

Lighthouse of Iowa

January 2008

SEEING ANEW

"LORD, THAT OUR EYES MAY BE OPENED" -- Matthew 20:33

During a week's hospital stay, I had enjoyed a colorful Gauguin Tahiti scene on the wall of my room. So I was dismayed when a beaming hospital volunteer stepped in one morning and took it down.

The lady must have caught my expression. "I'll be right back!" she promised.

A few minutes later she wheeled in a cart filled with framed prints: landscapes, flowers, ballet dancers, and galloping horses. "When you look at something every day," she explained, "you stop seeing it. That's why we change the pictures around."

I chose Renoir's Boating Party. But her words had started me thinking. Had I really stopped seeing the things I saw every day?

Back home, I walked through the house with newly opened eyes. It was true: the wallpaper in the kitchen, the china figurine on the bedroom bureau, and my sister's watercolor over the piano. How long since I'd really looked at any of them?

Because they were always there, they had become invisible.

It wasn't only decorative things. The refrigerator, the telephone—the more often I used an object, the less I seemed to notice it. If I had never owned two pairs of shoes or a sink with running water, as half the world does not, how I would thank God if I ever obtained them! Shouldn't an abundance of material blessings make me more grateful, not less? Why not change—not the pictures on the wall—but the way I looked at them?

That morning I made a New Year's resolution: to thank God each day for something in common use and view. What began as a simple exercise in awareness has become a daily adventure as I discover God's blessings in the commonplaces of my life.

*Open my eyes all this year,
Father, to Your gifts in the every
day.*

Elizabeth Sherrill

A VOW FOR NEW YEAR'S

Every hour and every minute
Has a New Year's Day tucked in it
And each single one of these
Is packed with possibilities—
Of sharing with some friend some
treasure,
Of making a "Good morning" cheery—
Making a good one from a dreary—
Of shutting tight the lips to hide
A bit of gossip safe inside
Instead of letting it get out
To roam about and maybe do
More harm than you would like it to.
Let us take a little vow,
Since it is the New Year now,
To be more kind, more brave, more gay
This year and make each single day
That comes a model New Year's Day!

MARY CAROLYN DAVIES



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

Please be reminded that our congregation will not have Wednesday evening services during the months of January, February and March.

On December 29th during our evening services someone went through some of our vehicles and took a few things.

Evelyn Bennett had an angiogram and she has four blockages. Due to a metal allergy, they were unable to place stents in the arteries. Her medication has been changed and she will be undergoing allergy testing to

determine what they will do next.

Deloris Van Egdome had an echocardiogram and everything looked good.

Clarence and Deloris Van Egdome had several visitors in their home on December 25th. Visitors were Ron and Jean Van Egdome of Pleasant Hill; Garry and Marcia Van Egdome of Albia; Kelli Van Egdome of Waukee; John, Carol and John Wayne Smead of Albia; and Nick and Jodee Jones of Pine Knoll Shores, North Carolina. Nick and Jodee are in the Coast

Guard and were able to be back to visit relatives. Albert and Jeanette Schreck had all of their children and grandchildren visit them during their winter breaks.

On December 23rd Bob Alexander attended evening services with us.

January Birthdays

3 – Jeanette Schreck

13 – Mary Jo Rieken



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

Our sympathy goes to Dwight and Karla Fetters on the death of Dwight's mother, Louise Fetters.

Earl Allen had knee replacement surgery and is recuperating nicely. Mary Lou Allen was in Iowa Lutheran Hospital with what was thought to be a blood clot in her leg, but later was diagnosed as superficial phlebitis. She has also been having trouble with back spasms. Ashley Fitzgerald has had pneumonia. Karma Sharp hurt her knee, and it has been giving her some pain, especially at work. Alna Meacham is now in the Good Samaritan Nursing Home, Room 109 in Indianola, Iowa, since suffering from a stroke

earlier in the month. Please pray for this dear sister!

Others sick this month were Jan Sellers, Valerie Burkman, Sierra Coe, Margaret Warren, Jean Van Egdome, Yvonne Coe, Don and Wanda Burkman, Glenn Meacham and Shirley McNeece. Donna Meek has had an infection in her saliva gland that made her face swell.

Kim Lanc was our visitor on Sunday, December 23rd. Alissa Fetters worshiped with us that evening. Marvin and Melda Ingle of the Vandalia congregation, and Jay, Becky and Lydia Graham of Flagstaff, Arizona congregation were our visitors on Sunday, December 30th. Marvin spoke for us on Sunday morning and Jay on

Sunday afternoon. Thank you both for your efforts. Lowell Hermon worshiped with us for the afternoon service. We were very blessed to have you all!

Peter and Frances Hawthorne were in Arizona from December 18th to January 1st, visiting with family over the

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January Birthdays

2 – Kennady Prenosil

5 – Grace Wilkins

19 – Connor Wilkins

23 – Mary Lou Allen

23 – Alna Meacham

28 – Debbie Wilkins



Dean Avenue

(Continued from page 2)

holidays. Greg and Linda Head traveled this month. Alissa


Fetters was home for the holidays. Marla and Kara Fetters went to Blockton to take Charles Cobb, Marla's father, to

church at Tent Chapel on Sunday, December 30th.

Fairview

Meeting time—Sundays: 10:00 a.m.
Location—22nd & Orange St., Clarinda, Iowa
For information call—Richard Negley, (712)542-3728

No news this month.

<p>January Birthdays</p> <p>9 – Mary Rine</p> 
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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

Congratulations to Jenna Bown and Zach Wheeler who have announced their engagement. They have not yet set a wedding date. Jenna is the daughter of Allen and Teresa Bown and the granddaughter of Fred and Marlene Bown and Bob and Marge Flack.

Dave Henderson, a friend of Christy Phillips, attended services with her on December 16th.

On Sunday, December 23rd, Fred, Marlene, Brenda, Allen, Teresa, Jenna, Kyle and Jordan Bown traveled to Missouri to spend the day with Bryan and

Jennifer Bown and their family. Everyone attended services at Excelsior Springs.

We had several visitors on Sunday, December 30th. Dennis and Cindy Stanley and their boys were visiting Cindy's parents, Dick and Phyllis Bown. Steve and Cerine Proudfit and their girls and Chantelle Schreck were visiting Duane and Mary Proudfit. Two friends of Christy Phillips also attended services. Kyle and Stephanie Stephens were visiting Stephanie's parents, Mike and Tracy Penick. Hunter Kingsbury attended services

with Courtney Penick. On Sunday evening Jay, Becky and Lydia Graham worshiped with us, and Jay gave a very good lesson on church government.

Several members of the congregation and their extended families attended a New Year's Eve party hosted by Duane and Mary Proudfit. There was lots of fellowship and fun!

<p>January Birthdays</p> <p>18 – Rebecca Torres</p> 
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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

It is with heavy hearts that we note the passing of Vern Ingle on December 19th at the age of 81. He had been in the hospital for gallbladder surgery. He was doing pretty well, but his condition worsened and he went to meet the Lord a couple of days later. Our sympathies go to his wife, Nora Lee, and his children, Dave Ingle, Suzanne Harvey, Ned Ingle, Cindy Morris, and their families.

Betty George spent a few days in Iowa Lutheran Hospital. She had surgery and is home now and doing much better.

Among those on the sick list this past month were: Larry Brady, Margaret Franklin, and Brady George.

Justin Stevens had strep throat.

Shea Hermon had RSV infection. He was in the hospital, but is home now and doing some better.

Jason Brady had sinus surgery. He is home and doing

better.

Word was received on December 31st that Tim Casey's brother was in the hospital and not doing well. Tim and Ann are in Nebraska to be with family.

We have had many visitors this past month. They included Mark, Cindy, Jeremiah Morris and family; Ben, Emily, Joel and Thad Morris; Matt Harvey; Aubrey St Johns; and Roy and Ruth Whanger.

Marian Parrish is back from visiting her daughter, Della Camp and family.

Marvin and Della Camp; Lou and Connie Meinke were also here visiting with Marian Parrish.

Jamie Evans was here visiting with the Ingle family.

Pat Schreiber, her son Chris, and his wife were visiting with the Turnquist family.

Chip and Jennifer

Albright were in the Kansas City area visiting with family.

Our congratulations go out to Christina Northwick and Todd Brady who were married on December 29th.

Also our congratulations go out to Susan Brady and Nick Conner.

Bruce, Suzanne, Tim, Jamie, Gracie and Emily Harvey went to visit with Matt and Kelly Harvey in the St. Louis area.

January Birthdays

- 2 – Ann Casey
- 6 – Dessie Sorensen
- 8 – Tim Casey
- 15 – Erika Turner
- 15 – Taylor Turner
- 28 – Tom Brady
- 31 – Doug Bown



January Anniversaries

- 8 – Rosanne & Cliff Van Vleet



Enlightenment

The Bible as a book stands alone. There never was, nor ever will be, another like it. As there is but one sun to enlighten the world naturally, so there is but one Book to enlighten the world spiritually. May that Book become to each of us the man of our counsel, the guide of our journey, the inspiration of our thoughts, and our support and comfort in life and in death.

A. Galloway

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

Linda Christianson was in Illinois on December 2nd visiting relatives. She also went to Texas for a few weeks to visit her son during the holidays.

D.D. and Donna Russell were our visitors on December 10th.

Joy Cummings, Morgan, Drew, and Casady were in Brookfield on December 23rd visiting her parents, D.D. and Donna Russell.

A large group of us, plus other guests enjoyed our annual New Year's Eve party at the church building, with lots of food, games, and fellowship.

Doug, Lisa, Staci, Trent, and Nathan Fiorentin; Marvin and Melda Ingle; and Charles,

Angela, Charity, and Lucas Ingle went to Kansas City during the weekend of December 16th to attend a baby shower for Sterling Dowdy and a college graduation reception for Dawn Dowdy.

Vern Ingle, brother of Marvin Ingle, passed away on December 19th. We extend our sympathy to the family.

Due to recent winter storms, we cancelled our church services a few times in December.

Sarah Clark had strep throat, and many others have been sick with colds and flu.

Marvin Ingle had two cortisone shots, but he is still suffering with back pain.

Tracy Patterson tore a tendon in her knee during the last week of December, and she will need to have surgery.

Dorothy Van Maanen's husband, Dale, had open heart surgery on January 2. They replaced a valve and did four bypasses. He is recovering well at Methodist Hospital.

January Birthdays

- 1 – Denise Drake
- 5 – Mary Ellen Goode
- 18 – Gwen Duckstein
- 19 – Richard Goode



January Anniversaries

- 15 – Mike & Mary Kohlhof



The Bible

The Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 733,746 words, 31,163 verses, 1,189 chapters and 66 books. The longest chapter is the 119th Psalm; shortest is the middle chapter, the 117th Psalm. The middle verse is Psalm 118:8. The longest name is in the 8th chapter of Isaiah. The word "and" occurs 46,227 times;

the word Jehovah 6,855 times. The 37th chapter of Isaiah and the 19th chapter of the 2nd book of Kings are alike. The longest verse is Esther 8:9.

The shortest verse is John 11:35. Ezra 7:21 contains the alphabet. The finest piece of reading is the 26th chapter of Acts. The name of God is not mentioned in the book of Esther. The Bible contains

two testaments. The Old is Law, The New is Love. The Old is the Bud, The New is the Bloom. In the Old, man is reaching up for God. In the New, God is reaching down for man. In the Old, man is in the valley, but can see the sun shining on the mountaintops. In the New, he is on the mountaintop basking in the sunlight of God's infinite love.

from Leaves of Gold

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