



# PILGRIM NEWS & NOTES

Official Publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church

December 1, 2014



If you're like me, you often find yourself reliving in your mind, the wonderful memories of Christmases past. The times when you would wake up (EARLY) on Christmas morning, and hastily wake every member of the family up! Why? Because IT'S CHRISTMAS!!

In our home, it was a very exciting time. The Christmas Tree would normally go up in late October, or early November, and would always STAY UP until after the New Year!

Of course, we all enjoyed the train that went round & round under the tree, and all of the other things that seemed to light up and sparkle around the tree, and then there was the tree itself! What a magnificent tree it was! It was an artificial tree that stretched all the way to the ceiling! But, as children, more than all of the lights, the decorations, and the tree . . . There were the PRESENTS that were UNDER the tree!

They're all such wonderful and FUN memories, but you know which Christmas I remember with the most fondness? Let me tell you about it . . . but first, I need to explain the circumstances surrounding that era.

Mom & Dad pastored in Taylor, MI, and after a lengthy pastorate there, Dad felt the Lord calling him into the field of Evangelism. All of a sudden, Dad no longer worked as a meat cutter in the Detroit area, he was no longer the pastor of the church that holds most of our childhood memories, and as a consequence, the finances were very tight and we wondered if there would be ANY presents under the tree that year.

I remember that Christmas morning in the early 1980's very well when Mom & Dad explained that even though we each had only 1 or 2 presents that year, we were still a family, we still had each other, and we would still make the very best of it, even if we didn't have a whole lot! THAT Christmas remains in my mind as one of the best ever!

You know, the older that I get, the more I realize that it's NOT about the gifts, it's NOT about the lights and all of the pretty decorations, but it's about the Son of God who had it ALL, but left it all, to come to this earth to eventually be crucified so that you and I could live with Him in Heaven! **That** is CHRISTmas!

While it's fun to get together with family & friends, exchange gifts and all of that, the **REAL** reason that we celebrate has nothing to do with US, but everything to do with HIM!

My prayer as you read this issue of *Pilgrim News & Notes*, is that you will be reminded once again to put the focus where it belongs . . . to the Babe that was born in a manger! - The Editor

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6*



# FROM THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

*Rev. James A. Southerland, Sr., originally served as the first General Secretary of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church, and then in 1970, he was elected to the position of President, and served in that capacity until 1986. He was re-elected to that position in 2003, and has ably served in that capacity up to the present time. He may be contacted via email [HERE](#)*

## WE CELEBRATE HIS COMING!

During the creation actions of our Heavenly Father, He would pause and review the work He had done. He would then pronounce it as “good”. When all was set in place, He fashioned man in His own image. He gave him intelligence, mobility, and a free will to choose. Man could make wrong choices. Adam eventually made a choice that violated his pure and perfect relationship with God. Sin and death entered the scene.

### I. GOD'S LOVE WAS REVEALED BEFORE MAN WAS CREATED.

*Jesus prayed, “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me, where I am; that they may behold thy glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovest me BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.” John 17:24*

Our God had prepared a “lamb” to take away the sins of the world.

### II. THE REVELATION OF THAT LOVE EXCITED THE VISIONS OF THE PROPHETS.

Over 700 years before the birth of Christ, during a dark spiritual time, Isaiah cried, “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” Isa. 9:2

*“For unto us a child is born, unto a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” Isa. 9:7*

Some 30 years later, the Prophet Micah, revealed the city of his birth. “*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been of old, from everlasting*” Micah 5:2

### III. THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE AND PROVIDENCE OF GOD

During our trip to Israel some years back, from our touring bus window, I can still see the picturesque view of Bethlehem. I see the lonely shepherd and small herd of sheep. In the distance lies the town. “*It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: Peace on the earth, good will to men, from Heaven’s all gracious King. The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*” Richard S. Willis “Hallelujah! Sing this Christmas morn. Hallelujah! Christ the Lord is born!” Faith Chambers Wilson

Who would have thought that out of this dusty little town would come a baby boy, a man who was very god and very man. He who would walk the dusty roads of time, healing the sick, raising the dead, and teaching spiritual principles that would still be transforming the lives of men and women, boys and girls some 2000 years later.

Let the choirs sing, the church bells ring, and the ministers proclaim, “Jesus Christ is Lord! He came to seek and to save the lost!” He is still seeking, saving and encouraging those who sit in darkness. Let us proclaim His wonderful name anew. He has sent the Comforter!! Praise the Lord! He is come! - **James A. Southerland, Sr.**



Drawn by Jacynda Manns

## *News from around the Conference*

*All news on this page has been submitted by various Pilgrim churches. We reserve the right to edit the submissions as necessary. - Editor*

### **Rochester Hills, MI** - (by Pastor Dan Plemmons)

We're looking forward to the Holiday season with much anticipation. Thanksgiving and Christmas are such wonderful times of the year, and we all have so much to be thankful for.

We will be having a special Christmas Concert here on Friday evening, December 5, at 7:00 PM with Amber Fish, from Westfield, IN. The following day, we will be having our annual Christmas Dinner.

We thank God for His blessings to our church.

### **Albany, OH** - (by Lydia Raines)

God is still on the throne and helping His children at Union Ridge PHC! We've seen victories around the altar and praise God for the growth we see in the new converts.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving, most of our church people met at the nursing home to sing to Eva and Kay LeMay. Kay was nearing the end of her short battle with cancer. She entered Heaven's gates on Monday, November 24, 2014.

We will be having our annual Christmas program, *A Night of Wonder, A Night of Song*, December 19. We never want to lose the awe and wonder of what God, in His love for mankind, provided for us.

### **Noblesville, IN** - (by Pastor John Forsee)

Greetings from the Noblesville Pilgrim Holiness Church. What an awesome God we serve! We just finished a revival with Dr. Paul Kaufman as our evangelist and Larry & LaDonna Thomas as singers. The Holy Spirit came in such a wonderful way, anointing our evangelists, and granting victories around the altar.

We were privileged to have Rev. Dan Plemmons with us last month, and thoroughly enjoyed having him sing for us on Sunday night. What a delight it is to have him and his family visit from time to time. We are also looking forward to the Christmas program this year on Dec. 21 at 5:30 PM. Sis. Amber Fish will be giving a Christmas concert at 5:30 followed by the program titled "*Now That He Is Here*".

*If you have church news that you would like to submit for publication in this section, please send it to [pauldplemmons@yahoo.com](mailto:pauldplemmons@yahoo.com)*

*NOTE: All submissions are subject to being edited as necessary to fit space and formatting needs. - Editor*



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### **Bicknell, IN - (by Wendy McCullough)**

Greetings from the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Bicknell, Indiana! During our annual meeting with Bro. Southerland, it was announced that the spring opinion poll revealed that the congregation wished to have Rev. Richard Spaulding as our next pastor. Richard Spaulding was our assistant pastor during the 18 years that the Rolls pastored here. The Lord has helped us to have a smooth transition as the Rolls answered their call to serve as missionaries to Antigua. We miss the Rolls dearly but we have appreciated getting to know our pastor. During Pastor Appreciation Month, Jason McCullough presented Pastor Spaulding with a basket of assorted mints and a card from the congregation. The sentiment on the card stated, "Thank you for your commitMINT to our church!"

Friday, July 18th, Penn View Ladies' Trio "Heritage" ministered to us in music. We had pizza afterwards at the church fellowship hall and enjoyed a good time of fellowship.

It was a mixed blessing to see one of our young people, William Brokus, enter Union Bible Academy for his senior year of high school in August. He has a call to ministry and we are trusting that the Lord will continue to guide him.

Our fall revival took place during the week of September 12-21 with Rev. Chad and Valery Winter. The Winters live in Bicknell and have recently entered into full time evangelism. The preaching, as well as the special music, which included their two young daughters, was anointed. The Lord helped us in the services and we are still experiencing the effects of that meeting.

Our fall revival was a good excuse to have a clean-up day on the last Saturday in August. Many hands made for light work as cleaning and repairs were done, both inside and outside the church and the yard. Of special note was the repair and replacement of the church's wheelchair ramp and deck. The ladies of the church provided a meal of pulled pork and fried chicken which was enjoyed by the volunteers.

In keeping with the Self-Denial Month theme of "Where your treasure is" we had a special display and bulletin board theme in the church vestibule. Pastor Spaulding issued a local dollar-for-dollar matching challenge of up to \$300.00. We praise the Lord for His help, and are blessed to report that our entire self-denial offering for September was \$900.00.



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### Bicknell, IN - (Continued)

On Friday, October 3rd, we had a song service with Judith Montgomery & Family from Shoals, Indiana. The presence of the Lord was felt very strongly as the Holy Spirit moved among us in an unusual way.



Our church had its Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday, November 22. We had 45 in attendance, and enjoyed a good evening of fellowship. As is our tradition, the local congregation provided the pastor with a turkey and food basket for his family's Thanksgiving which was presented during the meal.

### Lima, OH - (by Pastor Don Nichols)

We thank the Lord for His help these past few weeks. We had a 60th Birthday party for Ruth Nichols in the School Commons. We thank the Lord for giving her good health and for making her a blessing to so many people. Several from our church attended the annual Heartbeat Banquet, the annual fundraiser for the local crisis pregnancy center. Jarilyn Motter has volunteered at *Heartbeat of Lima* for many years. The church ladies enjoy their local chapter meetings of *Women of Worth*. They have a speaker and some kind of refreshment, as well as time for fellowship with area ladies, some from other churches.

Joseph Bailey and Evangeline Baker were united in marriage in a private wedding, November 18th, officiated by the bride's father. After a honeymoon in the Hocking Hills area they had a lovely reception.

The staff of Pilgrim Christian School attended the annual Educator's convention in Columbus, OH. They received educational updates, challenges, and had time for some inter-staff fellowship.

Our Annual Church Retreat was held October 24-26, at the Beulah Grove Bible Methodist Campground. Approximately 75 of the church folk attended and had a wonderful time of relaxing, fellowshiping and eating together. Games were played by young and old, and devotions were held together. The pastor enjoyed playing his guitar while the children gathered around and sang.

The Nichols and the Spencers enjoyed the Annual Pastor's Retreat near Oblong, IL. Bro. Nichols was able to meet some of his family for a meal before leaving Illinois to come home.



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### **Lima, OH - (Continued)**

Revival services were held October 28 – November 2nd with the Stephen Cassady family. They blessed the hearts of our people with their beautiful singing, great spirit, youth appeal and good preaching. On Friday evening, the Holy Spirit settled down upon the service during testimonies. An altar service followed without the need for preaching. A love offering was taken for the children as they had ministered in each service. \$330 was raised and divided among the children, with each getting a check.





**Dr. Steve Gibson**

*Dr. Gibson is the Director of Holiness Pilgrim Mission and lives in Indianapolis, IN*

# Pastor to Pastor

Ministering to those who minister to others . . .

## Why Jerry Hates Christmas

It might be hard to believe that anyone would really hate Christmas. Of course, we all know people that complain about the expense. People spend what they can't afford, buying things for people who don't need them. The biggest shopping frenzy is on the day after we celebrate how thankful we are. But Christmas shopping is as obligatory as a tax, and some banks offer 12-month payment plans on Christmas

shopping so you can get it paid just in time to borrow again. Some shoppers, with tired feet and imaginations strained with trying to guess what someone might be happy to unwrap, are relieved to simply hand over cash to various young relatives who are quick to affirm that they can do their own shopping better than anyone else.

We might think that maybe a person who hates Christmas has lost a close family member, and that the season reminds him of his bereavement. Still, it seems that there would be comforting aspects also. Or maybe this anti-Christmas person is simply anti-Christian. Maybe he hates church and religion and anything that reminds him of God.

But Jerry is a Christian. He was raised in a family of alcoholics, lived in deep sin, and was on the verge of divorce when God saved him. Jerry was driving a semi when he felt the presence of God in the truck, and from his heart said, "God, forgive me." He was so overwhelmed with the experience of grace that it was 45 minutes later that he realized that he had not been steering the truck, and had even moved from behind the wheel, and the truck was still going down the highway. Since then, Jerry has served as a Sunday school teacher, board member, and church bus driver, and witnesses to everyone he meets.

But Jerry hates Christmas. He doesn't buy gifts, and what is more astonishing, he doesn't like to receive any. It would be true to say that Jerry hates Christmas because he is a Christian, loves God, and honors Christ. That doesn't mean every Christian should feel the same way, but it really is the reason for Jerry's feeling. He thinks there is little that is Christ-honoring about Christmas. I told him he should try to honor Christ in Christmas in spite of all the misguided customs of celebration, but he was skeptical that it could be done. After all, imagine trying to renew the formerly Christian holiday of "Holy Evening," or "Hallowed Evening," saying "Halloween has nothing to do with goblins, witches, and spiders; it is the time when we honor great Christians of the past. We are going to put the holy back into Halloween, remember the reason for the season, and celebrate it right." We would be skeptical that it could be done.

So what can we do with Christmas? There is a lot of good in it. The urge to spend and give is good, and the effort of trying to discern what would make others happy is at least an exercise in unselfishness.

Maybe we could redeem Christmas through its most emphasized aspect. We could point out that the original great Christmas Gift, which all gifts commemorate, was given for those in desperate need of it. We could suggest that the gifts that best re-enact that gift are those given to meet real needs. That would be progress toward honoring Christ in Christmas.

*Dr. Steve Gibson is the Director of Holiness Pilgrim Mission, is married to Stephanie, and they have 6 wonderful children. Have a comment about this article? Email Dr. Steve Gibson directly at Stephen Gibson at [keystoneui@att.net](mailto:keystoneui@att.net)*



## A Woman's Perspective . . .

By Stephanie Burley

### A Christmas Reality

The season is in full swing. Lights are twinkling, holiday tunes are filling the air waves, and department store advertisements are fighting each other for space in my mailbox. As I look through the thirty-one days of December in my calendar, I realize the hours are quickly filling with legitimate obligations. Taking a moment to do the math, I conclude that this is not only going to be a busy month, it will also be a pretty expensive one. Then I begin the list of my self-imposed expectations: I will actually bake for the annual women's meeting cookie exchange, as opposed to buying cookies and arranging them on a tray (who really believed I created those little masterpieces anyway?). I will not drop my Christmas cards in the church exchange box seconds before distribution begins (or sheepishly and apologetically take them to the distribution room just as the assembly line has finished sorting and stacking). I will have every gift wrapped and under the tree no later than five days before Christmas Eve (I may or may not be the mom who, right in the middle of gift-giving, remembers that one of the kiddo's gifts is still buried in the hall closet – in the shopping bag). This is the year I will make Christmas magic for my family, my friends, and my ministry. This is the year.

As I continue my mental wish list, my thoughts are interrupted with the sounds of Nat King Cole's "Silver Bells" and I'm transported into a world of holiday perfection. Oh, if only I could stay for awhile! Suddenly, my trip is cut short by a little voice that says, "Mommy, I need you now!" Reality replaces the Christmas fantasy and I quickly tend to the needs at hand, still hoping and praying that this will be the year I can finally make it all happen.

Then, all at once, I'm overwhelmed by the realization that over 2,000 years ago, the most miraculous and perfect Christmas DID happen! It really had nothing to do with home baked cookies, designer cards, or Nat King Cole. The Saviour of the world was born! He came in human flesh to set the stage for the redemption of the human race. The circumstances were dire. This was no Norman Rockwell rendering. Jesus' birth was humble and lowly. His mother was young, innocent and scared, but she was chosen for that time to fulfill an important role in this unfolding storyline that would forever change the course of history. She is widely respected and remembered today for her virtue and her complete abandonment to God's will for her life.

When I examine the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, I am inclined to adjust my priorities. God has given me an important role, as well. I need to be a reflector of the Light this season. My family, my friends, and my ministry need to see the message of Christmas lived through my humility and self-sacrifice. If I create the perfect Christmas, no doubt I will miss the opportunities that come from imperfection. I will walk away empty, not because I have poured myself out for others, but because I have attempted to satisfy myself with temporal festivities, rather than being filled by the One whose birth we celebrate.

If previous Christmases have left you feeling unfulfilled, join me in making this year one of awe and worship. Relax and rejoice in the miracle of Christmas!

**Stephanie** is married to Greg Burley, and they have 4 wonderful children. She is a teacher, and very active in her local church. They make their home in Lima, Ohio. Stephanie is a regular contributor to *Pilgrim News & Notes*.





## *Being Jesus . . . At Christmas.*

*Cheryl Watters lives in Cincinnati, Ohio where she serves as Executive Assistant to the President of God's Bible School & College.*

**By Cheryl Watters**

Many people are alone and don't have someone to spend the holidays with this year. They may be sitting at home longing for a phone call, a knock at their door, or perhaps a Christmas card in their mailbox.

When asked to write this article I thought to myself, "It's been 13 years for me since my husband died but the raw feelings are still so close to the surface. I am not sure I can do this article justice. Those are wounds that are so deep and I don't really want to rip those scabs off again. It hurts!" God assured me that He would help me write it, and that perhaps something I could say by my own experience may be what someone else needs to hear.

It was May of 2001 when Steve went to Heaven after being diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer just 23 days before his death. We had three children to continue raising. How could this be happening! At 42, I just couldn't fathom 'doing life' alone. I begged God to heal my husband and allow him to remain with us. After all, we were going to grow old together. He could retire early due to the number of years in his shop and we loved to travel. We needed each other. God, in His infinite plan, did not see fit to answer my prayer in the way that I had envisioned, but chose to heal Steve by taking him to Heaven.

I remember someone telling me that people would surround me with their acts of kindness, phone calls, visits and conversations but that this would eventually cease to be the case in the future. I couldn't fathom it. I thought, "Have I been guilty of that in my past? Will people really shun away from me or be afraid to talk to me? I have not changed! I am still 'me' so why would this be the case? Surely my case will be an exception." Sadly, this did happen to me. This is not a pity party but just stating facts.

It was difficult for people to accept the fact that Steve was not there when they came to visit, so they didn't come over. It was/is hard for people to talk to me about Steve because they are afraid it will hurt me. I want to scream, "Talk to me! This is my soul-mate! The father of my children! I loved him with all of my heart! Talk to me!" It's almost impossible to get across to people that you truly do want to talk about your spouse, parent, sibling or child that has gone on before you. A hurting spouse, parent or sibling wants to hear you reminisce of all of the good times you had together. They love to see the sparkle in your eye as you say how much your loved one meant to them too.

I remember the Christmas after Steve died (in May), telling my friend, Sue Arnold, "Oh, I don't think I will put a tree up this year. It will be too hard to see the tree up because that was Steve's favorite pastime – to just sit by the lit tree in the evenings and relax." She said, "Cheryl, your children need the tree up. You always put a tree up. You are going to put a tree up." I said, "Sue, I can't! I can't make myself do that. Besides, who will even come to see it? Steve's not here!" She said, "I will be over next week and we are putting your tree up." If you know Sue, she was determined and showed up at my house and we went into the sunroom, where I always put my tree. I felt like my heart would break in two that night. I could hardly stand the pain associated with this event. I remember working a while, then stopping and sitting in the two rocking chairs, which were side-by-side at the time because of all of the boxes in the room, and just reminiscing. We talked of the good times. She let me cry. She cried with me. We talked of the good memories of Steve, and how he would have wanted me to put up the Christmas tree, and to make the best of my difficult situation. Was that

wise of her to do this to/for me? **Yes, a resounding yes!** She cared enough to step out of her comfort zone and help me work through my sorrow and pain.

Down through the years, there have been instances when I have felt like I couldn't go to an event, whether it was a holiday gathering or a wedding and thought, "I just want Steve to go with me. I can't do this alone!" I will admit, sometimes I have failed. I have sat at home, had a big pity party for myself, cried myself to sleep and felt rotten. Then there are times when I have picked myself up by my bootstraps and said, "Cheryl, get it together. Steve is not coming back. You know he is not coming back, so just go and enjoy yourself." Recently, I went to a wedding and when the usher asked me if I had anyone with me, I nearly burst into tears as I said, "No, I am alone!" I ended up sitting behind my pastor and his wife and my pastor's wife, Jody Johnson, asked me to sit with them at the reception. That's compassion. When you are the third person in a party, you literally feel so out of place but when someone links arms with you and says, "Join us" it makes the event seem so much more enjoyable.

During the holidays I find that I love to go to the mall, as that is something that our family has done since we were married. It is a family tradition to go to the mall the Saturday before Christmas and just walk! Watching the people scurrying around frantically. Yesterday, I drove 12 miles to go to the mall, got there, drove into the parking lot, trying to find a parking spot, and had such an overwhelming feeling of loss that I turned the car around and drove back home. I couldn't make myself go in. Some days are harder than others. However, if I have someone to go with me, it makes the trip so much more enjoyable.

I have started a singles group in Cincinnati and these ladies are becoming very close to me. We call each other and say, "Hey, want to meet for breakfast on Saturday? Want to go to a thrift store with me? I am planning an event for work, would you care to help me?" This type of interaction helps all of us. Some of us are widowed, some have never married and some are divorced. We all face the same struggles! I heard one of the ladies tell me the other day, "I don't really have any Christmas presents to buy this year." That is sad. I hope she has somewhere to go for Christmas this year. I hope someone cares enough to say, "Would you like to join our family gathering this year?" Many times I think our worlds revolve around our little family and then when one of us are called to Heaven, we are all lost. We don't know how to function. I think this is especially true if the family is young or there are young children at home.

It is wise to start new traditions when someone dies. It's painful to do the same things without them. After Steve died, we changed the way we 'did' Christmas morning. We sometimes opened the gifts earlier or later than usual. When grandchildren started coming along, I found it easier to concentrate on the positives of having new life. I have always felt that my grandchildren were handpicked by Steve. I certainly have no proof that he even knows, but it just helps to ease my pain while going through this stage in my life.

Holidays are extremely difficult for people who have lost loved ones. If I could give advice to anyone right now, it would be to talk to people about their loss, show that you care, mention the name of their loved one and let them know that you loved that person, and you miss them too. Hugs are always helpful. People are so afraid to be genuine and transparent when dealing with the loss of a loved one and I know I always try to act like I have it together. I don't! I remember going to a store and walking down an aisle and someone sprayed Jovan cologne. I was just walking aimlessly, heading toward the front of the store. As soon as I smelled that cologne I burst into tears. The person probably wondered what was wrong with me. I remember another time while at a store and the clerk said something, and I burst into tears and said, "I am sorry. I thought I was ready to come out in public but obviously, I am not." It's hard after someone dies to go on with life as usual, but it is so much easier when shared with a friend. During this holiday season, make sure all of your friends and family are with someone they love. Don't let anyone spend the holidays alone. Be a friend. You may need them someday.

# Highlighting the Laity

*In this feature, we desire to bring special attention to individuals that, even though you might never see them on the platform of Pilgrim Camp, or their names on a marquee, they are equally valuable to the ongoing work of the local church.*

**Kerry Rotroff** was born in Lima, Ohio. During her childhood, due to her dad's employment, her family lived in Wapakoneta, Lima and Delta, Ohio. During those years she attended the Church of the Nazarene. She testifies that while in her late teens she found herself miserably unhappy and without purpose in life. At the age of 19, living in an apartment in Archbold, Ohio, she got on her knees and surrendered her life to the Lord. She was attending Union Bible School, studying child evangelism, when her grandmother had a stroke. Knowing her grandmother needed care, she left college and moved to Wapakoneta to be her grandmother's primary caregiver. She inquired about a good holiness church to attend and was encouraged to try the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Lima. She began attending in 1984, and has always worked very hard to bring others to church with her. After her grandmother passed away, Kerry continued to work as a personal caregiver in the nursing home and private duty sector.

She continues to invite others, children, youth and adults, and has had hundreds of contacts, bringing many under the sound of the Gospel. For years, though it is not her preference, she has driven a minivan so she would have room to bring people with her. She rarely comes to church alone. If she does, she's disappointed because those she has invited, didn't come. For several months she has been using the church's 15 passenger van because she had more than could fit in her van without making several trips.

She always becomes involved in the lives of those on whom she calls. It may be taking in some food, helping occasionally with a financial need, or just giving a listening ear. In one instance, the youngest daughter of a family came with her, then the older daughter and mother, and finally the father. The parents got saved and for a time the father served as secretary of the local board.

She always looks for ways to help the church, visiting shut-ins, those in the hospital, and helping with food for any occasion. Kerry is such a blessing to the pastor's family. She is always the first one to call and offer food to help entertain the evangelist, or to offer space to keep a college choir member overnight. She sends notes of encouragement to the pastor and his wife, letting them know they are in her prayers. She brings the kids to the front seat and they are always well-behaved.



This picture, taken on a Wednesday night, is of the group of 14 she brought, ranging in age from 4-14. Kerry plans her work schedule to allow attendance in revival, and also camp meeting. She is always looking for ways to be a blessing. She is always there to help when there is a need. She is known by our community as a caring, thoughtful, Christian lady. We thank God for Kerry Rotroff! - **Pastor Don Nichols**



*Nearly 2000 years ago, a Babe was born, we know 'twas so,  
Judean hills glowed with light, when Jesus came to earth that night.*

*The Gospels tell us of His birth, He "left it all" to come to earth  
This Gift the Father gave to man, to bring about "Salvation's Plan"!*

*'Twas love that caused our Lord to come, He loves us each and ev'ry one  
He asks that we, obey His voice, give Him our heart, make Him our choice.*

*Eternal life to us He's given, that we might dwell with Him in Heaven  
Where peace shall reign in ev'ry heart, no fight, no war, will ever start.*

*God is so good to you and me! He's given eyes that we might see  
All around His mighty power, His touch on every leaf and flower.*

*The green leaves now have turned to gold, and crimson maples lose their hold  
Drifting to the ground below, to soon be covered by the snow.*

*He is so faithful every day, He marks the path, He leads the way  
His precious Word, it standeth sure, His love and mercy will endure.*

*While war clouds cover o'er the earth, It seems there is no "Peace on Earth."  
As our thoughts turn to Bethlehem, Pray for peace, in Jerusalem.*

*His word tells us what we are to do, Keep the faith, to Him be true  
"Worship Him" every Nation!! The "Reason of this Celebration."*

*He came the first time, don't forget! Each Promise He has made, He's kept!  
Only the Father, on His throne, knows when the trumpet, will be blown.*

*So give to friends, both far and near, and to our loved-ones we hold dear  
Remember Him! (Who "giving" taught), Our Christ, the One, the Wise-Men sought,  
"Our love" to you we now do send, a kinship that will never end  
"Unbroken Family" may we be . . . "TOGETHER" for Eternity.*

**Shirley Gray - Christmas 2000**

# Give to the Campground Fund! EVERY DOLLAR WILL BE MATCHED!

DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS! DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS! DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS!



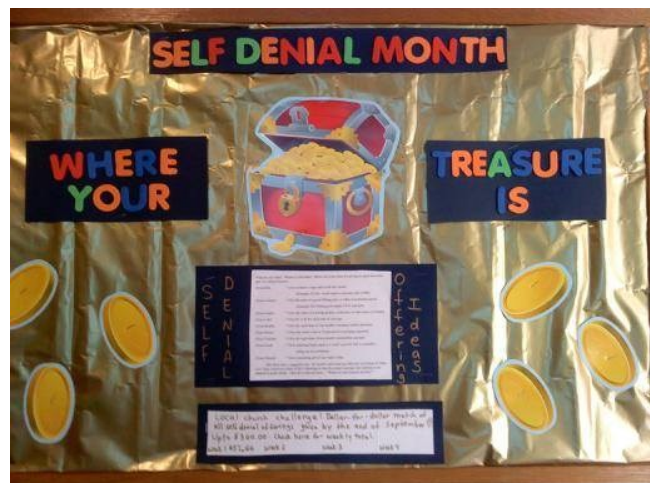
Thanks to the wonderful generosity of an anonymous donor, EVERY DOLLAR that you give (up to \$55,000.00 until December 31st, 2014) will be matched! This is a wonderful opportunity to help make it happen!! At this point, around \$30,000.00 has been given toward the Matching Gift challenge!

Here are a few ways that you can get involved in the “DOLLAR for DOLLAR” program:

- **Get the YOUTH involved!** It’s THEIR Camp! We’re doing it for THEM. Make sure they know that.
- **Involve the Sunday School!** You might be surprised at how competition motivates kids!
- **Have a Fund Raiser!** Get creative and find a unique way to generate an interest in giving!
- **Special Offerings!** It might be a good idea to lift a special offering per month and promote it heavily!
- **SET A GOAL!** Set a goal of how much your church would like to give and work toward it!

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*The photos below were sent in by the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Bicknell, IN*

*Having just come through SELF-DENIAL Month, the Bicknell, IN Pilgrim Holiness Church reports wonderful success in their efforts to give toward our Annual Self-Denial campaign for Pilgrim Missions! Thank You, Bicknell Pilgrims for your sacrifice for Pilgrim Missions!!*





# About Pilgrim News & Notes

*Pilgrim News & Notes* is the official publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church, and is published bi-monthly.

The main goal of *Pilgrim News & Notes* is to be an encouragement to our readers, as well as a source of information to those connected with, or interested in our Conference.

All submissions are welcome, however, we reserve the right to edit as necessary, to fit design and space needs. Not all submissions will be published.

Please email all submissions to the editor via the contact info below:

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**Conference President**, Rev. James A. Southerland, Sr.

**Conference Vice President**, Rev. Don Nichols

**Conference Secretary**, Rev. Mark Arnett

**Conference Treasurer**, Rev. Bryan Line

**Conference Mission's Representative**, Dr. Craig Dahler

**Conference Youth Director**, Rev. John Zeigler

*"Trying to do the Lord's work in your very own strength is the most exhausting and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Spirit, the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you." - Corrie ten Boom*

*"Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength - carrying two days at once! It is moving into tomorrow **ahead of time!** Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength." - Corrie ten Boom*