

Upland has annual Arts & Crafts Festival

By Sean Douglas

On a beautiful Saturday morning in Upland, the Red Barn hosted its 10th annual Upland Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival. This highly anticipated event showcased the area’s local talent, offered unique, handmade items for purchase, and gave the community their first foray into the upcoming holiday season.

Susan Ancil, the event’s organizer, began the Upland Arts and Craft Festival a decade ago, having been inspired by a similar festival she worked in Fairmount. Having seen what that show did for Fairmount, Ancil was inspired to replicate the experience in Upland.

“It was so neat that evening in Fairmount,” Ancil said. “Everyone was friendly, and it was just a nice event. I thought, ‘Well, we need to do this in Upland.’ Two months before the date that I picked, I put something in the paper and asked for vendors, and they just came out of the woodwork. I didn’t know there were so many talented people here in Upland. That’s how we got started, and it’s been a successful event



Upland residents taking in all of the unique items on display in the Red Barn Upland holds annual Arts and Crafts Festival.

Photo by Sean Douglas

every year.”

Throughout and around the Red Barn, there were multiple stalls with a plethora of different items, such as handmade cutting boards, homemade beef

jerky, Christmas-themed jewelry, handcrafted signs to hang on walls, clothing items, and so much more. Additionally, most of the items for sale were from local Upland artists, with a

few exceptions.

“We have a diverse mix of products here,” Ancil said. “They are mostly local this year. We have a few out of county, but most are people within Grant County.”

From its humble beginnings in 2010, the festival has been one of Upland’s most beloved holiday events. People from all over Grant County make their way to the Red Barn each

year to buy unique gifts, browse the inventory, reconnect with friends and family, and get themselves into the holiday mood.

“I think people enjoy getting handmade products,” Ancil said. “That’s the best part about it, to be a vendor, you have to have mostly handmade items. I think people like to give those, especially for gift-giving, [because] they are unique, one-of-a-kind items. Every year, we have a nice turnout. The community likes this show, and they come out and support it. We get a lot of people every year.”

In small towns like Upland, events like the Arts and Crafts Festival are so important, as they spur economic growth, but most importantly, they bring the community together.

“For Upland, it’s the only holiday event where vendors can sell their products,” Ancil said. “Because it’s near Christmas, it’s important for people to make extra money for their family for the holiday, and we have enough people here where it helps other local businesses. I think it’s a good thing for the whole community.”

Great Men – Part 2

By Rev. Tom Mansbarger

As we concluded our last article, we were laying the groundwork for great men. We observed two qualities that all great men have in common. Now, don’t misunderstand me, when I refer to great men, it also includes great women. Those who have risen to the status of greatness have displayed the witness of greatness. It becomes obvious from observing them that they have a quality possessed by very few. As you watch them you see a confidence, an easiness about them that truly stands out. There is also the witness of goodness. I am still one of the old-fashioned people that believes that the good guy wins. Gunsmoke is my favorite all-time cowboy show, and every day when it comes on, it shows Marshall Dillon getting beat to the draw, but he still prevails and is the only one left standing. As we continue today, we want to see three simple principles about these people of greatness in the Bible (Hebrews 11). First of all, they all bear witness of their confidence in God. The word confidence can also be



JUST A THOUGHT

Rev. Tom Mansbarger



translated as trust. One of our greatest short-comings in this life is a lack of trust. It is not a natural thing for us to trust anyone. Much of this can be attributed to past experiences that have turned out bad when others have let us down. We are no different than any other when it comes to human nature. We are hesitant to trust. These great men never wavered or misplaced their trust when it came to God. They had a firm belief that

the Lord would never let them down. Mankind will fall, but God never will. He tells us that “He will never leave us nor forsake us,” (Hebrews 13:5). That is His promise and commitment to all mankind.

The second principle we see is that they all bear witness to the sufficiency of Divine grace. When it comes to the resources of God we realize that they are unlimited. Grace is an amazing word in itself. It is the dynamic power of a loving God coming down to man. We must not confuse grace with mercy. Mercy is that element of God that keeps us from what we really deserve. Grace on the other hand give us what we could never earn. It is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8, 9). The witnesses in Hebrews eleven were no different from you and me, but they overcame great obstacles by the Lord’s strength. When we come to the realization that God’s grace is always sufficient, it seems that life works in our favor.

Thirdly, they all bear witness of the faithfulness of God to His promise. I am thankful that we can serve a God of truth. When He tells

us something, He doesn’t go back on the promise. He is always faithful to honor His Word. He tells us, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). When trials come our way we can always turn to God’s Word and claim His promises.

The Apostle here gives us great advice to lay aside everything that tries to derail us. He encourages us to get rid of the things that hold us back and continue to press on. As He exhorts us to realize that we are not effective runners when we are cumbered down by weight, He shares the three principles that we have talked about today so that we might become more useful in our service to Him. What is it that is keeping you from serving the Lord? Let’s take good advice and lay it aside everything that tries to derail us, and run on!

The Rev. Tom Mansbarger is senior pastor at Grace Community Church. He offers free counseling. Reach him at 765-517-1187 or tom@graceccmarion.org.

SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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Answers on Page 12

Indiana Quiz

Answers

- C
- A

- B
- E
- D