

The Indiana Christian



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IndianaDisciples.org

Winter • 2018

Christmas Offering Provides Support For Young Pastors

By Maggie Archibald



Growing up, and even today, one of my favorite Christmas stories was "The Little Drummer Boy." I know, it should probably be a scripture or something a little more biblical, but I just can't help it. I love this story! I still cry every time I watch the movie and the song is one of my favorite Christmas songs. The idea that this little boy who has nothing tangible to give to Jesus is still welcomed, still embraced, still celebrated is overwhelming to me. Because that is true for each of us.

When Rev. Carolyn Reed first invited me to be part of a new ministry cohort she was starting, I was a little unsure. What gifts could I possibly bring to this group of truly wonderful colleagues and ministers? Despite my hesitations, I joined the group and I am so grateful that I did because this group has been both life-changing and life-giving. Having a group of colleagues whom I could walk with during these first few years of ministry has impacted my ministry in ways I could not have begun to imagine. Our time together always consists of listening, worship, laughter, and love.

Just like the little drummer boy, each of us brings "our finest gifts" to this group and to our ministry. Each of these gifts is unique and beautiful. Because of this group, I have had the great joy of seeing and experiencing these great gifts from my seven colleagues. They are a living, tangible reminder to me that no matter what gift it is we each may bring we are all still welcomed, still embraced, and still celebrated by each other and by Jesus. I am so grateful to the Region and to Rev. Reed for creating this group, for allowing me to be part of it, and for supporting new ministers in the region.

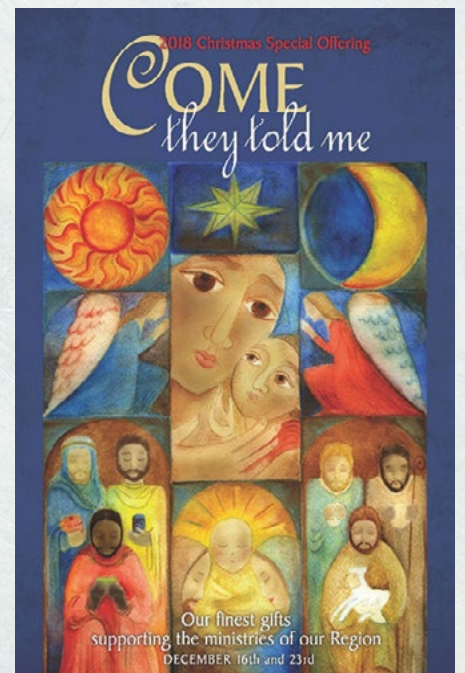
Your gift to the Christmas offering assists the Region in forming pastor peer groups. Thank you for providing your finest gift. †

The Christian Church in Indiana

- Connects congregations to each other
- Fosters faith development
- Gathers Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurtures the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assists churches in calling new ministers
- Interprets the global mission of the church
- Represents the church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsels and prays with those who are troubled of spirit
- Walks with those in conflict
- Leads the church to address racism
- Inspires leaders to experiment and create
- Witnesses to the power of God to make things new

Your gift to the Christmas offering supports the work of the Indiana Region, sustaining the life of our church.

Thank you for providing your finest gift.



Barbee Christian Camp Sells at Auction For \$1.5 Million

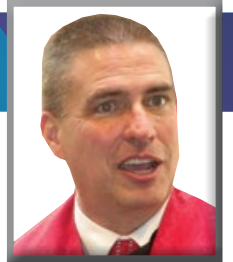
The 110-acre Barbee Christian Camp has been sold at auction for \$1.575 million dollars. The auction was held on July 25 and the transaction closed on September 25. The purchaser, from Pierceton, Indiana, intends to develop a Montessori school on the site.

The Barbee camp was acquired by the Region in

1952 and used for summer camps and retreats for 66 years. The proceeds from the sale have been deposited with the Christian Church Foundation. An annual draw on the principal will be used to support Regional youth ministry and capital improvements at the Bedford Christian Camp, Bedford, and the Geneva Conference Center, Rochester.

We give thanks for Barbee, for the sacred space it has been for so many Indiana Disciples, and celebrate the ways in which the resources provided by this sale will provide significant support for our continuing outdoor ministry. †

In The Spirit Richard L. Spleth, Indiana Regional Minister



Shepherd's Story Suggests an Urgent Pace

When angels appeared to shepherds in the field keeping watch over their flocks by night, a heavenly chorus stimulated a sense of urgency in them. According to the Gospel of Luke the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now and see this thing which has taken place." Now. Not tomorrow or the next day. Not when we get around to it. Now. There was no time to waste. The text says that they "went with haste." The moment to respond was at hand.

Most of the time we don't live with that sense of urgency. Most things in our life can wait, be delayed, or be put off for another time. The consequence is that some things that we really ought to attend to may never get their rightful attention. But the Gospel, beginning with the angels' song, suggests that a quicker pace is warranted.

I was privileged to know one whose pace mirrored that of an angel-prompted shepherd. His name was A. Garnett Day. Garnett served our denomination for many years in the Division of Homeland Ministries as the Director of the Moral and Civil Rights Campaign. This led him to engage in a host of activities addressing issues of poverty, justice, and peace. He marched with Dr. King across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma and worked with Cesar Chavez in California organizing farm workers. His travels took him to Cuba, Nicaragua, Cambodia, and Vietnam in attempts to

broker new international relationships and assure free and fair election processes. He was arrested on more than one occasion in acts of civil disobedience to the Vietnam war. He lived on the urgent edge.

He tried to get me to do the same. Early in my tenure as Regional Minister, Garnett, long since retired from

so, I tried to comply with his request of me.

Over the years those calls became fewer. Maybe it was a factor of his aging. Or maybe he calculated that my investment in the cause did not match his own so he needed to find another more reliable colleague. His death a few weeks ago now leaves that question forever unanswered.

God intends peace for all who inhabit the earth.

DHM but never slowed in his advocacy activities, would give me a call. He always needed to see me right away to discuss something of great importance. Frequently my schedule was full for that day, but he was insistent that he see me. So, I would figure something out and would often meet him in some odd location between my appointments.

When we got together the "thing" he needed to see me about was usually a piece of legislation that was in the House or Senate that needed support, or a speaker coming to town to talk about peace in the Middle East that needed promotion, or a petition that needed endorsement. In most cases I did not understand the urgency as he did, but because I respected him

It occurs to me, though, that we are in need right now of picking up the pace in a Garnett Day sort of way.

A whole host of matters require our urgent response. Racism and anti-Semitism are on the rise. Gun violence has rendered schools, houses of worship, and cities unsafe. Scientists say our globe is nearing a point of no return in the deterioration of our climate. The economy is leaving too many behind, and educational systems are faltering. There are more displaced people in the world than ever before and we cannot agree on whether to welcome the stranger or turn them away. The Middle East is a mess. And many of our congregations struggle with finances, attendance, aging buildings, and changing neighborhoods.

What do we do?

The temptation to lethargy and denial is great. But that has not worked for us. I think the faithful response is to pick up the pace and like the shepherds of old say that now is the time. And our charge? That is the same as the shepherds too—to echo the angels' proclamation of good news of great joy to all people and announce that God intends peace for all who inhabit the earth.

Need a place to start? Start with the next stranger in your midst. Then look around you for the neighbor who is struggling, or afraid, or alone. Look particularly for ones unlike yourself.

Commit to fix something that is broken, even if it seems unreasonably big to tackle. If we all did this and if all our congregations collectively did this I think it is likely astonishing the results we would see. It might make the angels sing again.

When should you start? Now. Go with haste, in a Garnett sort of way.

Blessings on you and your congregation. †

Richard L. Spleth
Regional Minister

2018-2019 Regional Calendar

DECEMBER

December 5 Regional Board Meetings
December 13 FLOURISH! Graduation Celebration Dinner
Dec. 21, 2018 to January 2, 2019 Regional Office Closed

JANUARY

January 21 Regional Office Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

FEBRUARY

February 12 Nurture and Certification Meetings
February 14 Regional Elder Meeting

MARCH

March 2 Anti Racism Pro Reconciliation Training
March 8 Healthy Boundaries Training
March 12 Nurture and Certification Meetings
March 20 Finance Committee Meeting

APRIL

April 6 Spring Commissioned Ministers Meetings
April 9 Nurture and Certification Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings will be held at the Indiana Interchurch Center. All times, unless otherwise indicated, are for the Eastern Time Zone. You can also view the regional calendar by visiting our website at: <http://indianadisciples.org/upcoming-events>.

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**SPRING ISSUE
DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 28, 2019**





Christian Church in Indiana 2019 Summer Camp



GENEVA CENTER CAMPS

- June 10-15** **Explorer** (completed grades 4-5)
June 12-15 **You & Me 1** (4 days; Wed.-Sat.; completed grades K-3 + an adult)
June 17-22 **M.A.D.** (Music, Art & Drama) (completed grades 6-12)
June 17-19 **New Beginnings** (3 days; Mon.-Wed.; completed grades 1-3)
June 20-22 **You & Me 2** (3 days; Thurs.-Sat.; completed grades K-3 + an adult)
June 24-29 **Traditional High School** (completed grades 9-12)
Traditional Middle School (completed grades 6-8)
C.R.O.S.S. (Christian Recreation and Outdoor Sports Skills) (completed grades 6-12)

Geneva Camp

5282 N. Old Hwy. 31
Rochester, IN 46975

Register at www.indianadisciples.org or
www.genevacenter.org/summer-camp
 (574) 223-6915

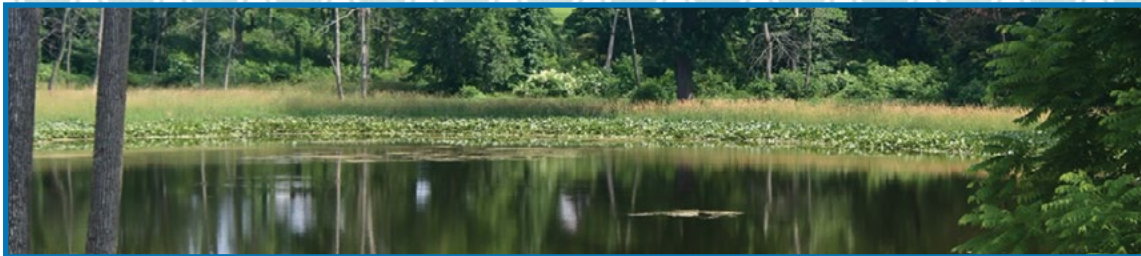
BEDFORD CAMPS

- June 24-26** **New Beginnings** (3 days; Mon.-Wed.; completed grades 1-3)
July 1-6 **High School** (completed grades 9-12)
July 8-13 **Explorer** (completed grades 4-5)
July 15-20 **Middle School** (completed grades 6-8)

Bedford Camp

33 Church Camp Rd.
Bedford, IN 47421

Register at www.indianadisciples.org



Ministry Milestones

MINISTRY CHANGES

Luis Gierbolini began serving as Associate Minister of Central Christian Church, Indianapolis on July 9.
Steve DeFields-Gambrel began serving as Senior Pastor of East Lynn Christian Church, Anderson on July 30.
Peter Haskins began serving as Senior Pastor of First Christian Church, Vincennes on August 6.
William Almodovar concluded serving as Pastor of Casa del Alfarero, Indianapolis on August 8.
Steve Whitten concluded his ministry at Chapel Hill Christian Church, Borden on August 13.
Nathan Kibler concluded serving as Associate Pastor of First Christian Church, Kokomo on August 19 and began serving as Minister of Central Christian Church, Lebanon, on August 22.
Patti Case concluded serving as Interim Minister at Central Christian Church, Lebanon on August 22.

Dale Suggs, Jr. concluded serving as Senior Pastor of Avon Christian Church on August 23.

Randy Kuss retired as Associate Pastor at Speedway Christian Church on September 2.

Tonja Gerardy was moved from transitional Minister to called Pastor on September 23 at North Christian Church, Columbus.

Laureen Hartig began serving as Pastor of Oxford Federated Christian Church on October 14.

DEATHS

Edwin "Lee" Mehrlich, retired Disciples minister, died on July 30.

Bill Burkley, retired Disciples minister, died on September 7.

A. Garnett Day, retired Disciples minister, died on October 13.

ORDINATIONS

Paula Pettis-Garrett was ordained on September 30 at Avon Christian Church.

Together

Deepening Relationships

By Dean Heisey, Co-Pastor, Southside Christian Church, South Bend

The Manna Process reiterated the need for our region to renew relationships and connections with one another. Staffing is now configured to intentionally nurture relationships throughout the region. Some of our congregations have already found ways to share ministry. Other congregations are seeking these opportunities. This "Together" column is a space to celebrate the bridges being built and the ministries being shared. It features stories of coming together to be the region. If you have something you would like to highlight, send to Carolyn Reed, Associate Regional Minister.



Elkhart and St. Joseph County Disciples congregations have all seen lots of recent change. A change they did not choose to accept was waning interest in their primary joint event connecting the three. Snow had forced the cancelation of three consecutive Ash Wednesday services. The Disciples at First Christian, Mishawaka, Central Christian, Elkhart and Southside Christian, South Bend wanted meaningful connection. They re-started the Ash Wednesday service. "Great. We want more of this!" they said.

When they realized several members would be following Pastors Doug Cripe (Elkhart and Mishawaka) and Dean Heisey (South Bend) out to the park, they decided to make it an event. Doug plays trumpet for the Elkhart Municipal Band's summer Tuesday evening concerts in MacNaughton Park. Dean sings with The Ripple Effect community choir started at Southside almost five years ago. Central member, Dave Swihart, directs the band. Southside pianist, John Sommers, sings in the choir. On the night both the band and choir were performing, over 50 Disciples gathered in the park's pavilion to enjoy a picnic dinner beforehand.

Intentionally seated with a mix of people from different congregations, they started the evening by sharing around tables, "What do I LOVE about my church?" All three churches have chosen positive changes with which members are delighted. New staffing models, organizational styles, and ministry ventures have the congregations feeling energized.

Their pastors Doug and Dean, Jessica Singleton, and Karen Kaiser meet periodically to connect with each other and to share about congregational developments. For 2019, the three congregations are planning to keep on connecting—probably through a joint Ash Wednesday service (weather permitting), a picnic in the park, and, the newest event in planning, a joint retreat at Geneva Center so members can fall in love with our new camp. Northern Indiana Disciples are choosing positive change! †



Indiana Bread for the World members presenting Senator Todd Young with an award for his work in Yemen with the famine. Washington D.C., June 2018



Bread for The World Members in Indiana

Bread for the World In Indiana

By Dawn Barnes, Society of St. Andrews

I have seen hunger first hand. I've never quite felt the real, deep pangs of hunger in my own stomach but I've witnessed them with my own eyes and felt them break my heart and soul. I've seen hunger in the bulging, innocent eyes of children in Mozambique, the kind with swollen, bloated bellies, grey hair from malnutrition and the dry, broken skin around their mouths. It is an experience that is written on your soul, which flashes through my mind when I break bread and hurts deep into the gut when I am faced with food waste, nearly on a daily basis.

And did you know that there's hunger here in Indiana? However, not quite to the extreme as Mozambique. There are 14% of Hoosiers that are living below the poverty line and are food insecure—that's 1 in every 6 children in Indiana who are at risk of hunger. Indiana is blessed with an abundance of farmland, but 90% of our food is grown elsewhere and many Hoosiers struggle to find enough to eat. Just a couple of weeks ago a colleague shared a story about a child who is attending a local, public middle school and admitted that after school he goes into the dumpsters on a daily basis to get food because he does not have food when he gets home. This is just one example of hunger here in America.

Yet, we know from scripture that we live in a land of not just "enough" but instead, a land of abundance. There is more than enough. There is indeed an abundance. But we all need to be working together to make all of our systems work and function to make sure this abundance is shared equitably throughout our world. This is what Bread for the World (Bread) does. Bread is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist we CAN end hunger in our lifetime, but churches and charities can't do it alone. Our government must also do its part. Bread works to make our voices heard in Congress, to help make our nation's laws fairer and more compassionate to all.

You can help to make a difference in the lives of those who are food insecure by becoming involved with Bread. You, your congregation, your neighbor, your local community, and your college campus can come together and compile an Offering of Letters around a particular hunger issue in your community, locally or across the globe. You can meet with your local government representative and advocate on behalf of those who cannot advocate for themselves. Bread works in a bipartisan way—networking and speaking truth to power with a moral and Christian voice. And Indiana happens to be one of the most active states—so you are in the right place! Learn more on the website: www.breadindiana.org. Or contact Dawn Barnes, dbarnesrsa@gmail.com or Dave Miner, dminer145@aol.com for more information and ways that you can get involved. Thank you for joining us to confront the problem of hunger! Speak up! Join us! †

Muehlhausen Researches Role Of Chaplaincy Services

Dr. Beth Muehlhausen is a Disciples of Christ chaplain at Ascension Health St. Vincent, Indiana. She splits her time between providing direct spiritual care to patients and families in the medical ICU. The other half of her time is spent as a Spiritual Care Researcher for Ascension Health. She has conducted two past research studies. She partnered with the Trauma Research Team at St. Vincent to conduct a project looking at the spirituality of trauma surgeons, physicians' assistants, and nurse practitioners. This was a qualitative study and consisted of one on one interviews with 36 medical professions locally and across the country. Her findings demonstrate the key role spirituality plays in helping staff cope with the aftermath of secondary trauma. She presented her findings this past summer at the annual conference for the Association of Professional Chaplains.

A second, quantitative study, was a statewide project for St. Vincent, Indiana replicating a study originally conducted by the Mayo Clinic looking at what patients and loved ones expect of chaplain services in terms of the frequency of visits, who initiates, and types of services they find most important. This was a survey done in-person while patients were hospitalized and included 452 participants.

Findings demonstrate the important role chaplains play in caring for persons facing a health crisis as 93% of all persons surveyed wanted at least one chaplain visit. Of those participants who had seen a chaplain prior to the research interview, 89% found the visit important. The top reasons for wanting to see a chaplain were to "have someone to listen to me," "someone to be

with me at times of anxiety and uncertainty," and "to support family and friends." Findings suggest that chaplain visits may be more important to loved ones than patients, but more research with larger sample size needs to be conducted in this area. Dr. Muehlhausen recently presented these findings at a conference held by Transforming Chaplaincy. At that conference she also participated in a "think tank" of chaplains and other professionals interested in strengthening the profession of chaplaincy through evidence-based practice.

Her current project is the first Ascension Health Spiritual Care system-wide project looking at the role of chaplaincy services in caring for persons with Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) outside of the acute care setting of the hospital. As part of the research, Dr. Muehlhausen and Rev. David Peacock (co-investigator) will assess the spiritual needs of 6-12 CHF patients from each of six hospitals from Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Indiana and Texas. Using a standard set of evidence-based guidance, chaplains at each location will then provide spiritual care to participating CHF patients helping them work through any identified struggles.

Dr. Muehlhausen feels blessed to have the support of her colleagues, supervisors and Ascension Health to be able to impact the spiritual needs and care provided to persons facing health issues through her research efforts. †



Bedford Disciples Raise \$500 for LIFE Blessings

By Gary Ochs

The Disciples Men from First Christian Church in Bedford continue their support for the Lawrence Inter-Faith Endeavor Blessings program.



Gary Ochs, A Taste of Italy chairperson, presents check to Donnie Hall of LIFE, Inc.

They hosted their annual "A Taste of Italy" Italian dinner that successfully raised \$500. The proceeds were presented to LIFE Blessings, a nutritional program for children in the North Lawrence Community Schools. This program helps ensure that impoverished elementary school children are fed on the weekends throughout the school year. Let's all remember, hunger doesn't take weekends off.

A big thank you to all the Disciples Men from BFCC for their dedication and help during the past 14 years (2004-2018). Job well done! †

Woodhaven Marks a Half Century of Ministry

On October 13, 1968, sixty-three congregational members signed the charter to officially establish Woodhaven Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Bloomington, Ind. Planning for the new church began with other local Disciples of Christ



Woodhaven Christian Church members sign its charter on October 13, 1968, at First Christian Church. Pictured signing is Wilford Acuff, with wife Donna, her sister Linda Needy, and mother Nellie Underwood. Donna and Linda survive and are still members of Woodhaven.

congregations in the 1960s—First Christian Church, Clear Creek Christian Church, and Mt. Gilead Christian Church. They purchased 13 acres of land at 3345 S. Leonard Springs Road for the future building. G. Levon Fisher was called on April 27, 1967, by the Association of Christian Churches in Indiana as the pastor-director of the new church. Members initially met for Sunday School classes and worship in members' homes. The original Grandview Elementary School on Highway 45 opened its doors for the congregation's use on February 18, 1968. The chartering service on October 13 of that year was held at First Christian Church, and six Woodhaven members were baptized that day.

A building fund campaign was launched, committees were appointed to guide the process, and preliminary architect drawings were approved by the members in 1969. Easter Sunday, March 29, 1970, was chosen for the groundbreaking, and the church was constructed and dedicated that same year, on August 16. By October 1 of that year, membership reached 112.

On November 21, 1980, vandals broke into the church and set it on fire, causing major damage. Woodhaven members rebuilt the church within two months. St. Paul United Methodist Church generously shared its facilities with the Woodhaven congregation during the rebuilding period. †

First Christian Bloomington Offers Jazz Vespers

First Church Church in Bloomington is hosting Jazz Vespers the first Friday of every month at 6:30 pm.

Vespers is an ancient form of communal evening prayer that has been observed for at least fifteen centuries. Jazz is a uniquely American musical expression, rooted in the soil of slavery and oppression, that gave voice and strength to a marginalized people.

Jazz Vespers, with its blending of these two very different forms of expression, offers a balm that has the power to heal and inspire even as it does not back away from naming its impatience with the injustices of our day.

Our Jazz Vespers Service offers an informal, contemplative, candlelit time to reflect, meditate, or simply "be" as you listen to the music, take in the beauty and peace of the sanctuary, and experience the authentic warmth of a faith community that gently welcomes ALL. †



Mooresville Group Impacted by Memphis Trip

By Glenda Survance, Pastor

"You all come into my house, into the cool, and have your lunch. And if any of you need to lay down on the bed for a bit, that's okay too." These words stuck with the youth and adults at First Christian Church in Mooresville as if they had been tattooed on our skin. Miss Judy had spent years creating a community garden to share with her neighbors and 12 youth and adults from Mooresville First went down to Memphis to work alongside her. We were a hot, sweaty, stinky crowd and there was no hesitation as she ushered us into her house moving things around to make sure there was enough room for everyone. Her husband, Major, stayed on the front porch to be sure our tools and supplies were safe.

Miss Judy lives in Memphis, Tennessee, in a neighborhood that has been in decline for decades—where drug deals and razor wire were evident. We met her on our week-long mission trip through MissionBase, a part of Passport (<https://passportcamps.org/mission-base/>).

What made this mission trip different were its goals: 1) working alongside those who were already working in a community and 2) providing education on systemic racism. We were working with Heights CDC, a neighborhood organization that is intentional in its efforts to partner with those already working to make a difference. Our orientation gave us a brief glimpse into the changes in the neighborhood since the 1990s when White flight began and had such an impact.

In addition to their time with Miss Judy, the group talked with Mr. Maurice, an eighth-grade teacher who moved into the neighborhood. They also visited Treadwell School, an old school that had been reclaimed as a new junior high school.

They toured a developed pedestrian-friendly walkway that ran along the national road. Its seating, landscaping, gathering and business incubation spaces has provided positive impact in their neighborhood.

To experience other aspects of Memphis the group visited historic Beale Street, the Civil Rights Museum, and a renovated Sears warehouse that now houses shopping, office and gathering space, art galleries, a health center, a gym, and a church.

It is common to wonder if the impact of a trip like this will stick. A few weeks ago this mission group hosted a dinner for those who helped fund the trip. The stories and laughter came flooding out of those who were present. One of the youth told of a "God moment" he had when Miss Judy gave him two big hugs after they had been working and sweating all day. †

Mooresville is in a county whose population is primarily White. "We have a hard time finding conversation partners on issues of race, racism and Black Lives Matter," says Glenda Survance, pastor. A few years ago, we began a year-long pilot project on race. Three of our youth participated in circle conversations with other Disciples youth from Indianapolis-based Casa del Alfarero, Central Christian Church, and Light of the World Christian Church. The conversations allowed everyone to have a voice. The door was opened to different perspectives as they learned to listen to the voices of those they came to trust.



Bargersville "Servants at Work" Builds Ramps

When Greenwood resident Kathy Velez finally returned home after being in the hospital for a year, she soon realized she didn't have a ramp for her wheelchair to get outside, leaving her trapped in her own house.

Last year, a strip mall sign on Madison Avenue fell and crushed Velez in her car. She now uses a wheelchair to get around.

Velez had no way to get in and out of her home besides a makeshift ramp that was falling apart. Her sister contacted Servants at Work, a nonprofit ministry that builds ramps for local families, and they were outside the home with lumber and hammers building a new ramp at 8 a.m. Tuesday morning.

Servants at Work in Johnson County is a ministry made up of churches in the county. Volunteers from the churches build ramps for people with physical disabilities who cannot afford to put a ramp on their home.

The group started in 2010 led by program coordinators Terry Doty and Mike Squier. Servants at Work completed their 100th ramp on May 19 of this year. Velez received the 101st ramp.

With the ramp down, Velez was excited to go out and look at her flowers. "It's just awesome that they're helping people like me," Velez said.

The organization provides construction, design and installment of the ramps at no cost to the family. On average, the ramps cost less than \$600 to build. Private companies can charge anywhere from \$4,000 to \$8,000 to build a ramp, according to Servants at Work.

Most of the funding comes from grants and donations. A big part of the funding comes from the Johnson County Community Foundation, said Mike Srbljan, the interim minister at First Christian Church in Bargersville, a church affiliated with the organization.

"It's a combination of a lot of free labor and good folks here contributing each year," Srbljan said. The group has had more than 800 volunteers from the county churches associated with the program in the past eight years, Srbljan said. "We always end up with more folks than what we need, which is a good thing," he said.

A crew prebuilds parts of the ramp in a parsonage garage before going to the site. At the home, the ramp is finished in around three hours. "We're actually looking for more space to store some of the work that we do," Srbljan said. "Whenever we take down a ramp when folks no longer need the ramp, we repurpose a lot of the lumber."

Residents in need of ramps are referred to the group by other nonprofits, county leaders, churches and through an application on their website. The organization doesn't just build ramps, they give people their freedom back, Squier said.

Applicants for ramps must meet the following financial guidelines: 1) A single resident cannot make more than \$30,000 per year; or 2) two residents cannot make more than \$34,000 per year. To apply, a person/family can complete an application at sawsramps.org. †



First Christian Vincennes Plants a Sunflower Garden

On the quite cold and icy Sunday morning of December 31, 2017, the congregation of First Christian Church in Vincennes, Ind. began meeting for morning worship. As the members convened for worship they had to navigate through the fire trucks, police vehicles, fire hoses, iced sidewalks and the steaming and ice-encrusted apartment house that continued to smolder across the street from the church. During the night a fire had broken out in the old apartment building. While ten people escaped the flames and smoke, two people died.

The congregation prayed for peace and healing of the loss of all those families. In the weeks that followed, the Executive Committee of First Christian Church met and decided to purchase the lot and have it cleared. As the church contemplated what to do with this opportunity to own property so close to the church, several ideas arose: a parking lot...a playground...or something completely different. What could we do to make a statement to our neighborhood? Then an idea was offered to do build a sunflower garden. The entire property would be planted in sunflowers!

On May 5, several members of First Christian gathered to prepare the soil, fertilize and sow the seeds of hundreds and hundreds of sunflowers: Velvet Queens, Orange Mahogany, Summertime Mix, Russian Mammoth, Evening Sun, Dwarf Incredible, Dwarf Teddy Bear, Mexican Sunflowers and many other varieties were planted. A water line was added to the property to water those flowers in periods of little rain. Park benches, shrub trees, small oak samplings and rose bushes were added to enhance the green space in a neighborhood touched by fire and sorrow. The church family has enjoyed watching the garden grow throughout the summer, and the neighborhood has taken notice of its beauty.

In late August, the sunflowers were at their peak. Yellow finches and monarchs gathered in the rows. A sign was hand-painted and placed at the front of the property to let everyone know that we are a Disciples church with a radical yet simple view of ministry that would make Barton Stone smile. No matter what type of "sunflower you are," you are welcome at our church. This message is what makes the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) strong and unique in a time where politics and religion have merged together to create messages of strife, division, and hatred. We can all make a difference in our communities, even through the simplicity of a sunflower planted in the shadow of a fire. †

West Streeters Teach Fleece Flipping

By Lou Ann Millett

The Mission Ministry team at West Street is a very active group. Annually they tie double layer fleece blankets for Jubilee Christmas children. This year the team took on the challenge to make 100 plus single layer fleece blankets to distribute to participants of the December Food Finders Mobile Food Truck in Tipton County which has traditionally been sponsored by the West Street congregation. Not only will each family get thirty to forty pounds of food, they will also get a blanket of warmth and love.

Rev. Brooks Barrick of First Christian Church in Greencastle wanted his congregation to participate in this project. Twenty some pieces of fleece were shared with them along with instructions on how to flip fleece. When these are finished, they will be returned to West Street for the distribution. †



Four by five foot fleece blankets in plaids and solids, prints and patterns of various colors were piled high on a table at the Disciples of Christ Regional Assembly. These single layer blankets were ready to be completed by their fringe being flipped.



This Disciple woman flipped the fleece on a blanket as she awaited the evening program to begin.



Association of Disciple Musicians



The purpose of ADM is to increase the effectiveness of church musicians as they participate in the mission of the Church. The term "church musician" is to be interpreted to include all persons who lead or otherwise participate in church music by vocation or avocation.

Through its annual summer conference, ADM offers learning and sharing opportunities in all aspects of worship. Clinicians and option leaders provide classes and group sessions in worship styles, choral singing, congregational singing, handbell ringing, organ/piano techniques, drama or movement, visual arts in worship, and children's programs.

Shown below are 2018 Conference Activities at Oklahoma City University



Singers abound!



Handbells always ringing!



Fellowship with meals!



Sessions for learning and sharing!

The 2019 Conference at Webster Groves Christian Church, Webster Groves, MO, July 7-12, will include leadership from a fabulous group of clinicians. Details available at www.adm-doc.org.



Ron Allen & Linda McKiernan-Allen, WORSHIP
Mack Wilberg, CHORAL
Janette Fishell, ORGAN
Joel Raney, HANDBELLS
Andra Moran, EMERGING WORSHIP

Regional Assembly Reflection

By Bob Craig



"Can We Talk?" And we did! We talked about immigration, guns, caring for God's creation, whose lives matter, and who is welcome. Several hundred of us did this at the Indiana Regional Assembly held at Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, October 5 and 6.

This did not hit the national news, but it did hit close to home that in such a divisive time on so many topics, the church did come together and have conversation over issues that matter. Issues that we are so hesitant to talk about in so many other settings.

How were we able to do this? We celebrated in our assembly the sacredness of conversation among the people of God! Alan Roxburgh,

consultant for the missional church, once posed the question: "Where is the Holy Spirit today?" Roxburgh stated that the Holy Spirit is among the people of God. This makes conversation among us in the church so important, and to take on the servanthood of listening to one another so vital.

So we worshiped together and we sat with each other and had conversation—affirming our Discipleship with one another. We went home, affirming a most important gift in our assembling together—being among the people of God. †

