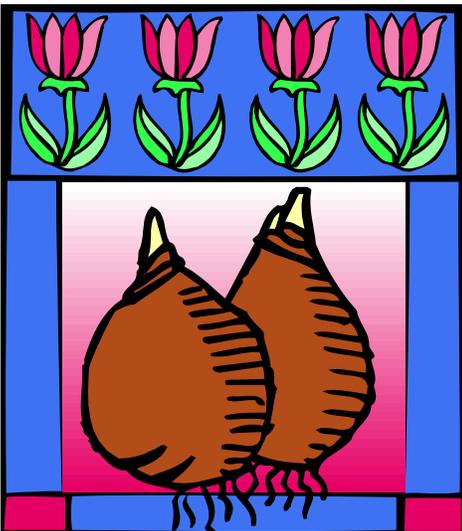


Lighthouse of Iowa

December 2009

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast... Hebrews 6:19



ONE HUNDRED TULIP BULBS shipped from a gardening company in the Midwest. Ever since I ordered those first hundred bulbs a couple of years ago, the company has had my number. They send me catalogs every fall and then a reminder in the form of a postcard that asks, "Have you ordered your spring bulbs yet?" I fill out the card and send it in. The bulbs,

they promise, will arrive at the seasonally and regionally appropriate moment for planting.

I leave them in the refrigerator for a couple of weeks, making sure that Indian summer has passed. Then, on a bitter December day, I put in my bulbs. In the weak sunlight, with dead leaves blowing past, I dig into the cold earth and think about where the purple, yellow and scarlet-tinged flowers will look best. I can see them in my mind's eye, just like the photo in the catalog, even though the box hedge is bare and the hydrangeas are sticks. There will be other activities during the winter, but I'll be thinking about my bulbs. They give me hope through the snow and ice and frozen mud. Beneath it new life is growing.

I don't mind waiting for things—good dinners with friends, a new book by a favorite author, a movie with an unbeatable cast—as long as I know they're coming. I can say a little prayer and think of my tulips. I can weather any winter storm as long as I've made that down payment on spring.

Lord, I trust You with my hopes. May they grow.

RICK HAMLIN

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.

Romans 6:4-5

Chariton

Meeting times—Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Location—15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa

For information call—Clarence Van Egdome, (641)932-5686 or Albert Schreck, (641)535-2381

Reminder: Our congregation will not have services on Wednesday evenings from December through March.

Mary Jo Riekens is still recovering from her heart surgery with a few problems now and then. On November 19th, she went to the surgeon with extreme pain and they removed over a liter of fluid from her lungs.

Clarence and Delores Van Egdome had their family over on November 14th to help Clarence celebrate his 80th birthday. His sister, Marlene Ingle, was also able to attend.

Visitors this past month were Sue, Leah, Tyler and Travis Schreck; Hannah Clevenger from the Kansas City area; and Jared Ritenour, friend of Ashley Schreck.

December Birthdays

9 – Albert Schreck

31 – Brian Schreck



Thank you to all who remembered me during and after my heart surgery. Thanks for all the cards, visits, prayers, phone calls, food and thoughts. They are sincerely appreciated.

Mary Jo Riekens

Dean Avenue

Meeting times—Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location—2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa

For information call—John McNeece, (515)263-9428 or Don Warren, (515)967-5650

We want to thank all of our visitors for supporting our meeting with brother Rick Sparks November 1–6. We pray that you were all edified when you left.

Several of us were ill in November. Mary Lou Allen has had trouble getting rid of a bad cough. Shirley McNeece hurt her back and arm at work. Karla Fetters was out ill with the flu for several meetings. Kara Fetters pulled a tendon in her leg. Shawn Head was very sick with what he felt was the H1N1 flu before he came home. He is feeling a lot better now. It was good to see him for the Thanksgiving holidays. Jean Van Egdome had a 24-hour

round of the flu. Margaret Warren is ill with a sore throat and cough. Donna Meek and Lillian Bartlett are also ill. Grace Wilkins is not well.

We want to remember those of our group that cannot be with us—Maxine Phipps, Elsie LeMar, Grace Wilkins, Juanita Coe and Alna Meacham. We miss them and know that they miss being with us too.

Valerie Hawthorne, daughter of Peter and Frances Hawthorne, has been very sick and had several tests.

Sierra Coe's brother, Dale Hamilton, was in ICU at Blank for a bad case of allergies.

Our visitors on November 1st were Mike Warren; Rick

Sparks; and Kamryn Awegan's friend, Makenzie. Worshiping with us on Sunday, November 22nd were David Chubb, Ernest Entsminger and Mark Entsminger of Des Moines, and Shawn Head.

Ron and Jean Van Egdome vacationed for a few days in Branson, Missouri with a stop in Warrensburg, Missouri to see Jean's parents, Kenneth and Barbara Thompson and sister, Amy Thompson. They also visited with Thomas and Ann Dennis and Paul and Sondra Johnson in Nixa, Missouri. Peter and Frances Hawthorne will leave December 10th for

(Continued on page 3)

Dean Avenue

(Continued from page 2)

Litchfield Park, Arizona to visit their daughter and family, Daryl and Venita James and children, Jahara and Akil James. Jahara is a freshman at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Elsie LeMar has moved to a new room at Valley View Village. She is now in Room 11.

Visiting in the home of Peter and Frances Hawthorne over the Thanksgiving holiday were her sisters and family, Mary Lucille Warren of Eolia, Missouri; and Hurley and Ora Belle Conway and their daughter, Vicky, all of Clarksville, Missouri.

We have a blanket that was left by someone from the night of the Pumpkin Promenade. If

you are missing your blanket, please contact Donna McNeece at 515-263-9428.

December Birthdays

18 – Yvonne Coe
18 – Kara Feters
18 – Travis Head
28 – Risa Schamel



Fairview

Meeting time—Sundays: 10:00 a.m.

Location—22nd & Orange St., Clarinda, Iowa

For information call—Richard Negley, (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley, (712)542-2972

Faye Stephens was dismissed from the Clarinda Regional Hospital and able to go home, with family taking turns being with her.

November 22nd visitors were: Van, Barb, Logan and

Luke Negley of Woodland Park, Colorado; John and Donna Lee of Greenwood, Missouri; and Reba Lee of Nixa, Missouri. The congregation enjoyed a potluck dinner after services.

We are all grateful for the

many blessings of life and for the freedom that we enjoy in America!

December Birthdays

3 – Darlene Marsh



Martensdale

Meeting Times—Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.

Location—439 Hwy. 92 (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, Iowa)

For information call—Duane Proudfit, (515)961-4470 or Mike Penick, (515)989-4165

Kermit and Cameron Tomms worshiped with us Sunday, November 1st.

Tracy and Courtney Penick worshiped with the Smart Road congregation while they were in the Kansas City area visiting.

Alvin and Marlene Bown have headed for Texas to spend the winter.

Drew Teghtmeyer attended

services while visiting Courtney Penick.

We had several visitors over the Thanksgiving holiday. They were Bryan and Jennifer Bown and their children; Deanna Kewan; Joe Duckstein; Melody and Andrea Torres; Kyle and Stephanie Stephens; and Steve and Cerine Proudfit and their girls.

Dick and Phyllis Bown spent the Thanksgiving weekend in the Kansas City area.

December Birthdays

10 – Mary Proudfit
12 – Teresa Bown



Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times—Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location—5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa

For information call—Bob Flack, (515)262-7329 or Lowell Hermon, (515)989-0727

Those on the sick list were: Theresa Ingle, Lily and Annabel Albright, Jack Conner, Rosanne Van Vleet, Carroll Warren, Mike Warner, and Nora Lee Ingle.

Paul Zinnel had some surgery and will be having more when he heals from the first surgery. Please keep the Zinnel family in your prayers.

Pat Thompson was in South Carolina helping her son Matt pack, as he will be stationed in California. He has been back visiting family for a couple of weeks before he leaves for California.

Mike and Shirley Warner and Dean and Bev Hayes vacationed in Branson.

Don and Sharon Gustafson have visited with family and friends.

Jill and Emily McClurg have been visiting with

grandparents and other family members.

Ryan and Jamie Ingle and Elijah were in Kansas City visiting with family.

Lou and Connie Meinke (Marian Parrish's daughter) were visiting.

Linda Flickinger is visiting with family, and getting to know her grandsons.

David Ingle had an accident at work and lost part of his index finger on his left hand.

Chip and Jennifer Albright and girls have been in Kansas City visiting.

Kelly and Allison George and family spent about two weeks in Florida. They visited Matt and Kelly Harvey and family on the way

home and attended Prince Road Church.

Tom and Fred Brady are in Florida. Joining them for a week are their son, Jason and Theresa Brady and Ryane.

Miles Wood was in Missouri for Thanksgiving weekend.

Julene Felice was in Nebraska for a wedding.

Thanks to everyone who came to the 50th Anniversary of the church. It was a nice day.

December Birthdays

- 4 – Steve Brady
- 18 – Jason Brady
- 18 – Paul Zinnel
- 25 – Ashten Brady



December Anniversaries

- 30 – Nick & Susan Conner



Thank you so very much for all the good wishes, prayers, beautiful cards and delicious food during my sinus surgery. I am recovering really well. May God bless each of you for thinking of me.

Wanda Burkman



Iowa Traveling

Bible Study (ITBS)

The January study will be at Dean Ave. church bldg.

Feb. study: Kelly & Allison George

Mar. study: Nels & Marge Turnquist

Please check with hostess to see if she would like you to bring any food.

If you have any questions, call Rodney Ingle at 515-669-0365.

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.
 For information call—Greg Ingle, (515)994-2824 or Charles Ingle, (515)966-2537

Among our visitors this past month include: James Finney and Alexander; Kelsey Knight, friend of Bruce Fiorentin; Staci and Jason Miller; Bonnie Harkin; Danny Cole; Jalen Krier, and James Dowdy.

Justin and Brittney Dowdy were in Missouri for a weekend.

Doug and Lisa Fiorentin, Nathan and Trent were in Carrollton, Missouri for a weekend.

We were happy to hear the good news that Tonya Guthrie's surgery went well.

Melody Burkman under-

went surgery on her knee and is progressing nicely. Kelsey Knight had gall bladder surgery and is recovering well.

Bruce and Trent Fiorentin, and Kelsey Knight were in Missouri for a weekend.

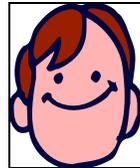
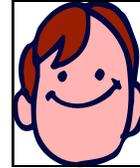
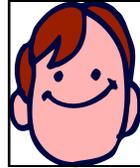
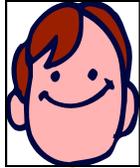
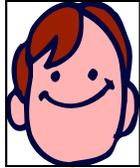
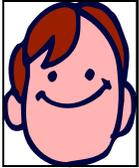
Our Sunday evening service on the 29th was cut short by the outbreak of a fire at an abandoned mobile home across the street from the church building. It was fully engulfed when discovered and was a total loss by the time firemen from Prairie City, Monroe, and Runnells arrived.

Clifford Duckstein fell in his home and was taken to Iowa Lutheran Hospital. His arm was broken near the shoulder and he spent several days in the hospital. Please pray for Clifford and Bobbi.

We want to thank everyone from the other congregations who submitted topic suggestions for the two-week meeting next summer.

December Birthdays

27 – Melody Burkman



Folks and Me

It is a funny thing, but true, that folks you don't like, don't like you. I don't know why this should be so, but just the same I always know if I am "sour," friends are few; if I am friendly, folks are too.

Sometimes I get up in the morn a-wishing I was never born. I make of cross remarks a few, and then my family wishes, too, that I had gone some other place, instead of showing them my face.

But let me change my little tune, and sing and smile; I guess 'twas catching, all the while.

Yes, it's a funny thing, but true, that folks you like will sure like you. —Anon.

Lighthouse of Iowa is a monthly bulletin for Churches of Christ in Iowa and members' families and friends throughout the country. News is submitted by representatives from each congregation, but you may send general questions, address changes, or news to Ruth Schell at 6645 S.E. 120th St. Runnells, IA 50237, (515)966-2027. Email: RuthLSchell@aol.com