



# Central Connections

*175 years... and still a frontier church*

Volume 44 Issue 4

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

April 29, 2009

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## Blessings Abound!

That's the theme of our annual financial campaign that will enable and empower God's mission for Central in 2008-2009, from our doorsteps at Delaware and Fort Wayne to the ends of the earth. We *are* clearly blessed, in so many ways – and it is out of a sense of that blessing and our gratitude for it that we are moved to be generous with the gifts we have received.

This past Sunday in worship we celebrated Central's mission *to wrestle with deep questions of faith, to grow in love for God and one another, to confront injustice and oppression, and to extend God's boundless hospitality to all.* We were reminded of the unique call and community we share, thanks be to God. And hopefully we are inspired to become more fully a part of that call and community.

This Sunday is Dedication Sunday, when we hope all members and friends will share an estimate of what they believe they will be able to give in the coming church year (July 2009-June 2010). Please note that this is an *estimate* – we know that circumstances change and any of us might end up giving less or more than we had estimated. We may share that estimate on one of the bright green cards that you received in the mail and/or will be available in the pew racks. The children will collect those cards before they leave the sanctuary so you may want to fill it out early in the service.

We celebrate that over 50 individuals or families have already participated and made estimates of giving that total more than \$135,000. Our goal is 100% participation among our church family. There is a space on the card where you may mark “Not sure at this time” if that is appropriate to your situation. But please participate – we are all in this together!

Together, our giving to Central's operating budget in the coming year will...

- keep our doors open five nights a weeks so that Narcotics Anonymous and other community groups have a place to meet
- move our custodian toward a liveable wage and provide retirement benefits for both of our full-time staff
- support our growing children's ministry (over 20 in worship this past Sunday!),
- continue our membership in the Interfaith Coalition on Nondiscrimination, one of the means by which we confront injustice
- help us prepare for opening our doors to the wider Disciples community when the General Assembly meets in Indianapolis this summer
- keep the worship of God alive in our midst

Blessings abound at Central – in each of you and in our faithful God. Hope to see you Sunday.

Linda



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

[pastor@indyccc.org](mailto:pastor@indyccc.org)  
<http://indyccc.org>

Worship: Sundays @ 10:30am  
Study: Sundays @ 9:00am  
Study: Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

## Keith Mikesell Called as Organist

Contact: Linda McCrae

For the past eight months Keith Mikesell has served Central as Interim Organist. We are pleased now to announce that Keith has been called as our permanent Organist/Accompanist, beginning May 1.

Keith has served as organist and/or choir director at Disciples, Presbyterian and Lutheran churches, and has a great deal of experience playing and accompanying in church and other settings. Keith lives in Irvington and in his day job he is an electrical engineer.

We appreciate the many gifts Keith has already shared with us and look forward to our continued partnership in giving glory to God through worship and music.



### Welcome to our New Members

A warm welcome to those who have joined the church in recent weeks:

**Jennifer Collins** works as Office Manager/Development Coordinator at the Indianapolis Arts Center, where she's worked for four years. She was raised in Columbus, IN attending Lutheran church and school. She has an older brother, a younger sister, and her parents who all live in the Indianapolis area. Her resident family includes three dogs and a cat. Jennifer enjoys reading, drawing and painting, sports, history and cooking (she's a master chef in her dreams!).

**Michael Dodds** lives in Martinsville, IN and has recently started a job with Aggregate Manufacturing International in Bedford in international sales. Michael is a Purdue graduate and has taught French and Spanish in Evansville, Martinsville, and Indianapolis. He has a brother and a sister, and three nieces/nephews. Michael spent his early years at First Christian Church in Lafayette. He has spent a lot of time traveling and studying in both France and Mexico, and he enjoys theater and singing (he never passes up an invitation to karaoke).

**Brian Daniels** joined Central Christian Church in February and has participated in the Lectionary Class and helped with Keepers of the Ark, as well as being in worship nearly every Sunday since. Born and raised in Indianapolis, and in a less-than-functional family, he nevertheless was the one who cared for his mother in her waning years. He has experience brief periods of employment in Washington, D.C. and Miami, as well as Indianapolis; but like many, is currently experiencing difficulty in finding work. He has been the beneficiary of Central's Thrift Shop and of Wheeler Mission and struggles with learning as he continues to study for a GED. Socially, he tends to be a loner and recognizes his own limitations, but he does like to talk about it and has lots of ideas about The Bible – "The word of God"!

**Lisa Survance** works at St. Vincent Hospital. She has two brothers and a sister, and was raised in the Nazarene Church. She likes to play cards, read, walk and scrapbook. Lisa is thankful to have found a church that is open and accepting to diverse people.



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.

Jose R. Escobedo Jr., 32  
Raphael A. Futrell, 26  
Devin C. Poche, 25  
Nelson M. Lantigua, 20  
Daniel J. Beard, 24  
Stephen F. Dearmon, 21  
Israel Candelaria Mejias, 28  
Edward Forrest, 25  
Bryce E. Gautier, 22  
Bryan E. Hall, 32  
Jason G. Pautsch, 20  
Gary L. Woods Jr., 24  
Michael J. Anaya, 23  
Raul Moncada, 29  
Ray A. Spencer II, 20  
Brad A. Davis, 21  
William C. Comstock, 21  
Benjamin Moore Jr., 43  
Leroy O. Webster, 28

*"In war, there are no  
unwounded soldiers."*

*Jose Narosky*



The last Witness Ministry pitch-in of the year will be this coming Sunday, May 3rd following worship.

**Topics:**

General Assembly - what is it and why do you care

Food Pantry - with a tour

Bring a dish to share or just join us for food and conversation.



**Party at the Pantry!**

Saturday the guests at the food pantry helped bring the tables from the breakfast upstairs, volunteered to work setting up and distributing food and one gentleman even played the piano so others could sing and dance. The time folks had to wait seemed to fly by as we heard “Will the Circle be Unbroken” and “Sitting by the Dock of the Bay” The lines between those serving and those being served is slowly being smudged.

**Janet Stephens, Rose Check, and Ciara Whitaker** have attended worship for several years before joining. Janet was born and raised in Fort Wayne, and has lived in Indianapolis since 1990, where she got her associates degree from the Indiana School of Business and has worked for the U.S. Postal Service since 1995. Rose grew up in Washington DC and moved to Indy in 2001 with daughters Jasmine and Ciara. She studied sociology at Martin University, graduating magna cum laude in 2007. Ciara is a freshman at North Central High School, a member of the National Junior Honor Society and a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar. She hopes to be an OB-GYN nurse.

**Embodied Energy**

Contact: Terry Bradbury

Embodied Energy is a concept that has become more well known with the emphases on “sustainability” and energy conservation. Essentially the term means the energy which has been used in the manufacturing of building material and the construction of buildings. The energy, for instance, to fire the brick to construct our historic church is lost to the landfill if the a building is demolished. Not only is the raw material such as clay, wood, copper, iron, or raw material are lost but the energy to manufacture brick; steel beams, copper pipes, etc are also lost. We would have to generate energy to create the new bricks or lumber or plumbing and wiring. Although the marketplace does not yet account for this hidden cost, there is much more recognition of this concept than just a few years ago.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a group of Christians came together to build a home for this congregation in downtown Indianapolis. A few years before the Depression the same group committed their resources to building our educational wing. In the 1950's the sanctuary was air conditioned and later was upgraded. Late in the 1980's we remodeled the first floor of the education wing and created new offices and restrooms etc. A few year later we added an elevator and ramp which made all five levels of the church available to all. We recently continued that long history of stewardship of the embodied energy with the restoration of our bell tower.

I suggest that the notion of embodied energy be expanded to include the spiritual energy that is embodied in our congregation. Not only did those before us bring the time and monetary commitments for the building projects noted above, but more importantly they brought a spiritual commitment i.e. energy that is embodied in who we are. This is abundantly obvious each time Keepers of the Ark gather on a Saturday morning to continue the tradition of embodied energy at Central.

Join the manifestation of embodied (spiritual) energy this Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**March Numbers**

Contributions for March	\$16406.64 vs \$15948.50 Budget
Special Day Funds for March	\$460.00
Week of Compassion	\$425.00
Reconciliation	\$35.00
Designated Funds for March	\$1703.35
Average Weekly Attendance	106



## Justice Movie Night Friday, May 8: A stunning film, *As We Forgive*

Contact: Susan Ferrer

Could you forgive a person who murdered your family? This is the question faced by the subjects of *As We Forgive*, a documentary about two Rwandan women coming face-to-face with the men who slaughtered their families during 100 days of genocide. The subjects of *As We Forgive* speak for a nation still wracked by the grief of a genocide that killed one in eight Rwandans in 1994, roughly 1 million lives. Overwhelmed by an enormous backlog of court cases, the government has returned more than 50,000 genocide perpetrators back to the very communities they helped to destroy. Without the hope of full justice, Rwanda has turned to a new solution: reconciliation.

But can it be done? Can survivors truly forgive the killers who destroyed their families? Can the government expect this from its people? And can the church, which failed at moral leadership during the genocide, fit into the process of reconciliation today? In *As We Forgive*, director Laura Waters Hinson and narrator Mia Farrow explore these topics through the lives of four neighbors once caught in opposite tides of a genocidal bloodbath, and their extraordinary journey from death to life through forgiveness.

Hosts Carol Lindsey and Susan Ferrer first saw *As We Forgive* during last fall's Heartland Film Festival, where it was honored with the Crystal Heart Award. They were blown away by the transformative power of forgiveness and reconciliation. Seeing is believing ... join us on Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m. in the church parlor and see for yourself.

We will supply the popcorn (bring your own beverage and other desired goodies). The film will supply the inspiration to believe that "with God all things are possible."

## Blessings Abound!

God promised Abram, "I will bless you, ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Likewise, *we* have been blessed *and* we share in the opportunity to be a blessing to our neighbors, our city and our

world. *Blessings truly do abound here at Central.*

On Sunday, May 3, as we conclude our annual financial campaign, we'll be celebrating and dedicating our shared gifts offered toward our common ministry and life together in the coming year. If you haven't yet returned your Estimate of Giving, please remember to bring it on Sunday. Meanwhile, rejoice and know that you are loved.

Your Spiritual Growth Ministry Team

## Lectionary Scripture



May 3

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

May 10

- \* Acts 8:26-40
- \* Psalm 22:25-31
- \* 1 John 4:7-21
- \* John 15:1-8

May 17

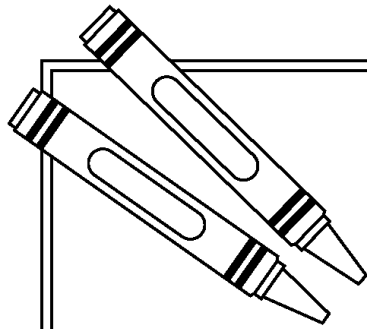
- \* Acts 10:44-48
- \* Psalm 98
- \* 1 John 5:1-6
- \* John 15:9-17

May 24

- \* Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
- \* Psalm 1
- \* 1 John 5:9-13
- \* John 17:6-19

May 31

- \* Acts 2:1-21
- \* Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- \* Romans 8:22-27
- \* John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



# Just for **KIDS**

## Thanks

FOR YOUR EXAMPLE

Mother's Day is a great opportunity to thank your mother, grandmother or any other woman who has been a wonderful example in your life.

Make and give this craft to show how much you appreciate these special women.

### What you need:

- An empty, glass, wide-mouthed jar (no lid needed)
- Acrylic craft paints (several different spring colors)
- Votive candle (optional)
- Flowers (optional)
- Small candies (optional)

### What you do:

1. Make sure your glass jar is clean and dry.
2. Dip your pointer finger into one of the paint colors.
3. Using your finger as a stamp, make about five prints in a circle on the outside of your jar. These will be your flower petals. (Hint: Hold your jar by placing your hand inside it. Then you can turn the jar easily without messing up the wet paint.)
4. Dip your finger into another color and make a fingerprint in the center of your petals.
5. Make as many flowers as you want, using different fingers or your thumb to make different-sized petals.
6. Present this beautiful gift to a special woman this Mother's Day. There are many ways to use it:
  - Place a votive candle inside to make a candleholder.
  - Fill it with water and place flowers inside to make a vase.
  - Fill it with small candies to make a candy jar.

# A legacy of faith

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy was influenced by his grandmother and mother.

Complete 2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowel.

**VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u**

" \_ h \_ v \_ b \_ \_ n r \_ m \_ nd \_ d \_ f  
3 1 2 2 2 3 2 4

y \_ \_ r s \_ nc \_ r \_ f \_ \_ th, wh \_ ch  
4 5 3 2 2 1 3 3

f \_ rst l \_ v \_ d \_ n y \_ \_ r gr \_ ndm \_ th \_ r  
3 3 2 3 4 5 1 4 2

L \_ \_ s \_ nd \_ n y \_ \_ r m \_ th \_ r  
4 3 1 3 4 5 4 2

\_ \_ n \_ c \_ \_ nd, \_ \_ m p \_ rs \_ \_ d \_ d,  
2 5 3 2 1 3 1 2 5 1 2

n \_ w l \_ v \_ s \_ n y \_ \_ \_ ls \_ ."  
4 3 2 3 4 5 1 4

2 TIMOTHY 1:5 (NIV)

Answer: "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

## Alimento Sagrado

Contact: David Licht

On Food Pantry Saturdays, we scurry around getting things ready for our neighbors. But a note from one neighbor, Josephina, gives us reason to pause and ponder the Spirit.

She writes a thank-you note, in Spanish, "you can feel the warmth of the Lord in the people." In us? Ordinary rational stacking sorting registering greeting directing people? As much as we want to be doing God's work, there's something scary about this, the Lord's presence, radiating holy heat we don't claim, don't feel.

Haunting enough of an image. But she goes on: Thank you for the help "... and especially the sacred food that you give to us, people in need." Cans of tomatoes, sacred food? Expired cereal transubstantiated? Chicken soup sanctified? The images, the language could degenerate into jokes and it would be easier to deal with. But I ponder her world and her vision, what she sees that I don't. "Sacred Food." If her note had been a bomb threat, I would know what to do with it better than I do this.

"Sacred Food": It is Pastor Linda's translation. (*Skewed by her spiritual bent? ... time spent among the Ionians?*) I seek a second opinion on the web, type in the text, click Translate: "Sacred Food," it concurs and more: It offers, "Would you like to search the web for Sacred Food?" (Sure. I click.) Here a link labeled, "Sacred Food at Amazon." I know that I can buy just about anything on Amazon anymore. But I know that Sacred Food is not for sale.

On Food Pantry Saturdays, we scurry around getting things ready for our neighbors. But a note from our neighbor, Josephina, gives us reason to pause, and ponder the Spirit.



Narcotics Anonymous  
World Services

### Did You Know ...

Contact: David Licht

The Central Indiana Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Subcommittee on Hospitals and Institutions has been meeting at Central for about a dozen years. From our basement, they coordinate the provision of life-changing, life-saving NA programs at Central Indiana jails, inpatient & residential treatment centers, and other institutions. (NA is a twelve-step program similar to Alcoholics Anonymous. Membership is free, with no dues or fees; only "a desire to stop using" is required.) They're grateful for the opportunity to use our building for their twice-monthly meetings - and we are grateful for the opportunity to support their vital work.



## Keepers of the Ark

May 2nd

8:00 to Noon

Keepers of the Ark, the monthly fun-filled work day at Central Christian Church, will be held this Saturday, May 2. Breakfast and devotions begin at 8am, but you may join in at any point in the morning.

## HOMeward BOUND

Indiana's 5K Walk to Provide Housing and Fight Homelessness

Join thousands of Hoosiers in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide housing and fight homelessness in Indiana!

**June 14, 2009**

Veterans Memorial Plaza

Noon: Registration

1:30 PM: Greetings

2:00 PM: Walk starts, step off

3:30 PM: Awards ceremony

<http://homewardboundindiana.org/central>

### Team Leader Needed

If you'd be willing to help organize a team from Central for the walk and be the contact for those interested, please contact Glenda Survance

317.413.1139

[witness@indyccc.org](mailto:witness@indyccc.org)

There is a great kit provided by Homeward Bound to help with ideas for organizing.

## Bar-hopping for Jesus

**Contact:** Patti Case, communication team leader

What would it look like for Central to extend God's Boundless Hospitality to Young Adults in our neighborhood? This was the burning question recently when a small group gathered at Central with John Davidson, a local young adult and staff member of Church Extension.

John, ordained in Christian ministry as a Disciple, is looking for a church home where he can bring folks his age who live in the downtown area. He approached Central to share the potential he sees. Part of what he shared were numbers like these:

Of the 25,000 people living in a 1.5-mile radius of Central, 11,000 (45%) are 20 to 45 years old. Eight of 10 are under 40.

*Two thirds of them can't name any of the four gospels.*

The majority of this segment of the population has never been married, and 69% are in one-person households. More than 50% are post-high school; 30.5% have a degree of some kind.

*About 97% of these young people are new to the city and have no built-in community so they are in "search mode". Work and local bars/bangouts tend to be the common places, rather than churches. Why?*

This age group thrives on doing something in a group with a common goal – especially something unusual. For example, John talked about "guerilla gardeners" that are showing up randomly in cities. Groups of young adults "break in" to an abandoned lot, clean it up and plant a community garden. They seek forgiveness rather than permission.

Central's three foci for our mission: Worship, Community and Witness (service) have appeal to this age group, but the traditional worship service is not the entry point for them, according to John. Conversation and coffee might be a better fit – a small group on Sunday afternoons or evenings. Before they become part of a worshiping community per se, they need time to build relationship, share stories and circle up in prayer together.

John believes Central is well positioned to be a place of community for these people. The conversation continues 5:30 p.m., May 1. We'll meet at the church and wander into some of the young adult hangouts. Perhaps you'd like to join us. No experience necessary.

*"Do not do what I do; rather, take whatever I have to offer and do with it what I could never imagine doing and then come back and tell me about it."*

Mark C. Taylor



## The MCC Report

The Ministry Coordination Council met on April 20 and discussed Central's involvement in the upcoming General Assembly, including the tree planting process (thanks to those who dug up hard asphalt so the trees could be planted) and plans for August 2 when some General Assembly attendees will be worshipping at Central. A display of Central's historical information is planned for that day. The MCC also discussed the progress made so far in meeting next year's budget due to the elected and appointed church leaders having already made their estimates of giving - \$99,328 so far. A decision was made regarding funds raised by use of the parking lot for special occasions. The Memorial Day funds will go to ICON (first \$300) and the food pantry (remainder). The July 4<sup>th</sup> funds will go to GIDA Habitat for Humanity (first \$300) and the free clothing program (remainder). The MCC plans to meet soon to work on writing up descriptions of the work of each team as a way of helping new team leaders take on their leadership roles more easily.

Watch for these upcoming events in the life of the church:

- May 2 – Keepers of the Ark, 8AM
- May 3 – Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- May 3 – Witness Ministry Lunch, after worship, pitch-in: Food Pantry & General Assembly
- May 8 – Movie for Justice – “As We Forgive”, 7PM
- May 21 – Board Meeting, 5:45PM to 7:15PM
- May 31 – Pentecost – Congregational Meeting
- June 6 – Keepers of the Ark, 8AM
- June 14 – Annual Planning Event
- June 21, 28 – Volunteer Fair

Global Ministries & Disciples Peace Fellowship  
2009 Pre-Assembly Event  
Tuesday July 28, 1:30 p.m. – Wednesday July 29, noon



Theme:  
“Called to Be a Leaf for the Healing of the Nations”  
Revelation 22:1-2

Global Partners Describe the World's Wounds  
“Healing Labs” to Equip Churches to be Healers  
Justice Theater: Opportunity to Participate

Registration: \$70.00 (includes dinner)

Contact: Onea Winkle (317-713-2567)

Download registration form:

<http://www.globalministries.org/calendar/pre-assembly-event.html>

Join us to:

- Identify the wounds of the nations
- Examine the systematic wounds
- Become leaves for the healing of the nations



- To the dozens of volunteers who helped make the Easter breakfast a wonderful celebration of community. Food was plentiful, conversation was flowing and dishes were done in time for worship. We fed over 200 folks from our friends and members and the community. We heard many heartfelt thank yous for the good food and all the leftovers went to Wheeler.
- Erin Leraris for presenting the children's moment during April.
- Bob McIntyre for leading worship during the past month.
- All those who helped break up and remove asphalt in our parking lots, including Carolyn & Terry Bradbury, Lydia Brasher, Darrel Crouter, Brian Daniels, Michael English, Bev Knight, Steve Martz, Isaac & Linda McCrae, Julie Miller, and Greg Nickel – as well as several volunteers from other Disciples churches.



## Oklahoma Firestorms

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Dear Friends,

Week of Compassion, in conjunction with the Christian Church in Oklahoma, has responded to the wildfires that recently roared through Oklahoma. First Christian Church in Midwest City and Faith Community Church in Choctaw both served as staging areas for police, fire and rescue personnel during the firestorms that swept through Choctaw and Midwest City on Holy Thursday, April 9. The fires destroyed 100 homes. Faith Community was nearly surrounded by flames but remained unscathed. The Reverend Tom Jewell, Regional Minister for Oklahoma, also reported that among those losing their homes was Shirley Bishop, a member of Faith Community Christian Church, who received a \$1,000 solidarity grant from Week of Compassion and the region.

### Earthquakes in Afghanistan

Two earthquakes hit eastern Afghanistan on April 17, killing at least 22 people and destroying some 200 homes, government officials said. The quakes struck Nangarhar province, about 50 miles southeast of the capital, Kabul, not far from the border with Pakistan. Affected were four villages in the Sherzad district of Nangarhar, Church World Service Afghanistan/Pakistan reported. Week of Compassion will respond through Church World Service, whose partners are now conducting a needs assessment. CWS has had a health program in the area for 10 years. "We will try our best to assist the affected people and respond to the situation as much as possible," CWS Pakistan/Afghanistan staff said, noting the region has been affected by drought, rising food prices and the return of refugees living in Pakistan. "This earthquake brings more challenges and deterioration to the province," CWS lamented.

### WoC Celebration at General Assembly

Please join Week of Compassion as we celebrate our 65th Anniversary at General Assembly! Come to praise God for our ministry together! Our keynote speaker will be Kathleen Norris, author and poet. We will also be honoring Johnny Wray for his years of faithful service and dedication to Week of Compassion and to the Church. Our celebration will not be complete without your presence! For meal tickets, [please click here](#) or contact Elaine at [ecleveland@woc.disciples.org](mailto:ecleveland@woc.disciples.org)

Week of Compassion is sharing resources and changing lives. Thank you for sharing your resources and helping to change lives.

Amy Gopp

## General Minister & President (& Member of Central) Named To Presidential Advisory Council

Sharon E. Watkins General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins has been named to President Barack Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Watkins, who is among 25 faith and community leaders appointed to the Council, was in Washington, D.C. earlier this week to attend the group's first meeting.



For those of you who are planting gardens this year, please remember that we can use the extra from your gardens to feed the hungry in Indianapolis. We do the distribution the last Saturday of the month and will welcome your donations of fresh fruits and vegetables.

According to the organizers of Plant a Row for the Hungry, there are over 84 million households with a yard or garden in the U.S. If every gardener plants one extra row of vegetables and donates their surplus to local food agencies and soup kitchens, a significant impact can be made on reducing hunger.



## IU & IUPUI to host free electronic waste recycling days

Electronic Waste Collection Days, a free electronic waste recycling drive hosted by Indiana University Bloomington and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, will take place in both Bloomington and Indianapolis on April 30 through May 2.

The program will be open to all public and private schools, universities, businesses, and non-profit organizations on Thursday, April 30, and Friday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The program will be open to the general public on Saturday, May 2, also from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Complete information, including maps, hours and a list of accepted items, is available at [indiana.poweron.com](http://indiana.poweron.com).



## 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 (NCCCK) 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

Phone: 866-822-8224 ext. 3226

[zhux@ucc.org](mailto:zhux@ucc.org)



## Power Recycling Weekend

Indianapolis Zoo In Partnership with  
Liberty Mutual  
May 9 & 10; 9am-3pm

Thought you would be stuck with that old TV, VCR or computer forever? Don't despair—bring your old electronics to the Indianapolis Zoo on May 9 and 10 and recycle them in an environmentally responsible way!

Newsletter submissions may be left in the church office or by eMailing [newsletter@indyccc.org](mailto: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  
May 27**



Central Christian Church  
701 North Delaware Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**Address Service Requested**

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**Newsletter Mailed  
April 29, 2009  
Vol. 44, Issue 4**