



Central Connections

175 years... and still a frontier church

Volume 42 Issue 12

A Sign of God's Kingdom in the Heart of the City

July 1, 2007

Scripture

July 8

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalms 30

Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 15

Amos 7:7-17

Psalms 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

July 22

Amos 8:1-12

Psalms 52

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42



Central Christian Church

Rev. Linda McCrae

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317/635-6397

pastor@indyccc.org

<http://indyccc.org>

Worship: Sundays @ 10:30am

Study: Sundays @ 9:30am

Study: Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

We are beginning the celebration of Central's 175th Anniversary, the culmination of which will be June 8, 2008 with Dr. Sharon Watkins, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the pulpit. Our calendar thru December currently includes:

Dr. Newell Williams, President of Brite Divinity School, August 19, 2007. Dr. Williams will preach on the history of the Disciples of Christ, especially here in Indianapolis and Central Christian Church. Following worship we will have a pitch-in dinner where Dr. Williams will be able to enter into conversation with us about our history as Disciples of Christ.

Our own Dr. Clark Williamson has volunteered to lead us in a study of 19th Century Disciples of Christ Theology. His classes will be held following worship on the Sundays of October 14, 21, and November 4. There will be a light lunch provided. The text that Dr. Williamson will be using is *Classic Themes of Disciples Theology* edited by Kenneth Lawrence. This will be available to borrow or purchase.

Small Change - Big Difference on 11/7/2007

Small and important acts really can change the world. Learn how our gifts, volunteer work, and advocacy make a difference for the homeless man on the streets of Indianapolis or the lesbian couple from South Carolina or the mother with AIDS in South Africa. Join Dr. Eugene G. White, IPS Superintendent; Carol Cosby, Director for Social Action Networks for Disciples Home Missions; and Rev. Johnny Wray, Director of Week of Compassion, the relief and development program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as they share real stories of transformation. A discussion will follow. Presented in collaboration with Spirit & Place and Week of Compassion.

Home: A Parable of Beatrice and Neal on 11/17/2007 - With words and music by Tim McGinley and script by James Geissler

This moving musical, presented in reader's theater format, reminds us that living generously means engaging in civil acts, especially deep, meaningful conversation with each other—even when we don't agree. The issues portrayed—war, poverty, AIDS, homosexuality, and more—are as timely today as when the script was written. A post-performance conversation with the cast will follow. Presented in collaboration with Spirit & Place and Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciples Alliance, Inc.

Please add these events to your calendars as we look forward to celebrating 175 years of history in Indianapolis.

Silent Auction: A Week On the Beach

Beautiful Cabo San Lucas

Studio Condo
Sleeps 4 (2 queen size beds)
Ocean views, Kitchenette
Monday - Monday
Available August 13 - December 17
except October 15 & November 19

Need Passport
Airfare is usually between \$350 & \$400
Airport shuttle is \$30 round trip
AND Its okay to drink the water!

Dreams Los Cabos Suites Beach & Golf Resort is a luxury oasis located on the sparkling Sea of Cortez. Open-air hacienda-style architecture offers 308 spacious luxury suites in varying sizes, all with ocean views from your private and furnished terrace. Appointments include twice-daily maid service, premium stocked mini-bar, satellite TV and much more. There are three swimming pools, two with swim up bars, one snack bar, a full-service spa and fitness center, and five outstanding restaurants, plus lounges



Casa Dorada Beach & Golf Resort is 75 one, two, and three bedroom luxury vacation ownership suites hosted by the Dreams Los Cabos. Club Casa Dorada is an RCI Gold Crown Resort and has been awarded its highest ratings for service and quality since first opening in 1997. Owners at Club Casa Dorada Beach & Golf Resort enjoy access to world class activities and amenities including two oceanfront championship golf courses, an equestrian center, 4 health spas, tennis courts, the Cabo Real Desert Park Reserve for guided ATV adventures, hiking and mountain biking, and 2 protected bays for water sports including swimming, kayaking, jet skis, snorkeling, and surf fishing. If that's not enough, just minutes away in Cabo San



Lucas is access to some of the best deep sea fishing in the world available on charter boats out of the marina, as well as a variety of sunset cruises, whale watching adventures, and snorkeling & scuba trips. (from <http://www.casadorada.com/golf/>)



As part of the fund raising auction for the 175th Anniversary events and festivities we have received a donation for a week at Cabo San Lucas in Mexico.

We are holding a silent auction for this wonderful week. Beginning on Sunday, July 8 at 9:00am, we will begin accepting bids on a sheet in fellowship hall. The starting bid will be \$500. We will continue to accept bids via email (to office@indyccc.org) and phone (635.6397). You can use the information above to ask about current bid or check the church website for the prior days top bid. We will conclude bidding in fellowship hall at 12:00pm on July 15th.

Editor's Note: For those who receive the print version of the newsletter, please accept our apologies for the quality of the pictures and graphics. A large number of those receiving the newsletter receive it via email and the photos will work much better that way.



Regardless of our politics, we remember and pray for the families of those who died in military service since the last newsletter. We also remember the countless innocents from every nation who have died in war whose names we will never know.

Larry Parks Jr., 24
Frank M. Sandoval, 27
Eric L. Snell, 35
Jacob T. Tracy, 20
David A. Wilkey Jr., 22
Darryl W. Linder, 23
Joshua S. Modgling, 22
William A. Zapfe, 35
David J. Bentz III, 20
Sid W. Brookshire, 36
Joe G. Charfauros Jr., 33
Darren P. Hubbell, 38
Shawn P. Martin, 30
Stephen J. Wilson, 28
Daniel J. Agami, 25
Karen N. Clifton, 22
Anthony D. Hebert, 19
Thomas R. Leemhuis, 23
Alphonso J. Montenegro II, 22
Raymond N. Spencer Jr., 23
Jerimiah J. Veitch, 21
Ryan M. Wood, 22
Carter A. Gamble Jr., 24
Michael J. Montpetit, 31
Dominic N. Rodriguez, 23
Jason D. Nathan, 22
William E. Brown, 25
Derek A. Calhoun, 23
Joel A. Dahl, 21

“In Laws and Outlaws” - This Summer’s Must See Film-Not in Theaters!

Central Christian Church is a proud member organization of the Interfaith Coalition on Nondiscrimination (ICON). Two years ago, over 30 generous donors to the Jesus MCC Justice Fund made it possible for ICON to have a full-time Executive Director to lobby legislators and conduct grassroots organizing of fair minded people of faith throughout Indiana to go toe-to-toe with the religious right. For years the religious right had been busy building powerful advocacy organizations that bash GLBT people and drove the public policy debate. Meanwhile, affirming people of faith had barely said a word. But, that has changed!

In 2005, who would have imagined that Bloomington, Columbus and Indianapolis would have civil rights protections that include sexual orientation and gender identity? Who would have believed that we could successfully turn back anti-GLBT legislative proposals such as the constitutional amendment to define marriage and state-sanctioned reproduction that would have denied lesbians couples the right to start a family?

Of course, ICON didn’t accomplish these things on its own, but because its work, people of faith who support the fair treatment of GLBT Hoosiers were heard as never before. This was a key part of the equation for success.

In a continued effort to change the hearts and minds of people of faith in Indiana, the Interfaith Coalition on Nondiscrimination is partnering with the film *Inlaws & Outlaws* to raise awareness of the importance of GLBT family recognition.

As the debate over a constitutional amendment to define marriage rages on, this new film by Drew Emery goes beyond the rhetoric and straight to the heart. Whether loving inside or outside of marriage, struggling to get in or suing to get out, we follow the lives of ordinary folks as they figure out their own path to happily ever after — with more than a few surprises along the way.

Neatly side-stepping the red/blue divide, the film starts with a simple premise: whether you’re gay or straight, everyone has a relationship with marriage. When the film begins, you don’t know who’s gay or straight, and who’s with whom. But by cleverly weaving the various threads into a collective narrative, by the end of the film, you’ve got it all figured out, but you no longer *care* who’s gay or isn’t, and you’re rooting for everyone.

Honest, irreverent and compelling, *Inlaws & Outlaws* takes one of our time’s most divisive topics and turns it into the feel-good movie that’s as charming as it is irresistible.

Make plans to see this film on Friday night, August 17th at 7PM here at Central Christian. Tickets are available in advance for \$8 each from Kerry Armstrong or by making a reservation with Sandy Heidenreich through the church office. Cost of tickets covers the screening fee. Any amount over that fee will go to continue the work of ICON.

For more information on the film see: <http://inlawsandoutlawfilm.com/>
Kerry Armstrong

Immigration in the News

Immigration is in the daily news these days. Legislators and the media speak with authority on immigration issues on a daily basis. But what should people of faith be focused on in the midst of all this? Our Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries program believes that we should let our faith determine our position on immigration. To help Disciples do just that, a resource entitled “Is Immigration Good for the United States” is available on the Disciples web site at <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/PDF/RIM/RIMPacket/07IsImmigrationGood.pdf>. It shows how faith and our heritage should form our opinions, and it answers many questions including the following:

- Why don't undocumented persons wait their turn to come like everyone else?
- Why do the undocumented take jobs away from U.S. citizens?
- Why don't the undocumented pay taxes?
- Why don't the undocumented want to learn English?
- Why do we reward criminals for breaking our laws?
- What would happen to agriculture and the service industry without the undocumented?
- What does it cost us to try to keep people out?
- Should we be deporting people that have lived here their whole life?
- How is Christ present in the undocumented?
- Who would Jesus deport?

No member of our family should be satisfied if any member of our American family is suffering or in need and we can do something about it.

—Colin Powell

Chris Davis, 35
Joel A. House, 22
Joseph P. Kenny, 20
Jimmy M. Malone, 23
Michael D. Moody Jr., 31
Daniel P. Riordan, 24
Shane M. Stinson, 23
Henry G. Byrd III, 20
Eric C. Palmer, 21
Andre Craig Jr., 24
Trista L. Moretti, 27
Nathan L. Winder, 32
Derek C. Dixon, 20
Daniel A. Newsome, 27
William W. Crow Jr., 28
Cory F. Hiltz, 20
Shin W. Kim, 23
Michael J. Martinez, 24
Giann C. Joya Mendoza, 27
Dustin L. Workman II, 19
James L. Adair, 26
Robb L. Rolfing, 29
Raymond R. Buchan, 33
Victor A. Garcia, 22
Jonathan M. Rossi, 20

*“In war, there are no
unwounded soldiers.”*

Jose Narosky



Our mission statement:

Celebrating the unconditional welcome we receive from God through Christ, we join together in worship, community & witness to wrestle with deep questions of faith, to grow in love for God and one another, to confront oppression and injustice, and to extend God's boundless hospitality to all.

“How can we call ourselves a people of faith and not take care of our babies?”

This is the question, Dr. Sharon Watkins, our General Minister and President, was asking herself as she left a seminar for denominational leaders in Washington, DC. At this seminar she listened to parents and grandparents tell their stories of not being able to obtain medical attention when their children are ill. Perhaps you too have heard some of the tragic stories about families who have inadequate or no health care coverage for their children. Perhaps the story is your own.

Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) currently provide coverage to over thirty million children. These two programs have greatly improved the availability of health insurance to children. Yet there are still more than nine million children, most of whom live in working households, who have no health care coverage. Even though this problem needs political action to be solved, it is not a political issue. It is about children and it is a moral issue that we, good people of faith, cannot avoid addressing.

Children must have people to advocate for them. They do not choose their parents. They do not choose how or where they will live. They are totally vulnerable and we must do all we can to protect them from harm. Voicing our concern to our representatives in Washington and to our President is one very concrete thing we can do. Now is the time to take action because the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is up for renewal this year. Children's advocates agree that if we cannot get the Federal Government to do something this year it will not come up again for another seven years. Seven years is too late for today's children.

Disciples Home Missions has created a Web site “Health Care for All Children, NOW.” Here you will find a letter from Dr. Watkins to Disciples Congregations, liturgical resources and examples of letters to the editor and to legislators that support the adoption of a bill that advocates for the coverage of all children. If you do not agree with the position of these example letters, please compose and send your own. The important thing is let your concern for children be known. Also posted is a draft of the health care resolution that will come before the Disciples General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas in July.

You can download a copy of House of Representatives bill 1688 at (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>). This bill was first introduced by Representative Bobby Scott of Virginia and calls for the creation of a new “All Healthy Children Program.” On the 29th of May there were 52 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives. Check to see if your representative is among those who have signed on to support this bill. Write a letter of thanks or encouragement, which ever is appropriate.

H.R.1688

Title: To amend the Social Security Act to provide health insurance coverage for children and pregnant women throughout the United States by combining the children and pregnant woman health coverage under Medicaid and SCHIP into a new All Healthy Children Program, and for other purposes.

Matthew Rosen, a Disciple and the Religious Action Coordinator at Children's Defense Fund, has created a resource called, “Covering All Children in 2007, an Achievable, Smart, and Right Goal.” This is a toolkit to help faith communities

join together in learning about, praying for and acting on behalf of all children. You can download a copy of this resource at http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/PageServer?pagename=healthy_child_takeaction.

Dr. Watkins is calling us to action. She is well aware that we will not all agree on the solution but asks that we be united in voicing our concern for children and that we be united in prayer, praying that, "God will show us the way to take care of these precious little ones entrusted into our care."

Disciples Home Missions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Office of Family and Children's Ministries ·
<http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/> · (888) 346-2631

I Sometimes Know What God is Like

I will counsel you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8

We are often reminded that it is not our own strength, but God's strength through Christ Jesus, that enables us to meet the challenges of serving as Overseas Mission Partners in Botswana. Through the work and the people we meet, God instructs us in the way we shall go and strengthens us in our moments of weakness. In the process, we sometimes learn a bit more about what God is like.

I can truly say, "I sometimes know what God is like" when staff members at Sedibeng come to work to help disadvantaged youth learn job skills to sustain them in life, even though they, themselves, haven't received a salary in months because of funding issues. Instead they draw strength from God to do what needs to be done.

I can truly say, "I sometimes know what God is like" when my students at Kgolagano College volunteer time in service to God. One student goes each week to the local government hospital to work with the children. Another student who is HIV positive, inspires and organizes other HIV positive women in her local village, helping them to be empowered and to feel God's presence.

I can truly say, "I sometimes know what God is like" when we receive a gracious gift from our North American church partners, through Global Ministries, that enables us to create a special collection of theological books for prisoners that they can borrow through the prison chaplains.

I can truly say, "I sometimes know what God is like" when we hear of the continuing interest of churches in North America towards mission - local, regional and global - with the commitment to help others and so to share the Good News.

Perhaps this is why we are such enthusiastic supporters of mission in the Church...because through our involvement, we not only make a difference in the world, but we are blessed with the opportunity to learn more about what God is like.

Open our hearts, O God, to the strength and wisdom you share through your servants in Botswana. Amen.

James & Jayanthi Wilson have been missionaries for 18 years. They currently serve in Gaborone, Botswana.



A Huge Thanks to the two Food Pantry Coordinators!

Erin Leraris has begun in the position of Food Pantry Procurement Coordinators. She will be placing our orders for food and working with volunteers for additional purchases and pick-up.

Amy Walters will soon begin in the position of Food Pantry Distribution Coordinators. She will coordinate our last Saturday distribution, working with volunteers, guests and letting Erin know what we need for the next month's distribution.

We have a wonderful pool of volunteers that help with pickup and distribution, the addition of these two ladies to help with coordination will help with the continuity and improvement of our program.

If you would like to lend your efforts to the Food Pantry ministry or have some suggestions for ways we can assist our guests while they are waiting for distribution, please contact Glenda Survance, Chair of Community Outreach.

Newsletter submissions may be left in the church office or by eMailing Crusader@indyccc.org.

We welcome articles, notes of congratulations or concern, biographical sketches... anything for the good of the church family.

Deadline for next newsletter July 15, 2007



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Indianapolis, IN 46204

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