

Friends Memorial Church

Christmas fell upon a Sunday this year. This seldom happens and it catches us a bit off guard. However, it is wonderful to come together for worship on the celebration day of the birth of our Lord! We began, as we always do, with a beautiful worship time on Christmas Eve. The candlelight and the readings and music all combined to ready our spirits. It is as if God's gift shone upon our faces.

But Sunday was a different sort of experience. We laid down much of what we usually "do" and spent more of our time in expectant waiting. It was a sharing in the silence that comes in the instant between our expectations and their fulfillment. It was like taking a breath and living in the brief pause before exhaling. God spoke God's Word and it came and dwelt among us in that moment in which we listened.

Out of the wonder of that receiving we are now called to be a part of what comes after. A Christmas greeting that I received read,

Christmas is a feast that shows us in a vivid way that life does matter, That living is grace-filled, that reality does have a purpose, and that Christ the Son of God and man is love – indeed, love that pursues us passionately. But the glad part of Christmas is that the Christ of Christmas stays with us, dwells among us. We must not leave Christ in the crib. We must pick Him up and put Him in our hearts. He is Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

Remember Scrooge who promised to live Christmas each day? If Christ is truly with us, dwelling among us and within us, how do we live in a different way that allows Him to shine out? Has Christmas changed us? Will we be different as individuals and as a gathering of God's people as we begin the year 2012? New Year resolutions are fun though seldom kept. What of our resolve to not just cherish Christ in our hearts but to enable Him to shine out upon others? Let us pray for one another that we will be true Christ bearers in the day, weeks, and months ahead.

David Brindle



Committee Happenings

Friendly

Monthly Meeting

No Monthly Meeting in December.

Attendance

	Sunday Worship Attendances Dec. 2011	Sunday Morning Wor- ship attendance for December.	
Dec. 4	64	2011	64.25
Dec. 11	68	2010	72.75
Dec. 18	96	2009	71.5
Dec. 25	29	2008	74

The Average attendance for Sunday Morning Meeting for Worship for the year 2011 is **70.12**

Friends Preschool

- ♦ The preschool committee did not meet in the month of December.
- ♦ School will not be in session the last two weeks of Dec. and will resumes January 3.
- ♦ We would like to say a big thank-you to everyone that helps to make our school a possibility. In the future, if the Spirit moves you to help in this ministry, please feel free to let those of us on the committee know. We would love to have you join us in our work.

Communications and Publications

- ♦ The Communications and Publications Committee will now meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM in the conference room.
- ♦ Our first meeting of 2012 will be January 24.
- ♦ Watch for continuing updates to the website and don't forget to visit the Friends Memorial Church FaceBook page.
- ♦ If you have photos or other information you would like posted on FaceBook or on the website, please email them as attachments to ldaniel1234@comcast.net .

Peace & Christian Social Concerns

- ♦ Mission offering for January: FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE for CONSULTATION (FWCC). *Thank you* for your contributions to December's mission offering to the American Friends Service Committee.
- ♦ PCSC wants to thank everyone who graciously gave up some of their holiday time to help ring bells for the annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing.
- ♦ Upcoming meeting for the OLD WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 6:30 PM. (conference room) *ALL ARE WELCOME.*
- ♦ This committee welcomes anyone interested in learning about our committee to attend our monthly committee meetings.
- ♦ Scheduled committee meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 1:00 PM.

Food Pantry

- ♦ Thank you notes and acknowledgements were made to several Christian organizations and private persons for their generosity to our food pantry.
- ♦ In December, 258 households were helped with groceries, personal care items, and an assortment of winter outerwear. This means that we served an estimated 1,300+ individuals with food, fellowship, and warmth.
- ♦ To our volunteers.....THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU! Our pantry would not happen without our family of volunteers (both Friends and friends).
- ♦ Special mention to Quaker Women's Circle for their donation of home-made cookies to the food pantry; and to George Wolfe and friends who came and shared hot cocoa with everyone during pantry.
- ♦ Next scheduled Friends Food Pantry: Saturday, January 21, 2012.

Church Happenings

Friendly

Evangelism and Outreach


- ♦ Evangelism & Outreach Committee will meet on Jan. 12, 2012 at 2:30 pm in the Conference Room
- ♦ January 27, will be the Free Neighborhood Supper. Menu will be Chili, grilled cheese sandwiches, relish tray, Beverages and dessert.
- ♦ The Friends and Coffee will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012 at 10:00 am in the Conference Room, Lets talk about New Years Resolutions. How did they originate and why?

Book Buddies

- ♦ Book Buddies will meet on Monday, January 16 at 1:00 pm

Church Closings Information

The Church office will be closed for the New Year's holidays on January 2, 2012.

 For weather related closings of the church see the following sources:

<u>TV STATIONS</u>	<u>RADIO STATIONS</u>
11 WXIN (FOX)	WLBC 104.1
4 WTTV (CW)	WERK 104.9
10 WNDY (MyNDY)	WMDH 102.5
8 WISH (CBS)	WGMR 97.9

Announcements

- ♦ **Adult Sunday School** resumes on January 8. The classes will be repeats of those offered by Linda Daniel and David Brindle in the fall.
- ♦ **NEW SIGN UP SHEETS** are available for CHILDREN'S TIME during worship and for a FLOWER CHART.

Prayer Concerns

Toni McKillip, came through her rotator cuff surgery very well. She is resting well at home.

Sheila Osborn, friend to Friends Food Pantry. She will begin a 2nd round of chemotherapy on January 16, 2012.

Linda Brindle, began her next round of chemotherapy the first of December. Let's keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

Andy Loeb, son-in-law of Sandy & Larry Shores— Andy is still not doing better. He now has to go to the hospital 3 times a week for blood transfusions and platelets. He also began a new round of chemotherapy with stronger drugs. He continues to lose weight. Prayers are still very much appreciated.

From Me to Thee

Dear Friends,
My Dad (Dick Wallace), wants to thank you for the Christmas gift bag and the visit!
Thank you Friends for continuing this important project!

Linda Putman

Weimer, Mike & Joy

(Linus & Merit)

205 N. Eastwood Ave.

Muncie, IN 47303

(765) 281-8885

joyweimer.is@gmail.com (Joy)

