



Central Connections

175 years... and still a frontier church

Volume 45 Issue 6

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

June 28, 2010

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I've been thinking a lot about volunteers recently. You know, all of you folks whose ministry with our congregation is not compensated in monetary terms. You've probably been especially on my mind because it's a time of the year when we're looking for a lot of you! The Nominating Committee has sought out people to serve in new capacities, and Deborah Butt (our moderator) and I have been talking with others. Volunteer Fairs are inviting you to sign up on this sheet or that. Occasionally I look around and it dawns on me how little would happen if it depended only on our paid staff.

Why volunteer? In worship a couple of weeks ago, I jokingly said that it was so that you could get a colored tag on Volunteer Recognition Sunday. Really, it's about engaging in something meaningful. It adds something to your life and to the lives of others. When you set up the refreshments for fellowship hour, you create a place of hospitality and invite the community to share and learn from one another. When you stand at a door of the church and say hello and point new folks toward the sanctuary, you establish a human connection with people entering a large and sometimes imposing structure. When you drag 50 years worth of junk from an attic above the the gym to a dumpster outside, you help keep in shape this "tool for ministry" that is our building. When you drag yourself up the stairs to choir practice on Thursday evenings, you become part of a harmonious endeavor that blesses you and the congregation and God.

Recently a downtown neighbor who is aware of our ministry made a donation to the church. When I thanked him, he said to me, "You have no idea how many people depend on your church." He's right, I have no idea. I know that 78 households made up of 126 people were served at Food Pantry last Saturday. I know something about the traffic on Mondays that comes through the Thrift Shop and Free Clothing Program. I talk with people who come to the church in need of a bus pass, or help to replace their lost ID. But I don't know a lot about most of those people and how their lives are changed, in small or large ways, by our ministry. I don't know how many people depend on us. But I do know we're only dependable because of the time and energy you share.

And so...thank you. Thank you to those of you who are completing a time of service – to our outgoing treasurer, Mary Hays (our other officers continue for another year) and to deacons, trustees, and elders who have provided fine leadership. Thank you to Team Leaders who are the inspiration and organizational force behind so much of what we do. Thank you to those who embody compassion with our neighbors each Monday and the last Saturday of the month. Thank you to choir members, greeters, hosts, worship leaders and others who help to make the Sunday morning worship experience a high moment of our week. Thank you to each of you who live out your passion for mission in a thousand ways in the life of our church.

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

Bob Van Tuyl came forward on June 20 to join the church. Bob got to know Central through Karen Sanford, who is a neighbor. Bob grew up in Elmira, New York and has lived in Indianapolis for about two years. He has 2 grown daughters, one living here and one in Danville, Illinois. Bob worked as a bricklayer for 25 years until a car accident in 1992. He likes to work and volunteer his time, and when he's home he enjoys watching TV. Bob lives at 7455 Mallard Ct. #A, Indianapolis, IN 46260, 317-222-5565.

The Pastor is Turning Fifty!

Unbelievable as it may seem, Linda McCrae will reach the half-century mark later this month. You are invited to celebrate this milestone with her and her family at an open house at their home, 1524 E. Vermont St., on Sunday, July 25, following worship until 3:30pm.

From Beth White

To my church family:

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer, enjoying the weather, extra hours of daylight, and time with family. While the choir takes a much-needed break for much of the summer, I wanted to let you know that I am taking a "break" of my own and before someone thinks I am shopping for another church, or simply spending my Sundays at the pool (not that there is ANYTHING wrong with that!), I wanted to explain.

As most of you know, it is re-election year for me--I can hardly believe it's been four years but the calendar says I must face the voters in November. I love my job, consider it a great privilege to serve, and accordingly must submit to a four-year-long "job interview" that intensifies this summer and fall. Part of the political tradition in our community is for candidates to visit traditionally African-American churches during worship. I have done this before, and have been welcomed warmly in the joyous, spirit-filled and praiseful worship of this tradition. Even though I greatly miss CCC, I look forward to each new Sunday experience.

For the next few months (through October), you will likely not see me, but I am trying to work it out so Nathaniel can be with you as much as possible. He needs to stay connected to his church family, and I appreciate members of the "village" keeping track of him when I am not there. Be assured you are in my thoughts and prayers during this time, and don't hesitate to contact me if my office can assist you. Oh, and don't forget to vote on November 2!

Beth

Pastor Out of the Office

Linda McCrae will be out of the office and traveling between July 5 and July 18. If you have pastoral concerns during that time, please call the church office or Darrel Crouter, chair of the elders.



Free Clothing Sunday Bring Pillows

Contact: Phyllis Crocker

Everyone one join in for our First Sunday for Free Clothing by bringing in a pillow. Imagine sleeping on the street or even on a cot - how well would you sleep without a pillow?



July 4

- 2 Kings 5:1-14
- Psalm 30
- Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16
- Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 11

- Amos 7:7-17
- Psalm 82
- Colossians 1:1-14
- Luke 10:25-37

July 18

- Amos 8:1-12
- Psalm 52
- Colossians 1:15-28
- Luke 10:38-42

July 25

- Hosea 1:2-10
- Psalm 85
- Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
- Luke 11:1-13

"FLOW: How Did a Handful of Corporations Steal Our Water?" Movies for Justice Night on Friday, July 23

Contact: Susan Ferrer & Carol Lindsey

Irena Salina's award-winning documentary, which investigates what experts label the most important political & environmental issue of the 21st century – the world water crisis

Salina builds a case against the growing privatization of the world's dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights and the emergence of a domineering world water cartel.

Interviews with scientists and activists intelligently reveal the rapidly building crisis, at both the global and human scale, and the film introduces many of the governmental and corporate culprits behind the water grab, while begging the question "Can anyone really own water?"

Beyond identifying the problem, *FLOW* also gives viewers a look at the people and institutions providing practical solutions to the water crisis and those developing new technologies, which are fast becoming blueprints for a successful global and economic turnaround.

Recycling Reminders

Contact: Marcia Phillips

Recycling Items Used at Church: Use the bins in Fellowship Hall to recycle *plastics #1-7, glass, steel, aluminum, and paper*. Please, no cardboard in the paper recycling bin.

Recycling Items from Home: Unfortunately, we do not have space at church to collect your recyclables from home. *Paper* (including newspapers, mail, catalogs, magazines, etc) may be placed in the yellow & green Abitibi bin in the parking lot. For all other items, you may want to consider one of the local recycling centers. *Cardboard* and all *plastics #1-7* may be taken to Rock-Tenn at 1775 S. West Street. *Other recyclables (including plastics #1 & 2)* may be taken to any of the KIB bins in various locations throughout the city.

Anyone interested in helping with any part of our recycling effort should contact Marcia Phillips at pmarcia275@aol.com. Maybe you'd like to take charge of recycling one type of item. Maybe you have ideas of other items we could recycle---for money or for the benefit of our precious earth. Any ideas or help would be greatly appreciated.

Search Committee Update

Contact: Jennifer Riggs

Central's Search Committee continues to search for a half-time Coordinator of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. The committee has received several applications and will meet on June 30th to determine which applicants it wants to interview. It is the committee's hope that interviews can be scheduled in early July and a decision can be reached that same month. Members of the Search Committee are: Lori Adams, Kerry Armstrong, Matt Barth, Deborah Butt (ex officio), Linda McCrae (ex officio) Dan Mosley, Jennifer Riggs (Convener), and Jessica Whitaker.

Our Place in the Congo

Contact: Glenda Survance

Whenever I hear a story I look for my place in the story. Am I a player, someone who contributed to make matters worse or hopefully better or am I a witness - put in the place to be able to share the story. I've done the same when reading and hearing about the Congo. The place that I have heard to be so filled with natural riches and beautiful. The place that is so filled with hatred, cruelty and war. I was relieved that it was the Belgians who colonized Congo - not because they did it well but because I didn't want to carry that weight as well as the many others that we in the US bear because of the actions of our ancestors and our government.

And in this one I also looked for the place of my church. Many of us have read of the stories of missionaries who knew only one road and demanded the indigenous people walk that road. I've not researched to hear how the Disciples policies were played out in Africa or how Central played a part in that and I will.

And then I listened to Maman Nzeba from the Democratic Republic of Congo. She came to talk with us, share pictures and stories, make us laugh and make us weep. She came to us as a friend and a partner. She came asking that we pay attention to what has been done in the past. She spoke through an interpreter and what I heard said was:

We come to you as brothers and sisters in the same body of Christ - to go to your government to help create the kind of power that results in physical security that can bring peace in our country.

You can help us because you are an evangelizing church. Your predecessors taught us a gospel of prayer and heavenly things and not to think about the things of this world. But we come to this country and we see that you concern yourselves with the gospel of heaven AND of the earth. So we want you to come and repair the gospel of resting and contentment that your predecessors brought.

The gospel we were taught was to pray with our head down and our eyes closed while things were being stolen from us.

I come share with you hoping you will accompany us with this task.

We frequently ask what we can do - Maman Nzeba has been very direct: "*Knock on the doors of your government until they listen to the cries from the Congo.*"

We have power that Maman Nzeba, this strong proud woman does not. We can write to our government, we can advocate, we can spread the word, we **can** "knock on the doors of our government". Our country and our church have been part of the problem - as have we with our need for resources used in technology that are most easily obtained from the DRC. We can also be part of the solution. We can be partners with Maman Nzeba and the people of the Congo.

Note: There are sample letters on the bulletin board with information



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.

Sessarego, Alvaro R. Regalado, 37
Guardado-Ramirez, Francisco J., 21
Theobald, Steve M., 53
Yauch, William C., 23
Obryan, Israel P., 24
Opat, Christopher W., 29
Cassidy, Michael P., 41
Dohrenwend, Jacob P., 20

"In war, there are no un wounded soldiers."

Jose Narosky

If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

(Ms. Lilla Watson, an Aboriginal Australian woman addressing a missionary serving in her country.)

FROSTY FRESH GRAPE POPS

Jesus is our vine, and we are to be his fruitful branches. Have "bunches" of fun making this refreshing grape snack.

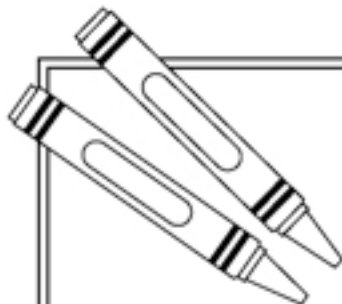
What you need:

- An adult to help
- 4½ cups seedless grapes (red, green or black)
- Food processor
- Plastic spatula
- Strainer
- Mixing bowl
- Whisk
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Food coloring (red, green or blue; optional)
- 5 oz. paper cups
- Aluminum foil
- Popsicle or craft sticks
- Another 2 cups grapes, halved (optional)

What you do:

1. Blend grapes in a food processor until smooth.
2. With a plastic spatula, press mixture through a strainer into a mixing bowl. Discard skins and skim foam off the top.
3. Whisk sugar into juice until dissolved. Add a few drops of food coloring, if desired.
4. Fill cups with juice, spooning most of the foam off the top. (If using additional grapes, put ½-cup halved grapes into each cup.)
5. Cover each cup with foil and insert a wooden stick into the center of the foil.
6. Place cups in freezer.
7. To remove pops, take off foil and tear away cup. Enjoy!

Variation: To make layered juice pops, make two batches of mix from different-colored grapes. Fill cups half full with one color, cover and then insert the stick and freeze. Then fill with the remaining color and freeze again.



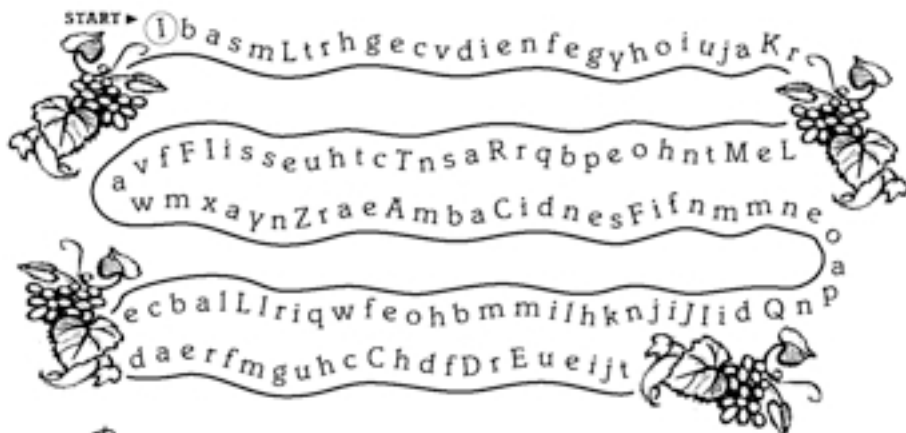
Just for

KIDS

The true vine

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus, our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.



_____ ; _____

_____ . _____

_____ , _____

_____ ; _____

apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5, NIV

Answer: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit,"

Community Ministry Team Year in Review

Contact: Nancy Beals

The Community Ministry Team had many opportunities to extend that unconditional welcome to visitors and members alike. Much of our efforts focused on Sunday mornings from having greeters at the doors to a time of fellowship after worship. The CMT organized, staffed and served diligently each Sunday Morning. Various team members took on the responsibility of organizing each of these efforts.

Greeters

Coordinated by Sandy Heidenreich

Many people reached out to open the church doors for members and visitors alike, this ministry while simple is the first impression we provide to the community.

After Worship Fellowship

Coordinated by Marilyn Porter, Frisco Gilchrist

Provisions supplied by Pat and Deborah Carrithers as well as Kerry Armstrong Equally important to creating an atmosphere of friendship and providing opportunities for worshippers to greet one another, share in the joys and frustration of life and to provide an environment where visitors can learn more about the church and its activities, the after service fellowship is integral to the life of the congregation.

Dinners and Special Events

Hosted by Matt Barth, Ed Grove, Nancy Beals and Mary Harris

The Church year has been punctuated with several special events the year started with Central playing host for the General Assembly and worship lead by Rev. Dr. Fred Craddock. This event alone brought 650 worshippers to our doors, needless to say the after worship fellowship turned into an outdoor affair with beverages and homemade goodies. Other special events that were held throughout the year include:

November 21- Thanksgiving Luncheon-hosted by Steve Cecil

Steve Challenged Central member to "bring a little more so we could serve those with less"

He encouraged everyone to take a plate to someone we knew who was alone on Sunday or who would appreciate a meal and fellowship.

**Pastor Linda's Anniversary
Anniversary Lunch**

Outreach

Ed Groves, and Matt Barth

Central is growing as a congregation and has added many families with children; to extend our outreach to the community as a family friendly congregation In June 2009 Central participated in PBS Kids in the Park Day for the first time. This outreach was repeated in 2010. The Church also put together a display for Gay Pride and has reached out to the community this year.

Year in Review 2010

Check out what has been happening around Central during the 2009-2010 church year.

You can download a copy from our homepage at <http://indyccc.org>



Food Pantry 3rd Sunday

Bring Soup or Stew



Reading List - Part 1

AFGHANISTAN:

[The Kite Runner](#) (2005)

Hosseini, Khaled

[A Thousand Splendid Suns](#)

(2007)

Hosseini, Khaled

[A Bed of Red Flowers](#) (2005)

Pazira, Nelofer

[The Bookseller of Kabul](#) (2004)

Seierstad, Asne

[The Storyteller's Daughter](#)

(2004)

Shah, Saira

[The Places in Between](#) (2004)

Stewart, Rory

AFRICA:

[Acts of Faith](#) (2005)

Caputo, Philip

[When a Crocodile Eats the Sun:](#)

[A Memoir of Africa](#) (2006)

Godwin, Peter

[The Shackled Continent](#) (2004)

Guest, Robert

[Do They Hear You When You](#)

[Cry](#) (1998)

Kassindja, Fauziya

[Dead Aid](#) (2009)

Moyo, Dambisa

[A Bend in the River](#) (1989)

Naipaul, V.S.

[AIDS in Africa: How the Poor are](#)

[Dying](#) (2005)

Poku, Nana K.

Haiti: Homeless, with an uncertain future

Jun 18, 2010

By Maria Halava of Action by Churches Together

The devastating Haiti earthquake that led to 1.9 million people losing their homes forced most into around 1400 temporary settlements in Port-au-Prince and other areas. Some settled in any open space they could find – private land, schools or football stadiums - makeshift settlements where international standards for temporary housing are unknown. Or they stayed with families and relatives waiting for other solutions. However, now thousands have been evicted from these sites without any viable alternative. Forced evictions have been a much spoken topic in Haiti recently.

In Gressier, southwest of the capital, 600 families were evicted late May from the local school yard where they had been living since the earthquake. The school wanted to resume classes. Almost half the evicted families now stay in the camp of Shekina, a piece of land a few kilometres from their homes between the road and the ocean where ACT Alliance member the Lutheran World Federation has erected tents for 270 families, only a very temporary arrangement. Within two or three months, these people will be moved to the new area near their homes, as promised by the mayor of Gressier. The new area will be safer, have semi-permanent housing which doesn't expose residents to high risk rain, wind and flooding.

In the camps, people have organized themselves and taken the responsibility for their life in the camps. "Camp committees are taking responsibility for the functioning of the camp. It is of utmost importance that they themselves get involved and take action. Our role as a camp manager is only to support them in their work," Sheyla Marie Durandisse, IWF emergency coordinator says.

Responsibility lies with Government

Collette Lespinasse, coordinator of an ACT partner, says the Haitian Government has responsibility to resettle people but its resettlement strategy comes too late, she says. The first three months were crucial. According to Lespinasse, the Government is not offering real alternatives. "If people are to move back to their homes they need help clearing the rubble. If they go to the host families they (hosts) need support," she says.

Since the start of the rainy and hurricane seasons, the need to move people from emergency shelters to transitional shelters with more durable structures has become urgent. However, progress is slow. The biggest challenges for resettlement are lack of available land, confusion over land ownership and the fact land is still blocked by debris. When people move to new areas they need services. "Offering children free schooling can, for example, affect the willingness to move. People will also need jobs and for the moment better shelters," she says.

Politics certainly has its role to play, too. Because most Haitians were tenants before the earthquake, few have their own place to return to. According to Lespinasse, the Government should now address land issues. "We need political decisions and these need to be taken by the Government, not the international community. The international community has knowledge and experience, but it cannot take the responsibility that belongs to the Haitian Government."

Haitians need to be included in reconstruction

Lack of available land is the concern of people living in Nerette camp in Petion Ville, a Port-au-Prince suburb. The local authorities have been unable to come up with solutions for people whose homes around the camp were damaged or destroyed. Yet people there have been told to leave within a short time period.

"If we had the possibility, we would have left the camp already," Rosenez Stephane, mother of two children says. The family of four used to live in a house next to the camp, but the earthquake damaged the house. "We haven't got any help clearing the rubble from our home, only the streets have been cleaned. I hope we would have been involved in the cleaning work or that we could have at least borrowed the tools to do it ourselves," she points out.

When it comes to reconstructing the country, Haitians feel both ignored and excluded. Many don't have any information about what is happening now or in the future.

Homeless but not hopeless

Still five months after the earthquake, the future of hundreds of thousands of Haitians is bleak. Heavy rains have already started flushing the soil, leaving everything covered everything in mud. Tents and tarps let the rain through, soaking people and destroying their belongings. The hurricane season will utterly stretch the durability of shelter material to their limits.

People who fled the capital after the earthquake are now coming back to find jobs and to seek ways to make a living in Port-au-Prince. The pressure to survive is high. Lespinasse urges the government to use what resources it has, and to create a clear resettlement strategy. "The Government also needs to start listening to the Haitians. They cannot be excluded from the reconstruction of the country," she says. For the moment, the options for Haitian people are scarce. "If we are evicted from the camp, we can only go back home even though it is damaged," Stephane from Nerette camp says.

The family is living under threat of eviction with an uncertain future. Nearly homeless, they still haven't lost their hope. "We are alive, so there is hope," Stephane says.



Tenacious Hope

Written by Jeffrey Mensendiek, Global Ministries Missionary
Contact: Xiaoling Zhu, Area Executive, zhux@ucc.org

"I will not let you go until you bless me." (Gen. 32:26)

Every Wednesday at noon, Mrs. E is there. She sits in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul, Korea with her friends to ask the Japanese government to apologize for its past treatment of Korean women as sex slaves during the Asia Pacific War. Mrs. E is elderly, as are her friends. Many of the so-called "comfort women" have passed

away. Mrs. E hopes that justice will be done before she meets her grave. She is surrounded by a crowd of civilians who support her struggle. Over the loud speaker a statement is read, a song is sung, a prayer is given. The window blinds of the Japanese embassy are shut. Stone faced guards and secret police make sure there is no outright confrontation. This peaceful sit-in has continued for seventeen years.

In December 2009, religious leaders from around the world, gathered for the Second Conference on Article Nine and Peace in Asia. There were various Buddhist, Christian and Muslim denominations represented. There was great meaning when we gathered in Seoul, because we were all made aware of the realities of the Cold War which still divide the Korean peninsula. East Asia has not been able to move beyond the dualisms of the Cold War era. What we witnessed was a wall; a remnant from the Cold War. The wall is invisible, but no less as real as the wall being built in Israel.

Part of our program was to join the sit-in, and pray alongside these women who were victimized by war. We were all moved by the experience. I was reminded of the story of Jacob who wrestled all night with the angel of God. Jacob refused to let the angel go until he received a blessing. Mrs. E is one of those Jacobs of our time. I see in her a faith that refuses to let go, trusting that God is a God of love and blessing for all.

Let us pray for the tenacity of Mrs. E and others that their belief in the possibility of justice becomes our call for the enactment of justice.



Southport Christian Church
invites you to a very special event
on

Saturday, July 10,

from 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. for

PANCAKES FOR HAITI & COMMUNITY FEST.

This is a fundraising event for a *virtual* Spiritual Mission Trip to Haiti with the goal of rebuilding a school. During the pancake breakfast, an exclusive interview with Indianapolis Colts Receiver, Pierre Garcon, will be shown. Pierre is a strong supporter of the relief effort in Haiti. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on an authentically autographed Garcon jersey and Colts football. Other event highlights include a bounce house for the kids and a Bicycle Rodeo. The event will be held at Southport Christian Church. For more information, please call 317-784-4431. Southport Christian Church is located at 201 East Epler Avenue in Indianapolis

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 25**



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