00 to 5:00 Caroling
16th-Christmas Program
17th-7:00 Deacon's Mtg
24th-10:00PM Christmas Eve Service
31st-Prayer Service



Psalm 107:1 "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."

A Savior Has Been Born...

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and kept them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Did you know... we packed over 180 shoeboxes last month, raised over \$1,100 for food pantry and took up special collection for McClain's ministry of \$600.

We also reached our goal of collecting pop tabs for Riley Children's hospital and are holding a silent auction to throw a pie at Ron Felz, all bids to go to Riley Children's Hospital. **We are a busy church!**

PASTOR'S PEN

Here Comes Christmas

Just before Thanksgiving I was standing in a line at a grocery store. Yes, it was a short line. The lady behind me was talking to a friend and made the statement: "I hate to see Christmas come". How sad one of the most joyous times of the year seemed so burdensome to her. It had nothing to do with Jesus; it had to do with the hustle and bustle of the season. Just think of the time it takes to put up a tree; then only to have to take it down again. Then there are the outside lights and all the things that stick in the ground. We drag boxes out of the attic or out from under the beds to put out all the "sit around stuff". Of course the shopping trips take a lot of time, then the wrapping of presents. Before you know it, Christmas is here and some people are too exhausted to enjoy the day. That is a trap we must all be careful not to fall into.

We went shopping on Black Friday one time, took three kids with us. That was before it was called Black Friday. Back then it was called the Friday after Thanksgiving. Big mistake. Never did that again. I see today that some people set outside a store for 3 weeks waiting on Black Friday. They put up a tent and stay there. I had some thoughts about that. - 1) Don't they ever have to go to the bathroom? 2) Don't they have a job? How can they take 3 weeks off to sit outside a store to save \$50? 3) Don't they have a family? Maybe their being there is a treat for their family. Anyway, I don't think I need anything that badly. Reminds me of standing in a line. So what is the point of this letter? Answer: Don't get so caught up in the "stuff" about Christmas that you "hate to see the day come".

Christmas is a time of giving. The Wise Men started it; yep, it is their fault. Funny thing though, they gave to Jesus and we give to each other. Let me offer you a formula for enjoying Christmas. If you want to give to Jesus: Jesus said: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:35-40

Want to avoid the hassle and feel the blessings of God? Instead of exchanging socks for underwear at the family gathering, pool the money you were going to spend on each other, then find a need and fill it. Then for an added boost in morale: don't tell anyone.

Jesus said: "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:2-4.

Oh by the way, if you are one of those who camp outside of a store: "no offense".

Merry Christmas

Pastor Ken

Love For Haiti

Collecting items for Haiti is a year round ministry supported by our church family. "Real Hope for Haiti" ships collected items twice each year. The following are things that we are collecting during the months of October, November and December: contact paper, rechargeable batteries, black sharpies, pencils, 3"x5" index cards, long and short envelopes, and thank you cards. If you would rather help through donating money, the "Love for Haiti Team" will use 100% of your gift for items that are requested. You can give your donation to Carolyn Clothier. If you have any question you can contact her at 574-753-7172. There will be a basket in the back of the sanctuary for your "Love for Haiti" gifts.



December 2012

Hickory Grove Church

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 Red Kettle Bell Ringing |
| 2 | 3 Sara McManus Sophie Bird | 4 Jo Dill | 5 7:00 Women's Fellowship | 6 Gloria Wharff 11:30 Golden Agers @ Stangles' | 7 Ruby Kellogg 6:00 Dreamer's Dinner @ Smith's | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 Nancy Jacobs Joel Sears | 12 6:00 Mission & Outreach Mtg. | 13 Danielle Kelly | 14 Jennifer Crowel Lylian Schockley | 15 Kenny & Judy Miller 8:30 Ladies Prayer 3:00-5:00 Caroling |
| 16 Megan Barrett Steve Coultas Christmas Program | 17 7:00 Deacon's Meeting | 18 | 19 Jemma Cole | 20 Carolynn Clothier | 21 | 22 Janelle Warford |
| 23 | 24 Gary Lantz Paul & Pat Cotner 10:00 Christmas Eve Service | 25 John Bowlin Merry Christmas | 26 | 27 Chuck & Sara McManus | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 Jessie O'Farrell Bill & Debbie Martin Prayer Service | 1 Martin & Donna Lewellen | 2 Nick Spitzer | 3 | 4 | 5 Dieter Hantschel Kaleb Philo Barbara Humphry |

January

9714 N 700 W
Delphi, IN 46923

Phone:
574-965-2731
Ken Smith, Pastor

Check out our website at www.hickorygrove.info

Women's Fellowship ~ November 7th, 2012

Submitted by Shannon Kelley

Gloria Heber opened our meeting with Prayer. Marilyn Crowel provided a wonderful Pumpkin dessert for us to share. We continued our Bible Study in Esther and this month it was "Where is the Man?" We continued to look at things such as "Don't misuse the "Power" God has given you." and "Strive to be rich in the spirit, not financially."

Cards were passed to be signed. We also collected our Thank Offering for the month of November. Lonetta Felz motioned that it be given to the Woman to Woman program and Pat Cotner 2nd the motion.

Material Aid discussed coordinating a meal for Emmaus again this December. A sign-up sheet will be at the Church for the donated meal. Also, it was agreed that they would have a tree in the back of the sanctuary for donated gift items to be taken to the dinner for Bingo prizes.

Donna motioned that \$50 be given to the shoebox collection.

Judy motioned that \$100 be allotted to buy some Emmaus "Christmas Gifts," Shannon Kelly 2nd the motion.

Lonetta Felz motioned that we donate \$200 to both the White and Carroll County Food Pantries. Jo White 2nd the motion.

For our December meeting, we will continue to bring 2 dozen Christmas treats. (1 dozen to share and 1 dozen to eat for our treat.) We will have a brief business meeting, and skip our Bible Study for the month. Gloria Heber will be sharing some Christmas traditions from other countries her and Al have resided.

We look forward to sharing with each of you at our December meeting.



Golden Agers

Submitted by Dieter Hantschel

With the benefit of a meeting room just for the Golden Agers, we convened at The Angler's Restaurant November 1. In addition to Ruth Crawn, Bob Tobey, Jonah Peterson, Don Dill, Arleen Stangle, Marilyn & John Crowel, Martha & Gary Reedy and Sherry & Dieter Hantschel we welcomed Arleen's guest Norma Draper.

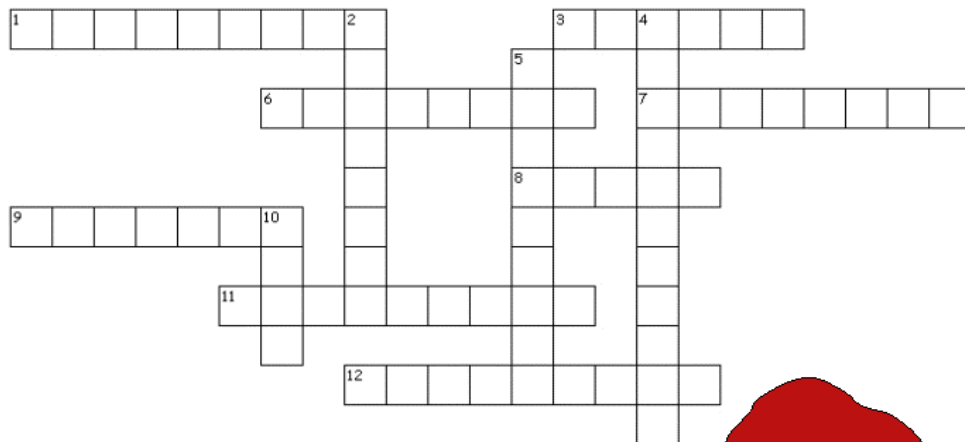
Ruth led the prayer before the meal, giving thanks and asking for God's blessings for us and those who could not be with us. Soon the bountiful food arrived and the room became noticeably quieter than just moments before. It seems to happen this way regularly. Some secular conversations later centered around the recent devastation from Hurricane Sandy on our Eastern shores, the horrendous combine/minivan crash near West Point as well as the turn of our weather to the cooler temperature and what effects this brings with it. Others were able to catch up on recent happenings in the families and who is doing what. The strong bonds within this group make us feel like an extended family.

Arleen had prepared quite a palette of devotional material. She began with the day's message from *Our*

Daily Bread and moved to a heartwarming story about a very patient grandmother when the granddaughter spilled a bowl of honey on a very new white carpet. Her words were, "Sweetie, we can always get you more honey." From another book she tied in the Ps. 25 message with the advice to try to be discerning about how others feel and to always seeing something good in others. Next followed a role play between "Me and God." The dialog was precious and left us with the admonition to "Learn to trust God." Even when things don't happen the way WE want them to, God has HIS way for them to happen. That's always better! A prayer of Thanksgiving and prayer for our Nation closed our meeting of fellowship and the Christian bond among us.

The next Golden Agers meeting will be at Arleen and Bud Stangle's home on December 6, 11:30 a.m. The hosts are providing the main dish and everyone should bring a covered dish to share. It is requested that everyone notify Arleen of their attendance by calling 574.583.3718, also letting her know what dish you will bring. It was decided not to hold the usual gift exchange. Instead, we will collect donations for the benefit of the local food pantries.

For the Young at Heart



Word List: angels, candycane, Christmas, comet, cookies, gingerbread, Nicholas, ornaments, presents, shepherd, star, stockings

Across

1. Pretty baubles to hang on the Christmas tree.
3. Guardians who announce the good news.
6. Wrapped with love.
7. Jolly old Saint _____.
8. Dasher, dancer, prancer, vixen, _____, cupid, donner, blitzen
9. Warm snacks for Santa.
11. Sweet and red and white.
12. We wish you a merry _____.

Down

2. Keeper of the flocks.
4. House made of sweet treats.
5. The _____ were hung by the chimney with care.
10. Bright light marks the way.



Dreamer's Class



The Dreamer's class will meet at the home of Pastor Ken and Trina for their annual Christmas dinner on December 7th at 6:00PM.



Caroling will be Dec. 15th
from 3pm to 5pm

Emmaus Mission ~ Assistance Needed

Women's Fellowship has a Christmas tree located in back of sanctuary with items listed on it to be purchased for Emmaus Mission bingo prizes at our annual Christmas dinner. Please take one. There will also be a sign up list for providing food for the dinner.

CHRISTIAN RADIO STATIONS

Submitted by Stephanie Felz

For those who may be interested in listening to Christians music or Christian talk radio, here are a few stations you might tune into!

90.7 FM (Christian Talk radio)

100.1 FM (Christian music)

106.7 FM (Christian music).

Volunteer Opportunity

There are many opportunities to help out around the church throughout the year. During January thru March we have the need for snow removal on Sunday mornings. There is a signup sheet in the back of the sanctuary to make sure that this gets done. **Thank you for helping out!**



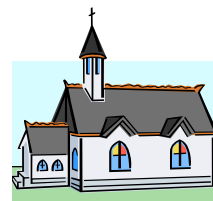
HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

9714 N 700 W
Delphi, IN 46923

Phone:

574-965-2731

Ken Smith, Pastor



*The friendly church at the
side of the road!*

Cards and Visits

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
(Marlene Joseph's mother)

Irma Jenni

White Oak 814 S 6th Street,
Monticello IN 47960

Joan Mikesell

White Oak 814 S 6th St
Monticello IN 47960

Our College Kids:

Nicholl Cain and Coral Sparks

508 Michigan Street, Apartment 3,
Plymouth IN 46563

Ivan Veach

200 Seminary Drive
Box 1275
Winona Lake IN 46590

Sam Lashbrook

730 West 10th Street
Apartment 100
Indianapolis IN 46202

In Your Moment of Need...



In your moment of
need please feel free to
call:

Pastor Ken Smith

Phone: 574-826-4307
Pager: 574-722-0173

Or one of our Deacons:

Bryan Felz 574-965-2737
Ron Felz 574-965-4239
Jesse Kelly 765-564-6800
Alan Sickler 574-943-3236
Judy Miller 574-943-3447
Teresa Alexander 965-4573

Have something you want to share...

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 Amy or Brenda. We can be reached at:

Amy White-Spitzer
605 Hanawalt Rd, Monticello, IN
47960
574-870-0793
whispi@comcast.net

Brenda White-Johns
9457 W 650 N, Delphi, IN
46923
574-965-2795
johns4@ytci.com

Sundays in Review...

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!

