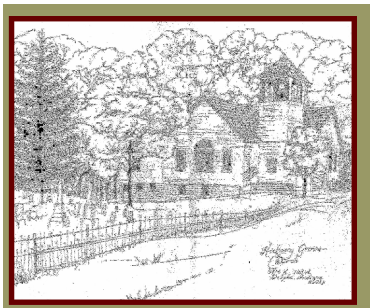
Hickory Grove Church

Hickory Switch

February 2017

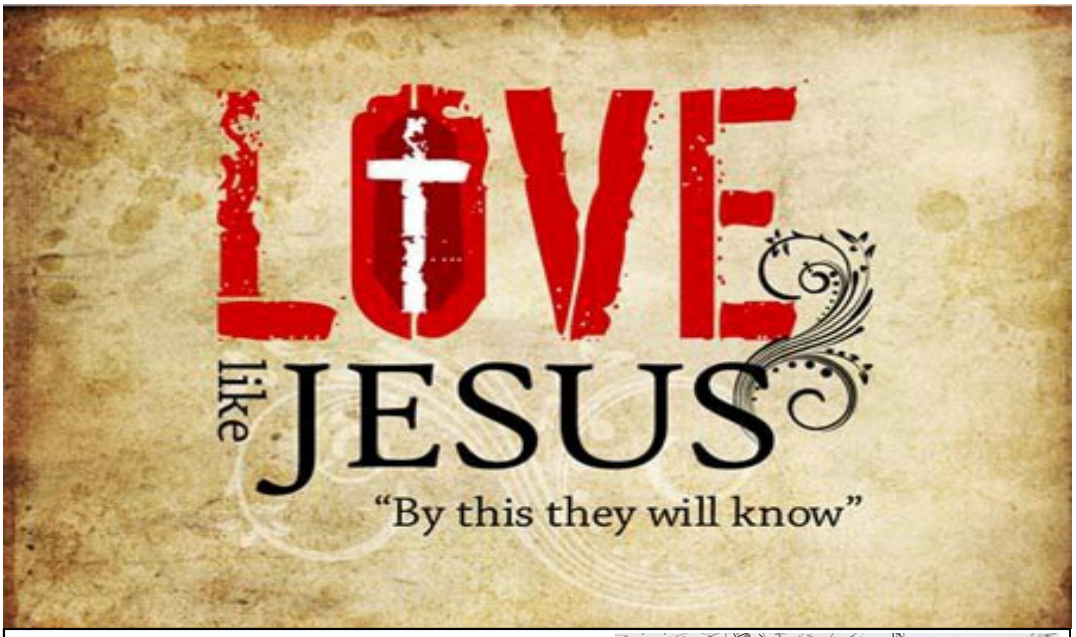


Upcoming Events

February

7th-Youth Group
8th-Bible Study
11th-Craft Day
14th-Youth Group
15th-Bible Study
18th-Women's Prayer
19th-3:30 Nursing Home Service
20th-Deacon's Meeting
21st-Youth Group
22nd-Bible Study
27th-Youth Council
28th-Youth Group

A Valentine's Letter to Jesus



By Bill Gaulteire, PhD

Have you ever thought of writing Jesus a Valentine's letter? Could you or I love Jesus that much? I'm not talking about sentimental gush, but deep and thoughtful love from the heart.

For Valentine's Day people everywhere are giving cards and flowers and special words to those they love. But I'm afraid that Jesus may get forgotten, as is so often the case. I wanted Jesus to know that I was thinking of him with warm fondness and the highest regard so I set aside my work and projects to say, "Jesus I love you!"

There are many ways for us to tell Jesus we love him. Basically, that's what it means to worship the Lord, to refresh him with our adoration and Devotion. Recently I was re-reading some old and glorious words from Thomas A. Kempis (The Imitation of Christ, p. 75) and because they stoked the flames of my love for Jesus I kept returning to them again and again. I adapted and personalized these words into a prayer to write a Valentine letter to Jesus.

May this love letter to Jesus open your eyes to the intimacy with Jesus that is possible for you and may praying these words stir your heart to greater Devotion to the Lord…

Dear Jesus, when you are present to me, all is good and nothing seems difficult; but when I forget you, all is hard and empty.

Jesus, your voice to me is the most precious sound in existence. If I don't hear you speaking inside my soul, all other comfort is worth nothing, but if you speak but one word to me I am greatly comforted. I recall that Mary rose immediately from the place where she wept, when Martha said to her: "The Master is come, and he calls for you" (John 11:28). Yes! What a happy moment it is – no matter how difficult my situation is – when you call for me!

Oh, how foolish I am when I go into any situation without having you on my mind Je-

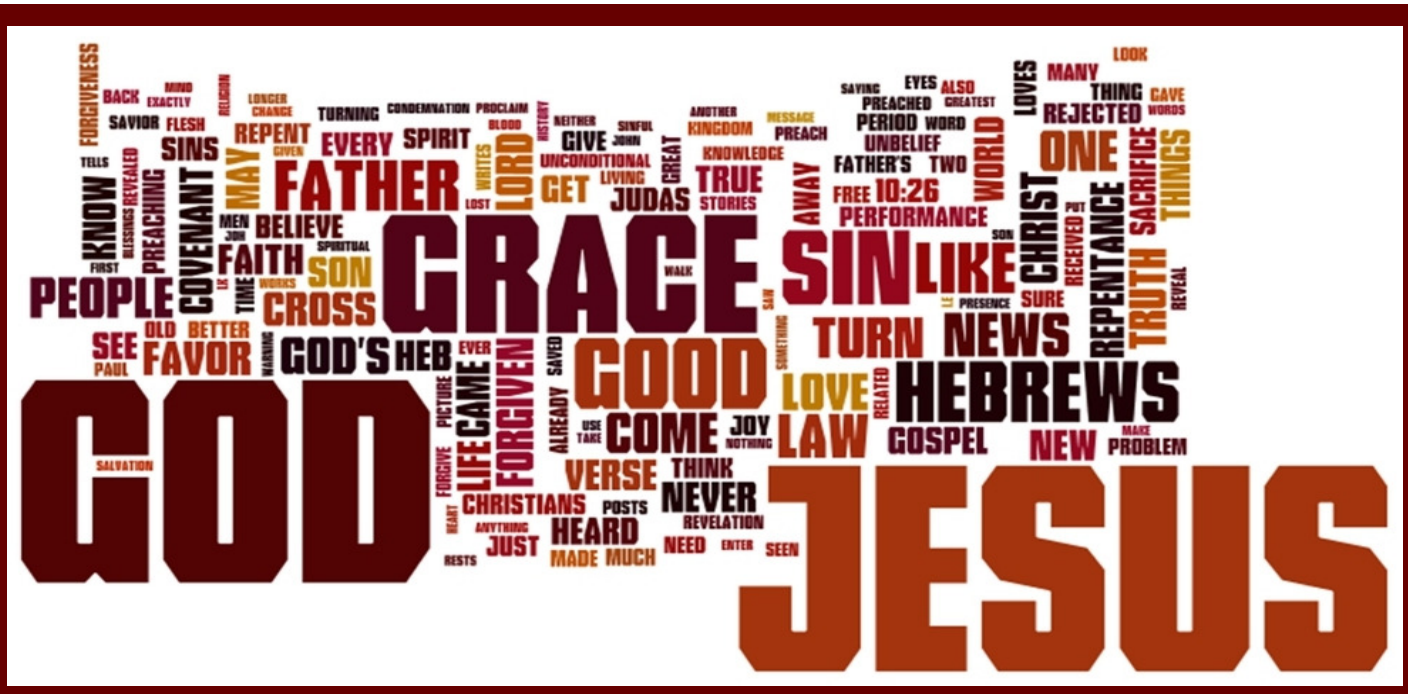
(Continued on page 4)

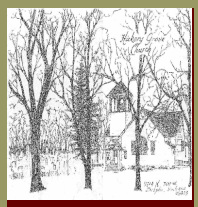
Pastor's Pen

"Burning Love"

As we all know, February is the "love" month. Time for things like cards, flowers, candy, little love gifts – mushy kind of stuff. But most of us remember when we fell in love.
Maybe it was a crush in high school or a later meeting with "the right one". Elvis wrote about it in the song "Burning Love: Lord Almighty, I feel my temperature rising, Higher higher. It's burning through to my soul".
Then there was Johnny Cash's hit song Ring of Fire: "The taste of love is sweet, When hearts like ours meet, I fell for you like a child, Oh, but the fire went wild".
One of my favorite love lines is in the gospel of Luke 24:28-32. "As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, *"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"* (Italics added)
"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" These disciples had walked and talked with Jesus for a couple of years. That day their love relationship with Jesus was renewed. Matthew 10:37 tells us in fact: "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me". In John 21:15 "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."
Is your heart burning with love for Jesus? It should be. Does it need renewed? His love is so great that He died on a cross for us. This Valentine's Day may we all say to our sweethearts: "I love you darling, but there is one I love more than you – it is Jesus".

Pastor Ken





February '17

Hickory Grove Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Cassie Evans	2 Leisha Hill Dan & Roxie Foerman	3 Marlita Joseph	4
5	6 David Veach Trisha Curts	7 Megan Kelly Trina Smith Youth Group	8 Bible Study	9	10 Marlene Joseph Eragon Medley	11 Craft Day
12	13 Kaitlyn Altman	14 Beth Jones Youth Group	15 Kathy Todd Bible Study	16 Joshua Evans	17 Ron & Mary Long	18 Women's Prayer
19 Lonetta Felz Jamie Medley 3:30 Nursing Home Service	20 Deacon Meeting	21 Rob Hill Youth Group	22 TJ Spitzer Bill Marion Bible Study	23 Ron Felz	24 Donna Lewellen	25 Vernie Criswell
26 Samuel Heidrich	27 Youth Council	28 Stephanie Felz Jeff & Jennifer Crowel Youth Group	1 Ben Anderson Jamie Campbell	2 March	3	4 Ron & Pam Simons

9714 N 700 W
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46923

Phone:
574-965-2731
Ken Smith,
Pastor

Check out our website at www.hickorygrove.info

A Valentine's Letter to Jesus-Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

sus. What vanity for me to desire anything outside of you. The world without you profits me nothing. To be without you is grievous hell; and to be with you Jesus is sweet Paradise. When you're with me no enemy can hurt me. To find you is to find the real treasure – the Good above all good – and to become the richest person on earth. But to lose you is to lose more than the whole world and to be left in abject poverty.

Oh, Jesus it is the greatest skill to know how to hold familiar conversation with you! Lord, teach me this skill! Oh, to know how to keep you in my consciousness at all times – this is the greatest wisdom! Please, dear Lord, tune my heart to your presence with me at all times. If only I would be humble and peaceable then Jesus you'll remain with me. If only I would be devout and quiet then you'll stay within me.

But I fear that I may soon drive you away Jesus, that I'll turn to outward things and lose the favor of your presence. If I turn from you and lose you Jesus, where will I go? Who else can I turn to as my friend? Without a friend I cannot live well and Jesus you are above all a Friend to me – my one Soul Friend – and without you beside me I'd be sad and desolate.

You are the One, Jesus, who I trust and rejoice in above all others! I'd rather have the whole world against me than to have you offended with me. Among all those who are dear to me you stand out Jesus. You are the One that I especially love.

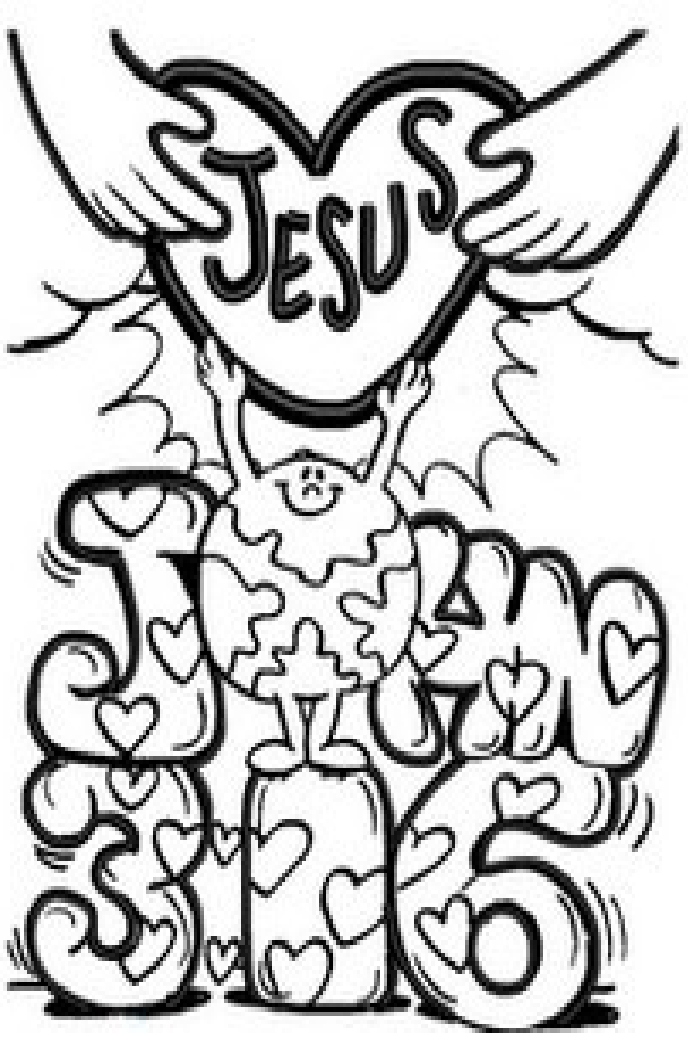
Jesus, I love all people for you, but I love you for yourself. You are the Christ, the unique Son of God, and you are, singularly, my Beloved. You are good and faithful above all friends. For you and in you, I let my friends and my foes be dear to me and pray that they would come to know and love you.

I don't desire to be singularly commended or beloved, for that position belongs to you only Jesus – you are God and there is no one like you! Neither do I desire that the heart of any person would be set on me. Nor do I set my heart on the love of anyone. Jesus, my one consuming desire is that you would be in me and in every person who calls on you. Yes, Lord Jesus, I long to be pure and free within, devoted entirely to you, and not entangled with any creature. Help me to carry my heart pure toward you so that I can be free from all worldliness and can see clearly how good you are. Oh, to be drawn into you by your grace, to see your glory, to attain to that heavenly happiness, to be emptied of all but you, to take leave of all but your kingdom, to be with you alone Jesus and to be made one with you.

Lord Jesus Christ, when your grace comes to me I am made strong and able for all things. But without your grace I am poor and weak and the best I can hope for is your discipline to re-awaken me to seek your face. And when I do need to be disciplined by you please help me not to be discouraged, but to stand with my thoughts fixed on you, enduring whatever hardship comes upon me for your glory.

Jesus, you know that I want always to be in the springtime of enjoying your love, but sometimes I need the winter season. Sovereign Lord, you have ordained the seasons, including those that don't feel good, and I love you for this too! Help me to remember that after winter comes spring, after night comes day, after the storm comes a great calm. More than that, help me to trust that all seasons are good when I live them with you Jesus.

I love you Jesus! You are the best Friend I could have!



Help Wanted

The Hickory Grove Cemetery Association is taking bids for mowing the cemetery!

Anyone interested in the position should contact

Bob White at 574-965-4143 or
Brice Crowel at 574-965-2775.

Job description:

What: Mow cemetery and trim around headstones

When: Every 10 days during the mowing season

How: Mower and weed eater...**NO chemical sprays**

For the Young at Heart

Submitted by Melanie Campbell

JAMES 2:14 - 17 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead**.

Are you faithful? If you said yes, why do you think so? Is it because you go to God with your morning coffee? Is it because you never miss a Sunday in church? Is it because you know all the books of the Bible and where to locate scripture?

Or it because you **ACT**? When you go to God with your morning coffee, are you actively praying for specific needs that are not just your own - or are you just going through the motions? When you show up every Sunday morning, are you introducing yourself to the new person and asking a teenager what happened in youth group and volunteering to shovel the sidewalk - or are you going to the same seat you sit in every Sunday, reading the bulletin, just following procedure? When you are the Biblical scholar in a group of friends, are you asking questions and keeping an open mind and sharing your personal experiences with the gospel - or are you just telling, reciting, and closing the book?

Faith is action. Hickory Grove Youth Group is about action. About questions, opportunities, vulnerabilities, outreach. And about **giving**. There is no other action like giving. Our Kindness Project for Christmas 2016 was the adoption of an Angel Tree Family. We provided clothing and food, some everyday necessities, and some things that were truly gifts - things not needed, but we had the ability to give.

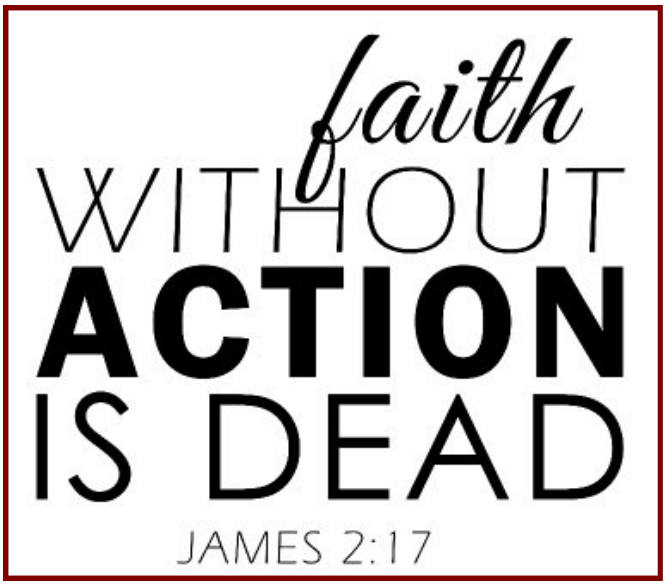
Before we met our Angel Tree family, I intended this article to be all about the giving and the experience of that night. And it is, but not in the way I had planned. Yes, we gave. But so did the family. The family gave this group the confirmation that we are doing what matters. That we are a part of larger village raising truly good people. People who act. People who are faithful.

I want to share with you a message from the father of our Angel Tree family:

"I was impressed with the openness of your teens, they were very inclusive to us all and they seemed to be listening when I/we were speaking, they also made eye contact."

This is a big deal. This family has a church home that they love. But they do not feel that love from the young people in their own church. They felt it here. From strangers. And because of it, they asked about adult and youth classes and groups here at Hickory Grove. We were with them for one hour. One hour of action. And the effect was tremendous.

DO SOMETHING. ACT. DON'T LET YOUR FAITH BE DEAD.



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)

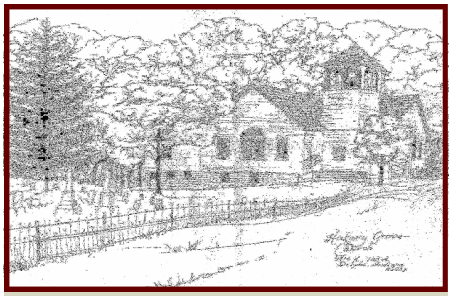
Youth Group Info

Submitted by Melanie Campbell

Youth Group will meet the following Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm at Hickory House: February 7, 14, 21, and 28. College-age welcome on February 7.

Winter Reminder: Youth Group will not meet if Delphi and/or Twin Lakes schools are cancelled, release early, or cancel after-school activities due to inclement weather.

For more information contact Melanie Campbell hickoryhouse46923@gmail.com or (574) 601-8189



HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

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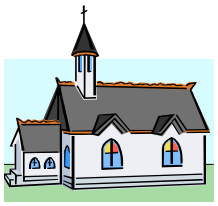
Phone:
574-965-2731
Ken Smith, Pastor



The friendly church at the side of the road!

Cards and Visits

People who may appreciate your cards, prayers and visits:

Ann Conrad
111S Wayne St.
Flora, In 46929-1362

Dee Davis
306 S Illinois St.
Monticello, IN 47960
574-583-7234

Don Dill
White Oak 814 S 6th Street,
Monticello IN 47960

Wanda Gayer
Parkview Haven,
101 Constitution Dr.
Francesville, IN 47946
574- 583-6533

Bud & Arlene Stangle
1104 Foxwood Ct # 105
Monticello, IN 47960

Roger Stewart
322 South East Street
Tipton, IN 46072

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:

Cindi Anderson	574-686-2659
Ron Felz	574-965-4239
Rob Hill	574-686-2092
Alan Sickler	574-943-3236
Ron Simons	574-943-3382
Gloria Heber	765-564-4386

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 St, 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!