

THE VOICE

Love First *Caring, Sharing, Connecting*



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MAY, 2010

A WORD FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

June is the month for our “annual conference.”

I was reminded last week that many of our newer members aren’t sure what an Annual Conference is, so it might be a good idea to re-educate us all on that point.

Annual Conference each year reminds us we are part of a bigger church. In United Methodism we call this relationship the “connection.” We have made covenant with other United Methodist Christians to do some things together that we could never do as individual churches. In order to accomplish that common ministry we give a tithe (10%) of our church receipts to fund our ministry together.

One of the things that happens at Annual Conference is this: we receive reports from all of our ministries about what they are doing. It is at once accountability and celebration. So, for example, we hear reports from our camping ministry, disaster relief ministry, new church starts, and dozens more. Even after twenty years of attendance, I am still overwhelmed at the huge and varied ministry that is being carried out by our United Methodist Church. Our being a faithful congregation is making an impact across the globe. So, this is one piece of conference – we try to be good stewards by attending to the “business” of ministry.

We also worship together. Annual services focus on ministry milestones.

The whole church ordains new pastors and deacons to serve as ministers, while at the other end of ministry we honor our retirees and commend those who have died into God’s care. We sing, celebrate Holy Communion, hear good speakers, and are spiritually uplifted. It can be a powerful experience – hundreds of Methodists, Clergy and Lay people, from hundreds of churches, worshiping together.

One focus has intensified in recent years: we hear great speakers giving us inspiration and tools to help us grow and develop dynamic congregations. This year’s speaker will be Bishop Robert Schnase who wrote the book we have used this past year: [The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations](#).

This will be our second year to meet since the new conference was created, combining the former North and South Conferences. Our pastors and lay delegates will be meeting at Ball State on June 10-13. Please be in prayer for our time together and our common ministry.

Pastor Jeff



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SUMMER WORSHIP AT THE PARK—MAY 30 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5

***BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR TO DAVIS PARK—9:00 AM SUNDAY MORNING
CONNECTIONS SERVICE AND MODERN WORSHIP CONTINUE DOWNTOWN AT 11:10 AM***

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!!

Several members of our church family are looking forward to graduation from high school and college. We've made a list of those we are aware of, where they are graduating from, and future plans, if known. We plan to honor our graduates one Sunday in June, so be sure the office knows who they are!!!

Gail Brant: graduated from Anderson University this year, after a brief interruption to raise a family. She has received several honors for her academic performance as well as being honored as AU's oldest graduate to date.

Kirby Gilliam: graduated from AU also and is pursuing a career in education. She has a busy schedule this summer, as her plans include a wedding on May 23. Congratulations, Kirby!

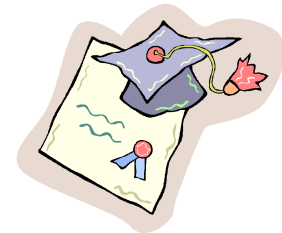
William Griner: will graduate from Lapel High School this year, and will attend Indiana University in the fall.

Aaron Martin: will graduate this year and pursue a career in computers.

Grace Mendel: will graduate from Lapel High School and will attend Indiana University in the fall to study nursing.

Cameron Mendel: is also graduating from Lapel High School and plans to attend IVY Tech as a first stop in the career of sports management.

Congratulations to all our graduates. Please be sure to let the office know if we've missed anyone.



<p>Summer Worship Schedule (begins May 30)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Davis Park</p> <p>10:20-11:10 a.m. Sunday School Downtown East/West Parlor/Fireplace Room</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Connections Worship Service North/South Parlor</p> <p>Modern Worship Worship Center Lower Level</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Community Café Free Meal, Brief Devotional Message And Music Fellowship Hall</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Youth Group Downtown</p>	 <p>Check It Out</p> 	<p>You + 2 days @ Women of Faith = Inspiration, Encouragement, Renewal. Add friends to the equation and SAVE!</p> <p>Where can you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew your spirit • Recharge your spiritual batteries • Rejoice with music • Reconnect with God • Revitalize your life • Relax in the knowledge God loves you! <p>... for only \$95? Sounds like a huge challenge, doesn't it?</p> <p>It's possible, however, when you join us for the Women Of Faith conference</p> <p>Looking for a few quick reads for the summer? Our library has several mysteries which are very entertaining and quick to read: Diane Mott Davidson has written several murder mysteries with Goldy the caterer as the heroine; Joanna Fluke also has several with Hannah Swenson, the owner of a cookie shop in Lake Eden, MN as the central figure, and my personal favorite (Peg's opinion); Lillian Jackson Braun's series "The Cat Who..." where Koko and Yum-yum—a most delightful pair of Siamese cats—solve one mystery after another.</p>	<p>Indianapolis, IN August 20-21, 2010 Conseco Fieldhouse</p> <p>in Indy this year.</p> <p>Costs include the bus ride to and from Conseco Fieldhouse Friday and Saturday, box lunches both days AND presentations by Patsy Clairmont, Marilyn Meberg, Sandy Patty, Anita Renfro, and Lisa Welchel. Music guests include not only Sandy Patty, but Steven Curtis Chapman and Mandisa.</p> <p>For more information, please contact Peg Peter (643-6977), and make your reservation—you'll not regret attending!</p>
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SUMMER CONCERTS AT DAVIS PARK

This summer there are four concerts planned for Davis Park. There will be no admission charge to attend the concerts, they are open to the community. Bring your lawn chairs and relax. The park will open at 5:00 pm and the concerts will begin at 6:30 pm. Bring a picnic lunch or join us for dinner (details below).

Thursday, June 17—6:30 pm:

The Lapel Community Band—John Parshall, conductor

The Lapel Community Band is an all-volunteer organization based at Lapel High School. This talented group of musicians loves to play music and most of all love to entertain their audience, which is reflected in the diverse style of music they perform. Their repertoire includes show tunes, marches, ballads and more. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the "Big Band" sounds of the Lapel Community Band. Dinner available for this concert: Barbeque sandwich; 2 sides; dessert, beverage: \$5/adult; \$3/12 to 3 yrs of age; or \$18/family of five.

Friday, July 16—7 pm: Celebrate Youth!

This concert will be aimed at gathering the younger members of our community together using contemporary music to reach out as a church. More information will be shared as groups are scheduled for the event. A variety of concession items such as hot dogs, chips and walking tacos will be available at this event.

Thursday, July 22—6:30 pm: Carl Erskine & Friends

Well known as one of the great baseball players of all time, Carl and his friends enjoy getting together and sharing their favorite music with their audience. You may not know Carl is an accomplished harmonica player and performs a wide variety of music using his personal collection of harmonicas. Don't miss this Anderson favorite.

Dinner available for this concert: Fried chicken; 2 sides; dessert, beverage: \$5/adult; \$3/12 to 3 years of age or \$18 for family of five.

Sunday, August 8—6:30 pm: Alpha Brass— Mark Finger, conductor

Alpha Brass in the newest music ministry at First United Methodist Church, created from a vision by Mark Finger and Mark Murray. This group of more than 20 accomplished musicians enjoy sharing their love of music and traditional hymns with all.

Desserts will be available for purchase at this concert: Bring your dinner, but join us for assorted homemade desserts.

In case of rain the dinners will be served in Fellowship Hall, and the concerts held in our sanctuary at our downtown campus at 1215 Jackson Street.



UMW School Of Christian Mission Project Women4women-knitting4peace.com

This year's School of Christian Mission (SCM) will be at Anderson University, July 13-17. This year's three main studies include For the Love of God: John's Letters; The Beauty and Courage of Sudan; Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity. Applications to attend are available from the office. In case you can't go Wednesday-Friday there will be a "Sampler Day" on Saturday, June 17, where you can explore each of the topics. Registration applications are available on the bulletin board near the office. Another way you can participate, if you can't attend, is to knit or crochet prayer shawls, premie baby hats and dolls which will be given to the women4women-knitting4peace project. If you check the website above patterns are available, and a group of women from our congregation meet at New Horizon United Methodist Church with other cluster churches every Tuesday afternoon to work on these items.

If you are unable to make the meetings, but still would like to participate, contact Mary Margaret Willbanks or Jill McDonald at the church for copies of the patterns.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ACTIVITIES



UMW circles may not meet in the summer months, but that's no reason not to gather for fellowship!!!

Join the UMW at Davis Park on **Thursday, July 15 at 5:30 pm** for a potluck dinner.

Lydia Circle will provide tableware and beverages-you need to supply the rest of the food!

We plan to use this meeting as a means to gather together for fellowship and collect items for the Lucille Raines Home Bathtub Ministry. The Lucille Raines Home is a 3/4 house for those returning to life after receiving treatment for a variety of challenges. It is a UMW supported organization, and its ministry is practically in our back yard (Lucille Raines is located in downtown Indy).

Watch the Sunday bulletins and next month's Voice for more details as they become available.

THE VOICE

YOUTH NEWS / JAKES'S CORNER

Happy June everyone! As the summer starts to approach, it's pretty easy to see most people are in a good mood. School is letting out for the summer, the weather is warmer and everyone is getting outside more often, and our gas/electricity bills are going down (at least mine is – having no AC leads to less electricity used)! This is a time of year when people tend to get burnt out, but it works out perfectly because it becomes a much less busy time of year, so everyone travels all across the country to go on trips and vacations.

After working at the church around this time for two years in a row now, I have come to realize this is a time of year that gets pretty busy for me. With planning Youth Sunday, the bake auction (and brunch!), camp, a "young person oriented" concert at the park, and all the other smaller things I have to do, sometimes the plate can be a little full. However, I always tell myself this is a GREAT thing. Busyness usually equals growth in the ministry. I know I'm going to Disney World this November, but it might be good to take a few days during the summer for a "staycation." I might need it after the next few months. On to youth ministry things!

I mentioned planning

Youth Sunday. It would be great if I could put a review of it in here, but as of this writing it hasn't happened yet (seems to be a common theme here), so I will try to get that going in next month's issue. However, I will use this opportunity for a shameless plug! Did you know our church has a specific newsletter for the youth ministry?

It's been in publication for about a year now, but it is dispersed pretty much strictly through e-mail (to save printing and paper costs).

It's called *Positive Concepts*, which is taken from a video featuring a singing sock monkey named Darren. I mention this here because if you sign up to receive this newsletter, you will be able to read about Youth Sunday before July! The issue for May will be especially dedicated to a Youth Sunday review. It will feature some inside info on how it all came together and interviews with the people involved. You can sign up by calling the church office, sending me an e-mail at Jacob@andersonfirst.org, or a signup sheet located at the Welcome Center.

Back in April some of the youth in the church got together with some of the adults who took part in the *Who Stole My Church?* book study for Lent. I must say, this was an awesome event! If I remember correctly something around 60

people were in attendance. A lot of good conversations took place, and some great ideas surfaced. One thing about it that got me excited was seeing so many adults in our church investing in the youth. It's something I've always envisioned happening but never thought it would be so successful.

The most popular (and most important) idea to come out of this time was to have more gatherings such as this. I personally feel a church can be successful if it focuses on connecting all members through all generations. If we all get to know each other and care for each other we will be a united body, and no matter what kind of music we have, how early/late we have worship, or how long the sermons are (not too long Jeff and Donna!), we will be able to conduct an effective and meaningful ministry.

I'm running out of room for this article, so I better quickly throw in some factual info. Sunday night youth group is moving out to Davis Park starting on May 30. On June 13th we're having the annual Bake Auction (please donate and bid) to raise money for camp; this year we're having a brunch alongside it. You can preorder tickets if you want to save money – call the

church or come to our table on Sunday mornings. All the churches who are attending Sr. High Camp this summer are going to have a cookout at Cross Roads UMC on June 16th. It starts at 5:30 P.M. We are having our first Adult Leadership Team Retreat on June 23rd. The Adult Leadership Team for the youth ministry will be meeting at Davis Park from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M., to plan things for the upcoming year and to develop some procedures and policies for the youth ministry in general. There will be a concert at the park that will feature a band that appeals to the younger generation (I'm not saying it wouldn't appeal to the older one, though) on July 16th. The band hasn't been booked yet, but you will know when it happens! Sr. High Camp is July 4-9; sign up if you haven't already!

Whew, I think that's it for this month. I had a lot to say, but I think I squeezed it all in. Have a great month, and see you at the park!

Jake

Summer Sunday School Schedule for K through 6th graders

Our Summer Sunday School schedule begins Sunday, May 30, 2010. Sunday School will be held at the Downtown Facility (1215 Jackson Street) at 10:10 a.m. Children's Sunday School will be for children 3 years old through those entering 5th grade in the fall. Join us for tons of fun as we experience Jesus, his family and friends and his baptism! We're going to look at it from the bank and even from the water! Listen! Do you hear John the Baptist calling you to Come and See what's happening at the River Jordan!



M*A*D C*A*M*P—Godspell Jr.— June 14-25th, 5:30-8 pm

Once again this year we will join forces with Central Christian Church in Anderson to perform the musical **Godspell Jr.**

Any child from age 4 to 12th grade is eligible to participate. In addition to working on the play there are sets to build, costumes to design and bible stories to learn, all related to the play.

The final performance will be June 26 at Central Christian Church in Anderson.

Registration forms are available at the office, or you can print one on-line at www.central-christian-church.com and turn it in to the office.

Last year's camp was lots of fun. I'm sure the participants can't wait for this year's camp!!

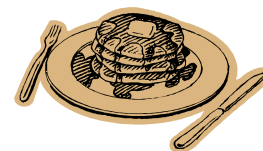
YOUTH BRUNCH & BAKE AUCTION—JUNE 13



The bake auction is just around the corner! This year it will be on June 13th after the service at Davis Park. The bake auction is an annual fundraiser hosted by the youth ministry where all of the proceeds go towards paying for our youth to go to camp. Please donate items to be auctioned off! We can't have the auction if we don't have the bake part! If you are interested, please

call the church office at 643-6977 or talk to Jake Brooks, the youth director, any time you see him.

We are also going to be trying something a little different this year! There is going to be a brunch alongside the auction – prepared and served by the youth! Tickets for the brunch are available for preorder. It's \$5 for an adult and \$3 for a child. The price goes up to \$7 and \$5 respectively if you buy them the day of the brunch.



JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SUMMER CAMPS

If you are a youth in the church and would like to attend church camp this summer, now is the time to sign up! The Sr. High is going the week of July 4-9. Sign up by paying a \$25 deposit and filling out a registration form. The total cost is \$100; the deadline to sign up and pay all of the cost is June 20th. Don't let money be an issue! There are several scholarships that are given out, and many are still available! The Jr. High attends Camp Adventure, but you must sign up as an individual. Call the church to get more info about signing up, or you can visit <http://www.impact2818.com> to sign up.

YOUTH AT THE PARK

Starting on May 30th, we will have regular Sunday night youth group at Davis Park and will continue throughout the summer. We will still meet from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. Davis Park is located on Highway 32 in Edgewood. If transportation to the park is an issue, call the church office at 643-6977.

THE VOICE



FIRST UMC BOOK CLUB

Even though its only June, and the next meeting of the book club isn't until September 7th, there is plenty of opportunity to read during those lazy, hazy days of summer—listed below are the books chosen by the book club to read and discuss beginning in September.

- September: Roses—Leila Meacham
- October: Half-Broke Horses—Jeanette Walls
- November: The Kid from Nowhere—George Guthridge
- December: A Simple Christmas—Mike Huckabee
- January: Highest Duty—Capt. Chesley Sullenberger
- February: Stones into Schools—Greg Mortensen
- March: The Help—Kathryn Stockett
- April: Pride and Prejudice—Jane Austen
- May: Raising Rain—Debbie Fuller Thomas

All of the books listed above are available from the church library (unless, of course, they are checked out).
 Currently the book club meets on Tuesday morning at 9:30 am. There has been some discussion about having an evening book club as well. If you would be interested in joining an evening book club in the fall, please contact Peg Peter at the church office and let her know you are interested.

JUNE COMMUNITY DINNER TEAM SCHEDULE

Listed below are the teams scheduled to cook at the Community Café for the month of June. Thank you to all team members for all you do.



- May 30—Eppert/Roesch
- June 6 —Peg Peter
- June 13—Jake Brooks/Youth
- June 20—Lou Ann Brown
- June 27—Cheryl Eiler
- July 4 —Deardra Roesch

Over the past several weeks we have been profiling the current teams and their members in the Sunday bulletin. If you are not volunteering on a team at the moment, there are several teams who are looking for new members, and Bill Roesch is always looking for volunteers who can help out in a pinch. Also remember we offer a mini-food pantry for our Sunday evening guests, and non-perishable food items are always appreciated when you donate them.

HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Helping Hands Non-food Pantry has become one of the busiest ministries in the church. Grown from a need to help persons down on their luck in the Anderson community, we are able to provide assistance to 50-70 families each month we are open. There are always opportunities to donate to this ministry, as well as the Community Café. Below is a brief list of the needs for both the Helping Hands Non-food Pantry, and the Community Café.

Non-Food Pantry

- Dish soap
- Powdered laundry detergent
- Deodorant
- Paper towels
- Large size diapers
- Baby wipes

Community Cafe

- Canned goods
- Boxed dinners
- Non-perishable food items

MEMORIALS GIVEN IN APRIL 2010

Ray McCaslin to Davis Park Norma and Robert Scott	David Pike Cheryl and Bill Surbaugh
Mike McCaslin to Davis Park Norma and Robert Scott	Lillian Roby Deane and Jack Cunningham June Tibbetts
William Edgeman to Bus Fund Robert Harruff	Lillian Roby to Bus Fund Robert Harruff
Norma Jean Rockwell Joyce and Dick Speelman Mr. and Mrs. Allen Beaty Sue Lott Anita and Augustine Seulean Helen Jackson	Lillian Roby to Community Café Marilyn Alexander
Norma Jean Rockwell to Bus Fund Joyce and Bill Mathys Virginia Musser	Lillian Roby to Helping Hands Pantry Jim Bridges, Sr.



Anderson First United Methodist is a
Stephens Ministry Church

J.O.Y. LUNCHEONS

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) luncheons are opportunities for adults 65 years and older to gather for fellowship, entertainment, and education. Participants meet each month on the third Friday at 11:30 for a catered meal followed by a program featuring speakers or entertainment. A \$7 donation is requested for the cost of the meal.

The contact person for further details is Pastor Donna Goings. Reservations are requested—please call the church office (643-6977). These programs are open to individuals in the community.

Our next J.O.Y. Lunch is scheduled for June 18 at 11:30 am. Keep your eye on the Sunday bulletins for more details.

BON AMIS SCHEDULE



May's Bon Amis trip to South Bend was waylaid when the bus experienced an engine malfunction in Marion. Ever the travelers, several who had intended to go north piled into cars and went down to the Indianapolis Children's Museum. The bus has been repaired, is back in the barn, and ready to take the Bon Amis on their next adventure in June. However, since that event is in the planning stages, you'll have to watch June's bulletins for more details.

Bon Amis is focused to individuals 55 and older in age and to all in our community. Contact Pastor Donna at 643-6977 with any questions.

Upcoming Bon Amis Events

- June--in planning stages
- July 2--Symphony on Prairie (Indianapolis Symphony at Conner Prairie)
- August--in planning stages
- September--in planning stages
- October 6--Wick's Pie Factory
- November 18--La Comedia Dinner Theater--Irving Berlin's White Christmas
- December 3 or 10—Indianapolis Symphony Yuletide Celebration

Beth Moore Study
Resumes June 18

On Friday, June 18 at 9:15 am, the next Beth Moore study will begin. We will be studying **Stepping Up: A Journey through the Psalms of Ascent**.

This 6 week study focuses on Psalm 120-134. Everyone is invited to attend. All that is required is a willingness to learn, a Bible and a Study Guide (to be purchased at the first session). Contact the office to reserve your seat.



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COMING EVENTS

May 30—Summer Worship Schedule Begins

9:00 Traditional Service at Davis Park

11:10 Connections Service—Downtown—North South Parlor

11:10 Modern Worship Service—Downtown—Lower Level Worship Center

5-7pm Youth Group Meeting—Davis Park

June 13—Youth Bake Auction & Brunch—immediately following the 9 am service

June 14-26—M*A*D C*A*M*P Central Christian Church 6-8:30 pm

June 17—Summer Concert at Davis Park—Lapel Community Band 6:30 pm

June 20—Father's Day

July 4-9—"That Thing"—Sr. High Summer Camp—Epworth Forest

July 13-17—UMW School Of Christian Mission—Anderson University

July 15—Women Alive in Faith—Davis Park 5:30 pm

July 16—Summer Concert at Davis Park—Youth 7 pm

July 22—Summer Concert at Davis Park—Carl Erskine Band 6:30 pm

July 26—Vacation Bible School and Family Event—Davis Park 9 am-5 pm

August 2-6—Chimes and Bell Camp—Downtown 10 am-2 pm

August 8— Summer Concert at Davis Park—Alpha Brass 6:30 pm