

THE MESSENGER

Published by the First Baptist Church of Altamont, Illinois



November 2010



Our Mission:

“The First Baptist Church of Altamont seeks to glorify God by worshiping together, enjoying the fellowship of one another, providing opportunities for people to grow in Christ, ministering to the needs of all, and reaching people for Christ.”

Pastor's Paragraphs

Are We There Yet?

The anticipated and beautiful vision of all peoples knowing and praising God comes closer to being realized as Christians seek unreached people groups to tell them the story of Jesus. Are we there yet? Not yet. But now that we know who the remaining unreached people groups are and where they live, we can get there in our generation. It will be costly, however. **What can our church do?** We can own the Great Commission as never before. We can pray. We can serve. And we give sacrificially to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering so those called to invest their lives sharing the Gospel can go.

Southern Baptist missionaries can't carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth without our support. **How much will you give to reach the remaining lost?** Think about what you are spending on Christmas gifts. Then consider giving your biggest gift to God – through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The 2010 goal is \$175 million. Our church's goal is \$1,240.00.

Think your gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering won't make a difference? Every penny given to Lottie Moon is used to help support more than 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries serving overseas. Last year, those missionaries reported 506,019 baptisms and 24,650 new churches.

The lost are believing because you give!

In His Service,

Pastor Lowell

Who is Lottie Moon?



Born into privilege on a Virginia plantation, Charlotte Digges Moon was a smart, forceful woman who could have achieved most any goal. But God's call focused Lottie's life on sharing Christ's love with China's lost masses. For 37 years she endured hardship and danger in a land oppressed by famine, disease and war. In the end, she loved the Chinese people more than life itself, giving her own food to starving neighbors – eventually dying of starvation herself.

Why is Southern Baptists' international missions offering named for this early missionary? Throughout her career, Lottie wrote numerous letters home urging Southern Baptists to greater missions involvement and support. One of those letters, excerpted below, triggered Southern Baptists' first offering for international missions in 1888 – enough to send three more missionaries to China.

“How many there are ... who imagine that because Jesus paid it all, they need pay nothing, forgetting that the prime object of their salvation was that they should follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ in bringing back a lost world to God.”

Lottie Moon, Tengchow, China, Sept. 15, 1887

November AM Sermon Series

Dr. Leroy Tucker, who was licensed to preach by our church, will be our guest speaker during Morning Worship on November 7th. Pastor Lowell will resume the “Working God’s Way” series on November 14th.

November	7	Guest Speaker (Dr. Leroy Tucker)
	14	“What’s the Point of Work?”
	21	Thanksgiving Message
	28	“Getting Ahead No Matter What”

Adult Sunday Evening Devotions

November	7	“Called to Listen and Respond”
	14	“Accountable to Disciple”
	21	“Accountable for Fruitful Living”
	28	No Devotional <u>or</u> AWANA— <i>Thanksgiving Weekend</i>

Thank-you!

The Donnelley Family would like to thank each of you for making Pastor Appreciation Day so special. The program and potluck were so much fun! We want to thank you for the many cards, gifts, and words of encouragement and appreciation you shared with us. We love you and feel so blessed to be here at Altamont First Baptist Church to serve our Lord together with you.

Ministry Team Ministrations

Fast Facts about Lostness

Now is the time to take a fresh look at the challenges ahead and be ready to finish the task of reaching all peoples. Here's a global snapshot of the work ahead of us:

- 4,743 people groups not engaged at all with the Gospel
- 6,426 unreached people groups (those with less than 2 percent of people who profess to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ)
- 1.7 billion with little or no access to the Gospel
- 1.5 billion Muslims – 22 percent of the world's population
- 950 million Hindus in the world

There is much work to be done. With 45,560 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, the task is doable, but it will take all of us, **starting with our own church!**

NURSERY

If you are willing to help watch infants and toddlers through 2-yr-olds during Sunday School, worship service or special events, please let the church office know.

We need a church member for the position of Nursery Coordinator. Scheduling workers quarterly, monitoring supplies, cleaning toys, and wiping down furniture are a few of the child care needs to manage.

November 2010 Youth Activity

**Bowling is on the schedule for
November 14th.**



**The youth will leave after church and
return by 4:30 pm.**



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

SHUT-IN MINISTRY

"... Let us now fear the Lord our God, Who gives rain in its season, both the autumn rain and the spring rain, Who keeps for us the appointed weeks of the harvest." Jeremiah 5:24 NAS

As we celebrate this Thanksgiving, let's be especially mindful of the bountiful harvest for our community farmers this season ~ to mightily praise our God for His awesome creation, for His majesty in nature, for keeping our farmers and families safe, for His continuous provision for all of us.

Please remember our Shut-Ins. Give them a call or stop by for a visit. Keep them in prayer for health needs, comfort and encouragement.

If you have an interest to serve in this Shut-In Ministry, or if you know someone in our body in need of encouragement, please contact Alice Potts (618.483.3126) or Nancy Byars (618.483.9826).

First Baptist Church of Altamont

Leadership Teams

Discipleship
Paula Putnam

Evangelism & Missions
Linda & Larry Riley

Fellowship
Janet Hunsaker

Ministry
Pastor Lowell
Donnelley

Worship & Music
Dr. Mirta Donnelley

Evangelism & Missions Mentions

Such a beautiful fall we are enjoying and indeed the start of a busy time mission-wise.

First, thanks to all who prayed and gave to **State Missions** throughout and beyond September. We exceeded our goal of \$440 with giving so far at \$520!!! Praise the Lord! Pray as we seek to do God's work throughout Illinois.

October was **World Hunger**. Our gifts go to help feed others and to teach and equip them to grow their own crops and raise animals for food. So far no totals...but pray and remember to give.

At the same time the **AMA local food pantry** inventory is very low. So...continue to fill the baskets in the foyer with canned goods, baking items and paper products. *Please no perishable or outdated items!*

We will fill our **Samaritan Christmas Shoeboxes** on November 3rd and 10th. Continue to bring necessities to fill them. Also, one can sponsor a box with postage of \$7.00/box. All checks must be made payable to First Baptist Church for the project so we can send one check. The absolute last day boxes will be accepted for delivery is November 21st as they will be delivered November 22nd. Pray for each child getting packages too.

Coming soon we should have a child's name for Christmas from the Carmi **Baptist Children's Home (BCH)**. I will let you know of the date to deliver the Christmas gifts donated and all other items to BCH and **Angel's Cove**.

In December it is the **Lottie Moon Offering** to help support our many foreign missionaries. All money goes directly to that purpose. Pray and give as God directs you. Our church goal is \$1,240.

Please remember love offerings to missions should always be beyond the tithe to do our Lord's work at First Baptist Church of Altamont. Also, remember a clenched fist can neither give a gift nor receive a gift (or blessing). Pray always before giving....

In Jesus' love and service – Your Missions Team



Fellowship Findings

Pastor Appreciation Sunday was so much fun! A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who participated in the video. Our dinner was wonderful and even more special because this was the first time we were able to use our new plates. Thanks for all the positive feedback on the plates and to all who so generously gave to purchase them.

We will kick off the holidays with our annual Thanksgiving dinner on **Saturday, November 13, at 5 pm.** This is usually our largest crowd of the year. Please come, and bring family and friends, as we join together and give thanks for all the blessings the Lord has given us throughout the year.



Janet

Worship & Music Team Wonderings

Drama Delights

Our November drama will be one of our most provocative. The title is "What People Think". The scripture reference for this drama is found in Proverbs 29:25 - *Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.* We often ask ourselves "What will people think?" A better question to ask is "What will God think?" Hope you don't miss this thought-provoking drama.....Janet

Music Notes



The chancel choir is preparing a few selections to perform during the Christmas season. I appreciate everyone who has been coming to our rehearsals, but I could still use a few more voices. The songs we are working on are out of a cantata called "Emmanuel - God with Us." If you are interested in joining us please come and see me.

The children will be doing a musical called "The Bethlehem Project". We performed this musical at our church in 2003. Everyone enjoyed it back then so I thought we could do it again. I will need help with the set, costumes, and snacks for the kids. Please let me know if you can help.

I am excited about proclaiming Jesus' birth through song. Let's all keep the message of Christmas in mind as we approach this busy holiday season.

In Christ,

Mirta

Discipleship Doings

Women's Bible Study

This ladies group meets at 1:30 pm on Tuesdays at the Nancy Powell residence. All are welcome--this is a wonderful way to grow in the knowledge of God's Word.

TREK

< Jr/Sr High Bible Study >
Sundays at 6:00 pm

Roadsign Series

Part 1 helps students get where they're going by walking through the Bible – Genesis through Revelation. Part 2 is a study dealing with the trials, temptations, and tough times of the Christian life.



We invite you to attend Bible study each Sunday from 9 – 10:00 am.

Classes are available for all ages!

Nursery care is provided.

Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer

In November, Pastor Lowell will continue leading a study on The Tabernacle entitled, "God's Model for True Worship."

November	3	Missions Night	
	10	"Allowing the Altar to Alter Your Life"	Exodus 27:1-8
	17	Business Meeting	
	24	<i>No Services—Thanksgiving Preparation & Travel</i>	



Sundays from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Open to age 4 through grade 6.



A blend of music, drama, snacks, open discussion, prayer lessons, mission awareness, gospel message, object lessons, games and more await our clubbers each week. We actively support mission efforts, enjoy a fun-filled theme night each month, and award our clubbers that work hard at their Bible memorization through the AWANA handbooks for their grade level. This program is successful via the hard work of our volunteer leaders, helpers and mostly by the grace of God!

There will be no AWANA club on Sunday, November 28th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend.

Church Administration

Please call....

If you or someone you know is ill, injured, admitted to the hospital, and/or needs pastoral ministry, please call the Pastor, your deacon or any of the other deacons.



Pastor Lowell

483-3250 church
483-5264 home
618/553-5560 cell phone

Kieffer Milam	618/483-6374
Larry Riley	217/868-5751
Art Davidson	618/483-6577
Jim Pritchard	217/663-4235
Ron Hite	618/483-5058
Randy McElroy	618/245-9155
Duane Guffey	217/536-5727

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer need, update or praise for the church Prayer List, please drop off a note or email it to the office at:
secretary@altamontfirstbaptist.org

Your Church Library

Our topical shelf labels will help you browse our shelves more effectively.



Please stop in and utilize these tools God has provided for us!

Church Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)

All church leaders are invited and encouraged to attend our CMLT meetings scheduled for **6:30 pm** on the first Tuesday of every month.

Tuesday ~ November 2nd @ 6:30 pm

New "Call-Em-All" Phone Tree

Our church frequently needs to get out important or critical messages to our members, such as prayer requests, schedule changes, changes due to inclement weather, volunteer requests, special events, reminders, and the occasional need to call a special business meeting. Using a traditional phone tree or email has proven to be slow, tedious, and inaccurate when time is critical and details are important.

Now we can "Tell you all with Call-Em-All!" This is an easy and effective way to make information available to you. We will continue to work with this program to set up various team and committee groups to simplify communications like meeting reminders or other important announcements.

So...don't be surprised if you receive a recorded call from the church now and then!

Adult Midweek Programs

We invite you to attend midweek programs each Wednesday at 6:30 pm. The first week of each month we have a **Missions Night program**, and the third week we have our monthly **Business Meeting**. The remaining weeks we have prayer and a **Bible Study**, so please join us here on Wednesday nights!

Baptist Questions, Baptist Answers

Starting this month, Pastor Lowell will share excerpts from the book, "Baptist Questions, Baptist Answers: Exploring Christian Faith" written by Dr. Bill Leonard. This month's question is: "***Who are the Baptists?***" Dr. Leonard's answer is:

"Theories of Baptist origins abound. Some believe that Baptists can be traced all the way back to Jesus' baptism in River Jordan by John the Baptizer, a direct lineage of true New Testament churches. Others suggest a "kinship" with the Radical Reformation Anabaptists who promoted believers' baptism and a free-church tradition in the early days of the Protestant Reformation. Still others, I am among them, trace the origins to the seventeenth century Puritans and their efforts to recover New Testament Christianity beyond the state churches and sectarian clamor of post-Reformation Europe.

"So let us suggest that Baptists are a second-generation Protestant communion that began around 1609 with a group of English Separatist Puritans exiled in Amsterdam. This group determined that the church should be composed of believers only and that baptism should be given only after persons profess faith in Christ. The earliest Baptists were Arminian in their theology, appropriating the theology of the Dutch theologian Jacob Arminius (1560-1609). Their belief that Christ's death on the cross was for the sins of the entire world and that all persons were potentially elected to salvation led to their designation as General Baptists. By the 1630s a second group of Baptists had developed in England. Known as Particular Baptists because of their Calvinist theology, they believed that Christ's death was applicable only to the elect, whom God had chosen for salvation before the foundation of the world. God's irresistible grace would draw the elect to salvation, overcoming their total depravity and keeping them until the end. Thus, from a historical perspective, Baptists begin at both ends of the theological spectrum with Arminian and Calvinist groups that inform much Baptist life and thought to this day.

"In the twenty-first century Baptists claim a worldwide constituency of over forty million persons, with approximately thirty million living in North America. In the United States there are more than sixty different groups that claim the name Baptist in some form or another."

Money Matters in Church

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 the apostle Paul writes: **We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.**

During his third missionary journey, Paul had collected money for the impoverished believers in Jerusalem. The churches in Macedonia—Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea—had given money even though they were poor (8:1), and they had given more than Paul expected. This was sacrificial giving—they were poor themselves, but they wanted to help. The point of giving is not so much the amount given, but why and how it is given. God does not want gifts given grudgingly. Instead, He wants His people to give as these churches did—out of dedication to Christ, love for fellow believers, and the joy of helping those in need, as well as the fact that it was simply the good and right thing to do. ***How well does your giving measure up to the standards set by the Macedonian churches?***

Member Minutes



November 2 Dennis & Vickie Whitten
 Albert & Sharon Higgs
November 21 Keith & Robin Heltsley
November 24 Melvin & Ethelyn Williams
November 25 Tim & Eydie Carruthers



November Birthdays!

2 – Brad Putnam
3 – Janet Hillhouse
4 – Connie Tipsword
7 – Marcia Guffey
9 – Jimmie Hays
11 – Dylan Cline
 Isabella Cline
17 – Ross Koberlein
25 – Bill Croy
 Keshia Hames
27 – Duane Guffey
30 – Alice Potts

WELCOME!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

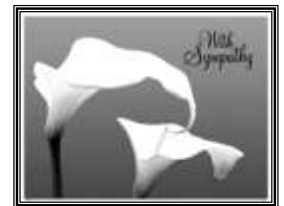
CURT & LINDA METTE



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our church family expresses Christian sympathy to:

Marcia & Duane Guffey & Family on the loss of her uncle, Glen Traub



Joining the Church

You may become a member of our church by:

1. Profession of Faith & Baptism—If you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and follow Him in baptism by immersion.
2. Promise of Church Letter—You can transfer your membership from another Southern Baptist Church or a church of like faith and order.
3. Statement of Faith—If you have already accepted Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior and have been baptized by immersion as a believer in a church of like faith and order.
4. Baptism—If you are a Christian but have never been baptized by immersion.

Member of the Month



This month we will learn about a quiet, quick-witted lady who has a kind smile and who-my wife says-is a top notch Sunday School teacher.

Evea E. Davidson was born at Clarkston, Michigan on May 24, 1937 to Walter W. and Jessie E. (Workman) Vail. The Vail family had moved to Michigan in 1936 from the Shumway/Lake Sara area when a drought swept over Effingham and surrounding counties. Since Walter was a small farmer and fed his livestock from the crops he raised, there was no food for his cattle and horses. Jessie's father, Clement Workman, lived in Michigan and told Walter, "You can always grow potatoes and soup beans up here – and find work if you have a good team of horses!" So Walter sold all of his livestock except his trusty team of horses, trucked his family and the horses to Michigan and found work there on a dairy farm. Thus Evea and her younger brother were born in Michigan. The family moved back to Effingham County to a rented a farm when Evea was three or four years old. Evea has seven brothers- Robert, Ralph, Kenneth, Donald (deceased), Richard, Gary and Darrell - and three sisters – Virginia, Mary and Lois. Evea is the middle child of the eleven children. Evea says one of her earliest memories is of the days when she was about four years old and she rode on her Dad's Percheron mare, Pet, sitting on the harness (no saddle) while her father walked behind the mare - driving her hitched to a "chinch bug log". This log was about eight feet long and a foot or so thru and was pulled down a trench that went around the perimeter of the corn field. The purpose of the log? – to work up the soil into a fine trench of dust an inch or two deep which would create a barrier for the chinch bugs! (You'll have to ask some old farmer about the chinch bugs!) Even at that age, horses and dogs were Evea's favorite animals (and have remained so).

Evea describes herself this way, "I was always very shy and a complete tom-boy. Dad was a hard working man and very careful with his money. Mom was a very intelligent person. I guess I got my love of reading from her. (She was still working crossword puzzles when she was ninety years old!) Since I had an older sister who helped Mom with the house work and I wasn't interested in playing "house" with dolls, I spent all the time I could with Dad and the horses or trailing around after my older brothers until I was about ten. My favorite haunts were the woods and creek beds and the haymow of the big barn. My greatest pleasure was the fact that my Dad said that I could harness the horses faster and better than my brothers could! Life was pretty simple when I was younger. I can't remember any particular chores until I got about eight or ten. Then one of my jobs was to clean and fill the kerosene lamps every Saturday evening and wash or dry the dishes at every meal. It was painful to me but my older sister got married about that time and I had to take on the usual jobs of helping my mother cook on a wood range, clean, do laundry with the wringer washer – all the "women work" that needed done. I rather enjoyed the cleaning, but NEVER the cooking!"

The Vail household was much like most at that time in south central Illinois. They were poor, still recovering from the depression, but didn't realize that there were people who had much more than they did. Everybody around us lived about the same as we did. By this time Walter was working at factories in Effingham – First Vulcan Last and then Norge and Fedders along with farming the 60 to 80 acres he owned and rented. The boys helped with the farming until they finished high school and then five of the seven served in the U.S. Navy, two in WWII, two just after the Korean conflict and one during the Cold War with Russia.

Evea attended grades one through three at Defiance School – a one room rural school in the Effingham school district with all eight grades and one teacher. (Walking all the way to school three miles one way thru the snow three feet deep with the temperature about 10 degrees!! Really!!) The family moved to another farm and Evea attended grades four through eight at another rural school, Devore School, this one in the Altamont school district. This school was a two room school with a teacher for grades one thru four and another teacher for fifth thru eighth. There were two students in Evea's graduating eighth grade class! Then Evea went on to high school at Altamont High where she graduated with the class of 1955. Evea enjoyed studying and made good grades all through her school years. She discovered books early and read anything and everything she could. In fact, that often became a problem for her. "None of the houses we lived in had modern plumbing so we always had to heat the water for the dishes. Somehow, the dish water always got too hot and so I had to wait for it to cool.

Naturally there was always a book handy and I would read while the water cooled enough to wash the dishes. However, the water always got too cold while I was reading and I would have to warm it back up. That meant another few minutes I could snatch to read. My Dad caught on to that procedure pretty quickly and I usually heard about it.” Because Evea had no way to get back and forth to the school, she did not take part in any after school activities. She did do art work for some projects.

Walter did not profess to be a Christian although he had attended Sunday School as a youngster. Jessie had become a Christian as a youth but since their marriage they had not attended church. However, Evea grew up hearing her mother play all the old familiar hymns on the pump organ that her parents owned. Evea says she grew up singing about the Old Rugged Cross long before she knew what the old Rugged Cross stood for. One year when Evea was about ten she attended a week of VBS at Jackson Twp. Church and remembers especially the crafts! Then when Evea was fifteen and the oldest child at home, her mother decided that she would take the younger children to church. So Jessie loaded her six children into the family auto and drove back to Blue Point Baptist Church which had been her home church as a child. Evea’s mother and the children attended faithfully the following five years but it wasn’t until she was twenty years old that Evea understood the Holy Spirit’s calling on her heart and gave her life to Jesus Christ as her Savior. Evea was baptized along with her brother Richard in the First Baptist Church in Effingham and they continued to attend Blue Point.

After graduation from high school in May, Evea went to work that August for Dr. J.V. Phillips in Altamont – first as a receptionist and then later she worked as an assistant to the doctor and also did lab work, took x-rays and did bookkeeping. Taking the x-rays was the most enjoyable part. Evea was employed by Dr. Phillips for three years. With the first money she earned, Evea made three magnificent purchases: a new electric radio for Mom and Dad (they’d always used a battery radio but had finally gotten electricity) a wrist watch for herself, (her first) and a **very** used old Oldsmobile. The Olds was well worn-but what could you expect for \$300 – When Evea would pull up to a gas station to get gas, she’d say, “Check the gas and fill her up with oil!” She carried a carton of oil in the trunk of the car! In December of 1957, while she was still working for Dr. Phillips, Evea married Lawrence “Art” Davidson from Watson. They had met in May of that year when a mutual friend, the Director of Missions for the Louisville Association at that time, Rev. Kenneth G. Hall, brought Art up to Blue Point Church to help start a Training Union. (He said!! Actually Art and Evea thought it was just to introduce the two of them!) They were married in a quiet ceremony at the Baptist Church Parsonage in Watson by Bro. Hall. They moved into a rented house in Altamont and in June of 1958 Evea quit working for the doctor. On February 4, 1959, a daughter, Virginia Diane was born.

A son Paul Arthur was born on February 7, 1960, and in April of that year they bought twenty acres and moved to the house there about five miles east of Altamont (where they are still living). Son Michael Glen was born on September 7, 1962. In 1971 Art and Evea finally moved into the new house they’d been building on for three years! Evea continued as a stay at home Mom until Paul and Diane were in college and Michael was a senior in high school. She then went to work in the Accounting Department at Fedders for four years and then transferred to the Debit Control Department where she worked for another four years. In 1986 she became seriously ill with depression (a two year nightmare) and quit her job - staying at home again for two years. In 1989 she went to work as an Accounting Clerk for Keller Oil Company where she was employed until her retirement in 1997. After retiring, she spent fifteen months taking turns with her sisters and brothers caring for their mother until her death in 2000. Evea’s father had died of cancer in 1976.

When Art and Evea moved to Altamont right after their marriage, they joined the First Baptist Church there. “The people of FBC were warm and welcoming and have remained that way over the fifty years that we’ve been members.” She first taught Nursery Sunday School class for several years and then taught the high school class for a couple of years. Then she “graduated” to teacher of Adult Women. She has been in that role for many years. She and Art also co-taught in both junior and intermediate Training Union classes and she worked in VBS several years and sang in the choir for several years.

Evea enjoys reading, working crossword puzzles, painting (she took a few evening Art classes through Lakeland College) and spending time with her family.

She also enjoyed sewing clothing for Diane and herself until she started working outside the home. For a few years the Davidson family owned two Arabian horses and Evea much enjoyed riding the horses. Until recently she had written a monthly article for the church newsletter. "My kids and grandkids are great fun," she says. She and Art have spent many wonderful hours involved in the activities of their grandchildren: Mark, Adam, Ethan (sons of Diane and David), Tyler (now deceased) and Bryan (sons of Paul and Diane), and Samantha and Jennifer (daughters of Mike and Debbie.) There were band concerts and volleyball games and basketball games for the girls (Jenny was in the pom-pom squad for basketball) and there were basketball games, soccer, baseball games and football for the boys. "And were our kids good!" she says.

Cherished memories? "Oh my, that's hard," Evea says. "I have so many wonderful memories. From the time I was very little and sat on my Dad's lap while he taught me to draw a pig – my first art lesson! To the fun we had as kids playing outside on a summer's evening, pushing a set of buggy wheels fastened to an axle – throwing wood chips up in the air and watching the bats dive after them – it didn't take very much to amuse us. Actually our toys were few – usually one apiece for Christmas – and a lot of them home made. My brothers were very creative! We went barefoot all summer, rarely went to the doctor or to town for anything. Mom had a big garden and canned a lot. We picked blackberries and had apple trees. Butchered our own pigs and occasionally a steer (although that wasn't often) and had our own chickens so there were eggs and we ate a lot of chicken. We had cows for our own milk, cream and cottage cheese. Mom made dresses for the girls in the family. After the drive-in theater opened at Effingham, Dad and Mom would take us to the movie – if we got our chores done early! Then there were parties with our youth group at the church. Dating Art was a special time and the births of our kids and grandkids. And all the sports and music activities we took part in for both our kids and grandkids. The family went through painful but sweet memories of the ups and downs when Tyler fought a three year battle with bone cancer of the leg. Tyler passed away in January of 2003 at the age of nine but was a marvelous witness for Jesus all during that battle. And there was the year when our kids were in high school that Masako Suzuki, a foreign exchange student from Japan, lived with us. We really enjoyed having her here and have stayed in touch over the years."

"There have been a couple of big changes during my lifetime. One is the attitude and actions of young people (not for the better) and the other is the great advance in technology (not all for the better either)! I don't want to sound too negative. There are some wonderful young people and we certainly do have greater communication. But overall there seems to be a lessening of respect for other people (not only among the young) and their personal belongings and space."

"I'm proud of the awards I received when I was in high school and I'm especially proud of my family. Daughter Diane is a Special Education Teacher (with a master's degree in Special Education) at Carmi High School – she and husband David are active in the Carmi Baptist Church – son Paul is a Captain in the State Conservation Police (with a master's degree in law enforcement) – he and wife Diane are active in the Smith Grove Baptist Church, Greenville – son Michael is an expert Auto Body Repair Technician with many years of experience – he and his wife are members of the Methodist Church in Strasburg.

I couldn't ask for better daughter-in-laws (Diane – a commercial artist – and Debbie – floral arranger in Burkland's flower shop) and son-in-law (David – a loan officer in a Carmi bank) and my grandkids are very talented too. Mark is serving in the U.S. Marines in Japan, Adam is in his final year at college in Mississippi and Ethan is completing his second year in Junior College at Harrisburg, IL. Bryan is in his second year of college at Cape Girardeau where he is taking pre-veterinary courses. Samantha is a Dental Hygienist and Office Manager for a dentist in Effingham and Jenny is in her third year of college at Eastern Illinois University, majoring in accounting. Sam is recently married and has a stepson, Tresten, (which gives us a step-grandson) and Jenny is engaged.

"I guess I would like to be remembered as a sincere person, one who takes my Christian life seriously and pleases my Lord. I pray that I've been a good Bible teacher. I hope I've been a good wife and mother and grandmother, too. My own grandparents passed away before I could remember and the only grandparents I had to model after were Art's (and they were great!)