



Central Connections

175 years... and still a frontier church

Volume 44 Issue 12

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

December 29, 2009

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If you're like me, you're coming off the Advent season at Central Christian Church on something of a high.

I can easily point to some reasons for the high...

Our Alternative Giving Market was a resounding success, allowing us to spend our money on gifts that make a difference for people who are hungry or hurting in a number of ways. New this year were a silent auction and pre-ordered soups, an added to an already strong tradition, we increased both donations and the sense of community.

At the same time, we sponsored five families with Christmas gifts. I'm not sure anyone estimates the money involved, but it must be in the thousands of dollars.

On the Sunday before Christmas, our children presented a Nativity pageant. They shared themselves and their talent with us to communicate the wonder and mystery of the incarnation, and we could see the spark of Christ in them.

The day after Christmas, I came by the church to put things in order for Sunday and saw people arriving for the food pantry (it being the last Saturday of the month). It reminded me that every week of the year we are involved in life-giving ministry.

For me, all of these occurrences (and there are many others) are expressions of the heart of the Christmas story. For me, there is nothing more "Christian" than joining in Jesus' mission to preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor...and inviting others, including our children, into the mission. It is a joy to see it happening and to be part of it happening. Thank you, thank you to all of you who share this vision and put your efforts into living it out in your lives.

Now we are on the cusp of a new year, and the possibilities ahead are exciting. Strengthening our ministry with children and youth will be a priority during this year. For me personally, a trip to the Congo in February promises to bring new learning and life, and I hope you will feel some of the effect as well. I look forward with anticipation, and pray that 2010 will be a year that blesses each of you and our life together and God's world.

Peace,
Linda



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Worship: Sundays @ 10:30am

Study: Sundays @ 9:00am

Study: Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

find I miss it more than I thought I would” or 5) “I didn't notice it was missing until someone pointed it out to me!”

From all the feedback I've heard, I had no sense that the presence or absence of the cross is a “deal breaker” for anyone. I don't think that any of you are going to boycott worship or slit my tires if the decision is not exactly the one you would make. And I really appreciate that (so do my tires). Not because I don't want people to have strong feelings about matters like this, but because it says to me that this community values...community. We recognize that our individual experience is not the same as everyone else's and are open enough to hear other opinions and feelings. We value being part of a community where people *are* different – in race, economic status, sexual orientation, religious and educational background, and yes, theology. That's part of what makes Central the community it is, and it means that none of us gets our exact preference all the time – and that's ok with us because we know that if we did, others would be enjoying their preference very little of the time.

Now, on to the decision...the leaders of the Ministry Teams involved in this matter (Worship, Spiritual Growth, and Physical Assets), along with the moderator and pastor, have decided to have the cross present in the sanctuary for the seasons of Lent and Eastertide. That means, this year, that we will put the cross up by Ash Wednesday on February 17, and take it down after Pentecost on May 23. By having it up for part but not all of the year, we hope to focus attention on the cross as a symbol during those particular seasons when it is most relevant to the liturgical calendar. We also believe and hope that this arrangement honors the thoughts and opinions that we heard over the past several months.

And if not...please don't slit our tires.

GreenPieceIndy



A Kinder, Greener Town Hall Meeting

If the phrase "town hall meeting" conjures up images of angry Americans about to blow a collective gasket, it might be the last way you want to spend your post-holiday downtime. So consider an alternative: Whether your politics tend to lean red or blue, we invite you to imagine a kinder, greener town hall meeting...one that (calmly) examines Indiana's renewable energy and green business picture as well as what the future may hold. Mark your calendar for Thursday, January 7 when the [Green Energy-Green Jobs](#) town hall meeting and information fair comes to EpworthUnitedMethodistChurch (6450 Allisonville Road).

The event kicks off at 6 p.m. with exhibits, followed by a short overview of Indiana's energy policies and green job opportunities at 7:35 p.m. The town hall style portion of the evening will commence at 8 p.m. and features Sen. James Merritt (R-Indianapolis) and Sen. Jean Breaux (D-Indianapolis). Want to be sure your questions are considered? Submit them in advance to EpworthGreenTeam@gmail.com.

Town Hall Goes Green or Town Brawl Goes Mean? You decide.

Piece out, Renee & Meghan

<http://www.greenpieceindy.com/>

A friend of our congregation, Melvina Davis, is looking for a job taking care of an elderly person on weekends, including house cleaning. For her contact information, please call the church office.



Save The Date!

There will be a Volunteer Fair on Sunday, January 24th after worship in Fellowship Hall.

Please come a see where your gifts for ministry can best be used.

Post-Holiday Recycling Event

January 09, 2010 Time:
10-2 p.m.

Broad Ripple Park
1550 Broad Ripple Ave.
Ellenberger Park
5301 E. St. Clair St.
Garfield Park-
2345 Pagoda Dr.
Krannert Park
605 S. High School Rd

Office of Sustainability, in conjunction with Indy Parks, the Department of Public Works and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, will host the fourth annual Post-Holiday Recycling Event on Saturday, January 9, 2010

Accepted items include:

- Christmas trees (remove all ornaments, lights, tree stands, plastic bags, and other decorations)
- Cardboard boxes • Gift boxes (no wrapping paper)
- Styrofoam (molded white foam, clean with no glue)
- Electronics (examples include: computer equipment, cell phones, TV's no larger than 27 inches, VCRs, DVD players and stereos)

The Alternative Giving Marketplace Was a Great Success

Contact: Deb Moseley & Phyllis Crocker



THANKS to everyone for making the Alternative Marketplace such a wonderful success this year!! The totals are in and once again, Central stepped up to support those in need. Congratulations to one and all for the tremendous support the market received and for the energy you created around it.

The Soup Sisters (Mary Hays and Trish Money) made and sold 335 packages of soup - **triple the amount sold last year!** In addition to raising much needed funds for Free Clothing and Food Pantry, their enthusiasm created a wonderful sense of community that was felt by all. **Thanks!**

Thanks also to all who participated in the Silent Auction! What fun it was to see the response to a new addition to this year's market and what a fundraiser for Free Clothing, Food Pantry, and the Pastor's discretionary Fund! Wow! We may have to do this again sometime

Our thanks to the booth chairs for giving so much time and talent to making this year's market successful!! We couldn't have done it without you. Thank to the HETO group for joining us this year.

The market raised more than \$4,000.00 in outreach monies!! This includes the sales of soup, silent auction items, gift-wrapping, Fair trade products, and donations made to ICON, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project, HETO, Church World Service, Refugee and Immigration, Week of Compassion, and Division of Overseas Ministries, and Central Christian Church. Incredible!! (This figure does not include the purchasing of gifts for our "Adopt a Family" Tree, Global Gifts, or several Food Pantry and Free Clothing checks not designated as Alternative Giving Market.) We will announce an official AGM figure when all of the money has been collected and the accounting complete. Please pick up and/or pay for all items before Dec. 30th. Thanks!

Central's community has always been known for being deeply committed to local and international outreach and **that sure proved to be true again this year!** Thanks again for your generous participation in this yearly endeavor!

We would also like to thank several businesses that participated this year by providing items for the Silent Auction. Thanks go to Linda and Don Shelton for provided homemade (to die for) toffee from their company, *Toffee Temptation*, Cindy Henning from Eastgate Christian Church for donating a massage and to Indianapolis Fruit for providing many baskets, which were used to create Silent Auction items. Thanks so much! Also, a **special** thanks to Sean Riley for donating one of his watercolor painting! Thanks, Sean!

We welcome your thoughts and ideas to continue Central's long standing successful Alternative Giving Marketplace.

Gratefully,
Deb Moseley and Phyllis Crocker

CHILDREN

Dan Moseley

It was not "Joy" Sunday. It was advent, but it was not "Joy" Sunday.

But, I couldn't help it. Pushing its way into the Peace focus of Advent was the tickle of sheer Joy. I was overcome.

You see, I have been a member of Central for over 10 years. I have not been on the center of all the activity, but I have been deeply blessed by the congregation and its leadership. Ministers, Interim ministers and members of the congregation have offered me insight, encouragement and the presence of a welcoming community. The church has offered me a place to make the offering of my life.

But, Sunday, Dec 20, 2009 was a day that penetrated my heart in a way that I can only call "Joy." When I started participating in the church, I do not remember seeing any children among the 60 or so people who were in the congregation. But Sunday the children of the church led the congregation in worship by enacting the nativity. I would guess there may have been 20 or more children who, dressed in bathrobes and donkey ears, in halos and sheep's clothes, used the whole sanctuary and some of the fellowship hall to draw us into the world of the birth of Jesus.

What is it that tickled my heart with Joy? Children. So many children. Children's natural response to play, to nerves, to community. That is joy in itself.

But, I think something more struck me. My joy was related to the parents and grandparents I saw. My joy was related to how many dedicated parents and grandparents we have at Central. You see, many of them drive by other churches to come downtown to Central.

Now I am not sure, but I can imagine that they make that drive partly because they want their children to have an experience of church that is possible at a place like Central Christian Church. My guess is that they want their children to be nurtured by a congregation that is open and welcoming to all people. They probably want their children to experience the energy for love and justice that is expressed in the body of Christ at Central.

It seems to me that the parents and grandparents of the children at Central embrace their responsibility of raising their children with the spirit of Christ as their guide. They want their children to be ready to live in a diverse world where all God's children are respected and the gifts of all people are happily received for the ministry of the church.

I am grateful for the parents, grandparents and children at Central and pray that we who do not have young children at church anymore can do our part in helping you parent your children in the blessed spirit of Christ.

And I am thankful for the joy that visited me on that Sunday.

"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart."

— Howard Thurman, Baptist minister, author, theologian, educator, civil rights leader.

Lectionary Scripture



January 3

- Jeremiah 31:7-14
- Psalm 147:12-20
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- John 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 10

- Isaiah 43:1-7
- Psalm 29
- Acts 8:14-17
- Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17

- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Psalm 36:5-10
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- John 2:1-11

January 24

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
- Luke 4:14-21

January 31

- Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Psalm 71:1-6
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- Luke 4:21-30

JINGLE BELL TAMBOURINE

To ring in 2010, make a joyful noise with this musical instrument.

What you need:

- 2 plastic plates
- Hole punch
- Pen
- Beads or beans (or other small items that will make noise when shaken)
- Tacky craft glue
- 6 pieces of ribbon (each about 5" long and 1/4" wide)
- 6 jingle bells
- Stickers
- Markers

What you do:

1. On the bottom of each plate, write, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1, NIV).
2. Punch six evenly spaced holes around the rim of one plate. Mark the holes with a pen and then punch six matching holes in the second plate.
3. Pour the beads or beans into one plate and then squeeze glue around the rim of that plate.
4. Place the other plate on top, aligning the holes. (Make sure the Bible verses are on the outside.) Let it dry.
5. Thread one ribbon through one hole and through one bell, and then tie the ribbon. Repeat five more times, once for each hole.
6. Decorate the instrument with stickers or markers.
7. Play your tambourine when you sing your favorite songs.





Just for KIDS

Make a joyful noise

People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship



* * * * *

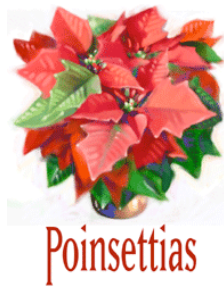
_____ the _____ ;



_____ .



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.



In Honor Of:

Clarice Baxter, friend
 Audrey Borschel, friend
 Don & Wilma Boyd, friends
 Garnet Cecil, mother
 Randall & Kathleen Degges
 Bob & Betsy Doversberger, friends
 Inanda Seminary, Durban, South Africa
 Melvin & Helen Knight, parents &
 Ian & Cynthia McCrae, parents
 Virginia Martz, mother
 Ian & Cynthia McCrae, parents
 Linda & Isaac McCrae & Bev Knight, family
 Margaret Miller, mother
 John Morgan, friend
 Phyllis Oldham, friend
 Samantha Price, daughter
 Joyce Roys, friend
 Helen Speicher, friend
 Kathleen Weaver, mother

Given By:

Lydia Brasher
 Bev Knight & Linda McCrae
 Lydia Brasher
 Steve & Twyla Cecil
 Ron & Deniese Degges
 Lydia Brasher
 Roger Correia

 Bev Knight & Linda McCrae
 Steve Martz
 Maureen McCrae & Lloyd Wright
 Maureen McCrae & Lloyd Wright
 Jackie Miller & Marcia Phillips
 Lydia Brasher
 Lydia Brasher
 Sarah Murphy
 Lydia Brasher
 Lydia Brasher
 Jason & Sara Morgan

In Memory Of:

Zechariah & Micah
 Jack Ball, father
 Charlie & Mary Brasher, parents
 Dale Cecil, father & John & Thelma Corson, parents
 Joan Cook, mother
 Egbert & Evelyn Crocker, parents
 Zed & Mildred Davis, parents
 Jennifer Henderson, sister
 Guy & Ruth Inman, parents
 Marjorie Kime, aunt
 Doris Darnell Kincaid
 Cindy Kozlowsky, friend
 Freda Krahling, grandmother
 Sarah Kujala, aunt
 Evelyn McIntyre, mother
 Herb Moit, father
 Jeff Moit, nephew
 Norma Morgan, mother

Given By:

Verity Jones, William Wagnon & Gracie Wagnon
 William Ball & Mark Volpatti
 Lydia Brasher
 Steve & Twyla Cecil
 Bob & Deb McIntyre
 Delbert & Phyllis Crocker
 Dan Davis
 Susan Sears
 Delbert & Phyllis Crocker
 Keith Mikesell
 Bill, Rhonda, Andrew & Maggie Kincaid
 Bev Knight & Linda McCrae
 Ron & Deniese Degges
 Sarah Murphy
 Bob & Deb McIntyre
 Tom Moit
 Tom Moit
 Jason & Sara Morgan



God of the stranger, you are made known to us in Jesus the Christ, born as a migrant in a stable and exiled as a refugee in Egypt. He knew the pain of homelessness with no place to lay his head, but taught his disciples the challenge of love for all people. Lead us to build communities rooted in hospitality and justice. Help us, the privileged inn-keepers of our day, to find room for those driven from their homelands by political or economic instability. In us, through us, and, if need be, despite us, may your will be done.

Amen.

www.discipleshomemissions.org/RIM/



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.

Pauley, Jaiciae L., 29
Tello, Jhanner A., 29
Frietas, Ralph Anthony Webb, 23
Gwaltney, Derrick D., 21
Rogers, Michael A., 23

“In war, there are no un wounded soldiers.”

Jose Narosky

June Nelson, aunt
Marian Phillips, mother
John Rocco Rinaldi, nephew
Lynette Jordan Schisla, friend
James Seme, father
Bertha Swaffar, grandmother
David & Virginia Senko, parents
Allen & David Volpatti, brothers
Max & Lanore Wright, parents
Dixie Wyatt, grandmother
Noel & Daveda Wyatt, parents

Cito Wyatt
Jackie Miller & Marcia Phillips
Ron & Deniese Degges
Susan Sears
Sarah Murphy
Cito Wyatt
Pam Senko
William Ball & Mark Volpatti
Maureen McCrae & Lloyd Wright
Cito Wyatt
Cito Wyatt



2009 Compassion Response Fund Final Report

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

We find ourselves in the midst of the Advent season -- anticipating, hoping, and preparing for the birth of the Christ-child in our lives and in our world. How desperately we need him! In my humble opinion, good preparation also includes reflection on what has already been. Each quarter this year, we have provided you with a brief report on all that you have helped us make possible through Week of Compassion. Today we send you our final Compassion Response Fund Report for 2009 (barring, we pray, any major disasters between now and the New Year).

The Compassion Response Fund is an allocation the Week of Compassion Advisory Committee makes each year to enable WoC to respond immediately, effectively and efficiently to requests for emergencies, disasters and other urgent and unexpected needs that arise. For 2009 the WoC Committee has allocated \$600,000 for the Compassion Response Fund; it is the single largest item in the WoC program budget. In addition to what is budgeted for the Response Fund, WoC receives designated gifts for the Fund and for specific disasters, countries and situations that further enhance our capacity to respond to emergency needs and appeals. Currently, WoC has made a disaster response on average of once every 2.5 days.

Below is a listing of grants from the Compassion Response Fund and other designated disaster response accounts. Contributions for the Response Fund are needed and welcomed and will be used 100% for emergency response to humanitarian needs in the world. During these difficult economic times, it is the vulnerable, the poor, the diseased and the hungry -- those sisters and brothers WoC serves and accompanies -- who feel the most impact. Thus, it is with great joy we share with you, our partners in this compassionate and critical ministry, the following report. And we thank you, once again, for your courageous compassion.

Africa: [157,543]
\$6,000 - Angola, relief to flood affected
\$6,000 - Chad, assistance to IDPs & refugees
\$60,000 - Darfur/Sudan, emergency relief
\$6,000 - DR Congo, severe storms
\$2,500 - DR Congo, aid to displaced
\$2,500 - DR Congo, aid to Angolan refugees
\$18,000 - DR Congo, crisis
\$21,000 - Kenya, famine relief
\$11,000 - Liberia, hunger relief

\$1,000 - Republic of Congo, emergency
\$6,000 - Somalia, assistance to IDPs
\$6,000 - Zambia, food relief
\$6,451 - Zimbabwe, food security
\$1,250 - Zimbabwe, aid for medical clinic
\$3,842 - Zimbabwe, water wells

East Asia and the Pacific: [31,250]

\$5,000 - Australia, bushfires
\$4,500 - China, flood relief
\$5,000 - Philippines, northern Mindanao
floods
\$9,750 - Philippines, typhoon
\$2,500 - Philippines, tropical storm/flood relief
\$2,000 - Samoa, emergency aid
\$2,500 - Taiwan, flood relief

Latin America and the Caribbean: [38,347]

\$3,847 - Chaco Region, water project
\$5,000 - Costa Rica, flood relief
\$7,500 - Costa Rica, earthquake relief
\$1,000 - Dominican Republic, fire
\$5,000 - El Salvador, floods/mudslides
\$5,000 - Honduras, tropical depression
\$6,000 - Honduras, earthquake relief
\$2,500 - Honduras, political crisis
\$2,500 - Mexico, flood relief

Middle East and Europe: [55,500]

\$13,500 - Bosnia, long-term recovery
\$23,000 - Gaza, humanitarian assistance
\$6,000 - Iraq, assistance to IDPs & refugees
\$11,000 - Republic of Georgia, post-conflict
relief & recovery
\$2,000 - Russia, poverty

Southern Asia: [166,750]

\$10,000 - Afghanistan, medical care
\$6,000 - Afghanistan, drought & food
insecurity
\$5,000 - Bangladesh, cyclone relief
\$5,000 - Cambodia-Thailand, border crisis
\$5,000 - Cambodia, flood relief
\$31,000 - Indonesia, post-tsunami &
earthquake rehabilitation
\$25,000 - Indonesia, West Java earthquake
\$6,500 - India, flood rehabilitation
\$2,000 - India, disaster risk reduction
\$13,000 - Myanmar, ongoing cyclone relief
\$37,000 - Pakistan, humanitarian crisis
\$12,250 - Sri Lanka, assistance to conflict-
displaced
\$6,500 - Thailand, ecumenical partnership
\$2,500 - Vietnam, flood relief

General: [24,000]

2009 Rapid Response Fund

Indonesia, West Papua earthquake relief
Madagascar, cyclone recovery
Indonesia, Talaud Is. earthquake relief
India, Orissa tornado
Afghanistan, earthquake
Cambodia, border conflict
India, Cyclone Aila
DR Congo, fire, displacing families
Nepal, diarrhea outbreak
Pakistan, religious violence
Honduras, political crisis
Pakistan, displacement
El Salvador, floods/mudslides
Tanzania, landslide
India, Tamil Nadu floods

Domestic: [178,296]

\$12,000 - Alaska, Yukon River floods
\$1,000 - Arkansas, house fire
\$1,000 - Arkansas, ice storm relief
\$500 - Arkansas, flood recovery
\$6,000 - Arizona, emergency water needs
\$4,000 - Florida, flood recovery
\$11,000 - Florida, long-term disaster recovery
\$5,000 - Florida, long-term hurricane recovery
\$750 - Florida, house fire
\$3,500 - Georgia, emergency heating
\$2,000 - Georgia, flood relief
\$6,500 - Illinois, hurricane
\$2,500 - Indiana, flood recovery
\$10,000 - Iowa, flood recovery
\$9,000 - Kentucky, ice storm relief
\$1,000 - Kentucky, tornado recovery
\$3,000 - Kentucky, work in Appalachia
\$16,000 - Louisiana, long-term hurricane
recovery
\$10,000 - Louisiana, ecumenical build
\$2,000 - Mississippi, hurricane recovery
\$500 - Missouri, tornado recovery
\$1,000 - Missouri, ongoing storm recovery
\$1,500 - Oklahoma, wildfire recovery
\$2,500 - South Carolina, wildfire recovery
\$3,000 - Tennessee, tornado relief
\$30,000 - Tennessee, hurricane recovery
\$250 - Texas, house fire
\$5,296 - Texas, hurricane recovery
\$1,000 - Texas, tornado recovery
\$6,000 - U.S., 2008 spring storms
\$7,000 - U.S., 2009 spring storms & floods
\$6,000 - U.S., 2009 summer storms
\$5,000 - U.S., 2009 southeastern floods
\$500 - Virginia, trauma counseling
\$2,000 - West Virginia, flood relief



**Volunteer Today for 2010
Mission Trip**

The recovery from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike continues across the Gulf Coast. Thousands of households need assistance and Disciples Volunteering is committed to offer hope, healing, and a helping hand. Mission Stations remain open in Gulfport, Miss., Slidell, La., and Texas City, Texas. In partnership with Week of Compassion, the Great River Region, and the Christian Church in the Southwest, along with each host congregation, Disciples Volunteering: Disaster Response is scheduling Mission Teams for 2010. Volunteers who are at least 14 years old can serve in the recovery effort. Come, partner with a family still longing to return home. Come, Get Dirty for Jesus! For more information, visit <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/Volunteer/DisciplesVolunteer.htm> or call Brenda Tyler with Disciples Volunteering at (888) 346-2631.

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
January 24**



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