



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

September 2019

Reminiscing with Martensdale

On a hill off of Highway 92, sits a small white building with a rich history of its very own. Built for the working farmers of the rolling fields that lie before it, the church set its course for the strong men and women who praised God there in truth.

On November 23, 1947, this unique group of believers first met in a home at Winterset, Iowa. They came from the three Churches of Christ in Des Moines, Iowa, to be closer to the work on their farms. The Dean Avenue Church of Christ assisted this small group in their transition.

Sunday morning services began at 10:30 a.m. so that the milking of cows could be done and again at 8:00 p.m. for the same reason. This is only one evidence of its uniqueness.

They purchased six new Bibles and thirty new song books for the edification of the church.

On January 15, 1948, they changed the location of the church to Bevington, Iowa, and two more Christians were added to the group there. On Feb. 29, 1948, the group moved, for the good of the work, to a school house they rented. They held several weekly meetings, with the aid of a visiting evangelist. A tent meeting was held on the Wicks picnic grounds, but the church was searching for a permanent place to build their building.

AN ACRE TO BUILD

In 1949, Burt Fritz (grandfather to the Bown brothers Al, Arlis, Fred, and Richard, three of which continue to worship there to this day) donated an acre of pasture land to secure a location to begin building.

With the help of neighbors, Christians, and carpenters the basement was dug and made suitable for worship and Bible classes by **December 19, 1950**. During this fruitful time, much work was done to teach the lost in their area. The church held gospel meetings and souls were added to their number as they had baptisms from their work.

SPECIAL VISITOR

This effort included the help of Roy Harris, evangelist, school teacher, music instructor and gospel hymn writer. Roy wrote many familiar hymns in our song books such as Hilltops of Glory, In the Shadow of His Wings, Thoughts of Home, and many others. Roy visited Martensdale in the summers of **1949 through 1951** and gave the Bown brothers a formal and thorough instruction in music and leading songs. Though Fred Bown was only 9 years old at the time, he remembers very well the lessons he received from Roy. Al Bown traveled with Roy on his evangelizing trips, resulting in another strong song leader at Martensdale.

In the spring of 1953, the congregation finished the upstairs. Christians came from Kansas City, Missouri, to help guide the new Church of Christ. The church continued under their supervision until they had two elders and two deacons appointed **on Jan 7, 1967**.



The source of this information is from a letter written by the Bown brothers' mother, Berniece. She ended it with the following: "There is a cordial welcome out to all people at all times."

Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)
Location: 15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa
For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 535-2931

Visitors this month:

- Brett, Chantelle, Quil and Titus Jackson;
- Gerry, Ashley and Aella Fenton;
- Jared, Bethany, Kendrick and Paityn Groves

September Birthdays

- ★ 29 Carol Smead

September Anniversaries

- ★ 6 Brian & Tammy Schreck

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Last Sunday of the month: A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- Neal Warren is scheduled to go home August 31st from Fleur Heights. Peg Warren had a shot in her sore knee and is doing some better.
- Debbie Wilkins went to the hospital with tachycardia and tightness in her jaw. She had testing, and it was determined she did not have a heart attack. She is home now.
- Skip Schamel, Risa's husband, had rotator cuff surgery, and is doing well.

Visitors:

- Bill, Bryan, Max and Tally Charlier,
- Nancy and Zoey Evans,

- Betty Warren,
- Brita & Charlie Daly,
- Tom Warren,
- Paxon Boozell,
- Heike Mueller,
- Parker Strable and
- Piper Thatcher.

September Birthdays

- ★ None

September Anniversaries

- ★ 2 Greg & Linda Head

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632
For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- **We want to thank everyone** for attending our August 25th meeting with John Lee. His exhortation gave us much to think about. He also gave us a great study in the afternoon following a basket dinner.

Visitors

- Rob Ritson - Burlington, IA
- Mary Smith & Granddaughter Aubrey Parrot
- Jon & Amy Schmidt & family
- John & Donna Lee

- Hadley Miller
- Paul, Timber, Minka and Race Negley from Urbandale, Iowa.

- Van & Molly Gilmore & Girls coming especially for the presentation of **Quilts of Valor for Jack Swisher**. (World War II Veteran).

The men and women of, "*Quilted of Honor*" stitch and quilt pieces of fabric together to

make wonderfully patriotic quilts of art! With pride each quilt is labeled by the originating Quilter and the Veteran it is issued to.



September Birthdays

- ★ 24 – Tammie Driftmier

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday of the month: Basket dinner after morning service, meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)
For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- Marlene Bown passed away on Wednesday July 31st after being diagnosed with lung cancer. She is very much missed by everyone who loved her.
- Please continue to keep Wendy Hounsom in prayers as she continues to suffer from pain after making a trip to the Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Chicago.
- Several of Duane and Mary Proudfit's family members gathered to help Duane celebrate his 80th birthday on August 24
- Rodney, Alena Ingle and family, Ayden and Maddy Twaddell, Tanner and Tiffany George all traveled to Colorado for the wedding of Kayley Zimmerman and Nick Hermon.
- Others traveling this month: Mike and Shawna Divis, and Pam Long Deckler.

- Bryan, Jennifer, Lance, Dawn Bown,
- Dennis, Cindy and Daniel Stanley,
- Gordon and Brenda Clevenger,
- Stephanie Stephens and children,
- Bethany and Kirk Ford,
- Faith Fenton,
- Jordan Bown,
- Steve and Cerine Proudfit and Family,
- Nick and Kayley Hermon.



September Birthdays

- ★ 5 Pam Deckler
- ★ 7 Dianne Collier
- ★ 9 Brenda Bown
- ★ 17 Zach Wheeler
- ★ 28 Dick Bown

September Anniversaries

- ★ Mike and Tracy Penick- September 24, 1982

Our visitors this month:

- LuAnn Woody,
- Kevin and Trace Morton and family,
- Roger and Melissa Bown and family,

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
3rd Sunday of the month: Potluck after morning service, meeting back at 1 p.m.
Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org
 For information call: Mike Warner (515) 967-4529

- **Our hearts were saddened when the last Suddeth sibling was called home**, but we are rejoicing in her life well lived and her devotion to Christ. Mary Alice Fillman, age 87, passed away on August 1st. The celebration of her life was held on August 6th. She leaves behind her husband of 68 years, Bud, and her daughter Brenda Bohall and son Bruce Fillman, along with the in-laws, grandchildren, and many other friends and family.
- **Congratulations to Nick Hermon and Kayley Zimmerman** who were married on August 10th, in Estes Park, Colorado. An Iowa reception to celebrate was held at Marc and Ginger Hermon's home on August 30th.
- **Tom Brady has had quite an eventful month.** Originally doctors thought his aneurysm was leaking. The dye used for the test weakened his already weak kidneys. He was mostly unresponsive for two days following the test. He was put on continuous dialysis to clean his blood. This was successful, but he didn't sleep for 48 hours. They removed him from dialysis and out of ICU. Doctors were monitoring him to determine if his kidneys were damaged enough to require additional dialysis. Following that, Tom had internal bleeding which landed him back in ICU. A test requiring the dye had to pinpoint the location of the bleeding. Test showed bleeding had stopped on its own. Tom required four units of blood. He was on bed rest and came out of ICU again. It appears that he will not require additional dialysis at this time. Tom is now doing well. They are getting his blood regulated and removing retained fluid. At this writing, he is still in Lutheran Hospital.
- **Bruce Harvey had back surgery on August 23rd to repair three discs.** He's been in a lot of pain this past spring and summer. The incision was

about 15" long. Next day after the surgery he was walking! Bruce says it is painful, but he is doing it! Best thing he can do now is walk, walk, walk. At this writing, he is still in Methodist West.

- **A couples bridal shower for Megan Stevens and Ethan Schreck** was held at Pleasant Hill church on August 24th. Their wedding is scheduled for October 5th. Megan is daughter of Sharon Mineart and granddaughter of Marge Flack.
- Ron Gearhart has been having health issues. He had to have feeding tube put in.
- This month Jennifer and Chip Albright family moved back to Des Moines on Ingersoll. Keith Price moved with them.

EVENTS

- Our congregation is looking forward to hosting our annual Labor Day meeting from Saturday through Monday morning breakfast. Welcome to all!
- A tailgate party for the Iowa vs. Iowa State football game will be held at the Randy and Theresa Ingle home on September 14th.

TRAVELERS

- Those traveling this month: Allison and Sophia George had a fantastic trip to New York City! Marty and Lisa Williamson are heading to Europe... Venice, Rome, etc. Safe travels!.



September Birthdays

- ★ 2 Pam Sorensen
- ★ 3 Kayley Hermon
- ★ 6 Keith Price
- ★ 13 Niko Felice
- ★ 23 Shea Hermon
- ★ 28 Theresa Ingle

Anniversaries

- ★ 1 Tim & Tammy Brady
- ★ 3 Alex & Ryane Needham
- ★ 4 Marc & Ginger Hermon
- ★ 10 Larry & Bev Brady
- ★ 12 Mike & Cindy Brady

- ★ 15 Marty & Lisa Williamson
- ★ 16 Scott & Julene Pappan
- ★ 29 Ron & Mary Gearhart
- ★ 29 Steve & Pat Thompson

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.
Website: vandaliacoc.com
For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- We sang with the residents in Mitchellville Nursing Home on a Sunday evening.
- Lynnette Dowdy and Justin and Brittney Dowdy and children visited family in Missouri.



September Birthdays

- ★ 2 Casady Cummings
- ★ 8 Charity Klein
- ★ 12 Cameron Burkman
- ★ 12 Cole Dowdy

- ★ 14 Lisa Fiorentin
- ★ 28 Brighton Ingle
- ★ 30 Kiana Klein

September Anniversaries

- ★ 12 Alan & Shonya Klein
- ★ 20 Bob & Tonya Guthrie
- ★ 23 Micah & Briana Heartsill
- ★ 24 Dale & Dorothy VanMaanen

If you're interested in a current or past copy of the *Lighthouse of Iowa*, they can be found at the following two Church websites:

Vandalia Church of Christ

<https://vandaliacoc.com/lighthouse-of-iowa.html>

Pleasant Hill Church of Christ

<http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/library.php>

(select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)

John Roy Harris

Evangelist, School Teacher, Music Instructor and Gospel Hymn Writer.

BIRTH: 12 Dec 1915 / Missouri, USA

DEATH: 11 Jun 2010 (aged 94) / Buffalo, Dallas County, Missouri, USA

Hilltops of Glory

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R. H. D \flat /D \flat

Phil. 3:13-14

Roy Harris

1. On - ward re-joic-ing I tread life's way, High-er I'm climb-ing each pass - ing
2. Way down in E-gypt mid burn-ing sand, Mos-es had start-ed for Ca-naan's
3. Foot - steps of Je - sus be - fore us lead, We tread life's jour-ney His warn-ings

day; Hill-tops of glo - ry now rise in view, where all shall be made new.
land; Nev - er turn back-ward al - ways as-cend on to the jour-ney's end.
heed; E - vil al-lure-ments can - not pre-vail, I'm on the up-ward trail.

D.S. Safe on the moun-tain I soon shall stand Hill-tops of glo - ry land.

Hill-tops of glo-ry

I now can see

O broth-er won't you come go with me?