



Central Connections

175 years... and still a frontier church

Volume 44 Issue 5

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

May 28, 2009

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This Sunday, May 31, is Pentecost. It's the birthday of the church, and a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit and of hearing the gospel in many languages. The story is in Acts 2 if you want to read it ahead of time. *Wear red that day* representing the tongues of fire that symbolized the Holy Spirit. Three thousand people were baptized on the day of Pentecost in the book of Acts. We're not planning on 3000, but we will be celebrating the baptism of Michael Dodds, who joined the church earlier this year. Our children and youth will be participating in the service, and we'll also lift up our new welcome statement, as we celebrate and reaffirm our desire to be open and affirming to all people.

Following worship, we hold our annual congregational meeting. That meeting has two agenda items: 1) election of leadership; and 2) approval of a budget – both of these for the year beginning July 1, 2009. Please plan to participate in this once-a-year opportunity to put into place these important pieces of our framework for mission.

You've heard it a lot recently...“Blessings Abound!” at Central Christian Church. We can't say it enough! This year's annual financial campaign resulted in estimates of giving totaling \$201,388, an increase over last year's of more than 5%. This is during a very tough economic time, a time when many of us are concerned about making our mortgage payments, supporting our kids' education, thinking about aging parents, and the like. I celebrate and thank God for the generosity of this congregation in support of God's mission at Central. Many thanks to David Licht and Debbie Abbott, Spiritual Growth team leaders, who led the campaign, and to those who worked with them, including Darrel Crouter, Frisco Gilchrist, Carolyn Higginbotham, and Pam Senko.

In recent weeks as we have been looking at mission for the upcoming year, and the money to support that mission, I went back and looked at some financial reports from years gone by. I want to share a couple of numbers with you as I believe they are cause for celebration. In the year ending June 2003 – six years ago – we received pledges in the amount of \$107,500. For the coming year estimates of giving, as noted above, reached \$201,388. That's an increase of around 87%.

That growth in giving has been accompanied by a very significant reduction in dependence on our permanent funds. In 2002-2003, \$103,000 of our operating budget came from income on our permanent funds. By now, that figure has been reduced to \$30,000, and the amount is now calculated based on a percentage of the market value of our permanent funds, which allows those funds to continue to grow even as they support our current mission. Our trustees in recent years have done an excellent job of getting us on a healthy financial track, and all of us have stepped up in our giving for mission. We're in a good place as we look ahead to the future, with the challenges and opportunities that we will encounter.

And speaking of looking ahead...summer is beginning! Enjoy the opportunities that come with it, including the opportunity to be in church on Sunday mornings!

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



Welcoming Our Neighbors from the Congo

This summer the partnership that Disciple churches in Indiana have with Disciple churches in the Mbandaka district of the Congo will go a step deeper as the Principal Supervising Pastor (in our lingo that's the Regional Minister) Rev. Ilumbe Ndjongo

and his wife, Rosette Matezolo, spend five weeks in Indiana culminating in the General Assembly. They will join us at Central for worship on July 12, when Rev. Ilumbe will be preaching.

Hoosier Disciples who traveled to the Congo last year (including three members of Central) experienced the hospitality of the Congolese church and have some ideas about what we can all do to get ready for our guests this summer. For one thing we can learn a little Lingala, their local language, to make them feel welcome. Has it been a few years since you learned a new language? It might take some effort, but that's what hospitality is all about. Here are six phrases in Lingala, which is a phonetic language, making it easy to practice!

Hello, Greetings = Mbote (m-botay)

How are you? = Sango nini? (sawn-go nee-nee)

I'm well = Sango malam (sawn-go ma-la-moo) or No news = Sango te (sawn-go tay)

My name is = Kombo na ngayi (Kombo nah n-gaw-ye)

Thank you very much = Merci mingi (mer-see meen-gee)

Go well, Goodbye = Kende malam (ken-day ma-la-moo)

In African tradition the Principal Supervising Pastor goes by his last name only, Ilumbe (i-loom-bay) His wife goes by her first name Rosette (Rosetta). By the way, both are fluent in French and Rosette in English.

Parking Lot Nets \$480 From 500 Festival Parade

Contact: Kerry Armstrong

On Saturday, May 23rd, four members and one friend of Central parked cars on our lot prior to the Indy 500 Festival Parade. The parade began at 12Noon. We had some cars parking as early as 8:30am. Our lot was filled by 11:45am. Money collected totaled \$480. Three hundred dollars will go to pay Central Christian's membership in the Interfaith Coalition on Nondiscrimination (ICON). The remaining \$180 will be used by Central's food pantry ministry.

Thanks to Lydia Brasher, Sandy Heidenreich and Sarah Murphy for blocking off the parking lot on Friday night. Those parking cars were Lydia Brasher, Mary Schilling, Sarah Murphy, Kerry Armstrong and Clarice Baxter. A special thank you to Pat and Deborah Carrithers for driving down from Carmel before 8:30am to serve the parking crew breakfast burritos and coffee.



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.

James R. McIlvaine, 26
Mark A. Wojciechowski, 25
Tyler J. Trahan, 22
Jeremiah P. McCleery, 24
Jake R. Velloza, 22
Shawn D. Sykes, 28
Randy S. Agno, 29
Justin P. Hartford, 21
Omar M. Albrak, 21
Steven Hutchison, 60
Jacob D. Barton, 20
Christian E. Bueno-Galdos, 25
Matthew Houseal, 54
Michael Edward Yates Jr., 19
Charles K. Springle, 52
Ryan C. McGhee, 21
Jr., David A. Schaefer, 27
Leevi K. Barnard, 28
Paul F. Brooks, 34
Jason E. George, 38
Brian Naseman, 3

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

Jose Narosky



The Free Clothing Program has a real need for men's jeans. Check your closets. If you're at a garage sale - see if there are some for a great price. Spread the word among your friends and family.

Bring donations to the church office and label it "Free Clothing"

Contact: Phyllis Crocker



Come See What the Pantry is About

The last Saturday of the month from 10:00am to Noon we provide food for all who come thru the door. You can be part of this ministry or service at Central and get to know our neighbors a bit better. No reservations needed, just come on in.

Contact: Glenda Survance

Central Christian To Have Booth At Indy Pride

Contact: Kerry Armstrong

Saturday, June 13th, is the date of this years Indy Pride celebration in downtown Indianapolis. Central Christian will once again be represented among the churches that participate. The actual pride celebration begins with a parade on Massachusetts Avenue at 10am and the Pride Festival from 11am to 7pm. If you are interested in working a shift in the canopied booth, please contact Kerry Armstrong (kerryarmstrong@aol.com) or 317-896-3648.

Pasta, Passion, and Planning – Where will you find them all?

At the June 14th Annual Planning Event!

Contact: Jennifer Riggs

Join us Sunday, June 14, following worship until 3:00 PM for our Annual Planning Event.

Pasta – We will begin with a pitch-in lunch. Everyone is asked to bring a pasta dish, salad, or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided.

Passion – We will discuss the passion we have for Central and where that passion is leading us in our life together over the next year.

Planning – We will break out into 8 teams (Worship, Spiritual Growth, Community, Witness, Communications, Physical Assets, Volunteer, and Finance) that will do initial planning for next year's work.

Your participation in Pasta, Passion and Planning is a one-time commitment! You do not have to **Promise** to be a member of one of the 8 teams this year – although any promises are welcome and appreciated. All members and friends of the congregation are urged to attend this annual time of looking at the mission and future directions of our congregation's ministry. Babysitting will be provided and older children will be invited to participate in their own Passion and Planning time.

On the following two Sundays (June 21 and 28) we will hold our Volunteer Fair. This is where you can **Promise** to become involved in the ministry of Central. You are invited to visit each of the 8 team tables to learn about volunteer opportunities for each team. If you get your "Central Volunteer Bingo" card stamped by each of the 8 teams, you can enter the drawing to win a \$25 gift certificate to the fair trade coffee cart.

US Mission Trip Opportunities

Openings have just become available in the **Faithful Advocates Serving Together (F.A.S.T.) Mission Trips in Appalachia**. Hosted in Whitesburg, Kentucky by the local partner organization HOMES, groups participate in housing rehab projects, meet local people and engage in reflection on issues of economic justice and faith. Openings are available July 5-11, July 19-25, July 26 – August 1, and August 3-8. Call Brenda Tyler at (888) 346-2631 for more information. Register at:

<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/fast-registration-page.html> or

<http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/volunteer/specialprojects/FAST/index.htm>



MCC Report

Contact: Jennifer Riggs

The Ministry Coordination Council (MCC) met on May 18 and planned the annual planning event and the volunteer fair (see dates below and details in another article). An extensive discussion of this year's annual campaign and stewardship education was held. There was strong affirmation of this year's focus on Central's mission, where hope and help was stressed over anxiety with this year's economy. At the same time there was awareness that some members of the congregation feel a need for greater information on the details of the budget. The importance of year-round stewardship education was stressed. As a new Finance Ministry Support Team is created there will be further clarification of the roll of that team, the Spiritual Growth Ministry Team and the Treasurer as they work together on these issues in the future.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

May 31 – Pentecost (wear red) and Congregational Meeting following worship

June 6 – Keepers of the Ark, 8am

June 14 – Annual Planning Event and pitch-in lunch (after worship until 3:00pm)

June 21 – Volunteer Fair

June 28 – Volunteer Fair and Annual Picnic

July 10 – Movies for Justice “Made in L.A.” 7:00pm

July 11 – Keepers of the Ark, 8am

July 12 – Rev. Ilumbe, head of the Disciples in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, preaching and a presentation at lunch following worship

August 2 – Fred Craddock preaching and General Assembly participants worshipping with us.

JUST+WOMEN

Just Women is a bold quarterly magazine for Christian women. It is provided by International Disciples Women's Ministries in partnership with publisher DisciplesWorld, Inc. For more information <http://www.justwomenmagazine.org/> or call 317 375-8846 .

2009-2010 Nominees for Central Leadership

Contact: Stan Worth

In Sunday's congregational meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees to be voted on by the congregation for leadership in 2009-2010. Terms for officers are one year; for elders and deacons the term is three years. Following is the slate of nominees:

Moderator: Deborah Butt

Vice Moderator: Kerry Armstrong

Secretary: Linda Kirchhoff

Treasurer: Mary Hays

Elders: Verity Jones, Mary Schilling, Barb Weatherspoon

Deacons: Nancy Beals, Sandy Heidenreich, Bob McIntyre, Deb McIntyre, Sonya Yoder-Beery

Representatives to General Assembly: Kerry Armstrong, Maureen McCrae, Barbara Weatherspoon

Lectionary Scripture



May 31

* Acts 2:1-21

* Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

* Romans 8:22-27

* John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

June 7

* Isaiah 6:1-8

* Psalm 29

* Romans 8:12-17

* John 3:1-17

June 14

* 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

* Psalm 20

* 2 Corinthians 5:6-10), 14-17

* Mark 4:26-34

June 21

* 1 Samuel 17 (1a, 4-11, 19-23)
32-49,

* Psalm 9:9-20

* 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

* Mark 4:35-41

June 28

* 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

* Psalm 130

* 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

* Mark 5:21-43

Disciples Young Adult
New Web site
Check it out!

www.docya.org

SURPRISE DAD at work!

Dads work so hard to provide for their families' needs. Here's a fun way to show your appreciation to your dad this Father's Day.*

What you need:

- Paper and envelope (any color)
- Markers and crayons
- Stickers
- Pencil
- Stamp
- Your dad's work address

What you do:

1. Decorate the paper with drawings, stickers, etc.
2. Write a message to your dad, letting him know how thankful you are for his love and hard work.
3. With an adult's help, write your dad's name and work address on the outside of the envelope and your return address in the top-left corner.
4. Place a stamp in the top-right corner and then mail your special gift.

Other ideas:

- Pack a lunch to eat with dad at or near his workplace.
- Send your letter in a box and include some homemade cookies.
- Pack your dad a special lunch. Place self-stick notes with messages of appreciation on various food items.
- Write appreciation messages on self-stick notes and, with your mom's help, place them all over the inside of your dad's car.

.....
*All these ideas will work also for Mom on Mother's Day or her birthday.



Fathers of faith

Fathers do amazing things for their families, but the greatest gift our dads can share with us is their faith in God.
Complete this puzzle to read Isaiah's advice to fathers.

Directions: Working left to right, first write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's.

1 The	2 as	3 tell	1 living
2 I	3 their	1 the	2 am
3 children	1 living	2 doing	3 about
1 they	2 today	3 your	1 praise
2 fathers	3 faithfulness	1 you	

“ _____ , _____ — _____ , _____ ,
_____ ; _____
_____ .” Isaiah 38:19, NIV

Answer: “The living, the living, the living — they praise you, as I am doing today; fathers tell their children about your faithfulness.” Isaiah 38:19, NIV



WoC Responds to Spring Storms

Friday, May 22, 2009

Dear Friends,

Following a period of turbulent weather across much of the U.S., WoC sent two grants in response this week. The Ozark Lakes Area of Missouri received a grant for tornado recovery in that region. A second grant was made to First Christian Church, Marion, IL. Eighteen families in that congregation had significant damage to their property from an inland hurricane that swept through southern Illinois on May 8. The church itself lost its roof - and then heavy rains fell. We have also been in touch with FCC, Carbondale, IL, which also sustained major roof damage, and FCC, Kirksville, MO, and are awaiting word from them as they assess damages. Contributions are welcome and as always, go in their entirety as you direct them. [Donations may be made online](#) or sent to WoC, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

General Assembly Week of Compassion Dinner

Have you purchased your meal tickets yet? We have a seat for you at our table! Purchase tickets online or contact ecleveland@woc.disciples.org. See you very soon!

Around the World, Around the Year: Where in the World Have We Responded This Week?

Disaster Responses:

- Missouri, tornado recovery
- Illinois, inland hurricane

Development & Long-Term Recovery:

- Nicaragua, food security
- Colombia, peacebuilding
- DR Congo, advocacy
- Nigeria, community development
- Cambodia, community development
- Palestine/Israel, conflict resolution
- Palestine, peacebuilding
- Lebanon, conflict resolution
- Middle East, human rights & advocacy
- Egypt, refugee resettlement

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

Amy Gopp



Blood Donors at Indianapolis General Assembly to Save Lives

Contact: Disciples News Service (Disciples.org)

Disciples attending this summer's General Assembly will have an opportunity to contribute to a great cause - the cause of life. There will be a blood drive during the 2009 Indianapolis General Assembly, which runs July 29 - Aug. 2 at the Indiana Convention Center. Blood donors also will get their cholesterol checked and blood type identified.



Keepers of the Ark

June 6th

8:00 to Noon

Keepers of the Ark, the monthly fun-filled work day at Central Christian Church, will be held this Saturday, June 6th. Breakfast and devotions begin at 8am, but you may join in at any point in the morning.



To Terry Bradbury, Phil Allgood, Jerry Nickel and Stan Worth for their landscaping expertise and sweat along the sidewalk.



Partners on the Journey Mission with the Congo Company is Coming

Contact: Cheryl Cloar at cheryl@ccindiana.org.

A partnership was formed on May 25, 2008 when nine Hoosiers visited the Community of Disciples of Christ in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The trip last year marked a beginning to new relationships and new connections. It was the beginning of many introductions to come.

Both of our churches are being introduced to new cultures, new congregations, new pastors and church leaders and new ways of bringing church together. The Christian Church in Indiana now looks forward to getting to meet Rev. Ilumbe and Rosette personally.

July is almost here, and that means that our partners are on their way. Rev. Ilumbe Ndjongo, Principal Supervising Pastor (PSP) of the Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo, Mbandaka District, and his wife Rosette, chair of the Mbandaka Partnership Committee, will be in Indiana from July 2 through August 5 this summer.

While we are still preparing for this visit, our partners are already on their journey. Rev. Ilumbe and Rosette left their home in Mbandaka and traveled to the capital city of Kinshasa at the end of April. They will remain there as they finalize the paperwork and visas that they will need to come to Indiana in July. Their journey has begun. So the question for us is, how will we greet them? What hospitality will we show?

Go to www.indianadisciples.org to view the Partners in Mission video and catch a glimpse of how the Indiana delegation was welcomed in Mbandaka.

New Church Ministry Will Present the First Ever Spirit Games During the 2009 General Assembly

Spirit Games New Church Ministry will present the first ever Spirit Games competition during the 2009 General Assembly in Indianapolis, July 29-August 1.

Wanna-be athletes and sports enthusiasts from around the country are gearing up for this spirited competition that will raise awareness for the New Church Movement, while raising funds to support New Church Ministry projects nationwide.

Age is not an issue! Young and old - all can play the Spirit Games. The competition will be divided into three areas: the Spirit Walk/pedometer challenge; Wii games at the Spirit Zone in the exhibit hall and Spirit Splash on the Indianapolis Canal. Participants score points at each event and by collecting sponsorship donations to benefit New Church Ministry. (All participating youth under the age of 18 MUST have a parental consent form and be accompanied by an adult for the Spirit Splash.)

Participants can enter the games as individuals, a team of four or a church youth group. Registration for the Spirit Games is \$35 per individual, \$100 per team of four. Church youth groups can participate at no charge and should contact New Church Ministry or visit www.newchurchministry.org for registration information. Regardless of your category of play, you will earn an additional 100 points as an individual, 400 points as a team and 1000 points as a youth group if you pre-register before July 1 and five points for every dollar raised on behalf of New Church Ministry.



**Central Christian Church
Indianapolis, IN
Proposed Budget
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010**

One of the items we will consider at our annual congregational meeting this Sunday (May 31st) is the proposed budget for the 2009 – 2010 church year. Below, is the proposal we will be considering. At Sunday’s meeting, additional information will be shared and there will be a time for questions, answers, and/or clarifications. I wanted to take a moment in advance of Sunday’s meeting to offer some highlights regarding this proposed budget.

Our giving this church year (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) has been strong to date. Also, this year saw an increase in the number of people making an *Estimate of Giving* for the coming church year. Blessings Abound!

This proposed budget continues the practice of supporting the work of the larger church by setting aside 10% of our contributions for the Disciples Mission Fund.

Part of the challenge with this year’s proposed budget is connecting the former structure with the *new* structure we began to live into July 1, 2008. Here’s a basic “translation” table for many of our budget expenses.

Former structure

Structure as of July 1, 2008

Administration	=	Administration
Christian Education	=	Spiritual Growth
Community Outreach	=	Witness
Disciples Mission Fund	=	Disciples Mission Fund
Elders	=	Elders
Evangelism	=	Community
Membership	=	Community
Music	=	Music
Payroll Expense	=	Payroll Expense
Property	=	Physical Assets
Stewardship	=	Spiritual Growth
World Outreach	=	Witness
Worship	=	Worship

There are also four new areas in this proposal.

- **Communication:** This has to do with sharing about our mission and ministries.
- **Finance:** This team oversees the budget and financial information/processes of our faith community. (This does not include overseeing our endowment funds. Our trustees do this.)
- **Parking Lot Maintenance and Upkeep Fund:** This is a fund that would set aside 15% of the earnings from the monthly parking rentals in order to address maintenance and upkeep concerns of the parking lot.

- Volunteer Ministry Support: This team (human resources in 08-09) is charged with continuing to develop and support a pool of volunteers to participate in our various ministry opportunities.

Some notes are included at the bottom of the proposed budget to attempt to offer some clarification.

Note “k” at the bottom, includes the initials of our current staff.

RB = Robert Barrow (evening host)

JP = James Price (building supervisor)

RS = Randall Sherrell (Sunday host)

SM = Sang Mang (custodian),

SH = Sandy Heidenreich

LMc = Linda McCrae (pastor)

RD = Rachel Dickey (music director)

KM = Keith Mikesell (organist)

In addition, PF = pension fund (retirement).

I look forward to seeing you at Sunday’s annual congregational meeting.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Hays, treasurer

on behalf of the Finance Committee

Budget Proposal

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA				30-Apr-09	As of 5/26/09
				(Projected)	
As of May 26, 2009			YTD Actual		
		Budget	as of		Budget
INCOME		2008-09	30-Apr-09	2008-09	2009-10
Contributions	a	\$ 191,382	\$ 164,199	c \$ 197,910	f \$203,388
Endowment--CCC unrestricted	b	\$ 32,523	\$ 20,674		\$30,000
Endowment--CCC restricted		-	\$ 4,682		-
Abiding Memorial Fund		-			-
Canfield Trust		\$ 12,000	\$ 10,000		\$10,000
Other Trusts--Hadley & Paddock		\$ 3,500	\$ 3,444		\$3,400
Building Use		\$ 9,600	\$ 9,158		\$10,600
Parking		\$ 25,000	\$ 24,220		g \$27,500
Interest Earnings		\$ 500			\$500
Designated gift-Student Asso.		\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000		-
Grant (CTS)		\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000		-
Total Income		\$ 280,505		d \$ 6,528	\$285,388
EXPENSE					
Administration		\$ 16,500	\$ 11,558		\$16,250
Anniversary Committee		-			-
Communication		-			\$1,000
Community (Evangelism)		\$ 2,000	\$ 807		
Community (Membership)		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,111		\$3,000
Disciples Mission Fund (10%offerings)		\$ 19,138	\$ 14,805		\$20,339
Elders Expense		\$ 250	\$ 28		\$250
Finance		-			\$100
Music		\$ 3,455	\$ 2,091		\$3,450
Parking Lot: upkeep/repair		-			h \$4,125
Payroll Expense		\$ 167,999	\$ 135,024		\$167,527
Physical Assets (Property)		\$ 63,000	\$ 50,733		\$63,000
Spiritual Growth (Christian Ed)		\$ 718	\$ 452		
Spiritual Growth (Stewardship)		\$ 100	\$ -		\$568
Volunteer Ministry Support		-			\$200
Witness (Community Outreach)		\$ 1,550	\$ 1,189		
Witness (World Outreach)		\$ 150	\$ -		\$1,800
Worship		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,439		\$2,900
Total Expenses		\$ 279,360		e \$ (11,569)	\$284,509
NET		\$ 1,145			m \$879
Notes					
a	pledges totaled \$188,882 + a 10% of variable income pledge - est to be \$2,500. Total = \$191,382				
b	Endowment income based on 5% of the 3 year average of market value				
c	most conservative estimate of what 6/30/09 total will be based on historical giving of last 4 years				
d	difference between "a" and "c"				
e	amount expenses are under budget: comparing actual to YTD expenses, as of 4/30/09				
f	includes 89 pledge responses received + 2,000 loose offering				
g	projection based on last quarter and YTD parking receipts				
h	proposal: 15% of parking lot income be set aside for parking lot maintenance				
k	1.5% inc RB, JP, RS; 5% inc SM; added benefit 11% PF for SH; no increase for LMc, RD, or KM				
m	this budget has a surplus of \$879				

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
June 21**



Central Christian Church
701 North Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Address Service Requested

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**Newsletter Mailed
May 28, 2009
Vol. 44, Issue 5**