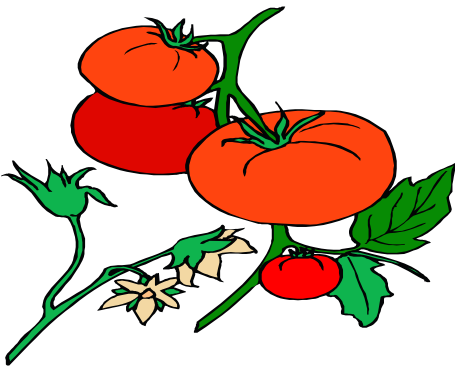


Lighthouse of Iowa

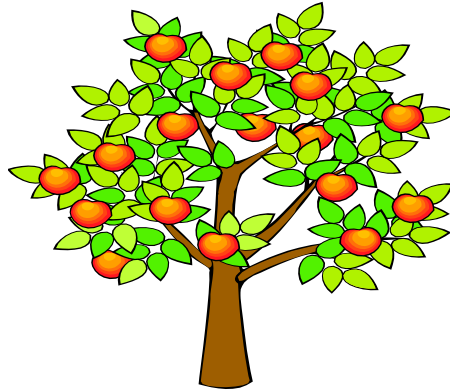
January 2010

And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.—Galatians 6:9

Last January, I planted two seeds. The first was a tomato seed, and within a week a small plant appeared and began its phenomenal growth. All summer long, and into the fall, I gathered delicious vine-ripened tomatoes. What a lavish return from one tiny seed! *How I wish that every seed of kindness I plant would produce a return like that!* I thought.



The second seed was from an apple that was particularly crisp and delicious. I thought to myself, *I wonder if this seed will produce apples as good as this one?* So I planted it and soon got a little sprout. But I haven't gotten any return yet. I'm learning that the apple tree will take some time, and waiting takes patience and faith. Two seeds, but each requiring a different effort.



Some seeds of kindness do not produce fruit in a short time, but I'm willing to wait for their long-term investments: in my family, in my friends, and even in my relationship with God. These will bear fruit, not for a brief season, but for years to come. Even now, time with my children years ago is still bearing glorious fruit! God has His law of harvest. So don't give up: plant your seeds of kindness. They won't disappoint you.

Dear Lord, give me the faith, not only to plant, but to wait for the harvest—

Lee Webber

Your Seeds Blow Into My Garden, Friend

Your seeds blow into my garden, friend,
Whenever the wind is right;
They blow on wings of the breeze by day,

And they ride on the gales by night.

Your seeds blow into my garden friend,
And nestle among my flowers;
In the soft sweet soil of my garden plot
They wait for the sun and showers.

Whatever you grow in your garden, friend,
Of beauty, or ugly weed,
The Fall will come, and the wind will blow,
And over will come your seed.

Your words blow into my life, my friend,
Or, whether of good or ill,
Your thoughts fly over, like ships of love,
Or daggers that pierce and kill.

Your smiles blow into my heart, dear friend,
And neighbor across the way;
They blow and blossom in buds of love—
A blessing to life all day.

Your life is a garden to me, dear friend,
And planted with living deeds,
So ever and over the wall will blow
Into my garden, your seeds.

William L. Stidger

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

Maiya Arnone, great-granddaughter of Norm and Mary Jo Riekens who was born 17 weeks premature, was able

to go home on December 14th.

Our visitors on December 27th were Bruce, Sue and Leah Schreck.

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

Many of us were ill in December. Mary Lou Allen had a round with kidney infection.

Lillian Bartlett fell and bruised her face and hand. She is slowly healing.

Shirley McNeece had a sore throat and fever.

Jean Van Egdome had 24-hour flu bug.

Grace Wilkins was in Mercy Hospital with a bad urinary tract infection and dehydration. She is now home and has care with Hospice. Please pray for Grace and her family.

Peg Warren went to the ER Saturday, December 12th for what was thought might be a heart attack. They ran all kinds of tests and the heart doctor increased her blood pressure medication. Please keep Peg and Neal in your prayers also!

Mary Lou Allen's right leg has blood clots and she is taking medication and has to stay off her leg. She is also having problems with her rheumatoid arthritis in an elbow. Please pray for Mary Lou! Earl Allen fell in the

church parking lot on ice and has hurt his neck. He went to the doctor and is now taking therapy, which is helping.

Maxine Phipps is going to have cataract surgery in February.

Elsie LeMar fell when a visitor left something in the way in her new room. She is now in Room 215 at Valley View Village. Elsie wants to let everyone know how much she appreciates the cards, flowers and visits since her move.

Jan and Larry Sellers vacationed in Mexico in early December.

John and Donna McNeece visited family in Trenton, Missouri.

Peter and Frances Hawthorne went to Litchfield Park, Arizona to visit family during the holidays.

Greg and Linda Head visited Shawn Head in Chicago, Illinois.

Al and Jeannette Schreck worshiped with us on Sunday, December 20th.

Our sympathies go to Roberta Milinsky and Marla

Fetters and family on the death of their father, Charles Cobb, on Thursday, December 24th. Charles was living at Marian Home in Fort Dodge near his daughter, Anita Patterson. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

We hope that January will be a better month weather-wise. It has been hard for some of us to get out in the cold and icy weather. Thanks to all of you who have made the effort to come and we are praying that maybe the worst is behind us?

We are also looking forward to our first Sunday of the New Year as we are hosting the Iowa Traveling Bible Study. It's wonderful to see so many young people zealous for the Lord!

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

Jewell Warner had heart cath surgery the 9th of December and was a patient at Bryan Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska. She was later transferred to CRHC, Clarinda, in the swing bed unit. Plans are for her to be transferred to Westridge Rehab. Center in Clarinda. That address is 600 Manor Drive, Clarinda, IA 51632. At this writing, she has staph infection. We wish Jewell better,

healthier days!!

Faye Stephens, 91, passed away December 22nd at a hospice facility in Des Moines. Faye had cancer and had made the decision for treatments to cease, then, more recently she suffered a stroke. Services are pending. More information will follow next month

Paul Negley and Mike and Shirley Warner have been our visitors this month.

Janet Negley retired December 23rd from Lisle Corporation, where she had been employed for about 33 years. We wish Janet many happy years of her well-deserved retirement. Congratulations and have fun!

January Birthdays

9 – Mary Rine



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

Marc, Ginger and Shea Hermon worshiped with us on Sunday, December 6th. Marc gave our morning exhortation.

Drew Teghtmeyer worshiped with us on December 13th while he was visiting Courtney Penick.

Wednesday, December 16th,

Will and Kathryn Thayer attended services with Mike and Tracy Penick.

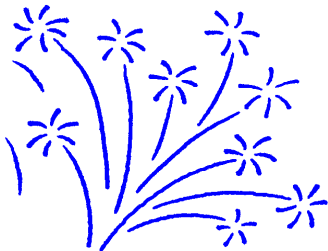
Courtney Penick was in the Kansas City area the last two weekends of December visiting Drew Teghtmeyer.

Dave and Christy Henderson went to Delaware to

spend time with Dave's family over the holiday.

Kyle Bown attended the Young People's study at the Gregory Boulevard Church in Raytown, Missouri.

Jay and Becky Graham worshipped with us the evening of December 27th.



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

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

All 23 members of the Don and Wanda Burkman family gathered at their home for their annual family get-together where they enjoyed a dinner and gift exchange. Everyone had a wonderful time together.

Linda Flickinger has been back visiting with family and friends.

Mike and Shirley Warner spent some time with his mother Jewell, while she was recovering from heart surgery.

Among those on the sick list this past month were: Brandon Ingle, Ryan Zinnel, Ryane Brady, and Fred Brady. Dave Ingle had double hernia surgery. He is home and recovering. Nora Lee Ingle is having trouble with blood clots.

Betty Curtis, Tyler and Ryan were in the Kansas City area visiting with family.

Marc Hermon spoke at Martensdale.

Dave and Joyce Ingle; Nora Lee Ingle, and Miles Wood were in the Kansas City area. Many of the Ingle family attended the wedding of Tad Morris. Some stayed an extra day.

Marty and Lisa Williamson and Nathan spent some time in Branson.

Melba Tingle has spent some time in Arizona with her son Jim Tingle.

Mike and Cindy Brady were in Cedar Rapids visiting with Cindy's family.

Mike George, Dillon and

Tanner were visiting with family.

Mike and Shirley Warner were in Clarinda visiting with family, and attending an uncle's 90th birthday.

Larry and Bev Brady and Mike, Cindy and Cody Brady are in the Bahamas.

Jason and Theresa Brady are spending two weeks in Arizona. Ashten left on December 29th to spend a week also in Arizona.

Marc Hermon took some young kids down to the meetings in the Kansas City area. Those attending are Niki and Maddy Hermon, Justin Stevens, Ryan Zinnel, Cheree Stump and Brady George.

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

**It's a
BOY!**

Gabriel Lowell Hermon
December 7th, 2009
6 pounds, 14 ounces
19.5 inches long

Proud parents:
Marc & Ginger Hermon

Brothers: Niki & Shea
Sister: Maddy

Iowa Teen Traveling Bible Study (ITBS)

The January study will be
Sunday, Jan. 3 at
Dean Avenue Church.

Feb. 6 study: Kelly & Allison George

Mar. study: Nels & Marge Turnquist

Apr. study: Fred & Marlene Bown

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

We were all very pleased when Bonnie Harkins placed her membership with us. She is a neighbor of Ruth Schell and had been attending regularly the past few months.

Several from our congregation attended the wedding of Andy Owens and Breanna Cleveland in Indianapolis. They were: Doug and Lisa Fiorentin, Trent and Nathan; Bruce Fiorentin and Kelsey Knight; Justin and Brittney Dowdy; Lynnette Dowdy; and Marvin and Melda Ingle.

Clifford Duckstein remains a resident of Mitchellville Care Center while he heals from the broken arm he suffered a month ago. The congregation gathered there on Wednesday evening,

December 23rd and sang with him. He is slowly mending and looking forward to returning home soon.

Linda Christianson and husband, Gil are spending two weeks in Texas visiting their son and daughter-in-law. Gil has recently retired from Vermeer Corporation in Pella.

Among our visitors this past month were Jason and Staci Miller of Carrollton, Missouri, Kelsey Knight; and Tom Graham.

Anna Weaver announced her engagement to John Kelly of Ames. Congratulations!

Katrina Cummings and Anna Weaver went to Pennsylvania to attend the wedding of their brother, Joseph Weaver,

to Jodi Sanger. Joseph is in the Marines and recently returned from a year of duty in Iraq.

Justin and Brittney Dowdy spent the holiday weekend in Indiana.

Trent Fiorentin attended the young people's study in Kansas City.

Lucas Ingle broke his left arm near the wrist while on the playground at school.

We have had several absent with the usual winter illnesses and weather problems.

January Birthdays

1 – Denise Drake
 5 – Mary Ellen Goode
 19 – Richard Goode



When Winter Comes

When winter comes into our lives

With its uncertain sound.

To strip us of our warmth and joy,

Our petals on the ground.

We may be tempted to give up;

To fold beneath life's storm.

We may be tempted to forsake

The hope which keeps us warm.

But, we must learn to stand up tall:

To always face the sun.

And patiently await the day

When winter's work is done.

For winter winds will cease to howl,

The snows will melt away.

Then we shall see the beauty of

Another summer's day.

And we shall have renewed our strength

When summer's wind first blows.

For God will whisper once again

The promise of a rose.

Glenda Fulton Davis