



Central Connections

175 years... and still a frontier church

Volume 42 Issue 14

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

July 29, 2007

Scripture

August 5

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 12

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 19

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56



Central Christian Church

Rev. Linda McCrae
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Worship: Sundays @ 10:30am

Study: Sundays @ 9:30am

Study: Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

I think Fort Worth was my ninth General Assembly. There are some in our congregation who have been to many more than that. I always enjoy General Assembly as an opportunity to see friends and acquaintances from hither and yon – and in that vein, I'll mention that I got to see several former members of Central, including Matthew Gloyer & Michelle Harris (now in Berkeley, CA), the Iobst family (now in Georgia), Jessica Vazquez (now in Chicago), and others – all of whom feel firmly and fondly connected to us still.

Like many others I've talked with, I came away from Fort Worth saying, "Wow, that was a *great* Assembly." You can read more about the specifics (DisciplesWorld had some great online coverage, and there will be reports forthcoming), but certainly a part of the "greatness" had to do with a combination of inspiring worship, engagement on difficult issues like the war in Iraq and health care, and an abundance of opportunities for education and reflection.

For me, one of the highlights was to be with other people who think like I do. I know, I know...I'm always talking about diversity and about listening to others with whom we disagree...and I really believe in that! But it's also important to gather with others who share your deepest convictions. There were 300 people at the Global Ministries dinner, and at least a couple hundred at the gatherings of Disciples Peace Fellowship and Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciples (GLAD). Those are the groups that best remind me of who I am and how I understand the gospel. Other people would have a different list (as it should be), but the point is that we're connected to others, and not alone in our efforts.

A word of affirmation is certainly due to many Central folk who helped make the Assembly "great," particularly Patti Case in her role as the major planner of that event. And I again want to lift up the ministry of Sharon Watkins as she leads our church. As her local church family I hope we will surround her with prayer and encouragement as she continues to exercise excellent leadership.

In the summer of 2009, General Assembly will be held in our neighborhood – and won't that be great!



Youth

Work Group

Since 1977, Group Workcamps Foundation has provided multi-denomination, short-term mission trips. This past week adults and youth from many states as far away as Pennsylvania as well as many denominations worked tirelessly throughout Indianapolis on a variety of worthy projects.

Central was the recipient of several of those teams who made significant contributions to our historic building. They completed the painting of the food pantry storeroom; painted in other locations; seal coated the guest parking lot; and removed deteriorated asphalt in the northeast corner of the north parking lot in preparation for future signage and landscaping.

Several people helped supervise the kids for a morning, an afternoon or whole days (Phil Allgood; Delbert Crocker; Dick Close; Jerry Nickel). Several more (Lydia Brasher, Lee Brunner, Deborah Carrithers, Greg Nickel) stopped by during the week to express our gratitude for the great service they were providing. Leon Riley set the tone for the week by connecting the mission of Central to their week's physical contributions; David Licht provided a primer on homelessness during their Wednesday lunch break. Sandy Heidenreich kept the loose ends tied together all week with all the activity. Terry Bradbury helped organize the tasks and volunteers.

Terry Bradbury

Dr. Newell Williams to Speak at Central,

Sunday, August 19th

The newly elected moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada, Newell Williams, will be here August 19th to participate in our year long celebration of Central's 175th anniversary! Dr. Williams will begin his day at 9:00 teaching an adult class. The theme of his class will be "Ovid Butler vs. Alexander Campbell: Theological Reflection on Social Issues Central Style."

Dr. Williams' sermon topic during the morning worship service will be "Where to Begin?" Following worship and a dinner, Newell will speak on the theme of "Will the Real Central Christian Church Please Stand Up?"

Mark your calendar now and come hear this excellent Disciples historian and friend of Central! Newell Williams is currently President of Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX and formerly a long time member of the faculty of Christian Theological Seminary. Newell's wife, Sue McDougal, also an ordained minister was Central's interim minister before Linda McCrae became our pastor. Newell has written numerous books and countless articles about the Disciples as a movement and church.

Phyllis Crocker



Penny's Care Team is hosting a baby shower open house for Penny & Jeremiah on August 11th from 1 to 3 at the home of Debbie Abbott and David Licht. Penny is registered at Target.

If you would be interested in participating in the purchase of a larger gift or have questions about how to be helpful, please contact a member of Penny's Care Team:

Debbie Abbott
Lori Adams
Mary Hays
Mindy Hamm
David Licht
Marily Porter
Glenda Survance



If you have a prayer concern or news update, please contact the pastor (pastor@indyccc.org) or the church office (office@indyccc.org). Either can be reached by calling the church office at 317.635.6397.



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.

Eric M. Holke, 31
Shawn V. Starkovich, 20
Nathan S. Barnes, 23
Brandon K. Bobb, 20
James J. Harrelson, 19
Ron J. Joshua Jr., 19
Jeffrey L. Chaney, 35
Patrick L. Wade, 38
Zachary Clouser, 19
Richard Gilmore III, 22
Daniel E. Gomez, 21
Luis E. Gutierrez-Rosales, 38
Ronald L. Coffelt, 36
Brandon M. Craig, 25
Rhett A. Butler, 22
Jacob S. Schmuecker, 27
Christopher G. Scherer, 21
Shawn G. Adams, 21
Bobby L. Twitty, 20
Courtney D. Finch, 27
Joshua P. Mathero, 29
Robert A. Lynch, 20
James H. McRae, 22
Matthew R. Zindars, 21
Daniel S. Noble, 21
Daniel A. Leckel, 19
Michael A. Baloga, 21
Charles E. Bilbrey Jr., 21
William R. Howdeshell, 37

“In Laws and Outlaws” – August 17th

Central Christian Third Congregation in Midwest To Screen Movie

Central Christian will be the third congregation in the entire Midwest to view and screen a movie that was first released in Los Angeles on May 3rd. Regardless of your position on marriage, this movie will touch you with the stories and journeys of both gay and straight people. It will move you, gay or straight to rethink why your own relationship is important and relevant. In a continued effort to change the hearts and minds of people of faith in Indiana, the Interfaith Coalition on Nondiscrimination (ICON) and Central Christian 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. . You will laugh at the touching stories and cry because of our common humanity.

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.

“Captures the **heart of love**...” John Hartl, *The Seattle Times*

“**Lovingly rendered**... a timely examination of the nature of marriage, whether straight or gay.” Ken Eisner, *Variety*

“An **excellent documentary** about people who personify everything that is right about the phrase “I do.” *NewsOK*, Oklahoma City

“A **timely, often affecting documentary** [that] investigates with subtlety and insight... a heartfelt and surprisingly tender story...” Jason Gargano, *Cincinnati City Beat*

Membership Committee

As new Membership Committee co-chairs for the coming year, Steve and I are asking for volunteers to help us with providing snacks for fellowship after church services. This is a wonderful way to meet and greet new members, and help in a meaningful way without a long commitment. We, as chairs, will always ensure that snacks and lemonade are available for fellowship, but you are also welcome to bring baked goods, fresh fruit, etc. if you desire. A list of instructions will be available for those newcomers and we'll be happy to "show you the ropes" beforehand. There is no age limit for this help.

We are counting on the other Committees and the church congregation to help in this endeavor. Without your help, fellowship snacks will not be guaranteed every week.

We will also need volunteers for the 4 major congregational dinners (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter breakfast, and Anniversary picnic/dinner) that we'll be serving. Of course, Thanksgiving and Christmas are pitch-ins, but we need help preparing the meats, etc. for the dinners. A full menu of food is provided for Easter breakfast. This means early mornings at church (usually 6:00-6:30 am), generally not attending church, and helping with the food set-up. Other volunteers will clean up the kitchen.

If you have it in your hearts to work a little bit and have some fun, please let us know when you can help us out. Thank you!

Steve and Twyla Cecil

Millennium Development Goal Benefit Concert

Millennium Development Goal Benefit Concert and Reception featuring Elisabeth von Trapp is Sunday, September 23. The concert is at 4 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, 55 Monument Circle, and the reception is 6-7 p.m. at The Columbia Club, 121 Monument Circle. Tickets are \$25 for each event. Proceeds benefit the United Nations Declaration goals to achieve universal primary education and promote gender equality and empower women. For additional information or for tickets, call 317-407-1955 or go to <http://www.indydio.org/vontrapp/>



A Huge Thank you to Sue Allgood who has volunteered to help monitor the donations and distributions for Community Outreach and be responsive to the donors, especially those donors who don't attend Central. We are blessed that there are several. Thanks Sue for your quick response to our call for help.

Jaime Rodriguez Jr., 19
Cody C. Grater, 20
Jack D. Richards, 39
Wilberto Suliveras, 38

*"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.

Interest Survey

Central Christian Church has a variety of opportunities available for all of us to share our gifts for ministry and service. Below are some of them! Please make a check by any of the committees listed below that interest you. Also, there is a line for you to indicate any other areas that interest you or that you have a passion about.

Please sign your name and place the survey in the offering plate or deliver it to the church office.
Thank you!

175th Anniversary

- Special events (speakers, meals, etc.)
- Member interviews

Christian Education

- Nursery worker
- Worship & Wonder (Ages 3 – Grade 2)
- Young Disciples (Grades 3 – 6)
- Adult Sunday School
- Book Discussion Group
- Other Study Groups

Community Outreach

- Food Pantry
- Free Clothing
- Recycling
- Other Interests

Christian Women's Fellowship

- Circle Participation
- Thrift Shop

Evangelism

- Greeting on Sunday mornings
- Visitor follow-up
- Advertising

Membership

- New Member Integration
- Church Dinners

- Coffee Hour Host
- Fellowship Activities
- Other Ideas

Property

- Work days
 - Special skills (e.g., plumbing, etc.):
-

Stewardship

- Stewardship Education
- Environmental Awareness
- Annual Stewardship Program
- Other Areas

World Outreach

- Special Day Offerings
- Global Mission Support
- Equal Exchange Products
- Other areas

Worship

- Music (Choir Special Music)
- Children's Sermon
- Acolyte Supervision
- Flower Sponsorship
- Worship Leader
- Liturgical Year Planning

Other _____

Specific Interests

Name _____

Phone _____ email _____

Return the completed survey to the church by dropping it by the church office or placing in the offering plate. You may also send an email of your interests to office@indyccc.org.

Children Worship & Wonder

According to *Young Children and Worship*, by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman,

Worship and Wonder is about worship and young children [ages 3 through second grade]. It is an exciting way that children experience God while learning about God. It involves helping children worship in a special place apart from the worshipping congregation so they become able to worship meaningfully *with* the congregation.

Worship and Wonder involves a sensorimotor style of storytelling which allows appropriate freedom for children to interact and respond to God's stories. It allows children to share their own experiences as well as providing children with a way to tell the stories of God to others.

All parents of children who are currently attending or will be attending Worship and Wonder this fall - or anyone who might be interested in Worship and Wonder in any way - are invited to an orientation session on Sunday, September 9th, after worship in the parlor. A light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Debbie Abbott @ 974-1290 or debbieabbott@hotmail.com. Be ready to take your shoes off and share in a special worship service with your children.

Debbie Abbott

Three Perspectives of Abraham

Three Perspectives of Abraham is a discussion series that offers a unique opportunity to learn more about this seminal character of three faith traditions. Three free and open-to-the-public discussions also allow participants to visit and tour a local Mosque, Synagogue and Church and learn more about the diverse communities that comprise the Indianapolis faith community. The discussions are 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, August 30 at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, 600 W. 70th St., Indianapolis; Thursday, September 6 at Second Presbyterian Church, 7700 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis; and Thursday, September 13 at Nur Allah Mosque, 2040 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. The concept for this public discussion series arose from the "House of Abraham" project of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis. For more information, contact Charlie Wiles at 317-466-0114 or <mailto:cwiles@peacelearningcenter.org>



To Jerry Butt and Andrew Stoner for leading worship during July.

To Steve Cecil for presenting the children's moment.

To Jerry Butt and Verity Jones for preaching during Linda's absence.

To Jim Keown, Darrel Crouter, and Deborah Butt for being "on call" for pastoral concerns.

To those who have shared their musical gifts during worship this summer, including Bob Brite, Karen Sanford, Beth White, and the summer choir.

To those who worked as Keepers of the Ark on July 28, and the youth who worked here July 23-26.

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 August 12, 2007



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