

Inside Meadowbrook

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Celebrate Christ's Birth

The members and staff of Journey Church invite you to attend our Christmas themed worship service on Sunday, December 24th at 10:00 am! Help us celebrate "the reason for the season." God bless you this Christmas season!

Thanks for Helping

This summer, Meadowbrook residents witnessed a homeless couple who sheltered their nights within our neighborhood. And, there was a young woman going door-to-door requesting help. It gives us an uneasy feeling of wanting to do more but questioning our privacy and safety if we do get involved. There isn't one correct way to handle this. All situations are different and so are our responses.

A few years ago, the saying "What Would Jesus Do?" became popular. Jesus didn't live in this day-and-age, but his teachings still hold true 2,017 years later. "When you do for the least of these, you do unto Me." That's what He said. So if you help others with money, a listening ear, giving a ride to a job interview, or taking them out to eat, you are serving Jesus. You are familiar with the saying, Give a man a fish, and you have fed him for a day; Teach a man to fish, and he can feed himself for a lifetime.

Teaching how to "fish" takes time and is a better option, but immediate needs of food and shelter, of clean clothes and a hot shower come first. The most effective giving comes from building relationships, and through that, an understanding of what the real needs are.

Thank you to all who saw a need and helped. You are amazing.

A new bench has been donated to Meadowbrook Park. It was given in loving memory of William Wesley Pring who lived and died on April 25, 2016. Little William's family lives on Lonsvale Dr. and his great-grandparents, Rupert and Estella Pring, lived on 37th St. His mother had thought about and mentioned



several times to family members the idea of donating a park bench in his memory. A few weeks ago, her mother called and asked if she could come to the park and bring her children. They were in the car, and as her husband stopped at the stop sign, they noticed a small crowd of people at the park. Turns out, the extended family was there and a park bench had been delivered. The family had made

arrangements with the city and had purchased the bench, all as a surprise to parents Alan and Cassie. What a thoughtful gift to us all. Thank you.

The Joy of Giving

Somehow, not only for Christmas
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you;
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.

John Greenleaf Whittier



Merry Christmas



A Food Pantry and a Blessing Box

The Meadowbrook Food Pantry was started this year as a resource for those in temporary need of food. We collect non-perishable foods to help families through tough times. We currently need donations of canned meats, boxes of cereal or oatmeal packets. If you wish to donate, or are in need, please contact the church at 649-0136 or drop by the church office on Thursdays from 1 to 3pm.

The Blessing Box is a new ministry of Journey Church. It began in October with the gift of a wood box on a post located near the church parking area on Elmway Drive. The box has seen food, hygiene items, toys, baby supplies, and books pass through its door. It is available for you 24/7. A Blessing Box is based on the premise: Take what you need

Give what you can

Be blessed

Come and see if there is something in the box you can use. Or, perhaps you can donate.

*One note of caution for the winter months: canned foods and those containing liquid should not be in the box, as they could freeze and burst. Canned goods can be obtained from the food pantry. Contact them if you have a need (649-0136).



Christmas Riddle for the Kids by Gale Wiersum

Directions: Write down the first letter of each answer. What word is spelled backwards?

- I carry lots of games and toys for all good little girls and boys.
- My gown is white and the harp I hold is painted gold.
- My berries are white, and my leaves dark green. A kiss you'll receive if beneath me you're seen.
- I'm draped in tinsel and colorful balls. I'm waiting proudly when Santa calls.
- I'm placed atop the tree so high. I almost reach my home-the sky.
- I'm long and sharp and cold-that's me. I hang from every roof and tree.
- Once each year I pull the sleigh to bring you gifts on Christmas Day.
- I have pointed leaves and many a berry to deck the halls and make them merry.
- My coat is wax. My cap is a flame. I wonder-can you guess my name?

Mr. and Mrs. Claus

Called "Poppa Claus" by a grandson, retired Meadowbrook School music teacher, Michael McDonald and wife Pat, are now Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. He was the Muncie Mall Santa for 10 years. Last year, they thought it would be fun



to buy their own outfits and be available for parties, nursing homes, preschools, and fund raisers. It is often difficult to get a Santa picture with babies and animals. For

some reason, this Santa seems to have a special charisma with both, and those pictures are some of his most successful. Sometimes, Mrs. Claus gets more attention than he does. Last year, one little girl wanted to stay with her, saying, "I've seen Santa before. I've never seen you." If you would like to book Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus for an event, call 765-635-0064.

A Meadowbrook resident is taking orders for snow removal. Keep the number handy. You can call for a one-time need or sign-up for the winter season.

Hawkeye's Handyman Service
snow removal, gutter cleaning, home repairs
Bret Hawkins, owner

765-602-7792

For all the jobs you hate, we appreciate!

Do You Remember When?

3640 Main Street, on the corner of Main and 37th, had large, hand-painted Christmas pictures in its windows for about 30 years.

The artist was Joan Vance, an art teacher in Elwood schools and a Frankton resident. Her aunt lived in the house and until the aunt's death in the mid-1980's, Joan continued the annual tradition. Many Anderson residents drove by to see what the pictures were each year.

Meadowbrook School Christmas Traditions

- the school had red construction paper candles with yellow flames in all front windows
- Santa Shop where the students could shop for their parents and siblings
- school Christmas programs organized by the music teachers
- gym full of family to watch the programs
- special chicken and noodle lunch when the family could come eat
- teachers brought in supplies for the class to make an ornament
- day before Christmas vacation classroom parties

What are your Christmas memories from grade school?

Information Wanted

Thousands of people have lived in this neighborhood since its inception in 1926. Everyone is important and has influence. Do you know of someone with an interesting story? Give us that person's name, your name and contact information. We will be in touch so you can share the story.

765-649-0136 or www.journeycoc.com

Next month will feature Dean Malsom. He grew up 'across the crick' in the 1950's and is a member of Journey Church. This December newsletter is being hand-distributed to all Meadowbrook homes. January's and February's will not be. If you don't want to miss his interview, you may receive the monthly newsletter in four ways: online, request it to be mailed, pick it up at the church, or in the Blessing Box.