

Hickory Grove Church

Hickory Switch

January
2012



Upcoming Events

January

- Jan 4 – Women's Fellowship
- Jan 5 – Golden Agers 11:30 at Stangle's
- Jan 8 – Prayer Gathering 6:00 Canal Center
- Jan 11 – Bible Study 7:00
- Jan 12 – Business Meeting 7:00
- Jan 18 – Bible Study 7:00
- Jan 23 – Deacon Meeting 7:00
- Jan 24 – Youth Council Meeting 7:00
- Jan 25 – Bible Study 7:00



*Jesus had no servants,
yet they called Him Master.*

*Had no degree,
yet they called Him Teacher*

*Had no medicines,
yet they called Him Healer.*

*Had no army,
yet kings feared Him.*

*He won no military battles,
yet He conquered the world.*

*He committed no crime,
yet they crucified Him.*

*He was buried in a tomb,
yet He lives today.*

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

On December 3rd many from Hickory Grove Church volunteered their time ringing the bell for the Salvation Army in front of the main entrance to Wal-mart. We covered the day in one hour shifts. The weather wasn't bad for the time of year. The Salvation Army attendant said that donations were good this year and that the volunteers were plentiful. Thank you to all who participated!

Emmaus Christmas Dinner

Women's Fellowship hosted the annual Christmas Dinner for the residents of Emmaus Missions Homeless Shelter on December 10th. Around 12 people from Hickory Grove went to the shelter taking prepared food and shared with the 20 people currently residing at the home. We then played bingo and gave away many donated prizes. As good

(Continued on page 5)

PASTOR'S PEN

A New Year

The Bible has a lot to say about newness. Let's take a look.

*Rev 21:5 (kjv) And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things NEW. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

*Eph 4:23 (niv) be made NEW in the attitude of your minds;

*II Cor 5:17 (niv) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a NEW creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

*Ezk 36:26 (niv) I will give you a New heart and put a New spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

*Ps 98:1 (niv) Sing to the LORD a New song, for he has done marvelous things;

Ever notice how people start a lot of New Year resolutions for the 1st couple of weeks into the New Year, then they start dropping them? A lot of it has to do with changing the mind without changing the heart. The mind is only prepared to do what the heart is convinced is true. If we are only doing something because our mind says so, it usually fails. Thus we can tell where our heart really is by watching our own actions. If enough pressure is put on someone, they can be convinced to change their mind; but only God can change the heart. Reality is, He can only do in us what we let Him do.

We should not be concerned with the usual resolutions like losing weight or giving up Starbucks Coffee at \$4.00 a cup. We should be concerned with eternal things. Things that have a direct impact on the Kingdom. So what are you going to do with Jesus this year? Anything? Great things? How are you going to get that accomplished? Is He at the center of your life or one of the options in your life? God said I will have no other Gods before me. In other words: "I better come 1st... signed God. On December 31, 2012, will you be any closer to God than you are on January 1, 2012? On December 31st will there be anyone else's name written in the Lamb's Book of Life because shared Jesus them?

Some people say: "Well, I just want to plant some seeds." "I just want to do a little watering." That is all very important, but wouldn't you rather be a part of the harvesting. Proverbs 23:7. Solomon wrote, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

We often want to be busy with our hands, to see things accomplished in the physical realm but what about the Spiritual? Again Solomon wrote: "Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun". Ecc 2:11.

Please be encouraged: God wants to use you to impact lives for Him. Why not set your heart to it? Start preparing for the harvest.

1) Pray that God will use you to reach people for Him. (Matt 9:38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.") Pray to be one of those harvesters.

2) Study (the Bible) to get prepared. I Tim 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth".

3) Get beyond inviting people to church. Share Jesus with them. Luke 8:39 "Go back to your family (town where you live), and tell them everything God has done for you."

4) Worship regularly. Heb 10:25 "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching". In the early church, regularly was daily.

Getting to the point. When we stand before Jesus, we should want to have something to offer other than to say: "I put \$5 in the Salvation Army Kettle", or "I dropped off cookies to a nursing home", or I worked in the Nursery one Sunday." When we stand before Jesus, we should want to see lots of people standing around that we led to Him while we ask forgiveness for not leading more.

Bill & Gloria Gaither produced a song which kind of sums it up:

Verse:

Don't wanna spend my life a preaching sermons that give answers

To the questions no one's asking anywhere

When there's so much pain and hurting there's no time to be searching

For the needles in the haystacks that aren't there

I wanna spend my time a-wearing myself out for Jesus

With the news a cure's been found to heal our land

Instead of making lists, inventing creeds that aren't concerned with people's needs

I'll show 'em how to touch the nail scarred hand

Chorus:

I don't wanna spend my time a-writing songs that answer questions

That nobody's even asking anyhow

When the house is burning to the ground

There's just no time to stand around

Arranging all the pictures on the wall

I wanna spend my life a-giving folks the living water

And the bread of life they just can't live without

Instead of spending all that time a-writing songs that answer questions

That nobody's even asking anyhow

How about you? What are you striving to accomplish this year?



January 2012

Hickory Grove Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Martin & Donna Lewellen	2 Nick Spitzer	3	4 7:00 Women's Fellowship	5 Dieter Hantschel Kaleb Philo Barbara Humphrey 11:30 Golden Ager's- Stangle's Home	6 Rick Alexander	7
8 Rachelle Bird 6:00 Prayer Gathering @ Canal Center	9 Shannon Kelly	10 Nolan Yoakum	11 7:00 Bible Study	12 Diana Bailey 7:00 Business	13	14 Mairi Cunningham
15 Susan Hill	16	17 John Harvey	18 7:00 Bible Study	19	20 Bud Stangle	21 Terry & Jo Dill
22 Bob White	23 7:00 Deacon's Mtg	24 Melanie Campbell Walter & Clara Potts 7:00 Youth Council Mtg	25 Tom & Sue Armstrong Becky Sheets 7:00 Bible Study	26	27	28 Shawna Cun- ningham
29	30	31	1 Andy Kelly Cassie Johns	2 Leisha Hill	3 Marlita Joseph	4

February

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-DECEMBER 7TH, 2011

Women's Fellowship December 7, 2011

Our meeting was held at the home of Marilyn Crowel. Judy Crowel opened reading an inspirational message about the Messiah and how we need to look for him in everyone we meet. Trina read devotional from Luke chapter 2, the Christmas Story and how we need to keep this season simple, praising and worshipping at all times. Clara passed cards to be signed for sick and shut ins.

There were 16 women and 3 young ladies at our meeting. Roll call was "A Christmas Wish".

Secretary and Treasurer Reports were read and approved with December 1st balance of \$1049.74.

Jo White read correspondence from

the Ronald McDonald House thanking us for the food and paper items that Judy and Jo delivered that were collected from the Church.

Material aid committee announced that the signup sheet for bringing food for Emmaus was full. If anyone wanted to donate more bingo items, they were welcome. At this time there are 20 residents at the shelter. They are limiting due to funding. Library report was given by Donna Le-wellen on a book called Savings Savvy – Friendly Provisions. The book talks about extreme couponing and savings money in general on your grocery bill.

Bible study will start in February. Lonetta is to order the main study kit. We will pass out invitations and show promotional video the first of the year. Books will then be ordered

for those who want to attend. Women's Fellowship will be reimbursed by each attendee for their books.

After caroling a carry in dinner will be held at the Church. Win-a-Couple class will bring soups and sloppy jo. Hickory Helpers will bring salads, relish trays, chips. Dreamers will bring desserts.

Refreshments were all of the cookies that every one brought and then divided up and took home. Marilyn Crowel and Arlene Stangle made drinks. Apricot slushies and Wassail (similar to a hot mulled cider).

Our next meeting is at the home of Trina Smith on January 4, 2012.

Golden Agers

Submitted by Dieter Hantschel

Neither balmy weather nor a few blooming dandelions in the Hantschels' yard could keep the intrepid Golden Agers from gathering at Sherry's and Dieter's home on December 1 for a joyous carry-in meal and Christian fellowship. With a Christmas theme, the meeting was enhanced with "roaring" fires and Christmas music. Ruth Crown gave the prayer to ask God's blessings for the bountiful food. A long que of 14 then formed from the sunroom, through the kitchen to the tables where many oohs and aahs were expressed for the delicious baked ham and many delectable side dishes and mouth watering desserts.

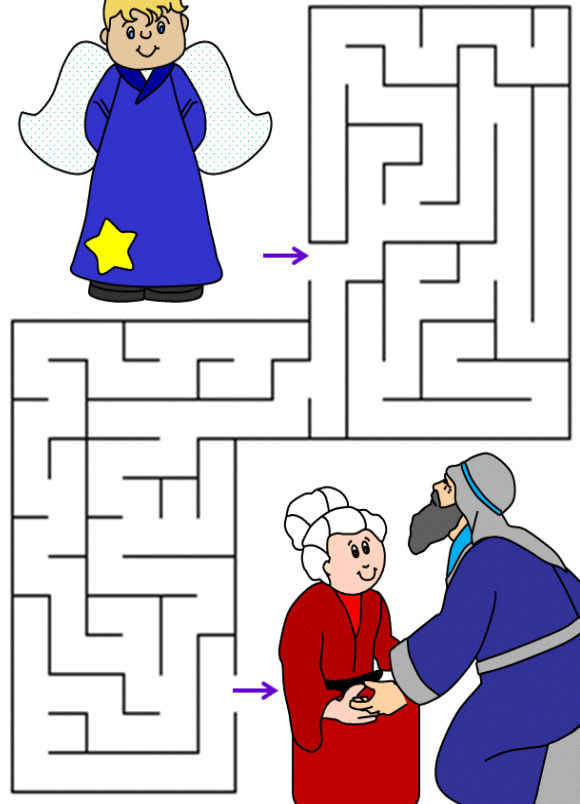
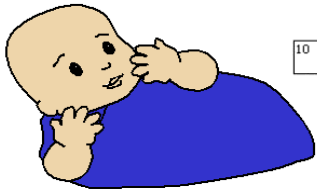
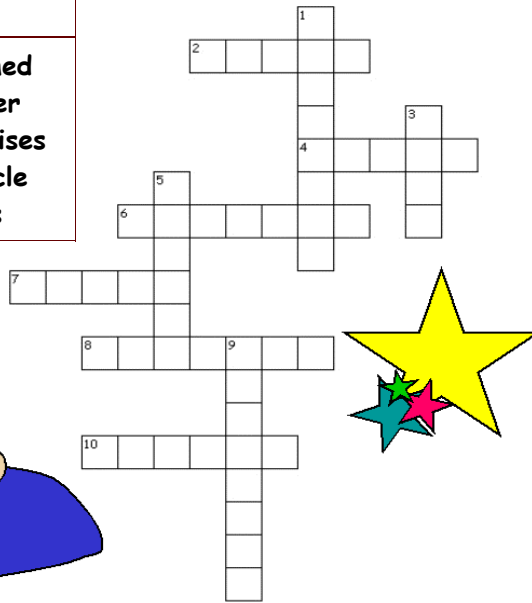
The meal at an end, all gathered on a large circle of chairs and savored the devotions presented by Arleen Stangle. Centered on the celebration of our Savior's birth and the salvation, these stories gave full meaning

to this Christian gathering at this festive time of year. Following tradition, a gift exchange followed. Ruth, Sherry and Arleen were joined in the ladies circle by Ann Conrad, Teresa Alexander, Marilyn Crowel, Martha Reedy and Betty Taskey, while Dieter joined the mens' circle with Gary Reedy, John Crowel, Don Dill, Jonah Peterson and Bud Stangle. Arleen gave the instructions for passing the gifts from one person to another in an unpredictable pattern of "left" and "right." Ultimately, when the game ended, everyone held a unique small present to remind us of the gifts Jesus received (Matthew 2:11). The greatest gifts, though, were the expressions of Christian love for one another. Please contact Arleen and Bud Stangle to let them know that you're coming to the next Golden Agers fellowship on January 5 at their house. It's another carry-in: The Stangles will supply the soups and you bring a side dish or dessert.



FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Word List	
baby	laughed
covenant	prayer
faith	promises
father	miracle
Isaac	stars



Across

- 2. God told Abraham to look at these, this would be how much offering he would have.
- 4. The name of Abraham and Sarah's son means "he will laugh".
- 6. Saran and Abraham both did this when they found out they would have a child.
- 7. Abraham was considered righteous because of his _____.
- 8. Isaac was a _____ from God.
- 10. God always listens to our _____.

Down

- 1. God always keeps these.
- 3. Abraham and Sarah were almost 100 years old when they had one of these.
- 5. Abraham is called the _____ of many nations.
- 9. The was the promise God made to Abraham that would greatly increase his family.

Emmaus Christmas Dinner-con't.

(Continued from page 1)

and fun as the food and bingo were, I believe most will remember the singing afterwards as we were blessed by one of the residents who could sing very well. Martin brought his guitar and accompanied our carols. Blossom even attended and made the people laugh. It was a very enjoyable evening and we felt as blessed as the residents.

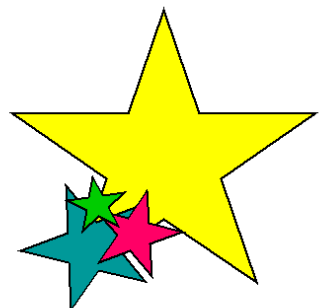
Christmas Caroling

Approximately 25 people gathered at the Church on December 17th to do our annual Christmas Caroling. We then split up and 12 went to Delphi while the rest headed north to Monticello. We stopped at a few private residence and hit all the nursing homes. Some of the residence joined in with our caroling. We were welcomed back to the Church with a warm meal. Thank you to all who caroled and cooked!

Abraham & Sarah Word Search

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

- Abraham
- baby
- children
- covenant
- family
- faith
- father
- Isaac
- laughed
- old
- prayer
- promises
- miracle
- righteous
- Sarah
- stars
- visitor



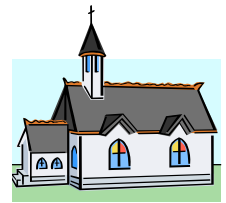


HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

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!

