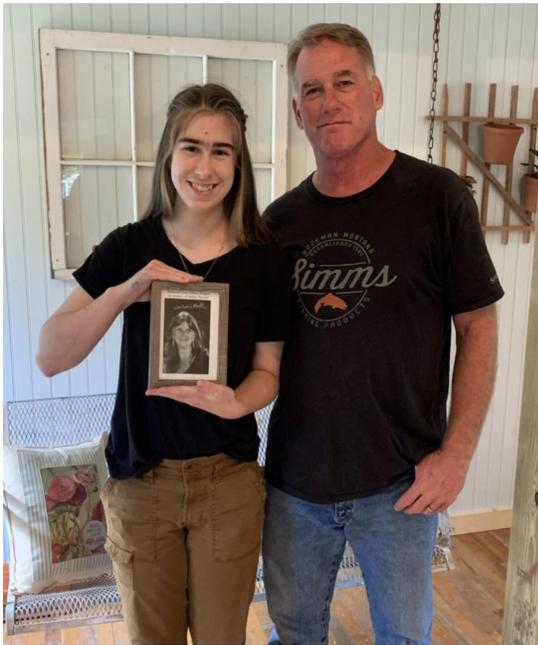


2021 Annual Newsletter
Merry Christmas from the Dingles and Icthus Ministries

Dearest Friends and Family,

We pray this finds all of you in good health and with an increasing measure of God's presence and peace upon your lives. To say this past year was difficult for many of you would be an understatement. But through it all, God has remained faithful! His power and glory are amazing, and we marvel that He has so lovingly adopted us as sons and daughters. Psalm 40:5 "O Lord, our God, no one can compare with You. Such wonderful works and miracles are all found with You! And You think of us all the time with Your countless expressions of love - far exceeding our expectations!" (The Passion Translation)

Life has been busier at Icthus this year. We hosted 12 groups at the Retreat Center, many guests in the guesthouses, a group of ladies who camped at the Haven, several RV guests, many people utilizing the Rec field, our 22 Annual Praise Festival on Oct. 31, a ladies Bible study in the Haven House, and clogging at the Pavilion! Ministry opportunities were abundant, and it was an honor to walk closely with so many of you who lost loved ones. We were pleased to serve more local churches, and we are so very blessed by the faithfulness and generosity of so many. One huge blessing was a mission trip led by Rodney Mitchell and Auburn Heights Church. They accomplished much, but the most special gift was their creation of Lydia's art studio, in memory of Debbie Mitchell.



The Dingle family has experienced God's protection, blessing, and provision in a powerful way. All 7 of us survived Covid back in May. Bill and Edith have had a busy year with ministry, children, and milking a cow for 15 straight months. The farm has done well, and the land has produced so much good fruit! ***We appreciate your love and prayers so much! Please keep it up!***



Emma is enjoying her junior year at WCU. She made the Chancellor's list again and is doing well in her Honors program. She will be an intern at the Jackson Co. Genealogical Society in the spring. She filmed the Swain home football games again this past fall, and she still enjoys working at the bakery during the holidays. She has a passion for Jesus, her friends, and the outdoors.

Reah had a very remarkable year. She graduated in May, helped her Swain Ladies Track and Field team win the State Championship in June (she came in 4th in the State for triple jump,) worked hard all summer at the Hemlock Inn, started WCU in the fall, and marched with the Pride of the Mountains marching band at Western. She loves her band friends, reading, and pizza.

Lydia is doing well as a Sophomore at Swain High. She recently took 1st place in an art contest at the library, and she is thoroughly enjoying her new art studio located behind the Creek House. She likes reading, photography, clogging at Fontana, and hanging out with her youth group.



David grew 9 inches this past year, and is sporting a dark mustache! He has adjusted well to his first year in public school. As an 8th grader, he hopes to give spring track a try with throwing the discus and jumping. He is the best farm-hand and lover of all outdoor adventures.

Elijah is surviving the 6th grade at home with Sgt. Mama. He has been an invaluable help to Bill on the farm. He still loves squirrel hunting, legos, Minecraft, basketball, and Nachos.