

One Hundred Years and Moving Forward!



Marbury Church of God

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Dear Friend,

I am writing to invite you to a Celebration.

Please note the date: **Sunday, October 16, 2011**, for the **100th Anniversary and Homecoming** of the Marbury Church of God.

For about a month in the Fall of 1911, a small group of Marbury residents gathered to hear a traveling minister bring a powerful gospel message at a "brush arbor" meeting in Marbury. The message was one of Holiness, Unity, the nature of the church and the purpose of Christian living. It captured the attention of quite a few people. Soon afterwards, several families began to worship together on a regular basis. Within a year a chapel had been constructed on land donated by one of those families.

Those families, along with many others who have followed, have created a rich heritage throughout the years for church and community. The new congregation was called the **Marbury Church of God**, part of what was often referred to as the *Church of God Reformation Movement*. It is now one of more than **2,300** congregations in North America affiliated with the Church of God (Anderson, IN),

On **Sunday, October 16th**, we will celebrate this rich legacy, and get a glimpse of where God is leading us for the decades to come. We want you to be here!

If you or someone in your family has touched or been touched by the life of the Marbury Church of God, we want you to spend the day with us this October **celebrating the memories** of this first hundred years, and **envisioning the call of God** for the unseen future.

Morning services will be suspended that day, but the church will be open all day for people to come and look at pictures, share memories, and greet old and new friends. Our formal celebration will begin with a **feast** to be shared at 2:00 p.m., followed at 4:00 p.m. by a **celebration** of worship, music, stories and prayer. Then we will return to the fellowship hall for cake and light refreshments.

You may have received a letter some months ago asking for photos and memories to share. The response has been wonderful, and we want more! Most of all, though, we want you, along with your family, friends, and neighbors, to share this day of celebration with the church. You are welcome also to bring a story, or a song, for the afternoon celebration.

Please let us know by phone, email, or letter, so that we can plan the best we can. Take a moment to return the enclosed response card to indicate how many people you expect to bring; it will help us to know how much food to prepare. If you absolutely can't get here, but have pictures or a story to offer, send it along and we will display it or have someone read it, and make it part of the treasured memories of this church for years to come.

In addition to the rich heritage of music and biblical teaching, and of support for global missions, in recent years our ministry has grown to touch the lives of neighbors through food and clothing ministries, as part of the ongoing work of bringing the love of Jesus to our corner of the world.

As we treasure the legacy of all who have touched our lives, we look forward to what the Lord still has in store for us. We want to stay alert and prepared for new direction from God's Holy Spirit, well into this new century. Can we count on your prayers to that end? And if you wish to include a financial gift with your response, of course that will be gratefully received.

Expect a blessing!

Pastors Bob and Shannon Buehler and the Marbury Church of God Family