

# Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 32

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

May 2023

## The New Wedding Venue Rooms Got a Thumb's Up!

**C**ongratulations to Reece and Klaudia (Basierak) Hall who were married at Red Oak on September 3, 2022. They were the first bride and groom to use the newly remodeled downstairs for their wedding; though they chose this site before even knowing it would be updated. Klaudia said the couple likes the simpleness of the church architecture and the wonderful, natural setting surrounding it. She said, "It's beauty speaks for itself." She also said the church sanctuary was simple but lovely for their wedding and was very meaningful to them and their family. Reece grew up going to events at Red Oak, especially the May Celebration Service and Potluck with his mom's family (Sherry Hall) and occasionally helping his grandma, Daisy Wingert, who has been on the Red Oak Church and Cemetery Board there for years.

The couple was thrilled to have all the spaces upstairs and downstairs, air conditioned and they were totally surprised at the transformation of the dirty furnace room turned into a stylish bridal changing room! Klaudia said, "The space was nice and cozy and worked well as we got ready. There were two hair stylists and a makeup stylist in the changing room with some of us and others could relax in the big, dining room area eating snacks and drinks," waiting their turns. She said it was convenient to split up in different spaces and spread out. She particularly liked the bright, sunlit back corner of the dining room with the covered bench and ornate mirror above it for photo shots. The couple also said they took many of their photos outside amongst nature and that was really special. Please note the two wedding photos were taken by Speer Photography.



**Come enjoy the Annual Spring Celebration Service on May 21 at 11 a.m.**

Jeff Kaufmann's address, "Forever is All Around Us" and Dan Boddicker's special music will be sure to inspire us. There will be an old-fashioned pot luck following the service. Please bring a dish to share and join the fun!

# Former Manse Has New Owners

The former Red Oak Grove manse (minister's home) at 749 King Ave. (just north of the church, across the road) is now owned by Chris and Tiffany Sander. They have three children, Lilly, Braxton and Maverik. Cemetery Board president Bob Rickard said, "They are good neighbors, and are willing to keep an eye on the church. Chris is keeping his property looking first class." The house was built in 1901 by Jacob Snyder to replace the previous manse in Shiloh, a settlement about a quarter mile to the north.

When Brenda Herring stopped and asked permission to take a photo of the house from their yard, Tiffany heartily agreed. She said they were so grateful that Chris had the chance to buy the home from relatives. She said Chris spent a lot of time at the acreage as a child visiting Roland and Donna



Zimmerman and had great memories of exploring and playing on the property. Tiffany said they are both very happy their own kids can experience country living and now play all over the grounds too.

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## Virginia Kimberling Osborn & Barb Rickard Whimsical Tale Writing Contest Winners

In the 2022 winter issue of The Reporter, there was an article about construction workers finding a pile of debris and a hole in the downstairs wall of the new groom's changing room during the remodel. We asked readers to use their imaginations and finish writing the short tale that we began to explain who and why the hole was made. The Red Oak Board received two responses to the, "hole in the wall mystery" contest. The Red Oak Board thanks Virginia and Barb for responding and will be sending them cookies from Tiffany's Bakery in Tipton. Enjoy this imaginary tale from start to finish; Virginia's response is first and Barb's follows-both are italicized. The start of the story is in bold below.

***Having learned two days ago that work would soon be completed in the newly created groom's room at Red Oak Church, it was now or never. We decided after waiting decades it was time to break through the 6" thick wall to recover our concealed bounty, hidden for oh so long! The breach was made...***

*Oh my, have you heard of the empty tomb? It has been many years but I will try to recollect what I remember. Since the new Red Oak Church was built where the old church once stood, many remains had been left after the fire and everything was just built over them. Where the entrance to the old church had been was now covered with the new entrance which was all poured in concrete. Now there was no way for Jesus to leave or enter. God has always been in the Red Oak Church and the picture of Jesus knocking on the door which is still in the church and shows just that. He wants to leave the tomb. Red Oak Church has been home to God always. In the future, Red Oak will never close and God will see that happen. God is always in charge. This may explain the hole in the wall.*

Virginia added this note to her reply: When I started this, I thought I could have a good imagination but the knowledge of attending Red Oak took over so I just decided to continue and let my love for Red Oak take over. I attended church around the age of 10 years

and left Iowa when I turned 18. I am now 86. I know that God could be where he wanted but this is now 2023 so fiction prevails.

Here is Barb's creative ending: *This story may put your mind to rest about the recently discovered hole in the wall of in the Red Oak Grove Church basement. Early settlers to Cedar County might have talked about Wee People in and around Rock Creek. I have a story about them in real time - like the present, 2023. It is said Wee People came with the first settlers to the Rock Creek area. Perhaps they crawled in the trunks of those settlers before they came across the ocean from Scotland. They hid among the precious belongings of those Scottish immigrants bound for a better life in the New World. They journeyed to Iowa in a wagon, jostling around as they made their way up and down hills, across rivers and through a sparsely populated countryside.*

*When they arrived in Cedar County near Rock Creek, the Wee People quickly made their way to the woods, hiding among the roots and crevices of the Red Oak trees. The trees provided adequate room but in winter, they craved better shelter. When the first wood frame church was built, they found a safe place to live. Then, early in the 20th century, plans were being made by Presbyterians to build a larger church to serve*

*a fast-growing community called Shiloh. And what a lovely building they built. The Wee People could hardly wait to move into the new church and wondered where they could settle, a place where they would be safe and warm. After touring the building in January of 1921, they decided under the steps leading to the basement from the front door would be an out-of-the-way place for them to call home. There was a small broken area of wall in the storage area which would be their doorway.*

*In the spring of 2022, there was a lot of noise in the church basement. They had watched the year before when the kitchen area was redone but that was far from their private living area. This latest remodel was done right close to their home under the stairs and they worried how they could come and go if they closed off the entrance of their home. But their fears were put to rest when the carpenters left the small doorway intact and framed it nicely so they can come and go without getting in the way of jagged edges of the old opening. The newly remodeled basement in Red Oak Grove Church has turned out to be such a wonderful space not only for the Big People who use the church but for the Wee People who live there.*

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## In Memoriam: Red Oak Grove Cemetery

**Paul Campbell**, 91, of Tipton died Dec. 27, 2022 at Cedar Manor Nursing Home. Funeral was held on Dec. 31 at First UCC in Tipton. Survivors are a daughter, Jody (Rusty) Schroeder, sons, Dave (Jill) Campbell, Tim (Keith) Campbell, and Gary (Cathy) Campbell, six grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and his special friend, Shirley Ehlers. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, in 2013 and a son, Steven, in 2019. Interment at Red Oak Grove Cemetery on Dec. 31, 2022.

**Ruth Campbell**, 76, died on March 17, 2013, at Cedar Manor Nursing Home. Memorial service was held at New Hope Church in Bippus, Indiana, on March 23, 2013. Interment at Red Oak Grove Cemetery on Dec. 31, 2022.

**Steven Campbell**, 58, died on March 6, 2019 at his home in Tipton. Interment at Red Oak Grove Cemetery on Dec. 31, 2022.

# A HUGE Thank You to the Spring Cleaning Crew



Volunteers gathered on a cold, snowy, blustery morning, Saturday, April 22 to clean and polish the church and tidy the grounds of Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery. We thank every one of them who took time away from their busy lives to help keep the church and property in such a lovely state. Workers included: Inside - John Barnum, Daisy Wingert, Barb Rickard, Marilyn Carney, Wanda Whitmer, Nancy Stewart and Mark Penningroth. Outside - Scott and Noah Schroeder, Keith Penningroth, Rich Urban, Ace, Bob Rickard, Don Parker and Mike Herring. Earlier in the week, Brandon Paul power raked the entire cemetery grounds making clean up extremely easy for the outside workers. Thanks a bunch Brandon!

*Scott Schroeder, Keith Penningroth and Don Parker braved the cold to remove yard debris.*

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For information about church rental, purchase of plots, or other matters pertaining to the church or cemetery, contact Robert Rickard, Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association President:

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Find us on Facebook: [redoakgrovechurchandcemetery](https://www.facebook.com/redoakgrovechurchandcemetery)

## Mark Your 2023 Calendars So You Can Attend:

- **Annual Celebration/Reunion/Potluck – Sunday, May 21 at 11 am**
- **Pie Social – Sunday, October 1 at 1 pm**
- **Wreaths Across America – Saturday, December 16 at 11:30 (dress warmly)**