

Thorn Creek

Reformed Church

News Review

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FREDA JUNIEL

I love the Lord, people, traveling, reading, physical exercise and playing games with friends. I retired from Department of the Treasury on December 30, 1998. I volunteered for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) where all findings were reported to the Judge and worked for CADC (Central Arkansas Development Counsel) as the County Coordinator encouraging and developing groups to improve their community, assisting in getting their 501(c)3 to get funding for grants. I am widowed since 2010. I have two adult children and three grandchildren. I am a part time Travel Agent and have traveled to some exciting places such as Jerusalem, Asia, Europe, Australia, South America and Far East (China, Japan & South Korea).



WELCOME
to Our Newest Members!



MICHAEL, YVONNE & ZACHARY PACKER

Michael, Yvonne and Zachary Packer live in Calumet City, IL. Michael is a Retail, Food & Beverage General Manager. He manages locations in Gary and Hammond, IN. Yvonne is a Project Manager at a large corporate bank in downtown Chicago. Zachary is 12 years old and is in 7th grade at Lansing Christian School. They have two dogs, Dash & Duchess. They are avid bowlers and Zach's youth bowling team won 1st place in the U12 regional championship in 2014.

GEMS

GEMS has had a busy first half of the year! Our theme this year is Choose Truth. We are learning about the greatest book of all time, "The Bible." We've had many lessons and even a couple badge nights. In December we had our mother daughter Christmas party where we had brunch and painted Christmas wood signs. We also did a service project with the Cadets where we made fleece tie blankets for "Phil's friends." They give the blankets to patients undergoing cancer treatment. As our second half of the year begins in January, we have some fun things coming up! We are doing a combined pancake breakfast with the Cadets on February 6. We are looking for some businesses to advertise on placemats we are getting printed for the event. If you are interested in purchasing ad space contact Craig Vander Molen at firestorm1872@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Christmas is over for most of us by now, however we can have a Happy New Year knowing we have the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ. Sunday school will be taking a break for two weeks to allow families a little extra time to travel and visit. We will return on Sunday, January 10, 2016.

Thank you to all of Sunday School teachers for their faithfulness in teaching our little ones all the way to the big ones. It is your willingness to serve that keeps the Sunday School hour going. Thank you also to all the children who participated in the "Christmas Program". It is a true joy to see all of you grow in your faith and share it with the congregation. Start the New Year off and come to a Sunday School class. There is a listing at the information booth in the Narthex.



APPLE PIE SALE

This year's apple pie sale was a big success. Between the two days, Friday and Saturday, we had 46 people of all ages come out to help us fold boxes, make topping, peel apples, assemble the pies and clean up. We sold 220 pies with a total profit of \$1,630.97, which was up \$112 from last year.

Once again the proceeds will be going towards missions and will be divided up to support three different things. Firstly, \$600 will be sent to the RCA Gift of Hope program, specifically tagging the money to go towards their Clean Water project. The RCA works with partners around the world to provide clean water to communities by digging wells, building latrines, and developing other means of water purification.

Another \$600 will be sent to CCO Ministry at IU-Kokomo and Ivy Tech, a college campus ministry that Joe Toren, a son of Thorn Creek, heads up. Lately, he has been praying for and working with students in the Annex apartment complex across from the campus, and in the second week of school five freshman had already made plans to start a Bible study there.

And lastly, we will be setting aside some funds to go towards helping local homeless people. The South Holland Ministerial Association has been diligently working on putting together a Safe Haven Advocate/Advisor program which will do a better job of meeting the needs of homeless people than their previous guidelines did. Rather than just providing temporary help to those that are passing through, they will also help get homeless people in the area into programs and housing programs that other organizations already have in place.

If you have suggestions of missions that you would like to see us support in a future fundraiser, please feel free to pass them along to Debbie Heersema. Thank you!



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



The Beginners Department with their opening lines and songs for our program.



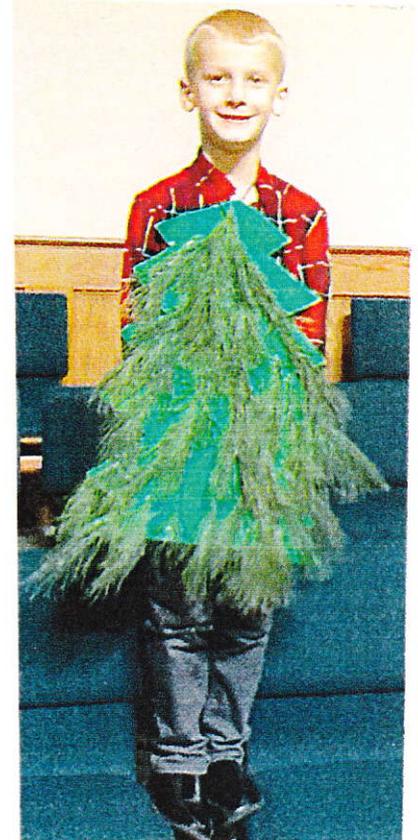
The Junior Choir singing about the Christ child.



We hope you all enjoyed our Christmas Skit. We sure had a fun time putting it on for you. Many, many thanks to Mrs. Maria Schutt for her love and devotion to all our children.



Kenny, Mia and Samantha as the kids



Levi as the tree