



Central Connections

175 years... and still a frontier church

Volume 44 Issue 3

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

March 25, 2009

In this Issue

Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Central News Updates	2
Holy Week Activities at Central	2
Wednesday Night Book Group	2
Get Your Love Buzz Here	3
War Casualties	3
Volunteers Needed for Stoles for GA	3
Fred Craddock Preaching at Central	3
MCC Report	4
Casseroles Needed	4
Long Term Recovery Efforts	5
Lectionary	5
Kids page/Calendar	6
Remarkable Blessings	7
Congregation & Community Breakfast	8
Indy Food Coop	8
Mass Ave Planting Volunteers	8
Heifer's Dr. Wollen Speaking	9
AIDS Ministry Volunteers Needed	9
Earth Day Activities	9

Dear friends,

During this season of Lent we have been "going deeper." For me it has felt like a rich time. The Ash Wednesday service, a prayer retreat, worship, the group that gathers on Thursdays to study Unbinding the Gospel, hearing about the Wednesday Book Group's conversations, getting to know our new Director of Music, our ministries with those in need of food and clothing and support...

Even though it's a busy time of year in the church, part of "going deeper" for me has been slowing down (at least part of the time!). One day last week I spent about half an hour with a man who came to our door "wanting to talk to someone." Often such requests have a very concrete nature: people are in need of a bus pass, help with the rent, food, etc. But this man just needed to talk. He's fighting cancer, the noise in his apartment building keeps him from sleeping, he has few friends, he feels alone. He's also very short on money, so he might have asked for financial help, but clearly his greatest need was a listening ear. He thanked me profusely as he left. I thought, what a simple thing to do – and how often I am "too busy" to do it.

I'm aware that this kind of interaction takes place all the time within the Central community and as we go about our lives. God has blessed this community with great gifts in the people who are part of it – those who are active participants, those who are marginally involved, those who come to us as strangers. It's great to see love in action!

We are halfway through Lent and soon Holy Week will be here. Elsewhere in this issue please check the schedule of activities for that week. I hope you will enter into the rhythm of this very important week in the life of our faith. We will "go deeper" in recognizing our own pain and complicity in others' pain, as well as our own goodness and longing for wholeness and peace.

On Easter morning, the high holiday of the Christian year, we celebrate the glorious victory of life over death, the triumph of love over hate and indifference. It's also a prime opportunity to offer hospitality in a couple of ways. One is through sharing a meal with our friends and neighbors, some of whom are homeless, at our Easter breakfast between 7 and 9:30am. Listening to someone's story, whether a stranger or friend, could be a highlight of your day. Easter is also a day that folks who are not connected to a church will seek one out. Many "Easter Christians" do not return the following Sunday – but might, if welcomed and invited back.

I am thankful for being part of this web of caring and love that we call Central.

Blessings,
Linda



Central Christian Church
Rev. Linda McCrae
701 North Delaware
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317/635-6397

pastor@indyccc.org

<http://indyccc.org>

Worship: Sundays @ 10:30am

Study: Sundays @ 9:00am

Study: Wednesdays @ 6:30pm



Get Your Love Buzz Here

Contact: Barb Williamson

At the coffee cart, of course. Love Buzz is a "smorgasbord of roasts in a combination of Latin American beans so fine it will make your heart pound," and is one of the many varieties of Free Trade coffee, tea, fruit and nuts, along with that other guilty pleasure, chocolate, available every week during coffee hour. Free trade products insure a fair return to the producers in developing countries, and are offered as part of the Witness Ministry of our congregation. So stop by, check us out, and feel the love.

Volunteers Sought to make Stoles for General Assembly

Disciples who love working with fabrics are needed to create stoles for the 2009 General Assembly. The garments will be worn by 300 worship leaders at the Assembly, which will be held July 29 - Aug. 2 in Indianapolis. Volunteers are asked to create simple stoles with multicolored hands on one side and green hands on the other side. Creators of the garments are invited to select the fabrics for their stoles based on the colors in the General Assembly logos, which are leaves of hands on a tree from the Assembly theme: "...for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:2), and to pray for those who receive them. To get specific instructions on making the hands stoles, visit: www.disciples.org/portals/0/pdf/ga/2009/ga09-StolesInstructions.pdf. For more, see: www.disciples.org/tabid/58/itemid/192/General-Assembly-Stoles.aspx

And Speaking of General Assembly...

Dr. Fred Craddock will be our guest preacher on Sunday, August 2 – the Sunday of General Assembly. Dr. Craddock is acknowledged as one of the best Disciples preachers around. He has taught preaching and New Testament at Phillips and Emory (Candler School of Theology), and helped found the Cherry Log Christian Church in Cherry Log, Georgia, where he now lives. He and his wife Nettie have also founded The Craddock Center, a non-profit organization serving the needs of people in Southern Appalachia. Linda McCrae had the opportunity to spend some time with Dr. Craddock during her renewal time last fall, and found him to be not only wise and brilliant, but also down-to-earth and thoroughly enjoyable.

It will be a great privilege to host the Craddocks, and we expect to have *lots* of guests on August 2. We are currently in the process of forming of task force to plan for that day. If you're interested in helping, please contact Linda.

There are just seven days left to save \$25 off the price of registration for the General Assembly. Registration for residents of Central Indiana is \$100 until March 31. Register online at: www.disciples.org.



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.

Micheal B. Alleman, 31
Michael L. Mayne, 21
Zachary R. Nordmeyer, 21
William E. Emmert, 36
Brian M. Connelly, 26
Donte Jamal Whitworth, 21
Jeffrey A. Reed, 23
Jessica Y. Sarandrea, 22
Daniel B. Hyde, 24
Patrick A. Malone, 21
Gary L. Moore, 25

"In war, there are no unwounded soldiers."

Jose Narosky

Casseroles Needed for Easter Breakfast

If you'd like to bring a casserole, this is a wonderful website full of recipes - <http://www.bbonline.com/recipe/casseroles-breakfast.html>.

Please send an email to Glenda (witness@indyccc.org) or call 317.413.1139.

We'll be grateful for any donations and if you decide on Saturday to make one and didn't call - we'll gladly accept it.



MCC Report

Contact: Jennifer Riggs

The Ministry Coordination Council met on March 16, welcoming Lydia Brasher as the new team leader for Human Resources. Carolyn Higginbotham led a discussion on generosity, as the MCC began to prepare budgets for next year. The MCC checked in on where we are with our congregational goals this year. We had a goal of 75% participation by members in the life of the church beyond worship and we have already achieved that goal. We had a goal of increasing giving by 10% and we are currently at a 6.8% increase. We had a goal of increasing Sunday morning attendance by 10% and we are actually at a -4% (making us 14% off our goal).

The MCC also met in conjunction with the Strategic Planning Committee on March 18 to revisit our new structure and decide if any changes were needed, now that we have lived into it for several months. Concern was expressed that teams need to have better opportunities to vision together (rather than focusing only on getting tasks done) and that it has been extremely hard to get congregational members to step forward to take on the coordination of pieces of work that fall under each team. (Individual volunteers are being found, but people to coordinate those volunteers in a particular area of work are hard to find.) Discussion of other issues led to a decision to bring recommendations to the Board for a change in By Laws to:

- rename the Human Resources Ministry Support Teams to be called the Volunteer Ministry Support Team;
- turn the Finance Committee (under the Physical Assets team) into a 4th ministry support team; and
- make the Treasure a member of the MCC.

Please note these upcoming events in the life of Central:

April 4 – Keepers of the Ark, 8AM

April 9 – Maundy Thursday Service, 7PM

April 10 – Good Friday, 6PM showing of “Bonheoffer” and light supper

April 12 – Easter Sunday Breakfast, bring a breakfast casserole to share

April 25 – Arbor Day planting of trees

May 2 – Keepers of the Ark, 8AM

May 3 – Witness Ministry Lunch, after worship, pitch-in

May 8 – Movie for Justice, 7PM

May 31 – Congregational Meeting

New Global Ministries Resource Addresses Effects of Iraq War

Global Ministries has launched a new resource on the Iraq war. Entitled "From War to Peace: Iraq and the Church's Voice," the resource "helps us to learn more about the impact on Iraqis who have been forced from their homes and are now living as refugees or internally displaced, and the efforts by Middle Eastern and U.S. churches to address this problem; it gives us a chance to understand the issues of chaplains and soldiers in various stages of their involvement and what can be done in the context of local congregations to offer care for them and for their families," said Peter Makari, Global Ministries area executive for Middle East/Europe. For more on this resource go to: globalministries.org/mee/from-war-to-peace/



Long Term Recovery Efforts Post Tsunami

In the four-plus years since the catastrophic 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Week of Compassion has supported Church World Service (CWS) and its partners working with affected communities in Indonesia. This work has laid the foundation for recovery efforts in the disaster-affected areas. In that period, some 150,000 people have benefited from various emergency food and non-food items. Seeds, tools, and provision of bicycles, taxis and fishing boats have assisted some 2,400 people to recover their livelihoods; more than 200 permanent houses have been built; some 43,000 people are benefiting from water supplies and the construction/rehabilitation of latrines, wells, and boreholes; some 7,450 people have received nutrition education and help; and 5,000 children have received vital psychosocial care to help them heal from the tragedy of the tsunami.

However, Indonesia remains one of the most hazard-prone countries in the world, and a large share of the population remains threatened by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, floods and drought. The high frequency of small- and large-scale disasters constantly erodes local resources. This is particularly true for the poor, rural communities that were affected by the 2004 tsunami. Given these ongoing needs, WoC and CWS are continuing efforts in Indonesia, focusing on water and sanitation, economic empowerment, health nutrition, HIV/AIDS, school-based programs and "mainstreaming" disaster-risk reduction. CWS is also planning to target vulnerable and marginalized groups such as children and the newly disabled, who have not received adequate or appropriate assistance in the long-term aftermath of the 2004 tsunami and earthquake.

Thanks to your ongoing support of disasters no longer on our radar screens, we can continue to help strengthen livelihood security for vulnerable households, improve the health and nutritional status of vulnerable groups, and improve the capacity of communities to provide a safe and healthy educational environment for their children. Week of Compassion, through our main implementing partner, CWS, is committed to sustainable, long-term recovery in the most vulnerable places on earth. Thank you for being a part of this ministry!



Zimbabwe, A Nation in Crisis: Disciples Urged to Act

The world watched Zimbabwe suffer through a botched and violent election last year. After months of bitter negotiations with longtime Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai was sworn in as the new prime minister by Mugabe during a ceremony at the State House in Harare on Feb. 11. Tsvangirai has been repeatedly detained and assaulted over the past six years by cronies of the Mugabe government.

The precarious political alliance with Mugabe as president and Tsvangirai as prime minister represents Zimbabwe's first ever "unity government" that will attempt to move the country forward. It won't be easy. Zimbabwe's economy has been ravaged by the second-highest inflation rate in history, Africa's worst cholera epidemic, and health and education systems that barely function. The African Union (AU) will serve as guarantor for the new government. Disciples may help by clicking here to sign the Zimbabwe crisis response petition to urge the African Union to act: globalministries.org/news/africa/zimbabwe-crisis-response.html

Lectionary Scripture



March 29

- * Jeremiah 31:31-34
- * Psalm 51:1-12
- * Hebrews 5:5-10
- * John 12:20-33

April 5

- * Mark 11:1-11
- * Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

April 12

- * Acts 10:34-43
- * Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- * 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- * John 20:1-18

April 19

- * Acts 4:32-35
- * Psalm 133
- * 1 John 1:1-2:2
- * John 20:19-31

April 26

- * Acts 3:12-19
- * Psalm 4
- * 1 John 3:1-7
- * Luke 24:36b-48

May 3

- * Acts 4:5-12
- * Psalm 23
- * 1 John 3:16-24
- * John 10:11-18

EASTER CARD

Many symbols remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection. This Easter, put some of those symbols on special cards. Then give the cards to other people to share the good news that Jesus is alive.

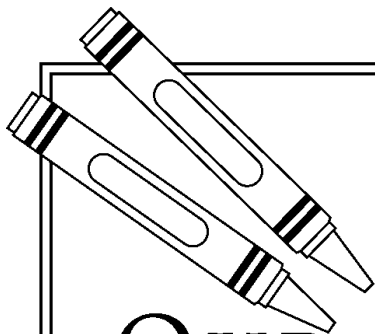
What you need:

- Craft foam
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Empty food can without label
- Paint and paintbrush
- Paper plate
- Paper (8 1/2" x 11")
- Markers or crayons



What you do:

1. Choose some simple Easter shapes to draw on the craft foam (cross, empty tomb, heart, etc.).
2. Cut out each shape.
3. With an adult's help, glue the shapes onto the can.
4. Pour a thin layer of paint onto a paper plate.
5. Roll the can in the paint and then roll the can onto the paper.
6. Try this several times using different colors.
7. When your paper is dry, fold it into a card.
8. Write "Happy Easter!" or a Bible verse on the front of the card. Then give it to someone.



Just for **KIDS**

OUR LIVING HOPE

Easter is a time to rejoice because of what God did for us in sending his Son. Jesus is our living hope. Read 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV) below. Then find the **bold** words in the crossword search.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you"



P	R	A	I	S	E
P	E	R	I	S	H
B	I	R	T	H	A
K	E	P	T	U	S
L	O	R	F	A	D
E	V	E	A	R	G

R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	J	E	S	U
H	E	A	V	E	N	I	N	H	A	D	L	I	V	I	N
I	G	S	P	O	I	N	H	E	R	I	T	A	N	C	E
C	H	R	I	S	T	L	O	R	D	P	R	A	I	S	W



H	O	P	N	S	E
H	O	P	E	P	L
L	I	V	V	O	I
J	E	S	E	I	V
E	V	E	R	L	I
S	U	F	F	E	N
U	T	A	S	I	G
S	O	D	O	E	T
A	M	E	R	C	Y



Remarkable Blessings

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

In a country of division and strife, the churches of South and North Korea meet together regularly each year to pray and plan joint mission priorities. This in itself is remarkable, but the growing confidence and strength in their shared faith and vigilant attention to human rights is gaining influence on governmental practices and humanitarian treatment.

Last year the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCKK) and the Korea Christian Federation (KCF) in the North agreed to use a common prayer in all of the churches of South and North Korea on Easter Sunday. They ask all of us to join in their prayer journey for healing and reconciliation. The prayer reads in part:

O God, Lord of our history as well as of our nation!
Today we praise you, Lord, who have risen as Eternal Life
through the struggle for righteousness, between lies and truth, at the fork of the path of
dying or living. . . .

O Lord, who is still alive and is with us!
As the one day of resurrection has brought a new day continuing through all eternity, and
as you accomplish the salvation of all humankind and all creation through the risen One,
Free us from the reality of war and conflict and from the world of antagonism and jealousy
through your mercy and grace. . . .

O Lord!
Help us, churches of North and South, sisters and brothers of North and South, to achieve
resurrection itself with one accord.
Help us to enjoy a life of peace through our belief and action.
Help us to be reborn as one nation wearing white clothes, a new nation of white and
cleanness.
Help us to build a kingdom of peace serving our neighbors, to open a new day of
reunification standing firmly as light for the world.

Amen

For More Information
Xiaoling Zhu, Area Executive
East Asia and the Pacific
700 Prospect Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Phone: 866-822-8224 ext. 3226
zhux@ucc.org



Keepers of the Ark

April 4th

8:00 to Noon

With over 6,000 Disciples from across the country coming to Indianapolis for General Assembly in July, there is much to do to have our building ready for guests. And spring is just around the corner so there are plenty of projects for that as well.

This is a great time to join Keepers of the Ark. You're welcome to join for breakfast at 8:00 or come between 9 and noon for as long as you like. There are projects for all interests and skills. If you have any questions, please contact Terry Bradbury.



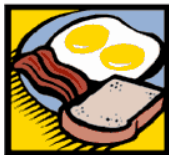
Join the
Riley Area Development
Corporation &
Indianapolis Downtown,
Inc. as we make
Mass Ave bloom.

Help us plant 100s of
annuals & perennials
in the 50+
landscaping beds
along the Mass Ave

Saturday, May 16th
8:30 am to 1:00 pm
Meet at The Davlan
(Mass & Alabama)
100 volunteers
needed, rsvp to RADC
at 637-8996, ext. 202
breakfast & lunch
provided



BREAKFAST Congregation & Community



Gather for Easter Breakfast

Contact: Glenda Survance

FELLOWSHIP

Our annual Easter Breakfast Open House is April 12th from 7:30am to 9:30am. This event is sacred to us here at Central as we gather with friends and neighbors alike.

Central Christian Church has a long history of being neighborly. We not only join in worship with friends from across the city and across the street but we also share life with those as well. We reach across the table offering friendship as well as assistance. We share clothing, food, stories and hope. We value nurturing one another in this sacred way. One doesn't need to be on our membership roster to be welcome at Central. Our annual Easter breakfast is open to the public. Sharing a meal together is one of the most neighborly things we can do. Please join us for breakfast Easter morning as we welcome all of our neighbors into our church home. Bring some food, mix and mingle with those you don't know and share your life with your neighbor. You'll be glad that you did.

Indy Food Coop to Open in Indy in 2009!

Hungry?

Hungry for fresh, organic, locally-grown produce available year-round?

Hungry for a downtown location where you can find fresh bulk grains, flours, cereals and nuts?

Hungry for a grocery store that sells affordable foods that you want?

Hungry to invest your grocery dollars in your local economy?

Sounds like you're hungry for Indy Food Co-op!

A group of concerned citizens have been working over the past one and a half years to open a non-profit, member-owned grocery store just east of downtown Indianapolis. This full-line grocery store will serve the greater Indianapolis area with fresh, natural, organic, affordable food and grocery items, including produce, meats and poultry, dairy, bulk items, health and beauty products and more. The goal is to carry 70 percent local, natural foods and 30 percent conventional products. .

The Indy Food Cooperative, Inc. (Indy Food Co-op) kicked off its Founding 150 Membership drive in November 2008, and reached the 150 founding member household goal earlier this month. Now, a general membership drive is underway to secure at least 500 co-op members to support this grocery. While membership offers discount and bulk ordering benefits, as well as an opportunity to give input on the policies and products, the general public will also be able to shop.

The store will provide a much-needed grocery option for those living downtown and on the city's near eastside. It will provide healthy, fresh and local food and focus a great deal of effort on improving the health and well-being of those in the community through outreach and education programs. The Indy Food Co-op will provide cooking classes, film screenings, health fairs and more.

The non-profit grocery is expected to open in the fall of 2009.

To become a member or for more information about the Indy Food Co-op, visit <http://www.IndyFoodCoop.org> , call 631.2220 or e-mail IndyFoodCoop@yahoo.com



Heifer International's Dr. Wollen to Speak at Earth Day Program

Heifer has been a pioneer in combining hunger and environmental concerns. Animals that provide food and income can also be catalysts for changes that benefit the earth. Dr. Terry Wollen is the Director of Livestock Advocacy with Heifer International.

On Earth Day, Wed, April 22 at 7:00 p.m., North United Methodist Church at 38th and Meridian will host Dr. Terry Wollen as he presents some of the ways that Heifer is not only ending hunger, but also caring for the earth.

Poverty plays a major role in the environmental problems of many countries. That's why Heifer International teaches project partners environmentally sound farming methods through agroecology. Every Heifer project includes an environmental component that helps families raise their animals in harmony with nature and take steps to restore a balanced ecology.



AIDS Ministry Network Needs Volunteers to Help with Testing

The AIDS Ministry Network of Disciples Home Missions seeks volunteers to serve during the 2009 General Assembly in Indianapolis. Marion County (Indianapolis), Ind., has the highest rate of HIV infection in the state, with over 250 new cases of HIV reported in 2008. Plans are currently being made for the AIDS Ministry Network to conduct outreach testing this summer using mobile HIV testing units.

The outreach project will begin with Pre-Assembly mission opportunities, including prevention education, harm reduction, and free anonymous HIV testing on July 26, and conclude with an AIDS Healing Service on Aug. 2. Interested persons should contact Carl Zerweck at czerweck@dhm.disciples.org. For more information, go to: www.disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/DNS/2009/20090311-AIDSMinistry.pdf



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Disciples Join Church World Service in Protesting Arrest of Undocumented Immigrant

The Disciples' Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM) has joined Church World Service in sending a letter to President Barack Obama expressing outrage and concern over the arrest of an illegal immigrant by a federal agent during a church service in Texas. The arrest occurred Oct. 26 at a church in Montgomery, Texas. The undocumented immigrant has been deported before, however, CWS stated in its letter to President Obama that arresting someone at church threatens the peace and safety of the religious sanctuary.

"The U.S. Constitution provides for the free exercise of religion," states the CWS letter, which was also signed by RIM, which is part of Disciples Home Missions. "Arresting undocumented immigrants while they worship in church violates the spirit of this guarantee and creates a chilling effect on their constitutional right to worship." To view the entire letter, see: www.disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/DNS/2009/20090311-CWSLetterChurchDeportation.pdf



April 25 - 8 am to 4 pm
Earth Day
Indiana festival,
Legion Mall & War Memorial

The Earth Day Indiana Festival combines 100 environmental and conservation exhibits with live music from some of Indiana's best new bands, special activities for kids and good food. An estimated 23,000 people attended the 2008 Earth Day Indiana Festival.

April 25 - 11 am - 3 pm
Arts on the Green
Arsenal Technical
High School

Each spring, Arsenal Technical High School produces an extraordinary outdoor festival known as Arts on the Green. This event is a spectacular celebration of the fine arts presented entirely free to the public. Multiple stages, as well as a variety of outdoor artwork displays, community booths and concession stands will be set up on the 76-acre Arsenal Tech campus for all to enjoy.

Newsletter submissions may be left in the church office or by eMailing newsletter@indyccc.org. We welcome articles, notes of congratulations or concern, biographical sketches... anything for the good of the church family.

**Deadline for
next newsletter
April 29**



Central Christian Church
701 North Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indianapolis, IN
Permit No. 1432

**Newsletter Mailed
March 25, 2009
Vol. 44, Issue 3**