

December 1993



Dear Family and Friends,

Pre-Christmas activities have descended in full force this week. I much prefer to have them spread out a little more. On Sunday evening, the Wednesday Wonderful children gave their worship, Las Posada, of song and drama. Tuesday, our added Grace had a delightful program of carols given by the Kokomo Morning Musical Chorus. In the evening at our UMW meeting, we heard the IU-K Singers, a small but powerful group. Wednesday, a group of 13 from our JOY Sunday School class went to Frankfort to the Wesley Manor Retirement Home to eat lunch with Grace Church and Kokomo people who live there. Good food and precious fellowship! This is our 4th year to do this. Thursday, the Added Grace had a field day trip to an 11 am performance of the Indianapolis Christmas Symphony with lunch afterward at a place called Hollyhock Hill. In the evening, our Serendipity group shared a pot

luck meal. Saturday is Aglow meeting.

My Chancel Bell choir will play in worship the next 2 Sundays. The 12th is the Carol and Lesson worship when all bell and vocal choirs participate. That evening the JOY class, plus others, will travel by bus to the Purdue Christmas Concert. Tues. evening is my Circle meeting when we reveal our Prayer Partners and have our Yankee Swap.

We went to Shirley's for Thanksgiving dinner and they will come Christmas Eve to our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, then we'll all go to Linda's afterward for our family Christmas. Linda has also invited us out for Christmas Brunch.

February was a busy month -- no, an eventful month. Earl had colon surgery on the 10th. About 18 inches of colon was removed. The polyps was benign, but they got it just in time, the surgeon said. Earl spent the summer recuperating and mowing. Garden was just a few tomato plants.

Dad was moved to Americana Healthcare Center before Christmas last year, and went to be with the Lord on Feb. 25. Dottie had been here for a week and had just gotten home. I was sleeping so soundly when the nurse called that I didn't hear the phone. So she called Dottie and I finally got the word through Jim since Dottie didn't rouse me. She and Dick came back for the funeral that week-end. Since Chuck Johnson, our pastor, left for Jamaica for a workcamp a couple days before Dad died, he had suggested a private burial for the family and a memorial service after he returned. However, Deena, Dad's neighbor and caretaker the past 5 years, insisted on a funeral, so we had that with Chris officiating and the memorial service a month later with Chuck. In May at Annual Conference at Purdue, Linda and I attended their memorial service for all pastors, wives, and widows. It was an impressive service.

The Added Grace overnight trip in May was to the Tulip Festival in Holland, MI. The tulips were beautiful! and the trip was fun. I was disappointed in not getting to Aldersgate Conference in Denver this year. Earl and I made the trip to Delano MN in August to help Janet and Jerry celebrate their 25th Wedding anniversary. We enjoyed our stop-overs at Jim's in Crete, IL which broke up the trip both ways. On the way home we stopped at Brookston for a long overdue visit with college friend, Esther Mae and Bob Hildebrand. While I think of it, I really appreciated Jim's trips to Kokomo at crucial times, as well as Dottie's week here.

Linda WHITE is taking 2nd year Spanish at IU-K, along with her work at Mid-Central Trophy. Both of Bill's daughters were married this summer. Beth's wedding was May 8 and Jenny's August 14--both at Grace UMC. Bill is making new cabinets for their kitchen --all new upper cabinets and new doors for the lower cabinets. They re-roofed the whole house and painted the outside this summer. Sara is 11 and in the 5th grade. She has played on a PAL basketball team and was in a Curtain Call (children's theater) production last spring.

Darrell SMITH and Justin were home for Grandpa Bogue's Memorial service. The floods last summer slowed Darrell's landscaping projects and he is still working hard to get caught up. Justin, 12, is in 6th grade (this year, not last), active in Scouts and Little League and is still an avid reader. Megan is 7 and a second grader. Melissa continues to teach 1st grade.

Shirley and Jeff BRONNENBERG continue working at Ram-Graphics in Alexandria, and Delco Remy in Anderson. Nikki will be 18 next week and is a senior. Nathan is 16, a new driver, a sophomore and getting tall.

Janet and the KLEIN family hold forth in Delano, MN. The whole family were home for Dad's Memorial service and Janet, Patty and Elaine came in May. ^{for Beth's} Patty and Elaine were ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{word being} hostesses for the 25th Anniversary Open House in the high school gym. Shawn is 17 and a senior, He and Alicia will be going on a mission trip to Mexico next summer. Alicia is 13 and in 6th and Nicholas is a 4th grader.

Ten from Grace are making the Educational Opportunities trip to Israel/Egypt for two weeks. I will room with Loralyn Lindsay, who wanted to go--with a roommate she already knows. Chuck is our tour host. He told us 2 bus loads from Kokomo District are going.

Next year, 1994, Grace Church is celebrating 150 years of continuous existence with several special events. Bishop Sheldon Dueker (our first associate pastor) will be speaker for the May 22 worship. July 10 is Homecoming and Open House with former Grace pastors as special guests. All friends and former members are invited to join us for any of the special activities, especially the Homecoming.

We really appreciate the letters and cards as they arrive. May the Love, the Hope, the Joy, and the Peace of Christ be with you and remain in you now and throughout 1994.

Love,

Earl + Phyllis Jean

Earl and Phyllis Jean Smith