

Penntown church honored

INDIANAPOLIS — Members of the Indiana House of Representatives have adopted a resolution authored by State Rep. Edward Goble (D-Batesville) recognizing the 150th anniversary of St. John's United Church of Christ, Penntown.

"This year, the parishioners at St. John's are observing the church's sesquicentennial celebration," Goble said.

"It certainly is an appropriate time to recognize the church's influence as a spiritual and social center of the community as a whole, and I am delighted to see the Indiana House of Representatives take time out to observe the impact that this church has had through the years," he continued.

Copies of the resolution were sent to St. John's Pastor Juan

ita Connerley.

According to Connerley, the church was established in 1840-41 in Penntown as the Evangelical-Protestant German St. John's Church.

Connerley also said the church and its members are planning a number of special programs for residents of Penntown and surrounding communities in celebration of the special 150th anniversary. These programs will include a German history program in August, a chicken dinner on Sept. 8, and a Sept. 29 dinner program featuring members of the church dressed in costumes of the 1840s.

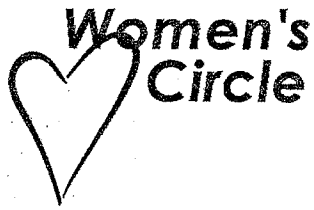
Persons interested in attending these programs may contact Pastor Connerley at (812) 623-3410 for more information.

Goble resolution notes Penntown church

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St. John's pastor, Rev. Juanita Connerley said the church was established in 1840-41 as the Evangelical-Protestant German St. John's Church. She said the church and its members are planning a number of special programs for residents of Penntown and surrounding communities.

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HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

"YOUNG" WOMEN'S CIRCLE

The Ladies of the Women's Circle celebrated our fellowship, friendship, and service over the past 25 years. Prayer followed by soup, salad and White Rose Inn Brownies started our evening in a warmly decorated Parish Hall. We were thankful for Amanda Richter, Kristen & Rebecca Weber for helping us in the kitchen with serving and clean-up.. We discussed our favorite memories of Women Circle. For Tommy and Edna it was their chivalrees. Maria loved the Progressive Dinners and boating. Karen enjoyed Metamora with the Christmas gathering at the Case House and camping years ago at Camp LaDeGra. Connie has loved the numerous conversations and the understanding of lifelong friends. Judy's email was shared and forwarded about her new job and move to Lafayette. Judy's favorite memory was the "hayride break down!" Part of our fall decoration was given to Pastor Connerly-Wallpe for being farsighted enough to start the group.

We moved to the newly remodeled Youth Room. What a good location to continue the sharing of memories with a game of Charades. We enjoyed a member-read devotion about "What I have Learned." A toast was given for our friend, Jan Wiedeman. Picture collages were started to mark our anniversary. It was interesting to see our various "hairstyles" over the years and try to figure out who was who. We raise our glass to another 25 years! Forever Young!



Women's Circle (formerly Young Women's Circle)

- Written in 1991 for the 150th anniversary, by Dee (Diane) Hutson, 1991 president of YWC.

In nineteen hundred and eighty-three
The Young Women's Circle came to be.
Six members were present, we started with a boom,
Smack in the middle of Connerley's living room.

We were so poor, we had ten-dollar dues
All happily paid, for they knew they could not lose.
Mission to others and revitalizing ourselves
These being the goals, we set out to be elves.

We adopted Tillie, then Geneva came later
We sponsored the Jewish Supper of Seder.

The once-annual Garden of Eatin'
became quite an ordeal, but we weren't easily beaten.
For Cheryl can make hard-boiled eggs like no other
And Edna's turkey salad made 'em line up, one after another.

Our infamous (or is it famous?) roles are that of the clowns.
Oh girls, should I paint on a smile or a frown.

The nursery was formed in 1983,
Our most busy moms were eager for this to be.
They still line up far and near,
To care for our many charming little dears.

To keep things interesting, we often take a mystery trip
We fondly recall the waitress who came after us for her tip!

We decorated the Parish Hall bathrooms side-by-side,
And laughed hilariously the night we viewed Dan's China slides.

Our Secret Pal exchange has lifted many hearts
With gifts of tea and magnets, flowers and sometimes darts.
Does Chris have Sandra, or does she have Jenny?
If I find out, I'll let you know for a penny.

Our retreat in the woods was good for us all,
We grew closer, we laughed, we talked, we had a ball.

The cookbooks, oh the cookbooks, we all worked tooth and nail,
I cannot end this poem without telling you they're still for sale!

Most recently, environmental issues have been our focus,
Re-use and recycle—it's not just hocus-pocus.
If there's anything in your trash you think you wouldn't miss
I'm sure we can recycle it—just check Diana's list!

The Young Women's Circle—a growing group of friends,
God help us help each other and His world—The End.

Ode to Pastor Connerley

Thirteen years have come and gone
Lucky thirteen, you see
That we've been blessed with your presence
Here at St. John's and St. Jacob's U.C.C.

Oh to think what we have learned
Since you've been here among us
How we've grown, how we thrived
But there's some things we need to discuss.

Shall we start with your sermons
Now we think they're just fine
But if you ask Jim
Well – he'll adjust your lines.

You see when we think you're being quite serious
A chuckle will emit from that red-headed guy
And when we think maybe you're a little bit funny
All we hear from him is a sigh!

Your athletic prowess is something of fame
Your bridge playing skills are notorious
Have you noticed when you bowl with your eyeglasses on
The sport doesn't seem so laborious.

But what would we expect from someone like you
Of all things a fan of Purdue
Perhaps if you studied Bobby Knight and the boys
Your skills might impress a fan of I.U.

A fine photographer we thought that you were
You look like a natural behind the lens
Had you remembered to load the film in the camera
How much better the pictures would have been!
Which brings up your memory –

A topic of great interest
Apparently you admit that it's just not the best
For you see it's been rumored
You now fear a little rain
Losing 27 umbrellas in thirteen years
Might place you in Guinness' Hall of Fame.

Of course at work in the office
You simply allow no waste
Excuse me, you say to the secretary
Are you ready to cut and paste?

A fine citizen you are, a fine Christian too
We all think the world of you
But scalping the Reds' tickets just isn't done
Do we know that lady, Rev. who??

But seriously now, a fine Christian you are
Taking care of us all, one way or another
Your visits, your prayers, your care of the needy
Your agape love – for sister and brother...

I suppose I should close soon
There's so many things we all need to be doing
And somewhere next door at the parsonage I know
A large pot of coffee is brewing.

So farewell Tommie, farewell Jim!
God bless and God keep you forever!
May He grant you peace, perfect peace
And Courage in every endeavor.

Ladies Aid Society 1901-2016

1901 was the start of something great, really great! Not only was it the start of the 20th century, it was the start of a group called the "Ladies Aid Society", formed with the leadership of Rev Merkle. The next 115 years would be more than great due to the dedication, the love, the time that was given by so many wonderful women who were devoted to selfless service for their church.

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going" ...and that's just what happened with Ladies Aid Society. Starting with a small group of women, over the 115 years a total of 207 have participated in selfless service.

The ladies met monthly to discuss business, to share devotional time, and of course, sharing a special dish as they ate lunch together. And these ladies knew how to conduct business (meaning, raising lots of money for the needs of the church and the community)....here are just a few of the huge accomplishments by these incredible women:

---From 1902 to 1912, the ladies held oyster soup suppers, socials, other sales = raising \$981.12. Today, that's \$23,869.26.

Highlights of what the ladies did with monies raised in the early years ranged from papering the walls of the parsonage, to putting on home-coming events for soldiers of WW1, helping European orphans and widows, purchased lawnmower for church, and paying for organist, and other various needs of the church. Never doubt what a small group of people can do when performing service for God.

In 1929, the ladies purchased a new church roof for \$622.75 - today, that would cost \$8771! These ladies were incredible!

The list continues each and every year, raising money, performing selfless service, making a huge different in the lives of so many people, locally and across the world.

I'm sure many of you remember and/or still participate in many of the following:

- Selling box cards
- Serving lunch at auctions, serving lunch after funerals for family members - and the

word serve isn't a full description, it's cooking the food with love, from casseroles, to salads, to incredible desserts and then cleaning the hall, and serving the food. And cleaning up.

- Visiting shut ins at home and nursing facilities
- Assembling and creating crismons for the Christmas tree
- Silent auctions with baked good items, handmade crafts
- Blessing box monies for missions

Fellowship within the church and outside the church was huge as well, with hosting events with other ladies groups from other church, ascension day services shared with 5 other UCC churches, hosting Mother/Daughter banquets and always celebrating 50 year members' service with a pin that has the date of joining the group. What a true honor that is!

Celebrating and enjoying trips together has been a lot of fun over the years - attending the Paul Dixon show in Cincinnati, to traveling to West Baden to many other locations, many times surprise location trips added to the fun. And of course, eating lunch somewhere new was always the second highlight of the trips, the first highlight of course spending wonderful time together in fellowship and friendship.

What an honor and priveledge that was given to each and every soul that received service and blessings from each of these 207 ladies since 1901!

We are all deeply grateful and truly blessed.