

Hickory Grove Church

Hickory Switch

December
2011



Upcoming Events

December

- 1st-Golden Agers at Hantschel's home
- 2nd-Dreamers Dinner @ Pastor's home
- 3rd-Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- 4th-Hickory Helpers Class Party
- 7th-Women's Fellowship
- 10th-Distribute Nursing Home Gifts/ Emmaus Dinner
- 11th-Children's Christmas Program
- 14th-Mission & Outreach Mtg.
- 17th-3:00 Christmas Caroling
- 19th-Deacon's Mtg
- 24th-10PM Christmas Eve Service



*We wish you
A
Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year!*

Christmas Caroling

If there is one thing I look forward to each year it is our annual trek out into the winter wonderland spreading Christmas cheer to our church family "shut-ins".



Please come join us at the church on December 17th at 3:00 PM for an afternoon of caroling!

Youth Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11th, the youth will bring the morning message as they perform their Christmas program.

Services begin at 10:00AM.

A special thanks to Vicki Sickler for working with our youth to put together this special service!

PASTOR'S PEN

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”

Does that title remind you of a song? The heart warming Christmas song “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas” was immortalized by Judy Garland when she sang this song to Margaret O'Brien and brought tears to the eyes of the audience. The lyricist for Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas was Ralph Blane and the music was composed by Hugh Martin. The song *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas* was first published in 1943. Here are the words if you don't remember: (*underlines added*)

**Have yourself a merry little Christmas, let your heart be light
 From now on, our troubles will be out of sight.
 Have yourself a merry little Christmas, make the Yule-tide gay,
 From now on, our troubles will be miles away.
 Here we are as in olden days, Happy golden days of yore.
 Faithful friends who are dear to us, Gather near to us once more.
 Through the years we all will be together, if the Fates allow.
 Hang a shining star upon the highest bough.
 And have yourself a merry little Christmas now.**

I am sure we all notice that hearts at Christmas time are merrier and lighter than the rest of the year. We also tend to lay down our troubles (and swords) for a while. It's almost as if it was written down someplace: December is the time to be nice. We sit around and rehash happy times (olden and golden). We gather with friends we haven't seen in a while and tell them how much we miss them and then promise to get together again soon (as soon as Christmas comes around again). We put the star on top of the tree and relax in spirit.

Something I notice is that people are all of a sudden friendlier to people they don't really like. Mr. (or Mrs.) Scrooge (either down the road or part of the family) softens his/her heart and limits the cutting remarks usually made as compared with the rest of the year. We sit around and watch Frosty melt again and then come to life again and watch Rudolf's nose glow a bright red. We might even get out the old records and “Sing Along with Mitch” (Go ask Grandma about that one). We use the expression: “So what? It's Christmas!!!” After all it truly is that:

**It's the most wonderful time of the year, With the kids jingle belling
 And everyone telling you "Be of good cheer", It's the most wonderful time of the year
 It's the hap-happiest season of all, With those holiday greetings and gay happy meetings
 When friends come to call, It's the hap- happiest season of all.**

I have reassured you of all of that to ask you a question. If Jesus is the reason for the season, and as Christians we are to celebrate Him daily and rejoice in Him always, and we are to gather with friends and put our troubles away etc. etc.then why does that only happen in December? It is almost like: “Well, we can't live that way all of the time”..... “We have to go back to being Mr. or Mrs. Scrooge sometime”..... “We NEED to gripe about our troubles”...“Hey, I was nice in December, don't expect me to live that way the rest of the year”.

Think about it. Christmas is a time we reflect on the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. His entry was only the groundwork for our salvation. Because He came...We can go. So what do you say? Can you make the wonderful time of year we call the Christmas Season last for two months, or three or more? Do we have to go back to the way we were? I hope not!!!!

So...Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas!!!! And next year may you: “Have Yourself a Merry Year”.



December 2011

Hickory Grove Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Autumn McElroy 11:30 Golden Agers at Hantschels	2 Dreamers Dinner @ Pastor's home	3 Sara McManus Sophia Bird Salvation Army Bell Ringing
4 Jo Dill Hickory Helpers Class Party	5	6 Gloria Wharff	7 Ruby Kellogg 7:00 Women's Fellowship	8	9	10 Distribute Nursing home gifts/ Emmaus Dinner
11 Nancy Jacobs Children's Christmas Program	12	13 Danielle Kelly	14 Jennifer Crowel 7:00 Missions & Outreach Mtg	15 Kenny & Judy Miller	16 Megan Barrett	17 3:00 Christmas Caroling
18	19 Jemma Cole 7:00 Deacon's Mtg	20 Carolynn Clothier	21	22 Janelle Warford	23	24 Gary Lantz Paul & Pat Cotner 10 PM Christmas Eve Service
25 	26	27 Chuck & Sara McManus	28	29	30	31 Jessie O'Farrell Bill & Debbie Martin
1 Martin & Donna Lewellen	2 Nick Spitzer	3	4	5 Dieter Hantschel Kaleb Philo Barbara Humphrey 11:30 Golden Agers	6 Rick Alexander	7

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 2ND, 2011

Submitted by Brenda Johns, Secretary

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner was held at the Church with Sara McManus and Roxanne White hosting the event. Rachelle White-Bird helped with the decorations and we had a beautiful fall atmosphere for our carry in dinner. Pam Simons gave our dinner prayer and 16 women and 5 young ladies shared in our meal.

President Judy Crowel opened meeting with prayer and thanked all for coming. Lonetta Felz gave devotions on the first Thanksgiving, telling of the trials and successes of the Pilgrims and the feast shared between the Pilgrims and Indians. She read from Psalms 104 and several other verses on God's comfort and blessings. Correspondence was read from Dieter and Sherry Hantschel thanking Women's Fellowship for cards to Dieter's mother. Jo White passed cards to be signed for sick and shut ins.

16 answered roll call of "What we cook best"? There was quite an assortment of answers. Secretary's report was read and approved with correction that Lonetta made to October 1, 2011 treasury balance of \$1058.23. Treasury report was read and approved with a No-

vember 1, 2011 balance of \$2001.21. The fall bazaar netted \$727.56 and the luncheon \$343.45.

Donna Lewellen gave library report on "The Dream Giver" by Bruce Wilkenson. A story of encouragement to chase after your dreams.

Old business: Shannon reported on her friend Tammy participating in the Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk of SIA. This is where the \$200 that was approved at October meeting went toward the American Cancer Society to support Tammy's walk.

Committee reports: Shower committee reported they will be purchasing \$25 gift card to Bed, Bath and Beyond for Tanna Lewellen Shaffer.

Brenda Johns motioned we give \$300 each to Carroll and White County Food Pantries as we've generally done in the past. Shannon Kelly seconded motion. Vote taken and passed. Donna Lewellen requested money to be given to Danielle Kelly for Christmas Shoe Box project. Trina Smith motioned to give \$50, Pam Simons 2nd motion. Vote taken and passed.

Donna Lewellen brought up discussion on bible study we are to start the first of year. Women's Fellowship agreed to purchase Beth Moore bible study on

Ester for approx \$199. Individual books will be paid for by each attendee. Invitation is open to all women of the Church to attend these bible study's within our women's fellowship meetings.

Ruth Crown brought up Carroll Co Home Ec sewing day and Sara McManus asked us to consider having a guest speaker from local government speak at future meeting and promotes the use of book on rights of the people kept at the county extension office. We will look into doing this as one of our quarterly special programs next year.

Trina Smith encouraged us to consider sponsorship or donation to Haiti Rescue Center. Pam Simons motioned that we give \$300 to Rescue Center and Shannon Kelly seconded motion. Vote taken and passed.

We collected thank offering as Judy Crowel read a prayer "Thank you Lord". How we can find something to be thankful for in every situation. Our collection was \$212.05 to go towards purchasing food items for the Ronald McDonald House.

Our next meeting is December 7th at Marilyn Crowel's. Please bring 2 dozen cookies to be divided and shared.

Golden Agers

Submitted by Dieter Hantschel

Neither gray skies nor an occasional drizzle could keep Martha and Gary Reedy, Don Dill, Bob Tobey, Arleen and Bud Stangle, Sherry and Dieter Hantschel, Ann Conrad, Teresa Alexander, Jean Marion nor Jonah Peterson from gathering at the Sportsman Inn for Christian fellowship last November 3. We were delighted that John Crowel was able to join us later with the upbeat news that his mother-in-law, Inez Cauble, although suffering a broken arm, did not also incur a pelvic fracture, as previously feared. We praise our Lord! We were also saddened that health news about Diane Reagan were not what we have prayed for. Gary transitioned us to lighter spirits with a "true life" story about some hunters that transgressed the sanctity of his property. If you know of a hunter who might have had a wheel taken off his/her vehicle for trespassing, they were probably at the Reedy's. We continued with a happy and cheerful meeting that included conversations on many varied topics. Momentary quiet ensued to allow Dieter to invoke the Lord's blessings for our luncheon and before long some revived conver-

sations seemed to cease again, as they often do when there is food on the table. We are so blessed! ...with the abundance of food, that is -- not the cessation of spirited and thought-provoking discussions! We were also blessed that Arleen had prepared several devotional presentations. Leading with Matthew 28:1-10, she transitioned to "Walking with Jesus" (the footprints-in-the-sand story) that included such joyous moments as a dance with the Lord. Arleen concluded with a fitting tribute to our brave veterans - serving to preserve our freedoms, including that of worshipping freely.

Please refer to the Bulletin Announcements for details about our December 1 gathering.

Our January fellowship will be at the Arleen and Bud Stangle home on January 5. Please make your RSVPs soon! We want you there, too!

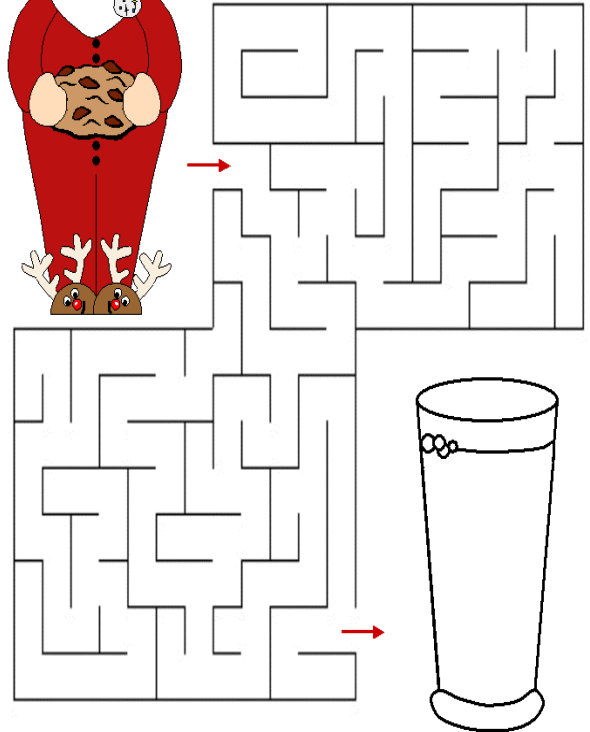
FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

H T S R H I R B B D F D
 P E L E W E O L T R G L
 L M F I C L I R D M R A
 O O H N W T D A S H E R
 D C A D Z R E C N A R P
 U D R E N N O D K S W K
 R C N E Y Q Y C U P I D
 C C T R N E X I V C O L

Blitzen	Donner
Comet	Prancer
Cupid	reindeer
Dancer	Rudolph
Dasher	Vixen



Help Santa find a nice tall glass of milk to drink with his cookie.



Youth Council Report

Submitted by Rachelle Bird

What fun we've had this month! October and November are always a fun months for youth, but we added some extras into our Jr/Sr High kids' plans. We met at the City Park where we studied Hunger and how God asks us to help, and of course we planned and carried out the "Walk thru Eternity", worked at the Emmaus House and planned and carried out a fundraiser to support those in need. Shew! That is a lot!!

The Sr High Class studied, prepped and planned for over 18 hours so that they could depict what life might be like if a person is sentenced to a life in hell. This is the first mission that the Sr. High carried out and is excited to repeat and better this event for the next year's Fall Party. If you don't know about this exciting event be sure to ask anyone of the participants (T.J. Spitzer, Brenda, Melanie

and Jackie Johns, Coral and Katie Altman, John Crowel, Jordan Campbell, Ivan and David Veach, Mason Bishop, Sarah Felz, Rusty and Rachelle Bird and Melanie and Jamie Campbell, Vicki Criswell, and Patti and Issac Lashbrook).

We also launched our campaign of getting to know the members of our church. This month Jo White and Ron and Lonetta Felz provided snacks and companionship for our youth during fellowship time. It was a pleasure to all three of these people come and be a part of our youth for the evening. If you would like to participate please let Rachelle Bird (765-426-2889) know and she can make arrangements for you to come and enjoy an evening (30 minutes) with us before being asked to! For a snack during our hunger campaign they will "enjoy" rice, beans and water.... A taste of what so many people around the world survive on daily.

We end our month with the Jr High going on their first mission to Emmaus where they continued our study of hunger. They helped to package bags for the elderly in need- which inspired them to do even more! They decided to have a fundraiser to raise money to add a food item into each bag! All 150 of them! They worked hard to bake, package, price and sell baked goods to raise this money. Then worked with local retailers to get the best deal on boxes of Jell-O to make sure they were able to help as many people as possible! What a commendable activity for these great kids!

I ask that you will continue to keep these wonderful teenagers, their friends and families in your prayers, as we begin month four of our journey into building a new and wonderful youth group to support them in building a Christ-like life.

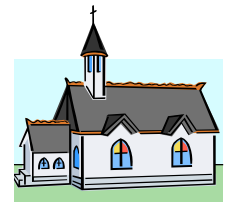


**HICKORY GROVE
CHURCH**

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

Maxine White
106 W Vine Street
Delphi, IN 46923

Joan Mikesell
White Oak 814 S 6th St
Monticello IN 47960

Mason Reese
1719 S 7th Street
Tacoma, WA 98405

PFC Cody Koedam
T Company, 266 QM
BN
7th Platoon
901 13th Street
Fort Lee, VA 23801

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 Spitzer
605 Hanawalt Rd, Monticello, IN
47960
574-870-0793
alspitzer@ffni.com

Brenda 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!

