

Pickleball Anyone?

I have never considered myself an athletic type of person. In my younger years, I played basketball, baseball, and flag football. I even played basketball in college seminary for the St. Meinrad Ravens! But, my speed was more “band than basketball!”

About seven years ago, Susie and I moved into our newly built home in Carmel. All twenty-three houses on the street were built within a year or two of each other. A few people in the neighborhood began organizing monthly get-togethers so that we could all get to know each other, better. This mushroomed into Euchre parties, chili cook-offs, book club, movie night, the traveling beer club, and much, much more.

One summer afternoon, this strange looking net and paddles resembling a cross between tennis and ping-pong appeared in one person’s driveway. Naturally, curiosity got the best of us, and we started learning about Pickleball. This eventually led to setting up a make-shift court on the street and playing the game. At first, I was just happy to hit the ball, then after a few lessons, we played more regularly.

Today, there are three carefully measured, spray-painted courts aligning our street for Spring-Fall play, and a group of eighteen of us play indoors on Sunday afternoons from 4 PM – 6 PM at the Carmel Racquet Club from September-May!

Pickleball is a sport that I find challenging in a good way and that brings a variety of people together in fun and fellowship – no matter what skill level you might find yourself in!

- Father Frank