



Central Connections

175 years... and still a frontier church

Volume 44 Issue 6

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

June 25, 2009

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Ring out the old, ring in the new! A new church year begins on July 1. I've heard more than one of our current leaders happily anticipating being "rung out." New leadership is ready to pick up the mantle. We are most grateful to our outgoing team of officers: Moderator Greg Nickel, Vice Moderator Jennifer Riggs, Secretary Kerry Armstrong, and Treasurer Mary Hays. They have led us capably and faithfully during this especially "interesting" year in which we transitioned into our new organizational structure.

And we look forward to the gifts and leadership of our officers in the year that begins next week. Mary Hays will continue as Treasurer and Kerry Armstrong will become the Vice Moderator. They will be joined by Deborah Butt in the position of Moderator and Linda Kirchhoff as Secretary. Please pray with and for them as they lead us in the year ahead.

There are also transitions within the elders, deacons, and trustees – some finishing terms and others joining those groups. Some of our team leaders are continuing (bless you!) and will be joined by some "fresh blood" with the Worship Team (Jerry Butt), Volunteer Team (Lydia Brasher and Jennifer Riggs), Spiritual Growth Team (still to be determined), and Finance Team (Calvin Porter). Those who continue as team leaders are Terry Bradbury (Physical Assets), Patti Case (Communication), Ed Groves and Matt Barth (Community), and Glenda Survance (Witness).

A great, great THANK YOU to all those who have led, and will lead our ministry.

And all of this as we prepare to receive some 6000 Disciples in Indianapolis at the end of July. It's starting to feel very close! Next Thursday our guests from the Congo arrive in Indianapolis and will be with us in worship on July 12. The Assembly itself is July 29-August 2 in the convention center, and if you haven't registered already (which 40+ of us have), there's still time (<http://www.disciples.org/ga>). It is a fabulous opportunity to see our Church in all its glorious diversity, and to learn and grow in various ways.

On Sunday, August 2, the last day of the Assembly, Dr. Fred Craddock will be preaching here at Central. Dr. Craddock, for those who have not heard him, is considered by many to be the best preacher in our denomination, and he's one of the most down-to-earth smart people I've ever met. He's also getting up in years so this may be one of his last appearances at a large Disciples gathering. Because of all this, and because we're the closest Disciples congregation to the convention center, and because we're so naturally hospitable, we've got some work to do to welcome the hundreds of guests that we anticipate will come our way. (Continued on page 3)



Central Christian Church
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 Indianapolis, IN 46204
 317/635-6397

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<http://indyccc.org>

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

(Linda's Article Continued from page 1) Julie Miller is coordinating the planning for that day, and in the next couple of weeks many volunteer opportunities will be coming your way! Terry Bradbury and others are working hard (actually the word "frantically" comes to mind) to get our building as presentable as possible. Terry could use some more help – *please contact him if you have some time to give in July*. Keepers of the Ark work days will be held on both July 11 and August 1. Please participate if at all possible.

Thanks for sticking with this article for so long, and I have just one other topic that I want to write about: that big wooden cross in our sanctuary. There is a controversy of sorts going on about that cross. Does it enhance our worship experience? Does it detract from it? Does it deepen our theological understanding? Does it place undue emphasis on one aspect of it? Is it the right kind of cross? Is it in the right place? What was the crucifixion all about? What do we really think about atonement? *(Have I mentioned lately how much I love this church?)* This is a friendly controversy (at least so far...behave yourselves), and quite theologically grounded – the kind of issue pastors go into the ministry for (as opposed to the color of the carpet). Church folk talking about the cross – it's wonderful!

The one thing we have *decided* about the cross is that we are going to *loan* it to the General Assembly to be used in its worship. So sometime around July 20 the cross will disappear. But it will be returned to us, and this fall (after we're back from vacation and recovered from the Assembly) we will have some time for education and conversation about the important questions mentioned before, and others. We anticipate that one outcome of these conversations will be a decision about the placement of that particular cross in our sanctuary here at Central Christian Church.

Ok, more than enough for one article. I hope you are enjoying some summer fun and relaxation. Please don't neglect to come to worship when you're in town. We miss you and we need you.

Blessings,
Linda



2008-2009 Giving Status?

Contact: Steve Martz

As of June 30, the 2008-2009 church year for Central closes and a new one is begun. If you would like to verify the status of your 2008-2009 estimate of giving or other giving, please contact Sandy Heidenreich, Central's Office Administrator at 635-6397 or office@indyccc.org. Please note and be assured all giving is kept confidential and Sandy is the only one who posts all estimates of giving and other giving through-out the church year.



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.

Maged M. Hussein, 43
Duane G. Wolfe, 54
Chad A. Edmundson, 20
Bradley W. Iorio, 19
Thomas E. Lee, 20
Samuel D. Stone, 20
Marko M. Samson, 31
Justin J. Duffy, 31
Christopher M. Kurth, 23
Charles D. Parrish, 23
Robert D. Ulmer, 22
Edmond L. Lo, 23
Kafele H. Sims, 32
Joshua W. Soto, 25
Chancellor A. Keesling, 25

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

Jose Narosky



The Free Clothing program is in need of men's jeans! Please scour your closets, ask your neighbors, put the word out on your email networks!

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

Contact: Phyllis Crocker

Welcome to our New Members

Beth Muehlhausen holds a master of social work degree from IUPUI and a master of divinity degree from CTS. She is an ordained minister with the DOC. She is currently working on her dissertation for a doctorate in social work, researching persons who obtained degrees in social work and divinity through a dual degree program, and plans to be finished within the year. Beth has been married to her husband, Jim, for 22 years, and they have two daughters: Rachel (15) and Hannah (12). Jim and the girls are members of St. Peters UCC in Carmel which is also a "welcoming" congregation. The Muehlhausen family live at 10029 Glenhaven Ct., Fishers, 46037. Beth greatly appreciates the diversity and welcoming atmosphere of Central.

Brad Catt is originally from Vincennes, Indiana and attended a Presbyterian church during his childhood. He has degrees from Indiana University and Ole Miss, and is currently working as an independent paralegal and operating a website. He has three brothers and one sister as well as many nieces and nephews. He does a lot of volunteer work for the homeless and helping ex-offenders re-enter the community. He is also a sports fanatic and attends many sporting events in his free time. Brad lives at 4235 Woodsage Trace, Indianapolis, 46237. Brad has attended many different churches since he moved to Indianapolis in 2006 and is glad to have found Central.

Justin Kwiotkowski and Kevin Gerges live at 627 N. Pennsylvania Unit G, Indianapolis 46204. Justin is 26 years old and grew up on the east side of Indianapolis. He is a huge supporter of anything Indiana. He has three older brothers, two of whom are firefighters, and the other is a detective for the Police Department.

Justin graduated from the University of South Florida with a bachelors degree in psychology. In his spare time Justin likes to explore the new aspects of downtown and spend time with his family, including his two dogs. He also enjoys running.

Kevin Gerges is 23 years old and grew up in Maryland as one of four brothers. He moved to Indianapolis a year ago and has his own telecommunication business, and loves helping people better their lives through it. In his free time he enjoys learning more of what Indianapolis has to offer, riding bikes with Justin, catching a movie, or going out for dinner. They are enjoying everyone at Central and getting more involved in the church, and are excited to see what life has in store for them as their lives unfold together here at Central.



Made in LA - July 11 @ Central

Contact: Glenda Survance

Made in L.A. is an Emmy award-winning feature documentary that follows the remarkable story of three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles garment sweatshops as they embark on a three-year odyssey to win basic labor protections from a trendy clothing retailer. In intimate verite style, Made in L.A. reveals the impact of the struggle on each woman's life as they are gradually transformed by the experience. See the trailer: <http://www.madeinla.com/>

Compelling, humorous, deeply human, Made in L.A. is a story about immigration, the power of unity, and the courage it takes to find your voice.



Central at PBS in the Park

Contact: Ed Groves

Central will have an information booth at WFYI's "Let's Meet PBS Kids in the Park" this Saturday, June 27 from 10 am to 4 pm. This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to families with young children and we need your help. Volunteers to staff the booth are still needed for the following times:

Noon to 1 pm • 1 to 2 pm • 2 to 3 pm • 3 to 4 pm

Volunteers scheduled:

10 am to 11 am Justin Kwiatkowski and Kevin Gerdes
11 am to 12 pm Barb Weatherspoon and Deborah Carrithers
2 pm to 3 pm Julie Miller (tentative)
3 pm to 4 pm Brad Catt

The event is on Veteran's Memorial Plaza/American Legion Mall (between Meridian, Pennsylvania, St. Clair and New York streets. Here is a link with all of the day's activities <http://www.wfyi.org/LM/>

Bring the kids and make a day of it! Contact Ed Groves [@egroves1@butler.edu](mailto:egroves1@butler.edu) or call 925-7289



Indiana regional gathering

July 25, 2009

11 am - 4:30 pm (lunch provided)

Friedens United Church of Christ • 8300 S. Meridian St.

Not for Sale: The Documentary will be shown – meet modern day abolitionists from all over the world who are fighting slavery.

Shop Differently! Support the work of abolitionists and men and women who have been rescued from slavery at the Freedom Outpost.

- **Sarah Joy Morbitzer**, Indiana State Director for the Not for Sale Campaign, will give an overview of modern-day slavery and share the vision for Not for Sale Campaign: Indiana.
- **Asher Littlefield**, Indiana Deputy State Director for the Not for Sale Campaign, will talk about NFS: Indiana's mapping program and current efforts to investigate potential case of modern-day slavery in our state.
- **Sarah Blossom**, associate pastor at Friedens United Church of Christ, will speak about the Underground Church Network and the role the church can play in bringing justice to the enslaved.

RSVP to Sarah Joy Morbitzer at sarahjoy@notforsalecampaign.org or Sarah Blossom at pastorsarah@friedensucc.org

Lectionary Scripture



June 28

- * 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
- * Psalm 130
- * 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
- * Mark 5:21-43

July 5

- * 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
- * Psalm 48
- * 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
- * Mark 6:1-13

July 12

- * 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
- * Psalm 24
- * Ephesians 1:3-14
- * Mark 6:14-29

July 19

- * 2 Samuel 7:1-14a
- * Psalm 89:20-37
- * Ephesians 2:11-22
- * Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26

- * 2 Samuel 11:1-15
- * Psalm 14
- * Ephesians 3:14-21
- * John 6:1-21

Disciples Young Adult
New Web site
Check it out!

www.docya.org

• S U M M E R •
**TRAVEL
 BiNGO**

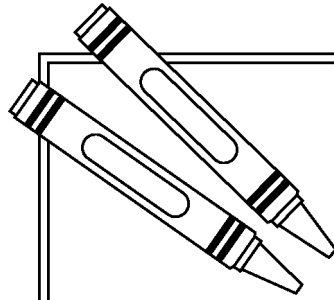
Summer travel is fun, but sometimes getting to the destination can take a long time. Try this homemade bingo game to entertain you and your family while you vacation this summer.

What you need:

- Sheets of 8½" x 11" paper (one for each player)
- Stickers (16 for each player)
- Pencil, pen, marker or crayon

What you do:

1. Before your trip, list different things you might see as you travel.
2. Take each 8½" x 11" sheet of paper and fold it in half, from top to bottom. Fold it in half again from top to bottom. Then fold it in half from side to side and then again. Unfold the paper and you should have 16 equal-sized squares, four across horizontally and four down vertically.
3. Family members write one thing from the list in each of the 16 squares. They can place them in any order. For non-readers, someone can draw pictures in each square.
4. Put the sheets and stickers in the car in an easy-to-reach place.
5. While traveling, when you see an object that's on your card, say it out loud. Put a sticker in that square.
6. The first person to get four in a row wins the first round. The first person to fill two rows wins the second round. The first person to fill the entire sheet wins the game.



Just for **KIDS**

TRAVEL BY DAY OR NIGHT

The way people travel has changed over time, but one thing has not changed — God was with people in biblical times just as He is with you and your family as you travel during your summer vacations.

Count the number of letters for each name, and then write the name in the spaces next to the verse that matches. (*Hint: Besides counting the number of letters in the name, also pay attention to whether the person is from the Old Testament or New Testament.*)

NAMES

Paul Moses Joseph The Israelites Abram crowds
 Samaritan Jesus Naaman Angel of God

VERSES

“The _____ ... had been traveling in front of Israel’s army” Exodus 14:19

“And _____ went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt.” Genesis 41:46

“Go in peace,” said Elisha. After _____ had traveled some distance” 2 Kings 5:19

“_____ traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem.” Genesis 12:6

_____ “traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece.” Acts 20:2

“_____ traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.” Luke 8:1

“Large _____ were traveling with Jesus.” Luke 14:25

“_____ traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.” Numbers 22:1

“_____ led Israel from the Red Sea For three days they traveled in the desert” Exodus 15:22

“But a _____, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.” Luke 10:33

Answers: Angel of God; Joseph; Naaman; Abram; Paul; Jesus; crowds; The Israelites; Moses; Samaritan



MCC Report

Contact: Jennifer Riggs

The Ministry Coordination Council (MCC) met on June 15, for its final meeting of this church year. The MCC evaluated the Annual Planning Event held the preceding day and planned for the Volunteer Fair to be held the following two Sundays. The MCC also evaluated its work this year and decided on the following four goals for its work next year:

- Create 3 new things that help regular attendees and new members connect to Central;
- Find 30 coordinators of volunteers;
- Facilitate a core young adult group to create a new young adult ministry at Central; and
- Position ourselves to be able to hire someone to provide professional services to our youth ministry by next year.

The MCC discussed the request from the General Assembly to borrow Central's sanctuary cross for use at the General Assembly. Because of the discussion that this has provoked, it was decided that opportunities for theological discussion of the cross and atonement will be offered this fall.

Please watch for these upcoming events in the life of Central:

July 5 – Drawing for Volunteer Fair Winner of Fair Trade Cart Certificate

July 10 – Movie for Justice – “Made in LA” 7PM

July 11 – Keepers of the Ark, 8AM

July 12 – Visit by Rev. Ilumbe from the Democratic Republic of Congo (worship & lunch)

Aug 1 – Keepers of the Ark, 8AM

Aug 23 – Circle of Action on O&A, after worship

Aug 29 – Elders Retreat 9AM to noon



June 2009: Shine Where You Are

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world... Philippians 2: 14,15

The atmosphere was vibrant during the celebration of 140 years at Inanda Seminary in Durban South Africa. Headmaster, Mrs. JT Tate felt the school was brilliantly showcased for the glory of God and the work of Jesus. Inanda Seminary was founded in 1869 by the American Board of Missions (ABM) as the first secondary Christian school for black girls in Durban. For 140 years Inanda Seminary has maintained the Christian values and African ethos it was founded upon. It believes in developing and growing the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, socially and physically. Inanda provides a solid grounding for its students and to date has graduated more than 8000 young women, many of whom have become the core of black female leadership in South Africa. During the Apartheid years, Inanda Seminary continued to educate and motivate black females to rise up against oppression and racism. This continues today in the current climate of crime, violence and HIV and AIDS where infection is highest among women. Inanda Seminary is a school of



Keepers of the Ark July 11th & August 1 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.

Contact: Terry Bradbury



Our wonderful Thrift Shop and Free Clothing volunteers, who will be honored at a July 13 luncheon.

Marilyn Porter, Sarah Murphy, and others who are helping reupholster the chairs in the conference room.

the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA), and a partner of Global Ministries. Mrs. Tate reported that students and staff had a rosy glow about them for days reflecting the glow of the anniversary celebration.

We share the inspiration offered to us by Inanda Seminary as they are part of the wider church community and a part of the plan that God clearly has for our world.

Revs. Susan Valiquette and Scott Couper are missionaries to South Africa under the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA). Susan works at Inanda Seminary and serves as chaplain. Scott serves as a local pastor and coordinates the HIV/AIDS Desk for the UCCSA KwaZulu Natal region.

For More Information

Sandra Gourdet, Area Executive Africa

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Equal Exchange has created Big Change since 1986. The founders envisioned a food system that empowers farmers and consumers, supports small farmer co-ops, and uses sustainable farming methods. They started with fairly traded coffee from Nicaragua and didn't look back. Today, they continue to find new and powerful ways to build a better food system. They partner with co-operatives of farmers who provide high-quality organic coffees, teas, chocolates and snacks from farmers all over the world, including here in the United States.

Easiest Chocolate Pudding

Try this delicious pudding recipe with Equal Exchange Organic Drinking Chocolate available in fellowship hall following worship.

Ingredients:

3 cups of milk (2% or Whole)

1/4 cup of corn starch

3/4 cup of Equal Exchange Organic Drinking Chocolate

Optional: vanilla extract, orange extract or a little dash of spice of your choice

Directions:

Put 3 cups of milk into a large, heavy saucepan. Sift the 1/4 cup of corn starch into the milk while stirring. When done, turn on burner to medium.

Put in 3/4 cup of Organic Drinking Chocolate, stirring constantly, scraping bottom and sides for about five minutes. Work out any lumps or clumps in the cocoa while stirring. Continue heating until mixture thickens. Do not allow to come to a full boil. Pour into cups. If you don't like skin on your pudding, cover immediately with wax paper or plastic wrap touching the surface of the pudding. Place cups in the refrigerator to cool.

Modified from a recipe developed by Cybele May of Candyblog.



Pakistan: Largest Displacement Since Rwanda

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Week of Compassion asks for your prayers and support as we attempt, through our trusted partner organizations, to accompany the scores of displaced and traumatized persons in Pakistan. This is a grave situation. Recent fighting between Pakistani military forces and Taliban insurgents in the northwest part of the country has uprooted more than 2.5 million people; heavy shelling, bombardment and continual cross-fire have compelled innocent people to flee their villages. It is expected that the number of uprooted persons could soon rise to three million. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has said that it may become the largest displacement since Rwanda and has already declared the exodus the biggest ever in the world during the past 15 years. Needless to say, there is urgent need for hundreds of millions of dollars in international aid for relief efforts. To make an on-line donation, [click here](#) or send a check to WoC, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

A major concern is the medical assistance needed by fleeing internally displaced persons (IDPs) living with host families or in the IDP camps. The region is experiencing harsh weather conditions, with temperatures rising above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Media reports confirm that half the displaced population in these camps is children under fifteen, and a large number of them are suffering from dehydration. As always, children greatly suffer from conflict and war.

Week of Compassion partners, CWS and ACT International, also report increasing needs among vulnerable populations, including a lack of shelter, food, medicine, non-food items, water, sanitation, hygiene and clothing. There is a need for psychosocial support, particularly for young children who lost their parents during the displacement.

CWS implementing local partner, the Sungi Development Foundation, has completed an initial distribution of 230 shelter kits and 300 food packages. Another 100 food packages have been dispatched for continued distribution, and CWS has started mobile health unit services for IDPs. In the past few weeks, a total of 230 displaced people received health services. Additionally, CWS is providing the financial support to the Sungi Development Foundation for a consultation meeting for "IDPs to voice their concerns" in Islamabad, to provide a platform for the issues of displaced people; the event is expected to take place soon.

For more information on the situation, watch an interview with our colleague Marvin Parvez, CWS Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator, about the current crisis and the CWS response, which WoC is supporting, at www.youtube.com/user/ChurchWorldService.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 29-August 2

SPIRIT GAMES GOAL:
The purpose of the Spirit Games is to engage General Assembly participants in a fun-filled, spirited competition that will raise awareness for the New Church Movement while raising funds to support New Church projects nationwide.

Participate as : Individual
Teams of 4 or Youth Groups

Regardless of your method of play, register before July 1 and receive 100 additional points per registered individual, 400 additional points per team and 1000 points per youth group.

(All participating youth under the age of 18 MUST have a parental consent form and be accompanied by an adult for the Spirit Splash - paddle boats in the canal.)

[http://
www.newchurchministry.org/
resources/Sspirit-
Games-2009.cfm#](http://www.newchurchministry.org/resources/Sspirit-Games-2009.cfm#)

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
July 29**



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