THE OBSERVER

"America, Land of the Free, Because of the Brave!"

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And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2: 10-11)

"Merry Christmas!"

Fear Not...

It is there in the Christmas story, but sometimes we overlook it: "Fear not." That's what the angels say to the shepherds when they announce the birth of Jesus. It is the same statement which often comes at important times in the life of Jesus.

"Fear not" is what the angel Gabriel says to Mary when he announces that she will give birth to the Messiah. "Fear not" is what Jesus says to the disciples in the boat when a storm scares them. "Fear not" is what the angel says to the women who discover the empty tomb at Easter. "Fear not" (often translated "Peace be with you") is what the risen Christ says to the disciples when he appears to them after Easter.

What is all of this talk about fear? Why all of the assurances to "Fear not"? It is, I believe, because fear is the opposite of faith. Doubt is not the opposite of faith. Doubt is often the doorway to faith. But fear is the opposite of faith.

When we get fearful, we lose our faith in ourselves, in our world, and in God. When churches get fearful, they lose their ability to faithfully risk and serve and stretch out in mission to others. When a society gets fearful, our anxiety keeps us from protecting freedom, extending hospitality to strangers, and maintaining civility.

Fear gets in our way. Fear makes us ill and prevents us from accepting healing. Fear produces hatred and prejudice and interrupts our ability to offer and receive forgiveness. Fear keeps us from loving. Fear gets in the way of our giving. Fear cripples our very living. Fear is the opposite of faith.

We live in a world that is full of fear. To us, again, comes the message of Christmas, "Fear not. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11).

May you rejoice in faith, and not live in fear. Merry Christmas.

Bishop Michael J. Coyner
Indiana Area of the
United Methodist Church

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Auto Show, December 26 – January 1

Tens of thousands of consumers are expected to attend the 2006 Indianapolis Auto Show. America's second-longest running auto show returns to the Indiana Convention Center Monday, December 26, through Sunday, January 1. Thirty-nine automobile manufacturers from around the world will display their 2006 model automobiles, SUVs, light duty trucks and luxury vans in more than 375,000 square feet of exhibit space.

In addition to all the new model vehicles, auto manufacturers will feature their futuristic concept cars, specialty vehicles and more. Consumers will be able to speak with automotive product specialists surrounded by approximately 450 vehicles displayed in spectacular exhibits.

For the 2006 Indianapolis Auto Show, The Indianapolis Star will offer show attendees the chance to win a 2006 Toyota RAV4 with a retail value of more than $20,000.

Show hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 26 – 30 and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat., Dec. 31 and Sun., Jan. 1. Admission is $6 for adults and free for children 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.

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MEETING NOTICE

The Kewanna town council will meet in special session Wednesday, December 28, at 5 p.m. at the town hall to conduct year-end business.

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Christmas Eve Services

Both the Pleasant Hill and Kewanna United Methodist Churches will hold candlelight Christmas Eve services Saturday, December 24.

Services at Pleasant Hill, Lake Bruce, will start at 6:30 p.m., while services at the Kewanna church will start at 11 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend either service and celebrate the birth of Jesus with traditional Christmas carols.

Everyone is also invited to attend worship services Christmas morning. Services at Pleasant Hill will start at 9 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. at the Kewanna United Methodist Church.

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Werners Light up the Night

Jerry and Shirley Werner, 10957 W 950 S, Kewanna, once again invite everyone to celebrate the Christmas season by viewing their holiday lights.

Their annual Christmas display will be viewable beginning this weekend from 6-10 p.m. each day through New Year's Day.

From Kewanna, travel State Road 17 continuing on south on County Road 900 W. Turn right on 950 S and continue traveling west for about two miles. The Werners live on the south side of 950 S, but you can't miss it – just follow the lights!

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AREA V MENU
Kewanna Fire Station

Monday, Dec. 26 – Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 28 – BBQ rib, creamed potatoes, broccoli, wheat bread and Mandarin oranges

Friday, Dec. 30 – Closed

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NIPSCO Energy Minute

Draw the Drapes. Close drapes and blinds when it gets dark outside. This will help cut heat loss through windows at night. For these and other tips on how to use energy wisely, connect with NIPSCO at www.nipsco.com.

Recycling Dates
Dec. 2nd,
Dec. 16th & 30th

The News In Brief

The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation December 14 to reauthorize the 2001-passed Patriot Act, which brought U.S. anti-terrorism law up-to-date with today's terrorist threats. The legislation passed on a bipartisan 251-174 vote. U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola (R-Ind.) voted for the measure.

Doug and Jean Morehouse, Brookston, have been chosen as the winners of the Indiana Farm Bureau Young Farmer Achievement Award. The award recognizes young Farm Bureau members whose farm management techniques and commitment to their community set a positive example for those involved in production agriculture.

As part of an ongoing effort to ensure the retirement security of all Americans, U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola joined a bipartisan majority of his colleagues recently in supporting H.R. 2830, the "Pension Protection Act," a comprehensive plan to strengthen defined benefit pension plans. The plan, which passed by a vote of 294-132, includes a major provision introduced by Chocola to help retired public safety officers afford to purchase health and long-term care insurance.

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a conference report to S. 1932 the "Deficit Reduction Act of 2005", a fiscally responsible plan that, if passed, will achieve savings of nearly $42 billion over the next five years.

A total of 2,769 pounds of recyclables were picked up from Kewanna curbsides during the month of November.

The Fulton County Tourism Commission will meet Wednesday, December 28, at 10 a.m. in the FEDCO/Chamber of Commerce conference room, 822 Main St., Rochester.

The Rochester/Lake Manitou Chamber of Commerce office will be closed Monday, December 26, in observance of Christmas.

The Observer office will be closed Friday, December 23.

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Flu-like Illness at Nursing Home

The Fulton County Health Department reported Wednesday that there have been cases of a flu-like illness at a long-term care facility.

According to Indiana law, when cases of a communicable disease are reported at a long-term care facility (nursing home), the facility is required to post a note asking visitors to not visit unless necessary to keep both themselves and the residents healthy.

The recommendations against visiting will be lifted once health officials determine there is no longer a public health concern.

With the arrival of the cold and flu season people are reminded to get a flu vaccine, wash their hands often, and cover their nose and mouth when they cough and sneeze. If people are not feeling well, health officials recommend that they stay away from people who may have weak immune systems, such as small children and adults over the age of 65.

If you have any questions, call the Fulton County Health Department at 574-223-2881.

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Small Business Counseling

Fulton County small business owners and entrepreneurs can learn more about operating their own business by attending confidential counseling sessions provided by the regional Small Business Development Center and SCORE.

Through an arrangement with the Fulton Economic Development Corporation (FEDCO), this service is free to Fulton County residents. A business counselor can help current and prospective business owners with business plans, marketing, arranging financing and growing a business.

A counselor is available the second Wednesday of each month at the FEDCO office, 822 Main Street, Rochester. **To schedule an appointment for January 11, call 574-223-3326.**

Clubs Societies Personals

$2,000 Scholarship Available for Special Ed Students

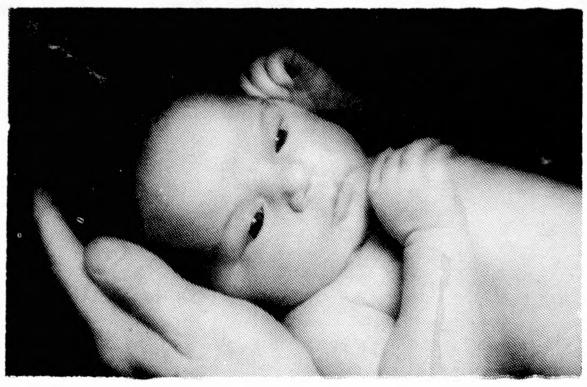
The law firm of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP announced that applications are available for the 15th annual William M. Evans Scholarship award, to honor the memory of its founding partner Bill Evans (1923-1991).

The $2,000 William M. Evans Scholarship will be awarded to an Indiana special education student (as defined by 511 IAC 7) who is pursuing post-secondary education in 2006-2007 by attending a university, college, junior college or vocational training program. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of personal achievement, future goals and financial need.

Candidates must be Indiana residents who are currently enrolled in the senior class of an Indiana public high school and classified as a special education student. Applications for the 2006 William M. Evans Scholarship are available through the offices of all Indiana Directors of Special Education or through Bose McKinney & Evans' web site at http:www.boselaw.com/groups/scholarship.shtml.

For more information, call 317-571-0051.

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LILLIX NICOLE COOK

Ashley Birge and Joshua Cook, Kewanna, are the parents of a daughter born at 1:19 p.m. Wednesday, November 23, 2005. She weighed 8 pounds and 1 ounce, was 20½ inches long, and has been named Lillix Nicole Cook.

Maternal grandparents are Dan and Julie Birge, Kewanna. Maternal great-grandparents include Evelyn Markley, Kewanna, and Euel and Patricia Birge, Rochester.

Paternal grandparents are Michael and Sharon Fite of Monticello. Ed and Anne Fite, also of Monticello, are the baby's paternal great-grandparents.

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JAMES F. TALBOTT VFW POST NO. 1121 ACTIVITIES

Dec. 10 – Men's meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 17 – Christmas party at 2 p.m.

Dec. 20 – Women's Auxiliary meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 21 – Card drawing at 7 p.m.

Dec. 25 – Closed for Christmas

Dec. 27 – Men's Auxiliary meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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Kewanna Town Council Meeting / First Thursday of the Month Town Hall / 7 pm

The Observer

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MEMBER: Hoosier State Press Association
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Merry Christmas
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"Merry Christmas"

HOSPITAL NOTES....

WOODLAWN HOSPITAL

December 12

Admissions – Margaret Davis, Elias Puckett and Charles Heeter, Rochester; Hazel Sullivan, Argos; Carolyn Anderson, Wabash and Lindsay Smith, Akron

Dismissals – Edna Hall and son, Peru

December 13

Admissions – Nancy Duzenberry, Akron; Christy Waddle and Brenda Kasten Brash, Rochester; and Benny Cline, Delong

Dismissals – None published

Births – Eric and Amy Weiand, Rochester, a son; Trisha Stuart, Rochester, a son

December 14

Admissions – Mary Jane Herendeen and Pamela Cook, Rochester

Dismissals – Nancy Duzenberry, Akron; Christy Waddle, Rochester; and Benny Cline, Delong

Births – Lori Fitzpatrick, Rochester, a son

December 15

Admissions – Marjorie Zeller and Veda Mayhew, Rochester

Dismissals – Brenda Kasten Brash, Rochester

Births – Christina Allen, Rochester, a son

December 16

Admissions – None published

Dismissals – Elias Puckett, Amy Weiand and son, Trisha Stuart and son and Lori Fitzpatrick and son, Rochester; and Lindsay Smith, Akron

PULASKI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

December 9

Admissions – Alice Howat, Kewanna; Carol Lapacek, Francesville

Dismissals – Clarence Bailey and Maria Bonnell, Winamac

December 10

Admissions – Joseph Fox, Star City

Dismissals – None

December 11

Admissions – Irene Shepperd, Medaryville; Nicole Hatfield, Winamac

Dismissals – Alice Howat, Kewanna

December 12

Admissions – Pamela Vogt, Francesville; Jay Bitterling, Winamac

Dismissals – Jay Bitterling, Winamac; Virgil Fauser, Kewanna

Births – Terry Edward Howerton and Nicole Marie Hatfield, Winamac, a daughter, Emma Rose Howerton

December 13

Admissions – Helmut Richter, Winamac

Dismissals – Nicole Hatfield and daughter, Emma Howerton, Winamac

December 14

Admissions – None

Dismissals – Irene Shepperd, Medaryville

December 15

Admissions – None

Dismissals – None

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Subscribe To The OBSERVER

DEATHS.....

E. ARON OUSLEY

Funeral services were held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, December 17, 2005, in the Harrison-Metzger Funeral Home, Kewanna Chapel, for E. Aron Ousley, 71, Kewanna. Burial was in the Fulton Cemetery, Fulton. Mr. Ousley died at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 14, at his home.

Born July 6, 1934, at Maytown, Kentucky, he was the son of Hiram and Inez Adkins Ousley. He was married May 15, 1954 at Fulton to Lula James, who survives.

A 1952 graduate of Fulton High School, Aron was a retired 20-year electrical maintenance employee at McGills in Monticello. He was associated with the Kewanna United Methodist Church, enjoyed yard work, woodworking and his dog, Cody.

Surviving besides his wife are two daughters, Brenda Whiteman, Lafayette, and Diane Miller and her husband, Tom, Monticello; one daughter-in-law, Cathy Ousley, Wanatah; one sister, Bonnie Poe, Onalaska, Texas; three brothers, Norm Ousley, Paw Paw, Michigan, Ralph Ousley, Raphene, Virginia, and Tom Ousley, Atlanta, Georgia; one sister-in-law, Nancy Ousley, Mishawaka; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one son, Gary in 2005; one brother, Gene; one sister, Betty; and his parents.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hope Hospice of Fulton County.

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BENJAMIN B. FORT

Former Kewanna area resident Benjamin B. Fort, 86, of Lewisburg, West Virginia, passed away Friday December 16, 2005 at the Seasons Assisted Living facility in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

Born March 12, 1919 at Maxwell, Indiana, he was the son of Fred and Jessie Gwinn Fort.

Mr. Fort was a high school teacher in Indianapolis for 33 years. He was a member of the Kewanna Church of Christ, a 50-year member of the Englewood Lodge No. 715 F. & A.M. of Indianapolis, a 50-year member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, N.M.J. Valley of Indianapolis, a member of the Murat Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. of Indianapolis, the Kiwannis of Rochester and a member of the National Teachers Association of America.

Other than his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife if 55 years, Madlyn Eileen Fort; one son, Eric Craig Fort; and one sister, Betty Ann Schloemer.

Survivors include a son, Dr. Kyle F. Fort and his wife, Ann, of Lewisburg, West Virginia; nine grandchildren Karen Fort Bordas, Kristine Lynn Fort, Lisa Fort Vaughn, Linda Katharine Fort, Craig Fort, Casey Fort, Shaun Paul Taylor, Jaeson Barrett Fort and Mikel Patric Fort; two great-grandchildren, Sydney Ann Vaughn and Anna Kristine Bordas.

Visitation in Kewanna was Tuesday, December 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Harrison-Metzger Funeral Home, Kewanna Chapel. Graveside services followed at the Rochester I.O.O.F. Cemetery with Pastor Cliff Gano officiating.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, December 26, at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, West Virginia, with Pastor Charlie Taylor officiating. The family will receive friends two hours prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Benjamin B. Fort Scholarship Fund, c/o the Greenbrier Community College Foundation, Inc., PO Box 1360, Lewisburg, West Virginia, 24901.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be sent by visiting wwfh.ourcondolences.com.

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BERNICE MAY HENDERSON

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 21, 2005, at Good Family Funeral Home, Rochester, for Bernice May Henderson, 93, Hickory Creek Nursing Home, Rochester. The former Burton community resident died at 10:30 a.m. December 16. Pastor David Hogsett officiated and burial was the Rochester I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

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FULTON COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

CRIME OF THE WEEK!

December 19th, 2005

CRIME / ACTIVITY: BURGLARY
CASE NUMBER: 25-405-05
LOCATION: 7300 East 400 South
Macy, Indiana

SUMMARY: Sometime between 7:30 AM and Noon on 12/14/05 the suspect made forced entry to the victims residence and committed the theft of several items of jewelry. Anyone with information is requested to contact Crime Stoppers. If you have any information on this case or any other crime call Crime Stoppers. You could earn up to $1,000.00 reward if the information leads to an arrest or indictment. Callers do not have to reveal their names and all calls are confidential.

CRIME STOPPERS DOES NOT USE CALLER ID

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Grassroots Comedy Tour Coming to Rochester

Live stand-up comedy is coming to Rochester. The Grassroots Comedy Tour, starring "The Mighty" JerDog and Chuck Kilgore, will be making a stop at the Main Street Grill Friday, December 30. The show starts promptly at 9:30 p.m. "The Mighty" JerDog is a nationally touring headliner, performing at comedy clubs across the country, and has been heard on radio's "Bob and Tom Show". JerDog is from Chicago, and will be featured in an upcoming documentary film about The Grassroots Comedy Tour. For further details, call 574-223-3514 or visit online at www.JerDogComedy.com.

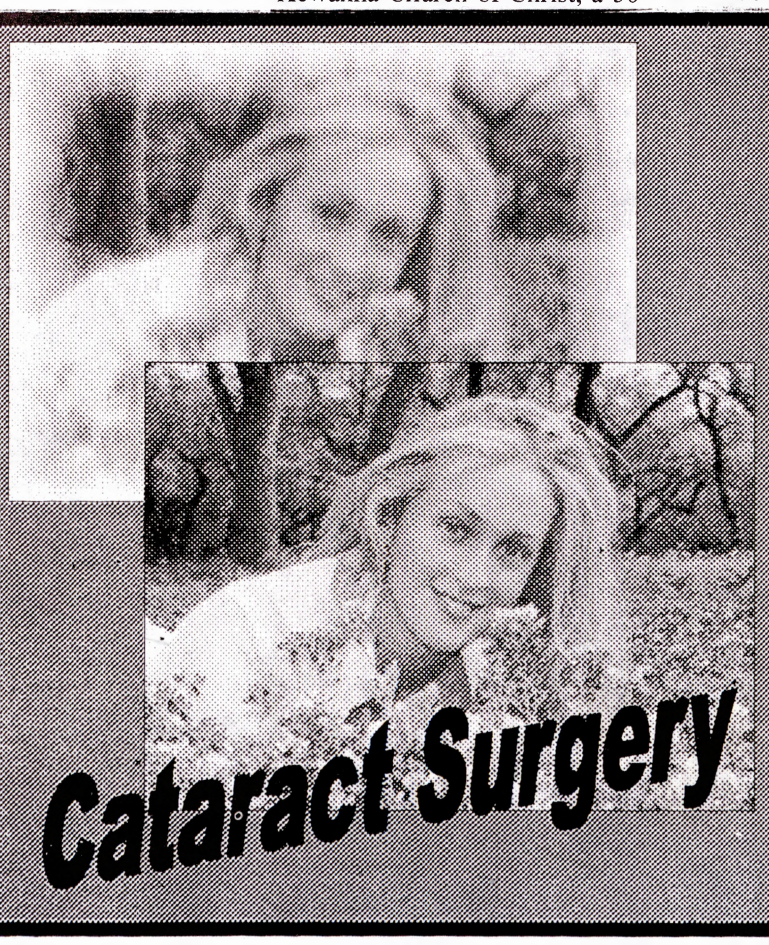
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Rochester Youth Organization Recognized

Camp-We-Can co-founders Jodie Simpson, Tina McGaughey and Teri Carr of Rochester (pictured in the front row, first, third and fourth from right) were recognized November 20 during a pre-game ceremony at a Pacers basketball game for receiving Indiana Youth Institute's Indiana Youth Investment Award.

Camp-We-Can, which provides a camp for children with disabilities and creates opportunities to facilitate positive personal growth and development, received a $5,000 award from Indiana Youth Institute and free tickets to the Pacers game. The organization was one of ten winners awarded this fall by IYI for extraordinary work on behalf of Indiana children and youth.

The Indiana Youth Investment Awards are funded in part through a grant from the Pacers Foundation.

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Sports Shorts

The Caston High School boys' basketball team defeated Frontier Saturday evening, December 17, 47-44. Kyle Sommers was the leading scorer for the Comets with 17. Dustin Swartzel added nine and Kegan Townsend had eight.

Laville High School won the Caston Super Six wrestling tournament at Caston recently at 5-0. Triton went 4-1; North White was 3-2; Caston was 1-4 and Tippecanoe Valley was 0-5. Garrett Redweik and Bryan Powlen each contributed five victories to help Caston secure a win over Tippy Valley.

East Noble finished first in the 10-team Caston Wrestling Invitational over the weekend. Calumet was second and Pioneer finished third.

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Kewanna/Union Twp. Public Library Hours
10 am to 6pm - Mon. - Fri.
9 am to 3 pm - Saturday



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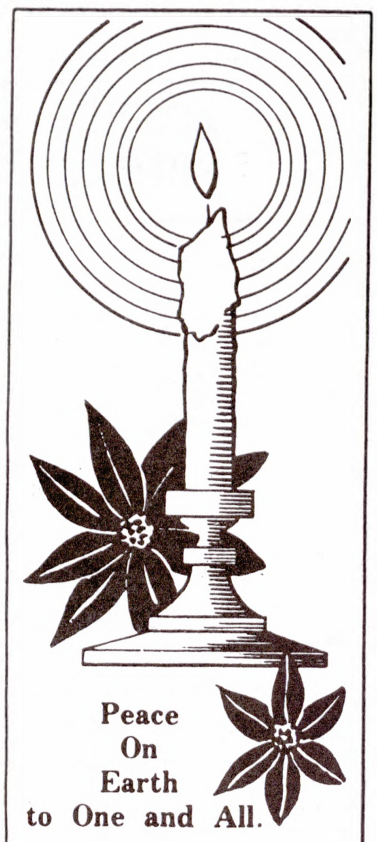
Luke 2:11 is an ocean of thought in a drop of words. It begins with you and it ends with the Lord.

It's personal: "Unto you is born..." It opened my eyes to the love of God and my heart to the God of love.

It's profitable: "Unto you is born this day...a Savior." He was born in a supernatural way, without a human father and without sin; for a Jesus born in sin couldn't save us from our sins.

It pleasurable: Jesus brings "great joy." There are two sides to a gift, giving and receiving. God gave the Savior on the first Christmas morning. Isn't it time you received Him?

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Letters To The Editor...

December 19, 2005

To the Editor:

This past week our family received word of the death of my uncle, Herman D. Barkey. I realize that at age 96 he had outlived nearly everyone in Kewanna. Perhaps some will remember him as Sophia Bauman's brother.

He was born on the family farm near North Judson on April 12, 1909 to Daniel Gottlieb Barkey and Mary (Hubeny) Barkey. The family moved to Lawton (near Monterey) and then to Kewanna when Dan's job as section foreman on the C. & O. required.

Herman's early education was in Lawton School and then Kewanna School. He graduated from Kewanna High School in the class of 1926. He became an aeronautical engineer, and spent many years as a valued employee of McDonnell-Douglas Corporation in St. Louis, Missouri. He was a designer of technology for the future of aviation.

He and Nettie Fogelsong were married at St. Ann's in Kewanna. Nettie died in the fall of 2004. Their daughter Bonitra Bea Moore lives nearby in Chesterfield, Missouri. He is also survived by his brother Dr. Joe Barkey in Findlay, Ohio; and nieces and nephews. Herman now joins his sister Sophia, her twin brother Joseph, and brother Robert.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in his church; he was buried beside Nettie. There is an on-line guest book available at Schrader.com for those interested.

When I was in fifth grade at Kewanna School in 1946 he told me I was lucky to have such a good teacher, Mabel Wills. He remembered her from 1919, his teacher, too. We had some good ones, didn't we? He remained knowledgeable throughout his life. On his 93rd birthday I said something to him in jest about "old man"; he let me know I should "not use that adjective!"

Good memories,
Mary Ann Barkey

+++

Resolve in 2006 to Practice Healthy Habits

At a traditional time for reflecting on the future, I ask Hoosiers to consider the health of Indiana. I invite you to think about the health of your fellow citizens, as well as your own.

Unfortunately, Indiana – when compared to the nation – has above-average rates of heart attacks and strokes as well as chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, emphysema, obesity, high cholesterol and diabetes. Hoosiers also suffer more cancers compared to the rest of the country.

Medical science long ago proved that lifestyle plays an important role in a person's risk of disease, and Indiana has above-average rates of disease, in part because Hoosiers are more likely to overeat, smoke, avoid exercise and overuse alcohol. Many Indiana citizens also fail to take advantage of preventative measures, such as periodic physical exams, mammograms, stool tests or colonoscopies, prostate blood tests, cholesterol screenings, flu shots and son on.

Increasingly, the economic health of Indiana is becoming rooted in the physical and psychological health of Hoosiers. To remain competitive in worldwide markets, Indiana businesses must maintain peak productivity and minimize costs. Unhealthy employees result in higher health care costs and lower productivity.

I ask each of you reading this letter to make a resolution to improve your health for the sake of yourself, your family and your community. If it has been more than a year since you have seen a physician, I encourage you to contact your physician to see what periodic screenings you may need. I also ask that you examine your lifestyle and improve it to decrease your risk of disease.

If you are overweight, decrease your intake of food and begin some form of regular exercise such as walking. If you use any form of tobacco, please stop. If you drink too much alcohol, decrease your use and don't drink every day. If you are unable to use alcohol moderately, stop using it. Control your stress as much as possible and use such techniques as relaxation and exercise to cope with what remains.

Indiana physicians are dedicated to preventing, eliminating or treating disease. We strive to relieve pain and suffering. However, we know that prevention is the best cure. Hoosiers must do their part by improving their lifestyle and obtaining periodic preventative health screenings. Over time, this will decrease those above-average disease rates within our state.

A healthier Indiana is good for everyone. Your physician can provide you with more thorough information on preventative health screenings and lifestyle improvements. You can also visit the Indiana State Medical Association Web site at www.ismanet.org or the In Shape Indiana Web page INShape.IN.gov for additional information.

I wish you a happy and healthier New Year.

Sincerely,
Kevin R. Burke, MD
Jeffersonville
President of the
Indiana State Medical
Association

+++

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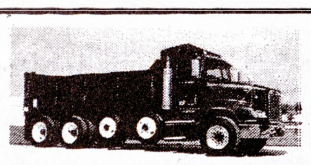


GOOD TIDINGS

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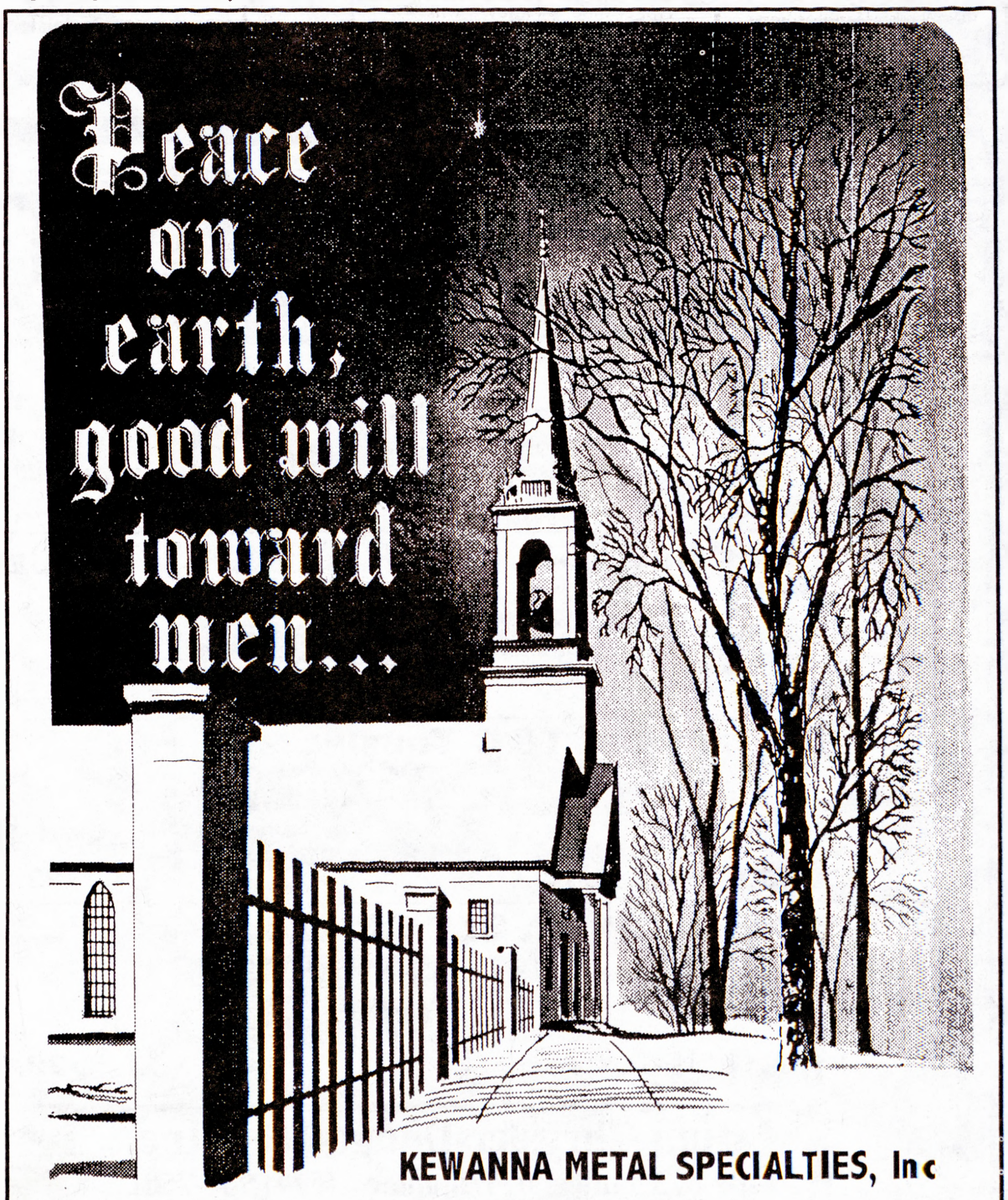
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Rep. Gutwein Seeks Students to Experience Statehouse Activity

(STATEHOUSE) December 20, 2005 – As the legislative session approaches, State Representative Eric A. Gutwein (R- Rensselaer) would like students to apply for the Statehouse Page Program.

The Indiana House of Representatives offers the Page Program, allowing students across the state to experience the lawmaking process firsthand. Through the program, Hoosier students will participate in Statehouse activity as a Legislative Page for the day.

"The Page Program is a great way for students to see their state government at work," said Rep. Gutwein. "I am pleased to see students who have an interest in government especially those who continue pursuing their interest outside of the classroom."

During the Page experience, students will tour the entire capital building, including the governor's office, the chambers of both the Indiana House and Senate, and the Indiana Supreme Court. Also, Pages will have the chance to witness any floor sessions and committee hearings that might be taking place during their visit. Finally, Pages will spend the remainder of the day on the floor of the House of Representatives with Rep. Gutwein, assisting him throughout the day.

"The 2006 legislative session is right around the corner and I look forward to working with our future leaders," said Rep. Gutwein. "I am excited to be a resource for students wanting to learn about the legislative process."

Pages must be at least 13 years old, and will receive an excused absence from school for the day. Each Page is responsible for transportation to and from the Statehouse. Availability is limited, so students should send in requests quickly. The House Page office will try to meet requests for specific dates. Those interested in serving as a Page for the House of Representatives should send their name, age, address, phone number, and name of school to: Representative Eric A. Gutwein, 200 W. Washington Street, Statehouse Room 401-4, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

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From The Desk Of....

State Representative
ERIC A. GUTWEIN
District 16

(STATEHOUSE) December 20, 2005 – I am astounded by the recent ruling forbidding the name of Jesus Christ to be spoken during prayers opening sessions of the Indiana House of Representatives. I believe the ruling is unfair to our rights of free speech and freedom of religion.

To claim that most of the prayers the Speaker has introduced to open the House sessions are sectarian Christian prayers is an unfair conclusion. This past session, we had daily invocation given by reverends, priest, ministers, a rabbi, and an Islamic Imam. This is a 188 year old tradition at the Statehouse and I hope it will continue.

The ruling is a clear violation of our right to free speech. The United States was founded by religious leaders seeking freedom to practice their own faiths. This ruling prevents us from expressing our religious freedoms as we wish. If we cannot pray to our chosen deities then what is the point of prayer?

I don't believe this ruling is what our founding fathers would have wanted. As citizens of the United States, free speech is a valuable right and this decision contradicts that right. I fully support Speaker Bosma and his decision to appeal the prayer lawsuit ruling. We must do what it takes to protect our rights. If not, who knows what else will be taken from us. The United States Constitution asks that we show consideration for all religious faiths. The court should respect the First Amendment, our right to free speech.

I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have regarding any issue you might have. You can either call me at 1-800-382-9841 or e-mail me at H16@in.gov.

++++

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Sign-Up Started for 2006 DCP Program

John Nidlinger, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Indiana reminds producers that enrollment has started for the 2006 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP).

"In the three years since this critical program was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill, USDA has so far issued $20 billion in DCP payments to agricultural producers," says Nidlinger. "Producers can sign up for the fourth year of DCP at USDA Service Centers throughout Indiana, or can use our convenient online enrollment service."

Producers have until June 1, 2006, to enroll in the 2006 DCP. USDA will accept late-filed applications through Sept. 30, 2006, if accompanied by a $100 late fee. Producers must sign contracts annually under DCP and can opt out of participating in the program in any year.

Producers can visit any USDA Service Center, in addition to their administratively-assigned center, to complete their 2006 DCP contract. In addition, sign-up can be completed online, allowing producers to choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit their contracts from any computer with Internet access. DCP participants can view and print out submitted contract options at any time.

The electronic service saves producers time, reduces paperwork and speeds up contract processing at USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. It is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in DCP and who have obtained eAuthentication accounts. The service has strict security measures to protect participants' private information, as only authorized federal employees have access to information that is submitted electronically.

The electronic service is available at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov edcp_default.htm. To access the service, producers must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Account, which requires filling out an online registration form at http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

DCP payments are computed using the base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a commodity is below the target price for the commodity. For other oilseeds, because of the existing loan rate, the maximum counter-cyclical payment rate is zero.

The schedule of payments for the 2006 DCP is as follows:

- Beginning December 2005: 50 percent advance direct payment;
- October 2006: 50 percent final direct payment;
- October 2006: first advance counter-cyclical payment (up to 35 percent of projected payment);
- February 2007: second advance counter-cyclical payment (up to 70 percent of projected payment less first advance);
- Dates very by crop (in general, 30 days following the end of the marketing year): Final counter-cyclical payment (100 percent of actual payment, less any advances received).

For all years, refunds to USDA will be due if there is a violation of eligibility requirements or, in the case of counter-cyclical payments, if the advance payments exceed the final payment.

More information on DCP is available at USDA Service Centers and on FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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Public Notice

Fulton County Claims ADVERTISING LIST for 12/30/2005

ACS Government, 1,725.00; AIT Laboratories Inc., 165.00; Adams Remco Inc., 778.14; Alexander Distributing, 1,186.42; American Consulting Inc., 23,501.70; Atlas Collections Inc., 102.14; B&B Mens Wear Inc., 350.29; BI Incorporated, 2,059.25; BP, 69.70; Banning Engineering, P.C., 1,256.26; Baker, Bob Co Inc., 1,753.43; Boldry Phil, 400.00; Boyce Forms/Systems Inc., 297.50; Country Computers, 2,895.94; Centenial Wireless, 191.65; Central Restaurant Products, 65.94; Cinergy, 1,549.28; Cramer, Casi, 107.60; ENIDS Cleaning Service, 997.67; Early, Mike, 224.00; Fine Things, 435.79; First Financial Bank, 42.50; Fulton Co Tire & Service Cnt., 1,238.44; Fulton County Sheriff Fund, 18.73; Fulton Marshall Farm Bureau, 5,111.67; GE Capital, 226.84; Global Gov't/Ed, 2,503.84; Gardner, Debra, 335.60; Good Family Funeral Home, 300.00; Graham Al, 25.40; Harter Beverly, 1,728.00; Hayes Instrument Co Inc., 168.30; Herrman & Goetz Inc., 1,588.00; IN State Police Training Fund, 102.00; Indiana Election Division, 300.00; Indiana University (SDT), 40.00; Kushi Donna, 67.47; Lake City Bank, 4,063.80; Law Enforcement Systems Inc., 63.00; Lexisnexis Matthew Bender, 398.00; Mototola, 20,981.00; Miller, Karen, 210.07; NAPA Rochester, 10.96; National Academies Of, 20.00; NEXTEL, 59.84; NIPSCO, 5,425.52; Nickles Bakery Inc., 102.60; O'Herron Inc, Ray, 1,000.00; Observer, 78.30; Oil Change Express, 26.97; P C Source, 106.80; Pfeiffer, Terry, 93.11; Plumlee Maintenance, 960.00; Poole Foods Inc., 1,826.64; Purdue CES Education Fund, 263.26; Purdue University, 382.50; Quality Quick Lube, 51.79; Quill Corp., 1,597.97; Quinlan Publishing Group, 156.81; R&L Electronics, 724.85; Reliable Office Supplies, 1,859.56; Ricks Autobody, 1,343.11; Rochester Sentinel Corp., 73.78; S R I Inc., 1,363.50; Saylor J H, 545.29; SBC, 260.00; Shepherd Shannon, 1,283.00; Strand Assoc Inc - Sieco Div., 286.41; Shirley & Stout Funeral Homes, 100.00; Signs & Designs, 120.00; Smith Sawyer Smith Inc., 200.00; South Bend Tribune, 151.28; Steinhoffer Scale Co Inc., 399.00; Treasurer Fulton County, 15,000.00; Triangle Digital Printing, 365.59; United States Post Office, 1,666.50; Vernasco Wally, 508.00; Van Ausall & Farrar Inc., 221.72; WTH Engineering Inc., 1,000.00; Wagner Scott MD, 1,500.00; Walmart Community BRC, 28.81; Webbs Electronics/Radio Shack, 119.98; Wildman Inc., 99.30.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FULTON CO., INDIANA ON DECEMBER 20th, 2005.

DENISE J. BONNELL
FULTON COUNTY AUDITOR

Pub. 12/22/05

Notice To Subscribers

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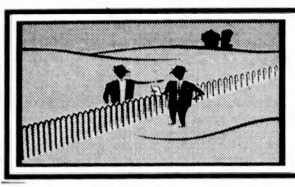
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Of one we loved and will never forget
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Town & Country CHATTER...

By: Julie Brown (574) 653-2451

The Agnew family celebrated an early Christmas Saturday, December 17, at the home of John and Virginia Agnew. Celebrating the holiday with them were Marsha Tomerlin and Erin Tomerlin and Ashlyn of Hebron; Eric and Connie Tomerlin, Megan and Jacob, Wheeler; John and Pam Agnew, Jarrod and Amy Agnew, Zachary and Alexis, Jeff and Tina Agnew, Shayna and Kayleena and Jeff and Kim Hunter, Raeann and Caleb, all of Rochester; Bob and Vanessa Plantz and Serena, Highland; and Jeremy Agnew, Westfield. Calls were received from those who were unable to attend the get together. A gift exchange was held after the dinner and picture taking. The rest of the afternoon was spent with much "chit chat" and playing.

Rodney Whiteman was a Friday overnight guest of his grandmother, Helen Whiteman. He was here due to the death of his grandfather, Aron Ousley.

Brenda Whiteman was a Sunday afternoon visitor of Helen Whiteman.

Helen Whiteman enjoyed Christmas carolers Sunday evening.

Those persons who will be having birthdays next week (so please remember to give them your best regards) are: Dorothy Lease and Trent Powell, Dec. 25; Robert Bangel, Craig Bitterling, Mike Clyde, Kathy Dees, Gwen Hott and Julie Nies, Dec. 26; Andrew Bitterling, Rachel Evers, Amanda Heckaman, Taylor Warner, Beth Weller and Anna Winegardner, Dec. 27; Brennan Cook and Hanna Plummer, Dec. 28; JoAnn Bowyer, Michael C. Brown, Myranda Glant, Jackie Heidenreich, Sandra Hendrickson, Julie Kline and Brittany Riffle, Dec. 29; Kahlan Edwards, Joe Federer and Terry Kimble, Dec. 30; and Michael Kimble and Chris Scheerer, Dec. 31.

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Smith will be celebrating their wedding anniversary Dec. 28.

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Send In Your News

Postage Going Up

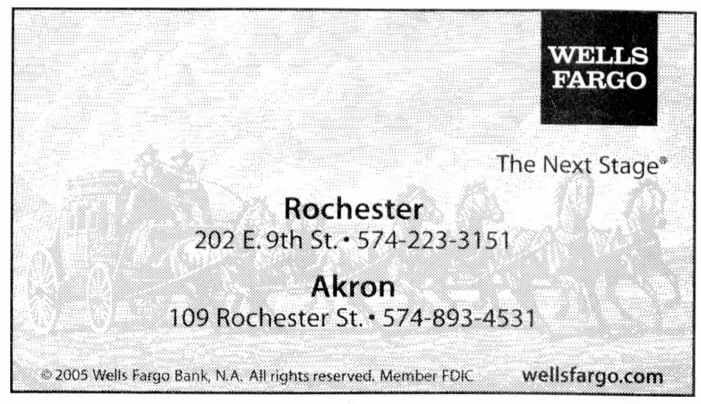
New postage rates will take effect January 8. First class mail will cost $.39 for a one ounce letter and $.63 for a two ounce letter. Postcards will go from $.23 to $.24.

The price increase, the first since 2002, was made necessary by a federal law that passed in 2003 requiring the Postal Service to place $3.1 billion in an escrow account.

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Eleven of the world's 16 busiest airports in the U.S. include O'Hare in Chicago, Hartsfield in Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth and Los Angeles.

The rainiest spot in the U.S. is Mount Waialeale, Hawaii, with an average annual rainfall of 460 inches.



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Christ mas Services

Give your family the gift of experiencing the joy of Christmas with us this year!

Christmas Eve Worship

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church

6:30 p.m. 11941 W 75 N, Bruce Lake Between 1100 W & 1200 W

Kewanna United Methodist Church

11:00 p.m. Pearl & Toner Streets

Come worship Jesus with us as we sing traditional Christmas carols. We will close each service singing "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World" in candlelight.

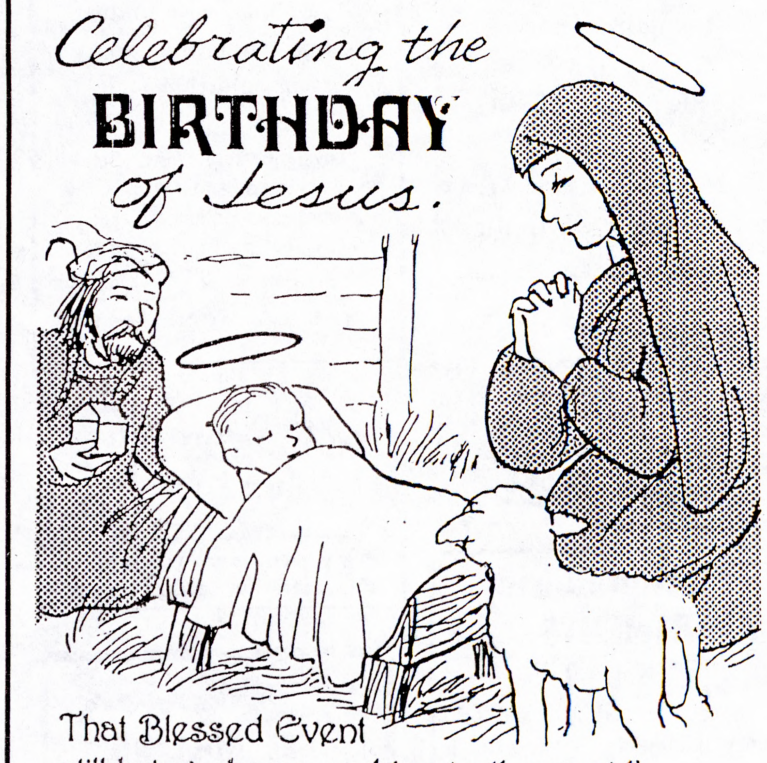
Please join us for Christmas Day Worship Services:

9:00 a.m., Pleasant Hill UMC

10:30 a.m., Kewanna UMC

Rev. Mike Tatman, Pastor

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Season's Greetings

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