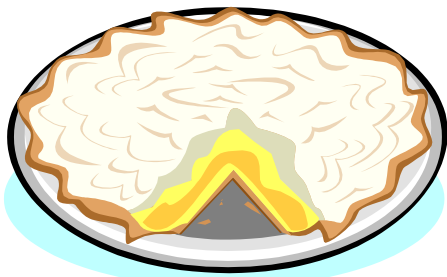


Lighthouse of Iowa

January 2009

And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments. Psalm 119:43

The lemon pie I'd brought to a friend's house for dinner was very well received. And no wonder! The crust was made by Pillsbury and the filling with help from Betty Crocker. In fact, I guess you could say I'd "assembled" the pie rather than baked it. At dessert time, the guests buzzed, "Linda, this pie is absolutely delicious! Did you make it from scratch?" But instead of flat out saying, "No," I told myself I couldn't answer right away because I had a forkful of lemon pie in my mouth. Finally, I said with a smile, "Well, I didn't grow the lemons..." Then I soaked up the praise I got for my talents as a cook.



To me it was just a little fib. So I was surprised at my husband Paul's reaction. As soon as we were out the door, he asked, "Why didn't you tell them the truth? That you

hadn't made the pie from scratch?" I could tell from the puzzled look on his face that he wasn't criticizing me; he was honestly curious. So I carefully considered the question. *Why hadn't I?*

The answer, I discovered, was simple. I felt ashamed that I wasn't a better cook. I wanted to do everything perfectly, and I was afraid that my friends would think less of me if I admitted my shortcomings. But once I'd brought my reason into the light, I saw how foolish it was! After all, I didn't choose my friends for their cooking skills, but for other reasons, like their compassion, loyalty, sense of fun—and yes, their honesty. Even about the little things in life—like lemon pies!

Which is why, the very next day, I showed up on my friend's porch. "Would you like my recipe for last night's lemon pie?" I asked with a sheepish grin. She looked surprised and nodded, and I thrust a paper sack into her hands. In it? A box of Pillsbury piecrust and some instant lemon pudding.

Thank you, God, for reminding me that I don't have to be perfect to be loved by others—or by You.

Linda Neukrug

ONLY A LITTLE THING

It was only a tiny seed,
Carelessly brushed aside;
But it grew in time to a noxious weed,
And spread its poison wide.

It was only a little leak,
So small you might hardly see;
But the rising waters found the break,
And wrecked the great levee.

It was only a single spark,
Dropped by a passing train;
But the dead leaves caught, and swift and dark
Was its work on wood and plain.

It was only a thoughtless word,
Scarce meant to be unkind;
But it pierced as a dart to the heart that heard,
And left its sting behind.

It may seem a trifle at most,
The thing that we do or say;
And yet it may be that at fearful cost
We may wish it undone someday.

M. P. Handy

Chariton

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

Location—15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa

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

Please be reminded that we will not be having Wednesday evening services during the months of January, February and March.

Norm and Mary Jo Riekens spent some time in Kansas City and Texas visiting their

children and grandchildren.

Carl and Evelyn Bennett have a new great-granddaughter, Kinley Evabelle, born to their granddaughter Annette and her husband, Dustin Harvey, of Virginia.

Our visitors for services on

December 28th were Sue, Tyler and Leah Schreck; and Teresa, Jared and Vanessa Groves.

January Birthdays

3 – Jeanette Schreck

13 – 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

Both Don and Margaret Warren have had a rough December. We pray that 2009 will be a better year for them. This cold December weather has also been very hard on our shut-ins. Please keep Juanita Coe, Elsie LeMar, Lillian Bartlett, Grace Wilkins, Alna Meacham and Maxine Phipps in your prayers. Also in need of prayers is Debbie Wilkins who has a thyroid nodule.

Courtney Penick worshiped with us Sunday evening, December 7th and Sunday morning December 14th. It is good to have Shawn Head home for the holiday break from college. Denise Drake of the Vandalia congregation was our visitor Sunday, December 28th.

Peter and Frances Hawthorne are vacationing at Litchfield Park, Arizona, with family for the holidays from December 11th through the 30th.

David Feters' father, Keith Feters, celebrated his 90th birthday with an open house at the Lucas County Senior Citizens Center in Chariton, Iowa on January 1, 2009. Keith thanks everyone for coming and wishing him a happy birthday.

We are happy to report that Charles Cobb is now being moved into the "Nursing Home" portion of the facility in Fort Dodge. "Dad is doing much better," Marla Feters and Roberta Milinsky report.

Because of the extreme cold temperatures and icy

conditions, we cancelled services on Sunday, December 21st. We were all very glad to meet together on Sunday, December 28th.

Joey Bauman, grandson of John and Donna McNeece, was home on leave for the holidays. He had to report back to San Diego, California for further training.

January Birthdays

2 – Kennady Prenosil

5 – Grace Wilkins

19 – Connor Wilkins

23 – Mary Lou Allen

23 – Alna Meacham

28 – Debbie Wilkins



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

Darlene Marsh was a patient at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha for a week where she was diagnosed with pneumonia. She came home December 14th.

Services were cancelled December 21st due to weather.

Our visitors on December 28th were Pat Warner of Cedar Rapids;

Mike and Shirley Warner of the Pleasant Hill congregation; Meagan Steeve of Des Moines; Clint Driftmier of Knoxville; Zoey Gilmore of Brookfield, Missouri; and Linda Lou Negley Taylor, and Darrel Barnes of Springfield, Missouri.



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

Drew Teghtmeyer spent a week visiting with Courtney Penick and worshiped with us while he was in the area. He is from the Smart Road congregation in Missouri.

Julie Wheeler attended services on December 21st.

Julie is Zach Wheeler's sister.

Kyle and Stephanie Stephens worshiped with us December 24th while they were visiting with Stephanie's parents, Mike and Tracy Penick.

Courtney Penick and Jenna Bown attended a week long young women's study at the Smart Road congregation.

Other visitors this month have been Dave Henderson; Pam and Charlie Deckler; and Bill, Marta and Garrett Weeks.



TOMORROW

A way unknown, a book unread,
A tree with fruit unharvested,
A sea unsailed, a word unsaid,
A house with rooms untenanted,
A tale untold, a tear unshed,
A reel unrolled of colored thread,
A field untilled, a friend unfed,

A loaf unbaked of living bread,
A song unsung, a hill ahead,
A beauty spot unvisited,
A web unspun, a wing unspread,
A hope as yet unheralded,
A fight unfought, a fear unfled,
A conqueror with uncrowned head.

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

Our visitors this past month were Ashley and Chantelle Schreck, Cassidy Phillips, Jenna and Kyle Bown. They had attended the teen study the night before. Jamie Evans was visiting with Ryan and Elijah Ingle; and Jessica Bohall was visiting her grandparents, Bud and Mary Alice Fillman.

Tom and Fred Brady are back from Florida. They will be leaving in January for Texas where they will spend a couple of months.

Ryan and Elijah Ingle were in the Kansas City area visiting.

Mike and Shirley Warner were visiting in Missouri and southern Iowa.

Larry, Bev, Mike, Cindy, Cody, Josh, Ashten, Tim, Tammy and Tyler Brady spent a few days in the Bahamas.

Joyce, Ryan, and Elijah Ingle were in Missouri visiting family.

Many of our members have been sick this past month. Among them were: Steve Thompson, Mary Alice Fillman, Ann Casey, Cindy Brady, the Ryan Ingle family, Lowell Hermon, Betty Curtis, and Bruce and Suzanne Harvey.

Kelly George had surgery on his shoulder. He is healing very nicely.

Mildred Hermon is now back at the home of her son, Lowell, after spending a few days at Mercy Capitol, and the Carlisle Nursing Home. She is doing a little better.

Shirley Warner's mother-in-law, Alna Thompson, passed away earlier in December.

Bev Hayes' brother, Ed Brady, had a heart attack December 24th. He will be getting a defibrillator on December 30th. The doctors said that he didn't have any heart damage.

Keith and Connie Price are

pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Erica, to Josh Conner. Dessie Sorensen is Erica's grandmother.

Dan and Amy Pritchard have purchased a house in the Indianola area. Their new address is:

Dan and Amy Pritchard
14519 Jersey St.
Indianola, IA 50125

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



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

Jason Miller was our visitor on December 7th.

On December 10th, Matt Clark had the misfortune of falling on ice in his driveway and breaking his ankle. He spent several days in the hospital and had surgery to repair the break with screws and a metal plate. He will be recuperating at home for eight weeks.

Paul Weir has moved to an assisted living facility in Des Moines.

Anna Weaver was visiting friends in Chicago.

Charles and Angie Ingle, Charity and Lucas spent a few days in Clear Lake.

Margaret Ingle's mother, Thelma Bolinger, fell at her home and is bruised and sore. Fortunately no bones were broken.

Justin and Brittney Dowdy spent a few days in Indianapolis visiting family.

Mariah Goode's friend, James Finney, met with us December 28th.

Bob Connett enjoyed visiting his daughter Carla Cisneros and granddaughter Pilar from Glenview, Illinois on December 28th and 29th.

Doug and Lisa

Fiorentin are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Staci, to Jason Miller of Carrollton, Missouri. They are planning a May wedding. Congratulations!

January Birthdays

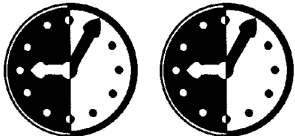
- 1 – Denise Drake
- 5 – Mary Ellen Goode
- 18 – Gwen Duckstein
- 19 – Richard Goode



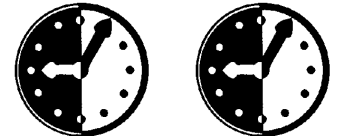
January

Anniversaries

- 15 – Mike & Mary Kohlhof



This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24



There are many fine things which you mean to do some day, under what you think will be more favorable circumstances. But the only time that is surely yours is the present. Hence this is the time to speak the word of appreciation and sympathy, to do the generous deed, to forgive the fault of a thoughtless friend, to sacrifice self a little more for others. Today is the day in which to

express your noblest qualities of mind and heart, to do at least one worthy thing which you have long postponed, and to use your God-given abilities for the enrichment of some less fortunate fellow traveler. Today you can make your life significant and worthwhile. The present is yours to do with it as you will.

Grenville Kleiser

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