

## Fourteenth Annual Christmas Tour of Homes in Greenfield

It is time for the fourteenth annual Christmas Tour of Homes in Greenfield hosted by the Greenfield Historical Society. The tour will be held from **12:30-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 2, 2018** and will feature four homes, a church and the B&O Depot. A **chicken noodle dinner** will precede the tour at the Grain and Hay Building from 11:30-1:00. The cost of the meal is \$10.00 and includes chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, slaw, roll and butter, drink and a choice of cakes.

**The church featured this year is the Church of Christ in Christian Union at 503 McClain Avenue.** It was the first of the evangelical churches in Greenfield. The Churches of Christ in Christian Union broke away from the Methodist Episcopal Church and were organized under the leadership of James H. McKibben on September 29, 1909 with headquarters established in Washington C.H., Ohio. By 1912, forty churches were established with Greenfield, Ohio being one of these. The Churches of Christ in Christian Union's activities included camp meetings and evangelistic campaigns focused on Ohio.

Many pastors have graced the doors at this church, delivering a message well received by large crowds that always left filled with many blessings and happy to be in the fold. The records of 1920, the oldest available, shows Rev. C. J. Ferneau was the pastor. The present one is Pastor Roger Newkirk who served in Greenfield from 1987-93 and then returned again in 2005 until now.

There have been numerous changes made to this little church, beginning with the change from pot belly stoves and kerosene lighting to gas furnaces and electric lights. A basement for the youth classroom was dug out in the 1950's which was paid for with pledges and dime folders. The steeple was removed at some time. This church has received many blessings and now moves into its second century. The congregation welcomes you to come and visit with them during the tour.

**Our first house featured will be at 617 North Street, the home of Alan and Jessica Wise.** It was built in 1900 and was moved from the McClain football field to its current location in the 1920's. There have been three families who have made this their home. The Wise family have lived here for 27 years. As parents of school age children when they moved in, the close proximity to the school was one of the most appealing attributes of the home. The decorations throughout the house are reflective of a rural heritage inspired by the Savior's birth. Jessica stated that "We have been blessed with a comfortable place to hang our hats that our family can come back to and feel right at home."



**Our second house is the home of Richard and Debby Neu at 724 Madison Place.** They began building their home in the summer of 1996. The house was completed in March of 1997. They moved from a two



story older home with three bedroom and only one bath where they raised their three boys. This home features three bedrooms, three bathrooms and a finished basement for just the two of them. Richard and Debby were quite involved in completing their home including pulling electrical wires to staining all the solid wood doors and trim.

Debby considers her personal preference when decorating their home as more transitional or whatever she likes at the moment style. Their home has vaulted ceilings and lots of windows to brighten it up. She loves decorating for Christmas

and usually has a tree in every room. Each tree has a different theme and will be available for viewing during the tour. The Neus start their holiday decorating the first of November so they have plenty of time to enjoy the Christmas season with their children, grandchildren and other family members. It is a gathering place for the family to reflect on their many blessings while creating lasting memories.

**The home of Paul and Kay Huffman at 1029 Grandview Avenue is the third home.** It was built in 1938, with a large addition added in 1999 and a small remodel in 2015. The home has a modern country style décor. The Huffmans truly love Christmas and that will be seen in the many rooms decorated from top to bottom with a variety of Christmas trees, snowmen and Santas. The highlight of the tour will be the large Christmas village featuring 150 houses, an old carnival and a working train. Also in the village is Elvis Presley's Graceland mansion and the Heartbreak Hotel.



The home has also won the Edgewood Manor outdoor decorating contest two times. The family and friends enjoy coming to visit and share stories of fun times in the home.

**Scott and Venus Andersen will welcome visitors to Shirley's House at 11654 State Route 41 North.** This is their bed and breakfast that they purchased about a year and a half ago. It has been hosting visitors since March. It sits right in front of their home and they will be having people pull through the gates and park in their grass the day of the tour.



This home was built in 1962. Venus loves the uncluttered feel of the home and enjoys the ping pong table in the basement. Her favorite room is the sun room because of the calming views. It is a comfortable place to stay while visiting in the Greenfield area. They will have a train layout with a village for viewing during the tour in the sun room.

Finally, the **B & O Depot will be open for visitors.** The Depot displays were reorganized in 2016 with the addition of Tom Adams' model railroad display. He has beautifully made scale models of some of the Greenfield buildings and homes during the 1920's along with the railroad tracks and depots. In October of 2017 he added new additions of downtown stores of Greenfield in the 1950's and 60's. This year he has included his model of the McClain High School. We encourage you to stop in and see this wonderful display and the military and railroad displays.



All four families are excited about the tour this year and hope many visitors come through to see all their hard work and Christmas decorations. The historical society truly appreciates all their time and effort. The tour helps the society carry on its work to preserve and share Greenfield's history. The tickets are \$10.00 for the tour and are available at the Community Savings Bank starting November 19 through noon of December 1. Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at the Grain and Hay building and at the homes. Also, if you need gifts for Christmas, we have many ideas available, including our book on

McClain High School available at the Grain and Hay building. **Remember, a meal will be available at the Grain and Hay from 11:30-1:00 pm, costing \$10.00.** Come out and support the Greenfield Historical Society and these families who have generously opened their homes for the Tour.

