

1<sup>st</sup> Year, No. 9

Four Unforgettable Christmases

-By Senior Writer Brenda Dwyer

It was 1970 and I was 12 years old. I had never been allowed to wear make-up even though probably drove my mother half crazy begging her.

There were many things my eyes grew huge over; secretly desired toys and stylish clothes and yet our family, at that time, was living on what my parents often referred to as a "very tight budget". When asked what I wanted for Christmas, I honestly don't remember what my reply was. What I do remember is that I definitely didn't ask

for what I received.

I suppose mom was trying to appease me since she wouldn't budge on the makeup issue. Christmas morning was highly anticipated and as we ran down the hallway to the living room where the tree was adorned in all of its holiday refinement, I noticed that there weren't as many gifts under it as there were the year before. They were also smaller in size. We would soon realize, however, that inside of each one was a very thoughtful little something that we would treasure for years to come ... or at least into

the New Year.

My mother always could wrap a gift so beautifully that you hated opening it. As I was handed my boxes I remember taking my time with the task at hand as I was trying so hard to make these once - a - y e a r magical moments last. I can't

even tell you what all I got that year because when I opened "the box" nothing else mattered. With the simple opening of a box flap I felt I had crossed over to womanhood. There inside this beautiful little box was a gorgeous flowered garter belt wrapped in delicate tissue paper. Okay ... for those of you not familiar with a garter belt ... it was a silly little contraption that held up your hose. (I'm not even sure if pantyhose had been invented yet.) You see, I had not been allowed to wear makeup or hosiery. This was my mother's gentle way of welcoming me into womanhood. As I held that delicate piece of soft stretchy fabric in my hands a warm bliss seemed to flood my insides ... well, until my brothers started asking me what it was and my parents insisted that I hold it up and show everyone. I was embarrassed beyond belief!!! It was worth it though ... I was finally a woman. (To this day the memory of that thought makes me laugh).

That Christmas has stayed in my mind for so many reasons; my mom and dad (once again) trying to make me feel special, my brothers' incessant teasing and



husband that was more absent from the home than present. I had no tree, no food in my cabinets and just a tiny bit of milk in my refrigerator, no car, no phone, no gifts for my babies... nothing. I was so happy though. It is hard to explain. I had my babies and our home was full of love and I was just naïve enough to believe that everything would be okay somehow. Truthfully though I wasn't near as naïve as I was SURE. My faith was like a child's then... no reasoning... just pure faith.

There was an excited knock at the door; it was almost 9PM on Christmas Eve. I wasn't expecting anyone but when I answered the door there stood two beaming people; a man and a woman. He was bearing a small live Christmas tree (& a stand), she held a box containing five little wrapped presents and two sacks full of food. Where did they come from? They swept in ... menput a few ornaments on it and a strand of lights all the while chattering away about the cold and the beautiful snow and the lights that decorated the homes up and down the street ... they placed the gifts underneath the tree and wished me a very merry Christmas and happy new year all without any mention of where they were from or who had sent them. I was struck speechless while they went about their tasks but I remember gushing "thank you ... oh, God bless you, thank you so much ..." They left with the same kind of grand flourish that they had entered with. I had never laid eyes on them before that day or since. My heart tells me that was one of my BEST Christmases ever and I cherish it. I remember distinctly the feelings of awe, surprise and shock. I remember crying long into the night after putting the babies to bed. I was full of thankfulness and humbled by their unexpected kindness. Talk about your Christmas miracle!



my feeling that in one moment I had been gifted with maturity.

It was 1980 and bitter

cold in Illinois' capital

city. The snow was at least 3 feet deep outside ... drifted and brilliant on the tops of roofs, trees, cars and trash cans; everything sparkled like diamonds. It was breathtaking. Inside home was our warm with love that was shared with my 2 year old daughter and my 3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> week old son. I had a

tioned that they had something for me and then proceeded to set up the tree,

#### Story continued on page 4

Merchants Supporting Our Community: Look inside for their valuable coupons and Ads.

- A Good Neighbor Heating & Cooling
- Alpha Building Center, Inc.
- Jerry's Standard Service
- Keeping Tabs Tax and Accounting
- Middlebury Hills Restaurant
- R & S Carpet Cleaning
- Rulli's Italian American Restaurant & Catering
- Varns & Hoover Hardware Store

# Inside The Tea Room

-By Brenda Dwyer



Welcome to the print version of my online Tea Room. This month you will be reading a page from The Tea Room titled "I Do". It is a dedication to my husband. As we go to print our 3rd anniversary will have just passed. To read more go to www.agoodneighboronline. com and click on The Tea Room! I would love for you to submit your own love stories ... you may email them to me at brenda@agoodneighboronl ine.com or you may "snail" mail them to me ... I will be sure to post them online!

Whispers of love ...

I knew as I was crossing the foyer floor that I would be opening the door to my future husband. I can only say what I felt in that moment ... I felt that the man on the other side of the door was the man God had for me ... to walk with me into my future. The inexplicable thing about this though, is I had never met this man before.

Even now, looking back, I realize (as I do every single time I think about it) that it was by far the one moment in my life that had the most absolute clarity. You can hardly breathe in this life without hearing about "soul mates". I'm not sure I ever believed in "soul mates" prior to meeting my husband. I do know that if you pray for someone to complete you, someone to share with and then wait on the Lord, you will KNOW when that person has walked into your life ... even if they've only come so far as the other side of the door. Once in-

vited in, we talked over cups of coffee and shared very intense conversation which normally would have made me uncomfortable considering how much personal information was exchanged, however there was a peace that surpasses understanding so VERY PREVALENT in the room that nothing mattered except truth ... for we were forming the foundation of what we would come to build the rest of our lives on together. There are so many circumstances here that make this meeting even more unlikely ... so much so that the odds of it happening are probably something like one in several trillion or zillion but I won't share those here because ultimately they don't matter in the telling of this particular love story. God knew what I needed even when I didn't have a clue. God sent a man to me that I adore and cherish. We married just short days after meeting ... without even really knowing anything more than that we just felt COMPLETE



when we were together. Our wedding was held in our home with our closest family attending. It was the most beautiful ceremony. There were gorgeous flower bouquets and a beautiful three-tiered cake, catered food (more than enough for all) and tears in everyone's eyes. It was magical, it was simple, it was memorable and I remember it as if it happened yesterday. Today, almost three short years later ... I am thankful. We have had our share of trials and tribulations but lately we have come to realize that no matter the storm ... we are each other's shelter, and God, well, God is the

protector of our love and by His grace our love just grows and grows.

"Babe ... if you ever read this ... know this ... I do ... every day of our life together ... I do. I will. Forever." -bd (Happy 3rd Anniversary Sweetheart!)





Are you ready to celebrate the Christmas holiday? It's such an exciting time of year. Let's start by making this Christmas tree look beautiful. Color and decorate it with glitter, paints or anything you choose!



# I just love analogies ... they give me ...

Life can sure throw some unexpected curves into your otherwise leisurely path. Just when you least expect it things can happen that can send you scrambling for a quick recovery. We are all aware of the

mountain of things that can cause us to change direction in a heartbeat. What is it that sustains us through those changes? Some of them are "in-the-moment" altering but some of them are surely life altering. How is it that some of those curves are barely noticeable while others (even those with what seems to be the same radius) can almost cause us to "crash" right in the middle of what

we were doing? The size of

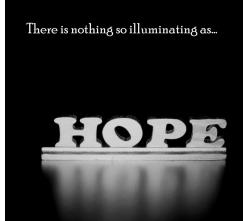
the curve doesn't seem to

"character" of the curve.

Just think, if you took

matter as much as the

every person reading this right now and added together all of the scenarios that are playing out in their heads you would be amazed at all of the different circumstances that can fit here. Some people



would think of tragic things, others would first think of stressful things while still others would only think of positive things like getting married or moving into a new house or that precious baby that is due any day. Regardless of what the circumstance may be ONE THING and ONE THING ONLY ties them all together and sees us through to the "end" in every single example ... HOPE. May your New Year be filled with inspiration and may HOPE see you along your way!

# The Corner Office:

A word from Bob Dwyer, Jr.

I feel excited like a little boy who is about to start a new adventure. Why do I feel so good you ask? Because I love my job. After all these years I still love my job. It's great to help people. It's great to solve problems ... but today is very special. Before I go any further "today is very

special" reminded me that tomorrow is really special too, Happy anniversary honey! I love you! Now back to my job; today is special because we launched a new program that can improve the local economy. We can increase business for merchants and save shoppers money at the

same time! This is a great 'win-win' situation. How would you feel if every time you went shopping you got a special discount or gift? That's right just for shopping close to home you got rewarded.

How do you think the merchant will feel knowing you traded at his store because you chose to support area businesses instead of taking your dollars elsewhere? We would all feel good helping each other.

Many area merchants have joined A Good Neighbor in forming a sav-

ings club. Starting in January we will print a list each month of merchants offering special savings to club members. When you make a purchase from a club merchant you will get a special discount/offer. The discounts/offers vary from store to store. Each time you go shopping you should feel like a kid waiting for a surprise. This is going to be so much fun! I'm not supposed to tell anyone yet but members will have all kinds of chances to win prizes and well ... I better not say too

much about that. We ran a press release in this paper with some of the merchants listed so you can get an idea of the great merchants & variety involved in this club. When you're done reading this article look for the full page press release inside. If you're a merchant wanting more information or a consumer wanting to join the club please call me or stop in the office for all the details. Together we can make a difference. It's time to start saving, helping each other and having fun!



Blossom is gone and we are all saddened beyond belief. Brenda gave her away to some people who came in response to an ad. It's just not the same around here without her and we are all hoping she is happy. Brenda seems sadder too. When she plays with us it is almost as if she is trying to console us because of our loss when it is actually an equal exchange of consolation. (sigh) This too shall pass. I have taught the boys all about Christmas, well, as much as I know anyway. We were all peering into the house as Brenda decorated the tree and those babies were in awe! They tried every which way they could to get into the house the rest of the day because they wanted to play with all of those shiny ornaments and tinsel! Ha ha ... they will learn. Brenda is becoming especially fond of one of the boys. I keep wondering if he will end up in the house. I have heard it said that she was observed talking to Bob about it. (You never know where you might find Minx eavesdropping!) This time of year is especially festive around here. The lights are being strung across the porch soon ... it is the icing on the cake. Once those lights go up every year we all just stand back and ooh and ah over it all. Ooo .... Breaking news! Brenda just told the boys that if she had her way she and Bob would build us all a heated little kitty condo to while away the winter in! Can you imagine how wonderful that would be??? She would put little kitty beds in it. How sweet! She said she would like to build a heated hen house too! Now those ol' roosters would really have something to crow about!!! (Okay ... they're not old roosters ... they are young.) Are you surprised that I used the plural tense of rooster? That's because as the chicks have grown up we find we now have three roosters instead of one. Most folks might think that spells trouble but not here ... we all get along here; dogs, cats, chickens, roosters and people. There's never any in-fighting. Well, I guess it's time to gather up the boys; Patches, Chin, Tag, Whiski & Stryper as well as Minx & Cleo and her two babies; Smoo and Gigi. Yes, it has been another wonderful day and I feel a story coming on. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!! Primirini Primiri Prim

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From The Pulpít

Imagine if you will ...



She was young and intent in her faith. She loved the Lord with all her heart. She was betrothed to a man named Joseph.

There had been many stories whispered of a young virgin who would one day bear the Son of God. As a little girl she had wished in her heart of hearts that it might be her. Now that she was slightly older and found herself looking forward to being married it seemed even less likely than before. It was well with her soul. She found such great joy in prophesy and the blending of the old with the new. One night before her marriage to Joseph, the Lord came to her and foretold of a son she would bear. She would still be a virgin ... this son would be of God. She would name him Jesus and he would be the world's salvation. Most young women might have panicked or even refused such a position but not Mary ... Mary accepted her Lord's will and knew in her heart that everything would work out even though in her mind she was not able to imagine it. Why, a young girl in her day and age could easily be put to death for a pregnancy outside of marriage. The angel also appeared to Joseph to reassure him ... and so this very young couple whose very strength was their childlike faith watched as, over the months, Mary's tummy grew bigger and bigger. Time seemed to fly ... occupying them with their obedience to God. They had to take a very long trip for the census and Mary was heavy with child. As she rode on the back of a donkey her contractions intensified but she was not frightened. An inner peace drove them on. They gave birth to the baby Jesus in a lowly manger in Bethlehem and as soon as they gazed upon him they were full of praise and wonder. Although we do not have every detail and the above is just one imagining ... we truly did receive the greatest gift from our Creator that night. And that night ... that night was just confirmation of how very blessed we all are in this life.

See you next month!

Jesus is the reason for the Season. Merry Christmas!

#### Attention: Local Clergymen/women:

Most local newspapers run a list of the churches in our area. That list is very helpful to people that are new to the community and seeking a church to become a part of as well as those that have lived here for a while but haven't yet found a church home. One thing these lists don't offer, though, is a feeling for what happens inside our various churches. **FROM THE PULPIT** is a monthly article featuring local clergymen/women who are willing to donate a bit of their time to write between 300-350 words either telling us about their faith, their work, their church or perhaps they will feel led to share a message that they have on their heart. Keep in mind that some of our readers don't have a church home, perhaps they're not even seeking one but this could be your opportunity to share an encouraging word with them. I am looking forward to seeing how this space is filled. We only have space to accommodate 12 preachers/pastors/ministers/priests per year so get your submissions in early! It won't cost your church a penny ... it will only cost you your time to write it and email it to us! Your submissions can be emailed to AGN eighbor News @aol.com.

# Four Unforgettable Christmases ... continued from page 1

#### Christmas Day 1994; Chicago was cold and

blustery. I got the phone call just after 11AM from Springfield, IL. My father had just passed away and they were waiting for the doctor to come in and pronounce him. At the tender age of 36, I said goodbye to a man I had admired, respected, loved deeply and looked up to my whole life. We had known since October that his lung cancer diagnosis would take him from us swiftly. We basically spent as much time as our hearts & lives would allow with him during that all-too-brief time. You wouldn't believe how blessings overflowed in our home during those last days of sharing with him. Our family had always been very "huggie-kissie" and this time with him drew us even closer. We were so close-knit that getting the most out of that time seemed especially intense and important. Even in his dying he was my hero for he did it with such finesse ... just as he did with everything else in life. It was a bittersweet Christmas to be sure but our faith sustained us and God was faithful to comfort us with his promises.

My father and I sang together for years and he had asked me to do two things for him ... #1. To cut his



hair for him prior to his passing so he would look handsome (his humor was intact to the end) and #2. To sing at his funeral (on tape). He knew I would have to pre-record it as there was no way I would be able to stand up there by his shell of a body and sing. I had worked for many hours over several days on the tape trying to get it "just right". After the phone call on Christmas morning I realized that the tape was still lacking dad's two favorite songs; Amazing Grace and Old Rugged Cross. By 2PM the tape was (trust me: miraculously) complete and I was headed home to comfort my mother and brothers. Dad had kept his final promise ... he would make it to Christmas Day for us. He had put up the fight of his life to accomplish just that. Immeasurable love: that was dad's gift to us our

entire lives with him. One week later on New Year's Day, 2007, as we laid him to rest we tearfully said goodbye with smiles on our faces for there was so much that was poignant and symbolic in the timing of his passing. It was as if he was sending us all off into a new season ... on an exciting and promising new path.

Christmas of 2006 found me newly married and moving into a new chapter of my life. I had been a widow and was preparing to move back to Illinois; my children are in the Joliet & Minooka area, my mother resides in Springfield. I met Bob just before Christmas and I inexplicably & suddenly felt deep in my soul that he was my future, my heart felt it too ... it was my mind that I was at war with. Needless

to say, my heart & spirit won that struggle and here we are three years later and exceedingly happy. Looking back I realize that I have never questioned that time of my life because I have seen many, many times how God works in mysterious ways. I have learned firsthand that anytime is a miraculous time of year but something about Christmas just shines; it seems to make more people aware of those miracles!

Some things to ponder: The holidays seem to take on a life of their own that is set apart from the rest of the year. The commercialism that seems to pound us from every side can be quite stressful if we open ourselves up to that but I am here to tell you that the same things that can cause such dread can end up being unbelievably wonderful ... they can heal us and reveal us and lull us into all that is good and blessed and wonderful if we just open our hearts!

This time of year also places an expectation on people to give which brings out either the best in us or the worst in us and reveals our hearts in the process. Attitude has everything to do with our experience. *My invitation:* Let us therefore, this Christmas, choose to go forward and immerse ourselves in the *joy* of giving & realize the real reason for our celebration. Every single one of us has something to give ... heartfelt smiles are one of the very best gifts of all!

#### In summation:

All four of my most memorable Christmases were sweetly tucked in between other traditional Christmases that were magical, beautiful beyond belief and laced with laughter and great fellowship which never had anything to do with the amount of food on the table or gifts under the tree. My personal belief is that the gifts that come wrapped in spiritual wrapping are always the best gifts of all ... that is why the Christmases that seem the least likely to be treasured are instead almost always the most treasured of all!

From our hearts to yours ... May God bless you and yours with a very Merry Christmas and a wonderfully Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year!



**Christmas Pumpkin Roll** 

4



3 eggs
1 cup sugar
2/3 cup pumpkin
1 teaspoon lemon juice
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup chopped pecans

#### For the filling:

 cup powdered sugar
 sounce package of cream cheese, softened
 tablespoons margarine
 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 375 F. In a large bowl, mix together eggs, sugar, pumpkin, and lemon juice. In a separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, salt, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Add the flour mixture to the egg mixture and stir until well blended. Line a 10 1/2" by 15" cookie sheet with parchment paper, trimming excess. Pour the batter onto the cookie sheet, spread evenly. Sprinkle with pecans. Bake 12-15 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Prepare a linen towel heavily sprinkled with powdered sugar. After baking, turn the cookie sheet onto the towel, parchment paper side up. The cake should slide out onto the towel. Remove paper and roll up the cake into the towel. Cool 30-40 minutes.

For the filling, stir together the powdered sugar, cream cheese, margarine and vanilla. Mix well. After the roll has cooled, unroll it and spread the filling evenly. Re-roll and slice for serving.



# PRESS RELEASE

Area merchants are coming together in an effort to stimulate the local economy and bring special savings to homeowners through a new area savings club!

#### Just a sample of caring merchants that have joined together to make a difference

- Varns & Hoover Hardware
- JoJo's Pretzels
- Middlebury Hills Restaurant
- Kruse Farm Supply
- Crystal Valley Computers
- Jerry's Standard Service
- L & R Marine
- Rob's Barber Shop
- Chocolate Sensations
- J & J Lawn & Garden
- The Pool Pros
- The Cinnamon Stick

- Schrock Mobile Power Wash
- L.A. Enterprises
- R & S Carpet Cleaning
- Crystal Valley Furniture & Floor Covering
- Hochstetler Roofing
- Irongate Self Storage
- Grand Rental Station
- Classee Vinyl Window LLC
- Bill's Collision Service
- The Out Post RV
- Dale's Dependable Handyman Service

- Shipshe Rental Center
- Avail Portable Toilets
- Shipshewana Harness & *Supplies*
- Classic Jewelers
- Alpha Building Center
- Affairs to Remember **Bridal Shop**
- Healthy Pets
- Indiana Auto Connection
- Fox RV, Inc
- Cell Phones Plus

**Participating** Merchants

The above merchants are just a small sample of those participating, many more merchants will be listed soon.

### Middlebury, Bristol, Shipshewana, and the surrounding area:



Thousands of selected home owners will receive special savings, discounts or deals at participating merchants every time they shop. Just think; special discounts just for you at your *favorite* stores. Not just one time but every single time you go shopping!

#### How does this work?

Upon joining, you will be issued an ID card. Then when you go shopping, simply show the card to the participating Merchant and receive special discounts, gifts, unadvertised specials or private sales just for you. Each merchant will determine what

type of sale or discount they will have for you, How exciting it will be; a surprise every

time you shop! There's no telling what kind of deal you may receive; it could be 5% 10% 15% or more off, perhaps even a two-for-one or a free gift ... remember each merchant has their own discount; they can change the discounts and specials at any time. This is not only going to be fun ... it is going to save a lot of people a lot of money!

Why are Merchants doing this? Merchants are doing this to drive business into their stores and save local shoppers money. This is just one more way for these special merchants to show you

they care about you and your community. (By keeping our dollars near home we will strengthen our local economy).



#### How did this club get started?

The club was started by A Good Neighbor Heating to save their customers money on furnace and air conditioning maintenance agreements. Home owners should keep their home comfort systems clean and maintained for safety, energy savings and to keep warranties in place. Bob From A Good Neighbor wanted his customers to have something special, something different. He thought how great would it be if our customers could save money not only at our business but at businesses all over town. The A Good Neighbor Club was born.

#### How do I join the Club to get these discounts?

It's simple; just join the A Good Neighbor family by getting a maintenance agreement from A Good Neighbor Heating; call for all the details. If you already have an agreement from another heating company, that's ok. A Good Neighbor will give you a credit for any competitor's agreement. We will work out whatever it takes to get you saving today. It doesn't matter if your furnace is new or old or who you bought it from. You can still call any company you want to repair your furnace. If you need more information or if you don't completely understand call now for more information!

#### Ask for Bob Dwyer or Dennis Mast

Business owners don't miss this opportunity to become part of something special! Join the other club merchants today. Take just a moment to make a call that will make a huge difference for your future.

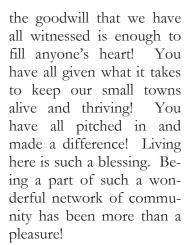
### Call now for all details! 574 825-1677

www.agoodneighboronline.com or visit the showroom at 55320 County Rd 8 Middlebury

# Our 2009 Year End Re-Cap:

Here we are at the end of another wonderful year and once again I am stunned by how quickly it flew by. It seems like when I was a little girl the days were long and leisurely. Children spent a lot of time outside in those days. We knew how to play! Our imaginations were filled to the brim with ways to have fun. Making mud pies, playing hopscotch, skipping rope, swinging, climbing on monkey bars, climbSo many great things happened for us this year. Our business grew in leaps and bounds and our imaginations got a good work out thinking up new ways to be the very best we can be at what we do.

We are so blessed to do things that we love to do! Our passion for our work drives us and challenges us in new ways all the time. What a joy it is to have good health and be able to participate fully in the tasks



Why, when we first thought about starting this little publication we had no idea of what was in store for us. Talk about a humbling experience ... your comments, well wishes, verbal support and advertising support have driven us to continue with our effort. My hope is that you continue to find little stories here that make you smile or touch you in a special way and that you (especially) find coupons and offers inside that will help ease your burden just a bit more. Having said that ... our special "thank you" to all of the advertisers that have reached out to you through our paper month after month. Thank you to Carl Eash of Varns & Hoover, Jerry of Jerry's Standard Service, Dutch Country Market and Sam & Stacy of Rulli's ... you have been with us from the beginning! Thank you to Keeping Tabs Accounting, Rob's Barber Shop, Wana Feed & Quality Optical for your continued commitment to the community in offering valuable discounts ... thank you to Sundae Best, R& S Carpet



Cleaning, Indian Prairie Farms, Karl's Superior Sound, Cell Phones Plus, Inc., thank you to Jack & Judy at Healthy Pets ... thank you to Loretta at Homestead Popcorn & Crafts (has the baby arrived yet???), thank you to Justrite Nail Spa, LA Enterprises, JoJo's Pretzels & The Cinnamon Stick (I just love those Yankee Candles!!!) ... thank you to The Music & Dance Academy for keeping us in shape and thank you to the Kitchen Cupboard & The Lighthouse Christian Bookstore! L & R Marine, Dutchman Hunting Supplies and Alpha Building Center

(please, oh please let me not have forgotten anyone) ... thank you to Ray at Dutchman Log Furniture ... you have filled my home and my heart with your beautiful craftsmanship!!! You are all masters at what you do and your continued support of our community is inspiring. All of us, working together, merchant as well as consumer have made a difference, a wonderful difference that has allowed us to maintain that warm, cozy look and feel of our treasured small towns. Merry Christmas Everyone & May You Have a Wonderful & Blessed New Year!





Current

#### **Reaching Out from Our Small Towns...**

The Rainbow Chapter of B.N.I. (the nation's largest business networking





ing trees, playing tag, playing foursquare, hide and seek, dress-up (in mom's clothes), sitting in a parked car and pretending to drive when I could barely see over the wheel ... and the list goes on and on. I can still be found playing hide and seek on occasion, as well as climbing on monkey bars, swinging, dancing in the rain (yes! I do!) and even making sure that every year if the snow cooperates I make a snowman, a snow angel and a good supply of snow balls (watch out)!

at hand.

We have met some wonderful people this year. People right here in Middlebury as well as Shipshewana and Bristol! Howdy Our small neighbors!!! towns have really stepped up to shine this year. There have been many times, many times I have found myself with tears running down my face hearing of families that were hit hard with the state of the economy only to have someone else step up and help to pick them up! The stories are endless and

group) has donated 200 meals to Elkhart's Faith Mission. It costs \$1.97 to feed each individual at the Faith Mission. This year, due to the down turn of the economy, Faith Mission has numerous families that are relying on them for food, shelter and hope. Our hats off to the Rainbow Chapter and to all who have felt it in their hearts to reach out to others this year! "May God bless us one and all!" – (quote taken from "It's a Wonderful

Life" with Jimmy Stewart)



Circulation: 11,200 Owners: Bob and Brenda Dwyer Senior Editor & Writer: Brenda Dwyer Graphic Designer: Laurie Eads 55320 CR 8 Middlebury, IN 46540 PH: 574-825-1677 FAX: 574-825-1368 Email: AGNeighborNews@aol.com or: AGNNewsEditor@aol.com It seems as if every newspaper you have ever opened has a section that invites their readers to participate on some level. We felt that a "Letters to the Editor" section would be a good place for us to start. We invite you, our readers, to either submit comments on current events and/or the paper itself, or ask questions on a topic of your choosing.

Please keep it light and uplifting whenever possible. We look forward to hearing from you. We reserve the right to limit and/or edit any submissions at our discretion. Submissions must include author's legal first and last name. Please email all inquiries to AGNeighborNews@aol.com.

# **CLASSIFIED ADS**

#### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

#### **INSTRUCTION**

**BUILDING SUPPLIES** 

Drywall 50 sheets \$100.00 5/16" or 5/8" thick, 8ft - 2X4's \$2.00 each, Vented Vinyl Soffit \$65.00 per square. Call for appointment (574) 848-1445.

#### FREE

#### FREE TO EXCELLENT **HOMES ONLY**

The most adorable & loving kittens we have ever had here! These kittens all love to play or be held. They have been very spoiled! They even love to have their bellies rubbed! We have five black and white little boys that would be perfect holiday gifts!!! They have all had their first shots too! Call (574) 238 -9080 to make an appointment to see them ... they won't last long!!!

#### WANTED

#### Seeking: Vintage Pinball Machines

in good to excellent condition. 1950's to current. Please send pictures, information and price to AG-NeighborNews@aol.com

#### CHRISTMAS WISH LIST:

Financially struggling young family of five in desperate need of (donated) dependable mini van to use for everyday work/errands. Family vehicle broke down beyond repair. (815) 531-4446.

#### Seeking A Miracle From God:

Christian mother of 2 in desperate need of a free car or truck in good running condition. Not choosey or picky. God Bless You!!!(574) 317-8617

#### PIANO LESSONS: 4 lessons a month - private and group - for a great rate! Upscale computer lab. Preschoolers welcome. Classes for adults and seniors. 260-463-1536.

#### **JOBS WANTED**

LOOKING FOR WORK: Experienced, responsible senior care provider looking for part time work. Will help with respite care, personal care, housekeeping, errands or other needs you have. References available. I have 8 years dementia/ Alzheimer's care experience with my mother. Please call Valerie DePompeo (574) 825-2254

#### **SERVICES**

Hochstetler Roofing Services: Commercial & residential. Roof consultation. 10% off (mention this ad) (574) 825-4209 ext. 3

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Part time** office position

Are you computer savvy? Are you proficient in Microsoft Excel/ Publisher/Word as well? Are you always being complimented for your organizational skills? Do you find starting in an entry level position challenging? Do you seek to "exceed expectations"? Is your phone etiquette intact? Are you willing to pitch in where ever needed? If you answered "yes" to all of these questions and are looking for a permanent/part time position with an up and coming company, please respond to agneighbornews@aol.com and explain in 2000 words or less why you would be an ideal candidate for a job with amazing potential. Please attach your name/number/address/desired pay rate and work history. Mention this code: WANTED206.

### **Help Wanted**



Commissioned Salesperson

A Good Neighbor News is looking for a commissioned sales person to sell ad space for this publication. This position can lead to sales opportunities with A Good Neighbor owned companies.

Do you think you have what it takes? Call Bob today! Become part of the A Good Neighbor team.

574 825-1677

#### Are you an Experienced **HVAC** Technician or Installer

... who is interested in working for an established growth oriented local company that provides great career opportunities, good pay and commissions as well as ongoing job training? If so, apply today. All contacts will be kept confidential. This is a drug-free work place and we do test. Email your resume to AGNeighborNews@aol.com. Mention this code: WANTED310.

Thank you to our participating Merchants! Community Coupons are available on the back page. Be sure to clip these coupons and stop in and save at your local businesses!



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Insertion deadline for the Jan. 23 issue is Jan. 18. Call 574-825-1677 or email: AGNeighborNews@aol.com.

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A Good Neighbor Heating & Cooling Middlebury, IN 574-825-1677 **MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Jan. 23, 2009** 



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