



in-spire-er

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

May 19, 2010
Volume 10, Issue 10

CELEBRATE PENTECOST THIS SUNDAY, MAY 23

Pentecost Special Day Offering to be received: This is North Christian's opportunity to join the efforts of New Church Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in *Expanding the Table* in the U.S., Canada, and right here in our own region of Indiana.

In 2001 New Church Ministry was involved in the planting of two Haitian congregations; since then 100 of the 640 new Disciples churches started in the U.S. and Canada have been Haitian. This spirit of Disciples kinship reaches out, embraces, and joins as family all who come to the table of worship, connecting all in service to God and neighbor. Now more than ever New Church Ministry and partners embrace with love and support our Haitian families both in the U.S. and Haiti, who were impacted by the recent earthquake.

As Disciples continue to expand our table, our offerings are evenly divided between the wider church and our own region and help fund recruitment, coaching and training of new church ministers and to extend witness to new mission fields.

Christian Learning Recognition: Ministers in Christian Learning will be honored this Sunday, May 23. Join us as we celebrate and honor the many folks whose gifts enrich our Sunday School, children's music, youth and Children's Moment ministries.

You are invited to a Birthday Party! Pentecost is traditionally known as the birthday of the church, so what better time to celebrate than **this Sunday** following worship! Bring a dish to share—drinks and birthday cake will be provided as we gather in the Lower Level Lounge.

NEWSLETTER DISAPPEARANCE???

At the time of this publication, the previous newsletter has not been delivered. It was processed on May 6th at the Columbus post office and was sent on to Indianapolis. The Columbus post office is currently tracking the newsletter to hopefully deliver it soon.

FROM THE STAFF

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Some years ago H. L. Mencken defined Puritanism as “the haunting fear that somebody, somewhere, may be happy.” Though this description is a common historical understanding, it actually is a caricature. The early Puritans were anything but gloomy.

Similar stereotypes of today's followers of Jesus do exist. And you have probably encountered plenty of somber Christians, as I know I have. To be fair, one must grant that there must be some truth in a stereotype; else the stereotype would not exist.

What makes for such somber constitutions? Perhaps it is the inability to connect the realities of the Christian faith with the living of our ordinary lives. As my colleague Paul Rebelo has noted, “Joy is what we experience when we are grateful for the grace given us. Joy is a natural response to God's grace. Sometimes it's our collection of attitudes and behaviors that pin down and beat the brains out of joy—these are joy busters.”

So what to do? The experience of Abba Anthony, one of the desert fathers, is instructive. Anthony tells about the

vicissitudes of renouncing wealth, honor, status, relationships, and comfort—leaving all in order to follow Christ—only to find that the thoughts of wealth, honor, status, relationships, and comfort had followed him into his desert solitude. Rather than moving into a mystical experience with God, his mind kept his previous life before him.

Anthony realized that his thoughts mattered, and they must be taken seriously. Rather than resist or repress his thoughts, Anthony began to notice them. Then he learned to redirect his thoughts, either by rethinking them or by placing a prayer alongside the thought.

“He is not here, he is risen.” What joy that Easter reality can and should and does bring! Sin and death are not the last word; the power of God's love is.

Is there a joy buster in your life? Don't repress it, and don't resist it. Notice it, and then place a prayer to God alongside of it. Who knows? Such a practice might help us recover the image of God in ourselves, and help us awaken to the holiness of the world God has created for us to live in.

Blessings, *Lanny*

ALONG TIPTON LANE

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

MAY 30

Congratulations Graduates! Graduate Recognition is set for Sunday, May 30 during worship, followed by a reception in the Narthex. If you or someone you know is graduating with a high School, general education, college, technical or post-graduate degree, please provide the church office with name, institution, degree and post graduation plans by May 24, so that all graduates may be included in the celebration. Photo displays for the Narthex are welcome (advance notification is helpful so that space can be provided).

GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to Emily Miller's Graduation Open House on Sunday, May 30th, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., 322 Tipton Lane (Rick and Sharon Pease's former house).

Bring a swimsuit if it's nice weather! Questions? Lynne & Will: 372-4713 or Emily 350-7083.

GREETINGS FROM NEBRASKA

Moses Munae and Rozina Kini, Sudanese refugees whom North Christian sponsored for resettlement here in Columbus, send greetings from Nebraska, where they

moved over a year ago. They are both employed by a meat packing plant and are doing well. Rozina does report that her brother has been in an accident and sustained a severe head injury, and she asks that we pray for him.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY CHANGES

North Christian Church is changing the way that *The In-spire-er* will be delivered. Using information gathered from the questionnaire sent out earlier in the year, the new approach will reduce postal expenses and paper and other related costs. It will also enable church news to be delivered more quickly.

This copy and the next copy of *The In-spire-er* will be sent out by email to those who indicated a preference for receiving an email copy, as well as a bulk rate paper copy to everyone. Subsequent newsletters will be sent out as email only to those who have requested that format, and as regular mail for the rest of the mailing list.

Please contact the church office if you requested an email version of the newsletter and are having problems receiving or opening it.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

HEALTH CARE FACILITY

Keith Moore, Four Seasons
Henrietta Owens, Keepsake Village
Emerson Sutton, Col. Health and Rehab

HEALTH CONCERNS

Eddie (Baxter) Ellis; Helen Haddad;
Carole Hyneman; Ted Marston; Scoop
Owens; Adele Potthoff; Jean Prather;
Chuck Shaw; John Williams

Mia Bauman; Kelli Boka (sister-in law of
Jean Thompson); Jesse Brewer (friend of
Jean Thompson); Logan Crawford
nephew of Linda Monroe); Nell Marine,
Pam Abel and Diane White (mother and
sisters of Karen Whitson); Gene Wiley
(father of Jeri Lynn Kreps)

COMMUNITY AND WORLD OUTREACH

GRANT GIVEN FOR WELLNESS PROGRAM IN SUDAN

The Community and World Outreach Ministry Division has awarded a \$ 900 grant to Abraham Milewa to help begin a wellness program in his home village of Mundre in Sudan. In late June Abraham will travel to South Sudan to his home village of Mundre and begin this local health care program. Initial efforts will be to educate for understanding of good health and hygiene habits, focusing on the basics. Most villagers have never seen a stethoscope or blood pressure cuff, let alone used one. Teaching how to monitor for health and detect the warning signs for illness will be first priority.

Health monitoring equipment is needed. You may help by donating new or used blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes, which may be placed in the box labeled MEDICAL EQUIPMENT located in the

coat room across from the office work room.

NOTE: Abraham brought his family to the United States 3-4 years prior to Moses and Rozina's arrival. He served as a minister for mission throughout war torn Sudan with his final work in Darfur.

Abraham, along with North Christian Church, sponsored Moses and Rozina for relocation from Cairo, Egypt to their new home in Columbus, five years ago.

Abraham's language and friendship skills were invaluable in helping work through the mountains of paperwork and verification and many issues of transition faced by refugees in the relocation process. Abraham currently works as a phlebotomist at Schneck Hospital in Seymour and hopes to complete Emergency Medical Technician training.

More information on this project is available in the reception area of the church office.

CHRISTIAN LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES....

Suppers in Season - and more! Even though the *Simply in Season* Adult Sunday School Class finishes their study on May 23, the group will continue to meet throughout the summer season with a number of activities related to Food and Faith. Watch for information as plans take shape, and feel free to join at any point. There is always room at the table!

Good God Theater is the theme for our Creative Arts Sunday School class for children and youth. LL # 1, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Led by Trudi Ellison-Kendall.

“DROP SPINDLE” SPINNING LESSONS

Children and Adults of all ages: Have you ever wanted to learn how to spin - wool, that is? Like knitting and other kinds of handicraft, spinning can be a spiritual exercise even while it yields a useful, organic product. Join Nicole Lanteigne for "drop spindle" spinning lessons in early June (times and dates to be announced). From there the group will decide whether or how to reach out with this new skill: Perhaps plan a field trip to spin in the park or to another community site where others might be drawn to learn. Simple drop spindles and wool will be provided.

For more information, contact Nicole at (812) 374-6863. Sign up in the Narthex.

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

PROJECT LINUS BLANKETS

Project Linus blankets will be collected at the Quadrennial Assembly this June. The blankets can be knit, crocheted or quilted, and the dimensions are variable, from 36" square to 48" square. Project Linus blankets focus on comfort not warmth, so

the fiber used should be machine washable and dryable. There is a special need for blankets for teens. Blankets will be collected until June 20.

Questions? Contact Lesli Lanteigne, 378-5031, and/or visit www.projectlinus.org.

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(Disciples of Christ)

850 Tipton Lane

Columbus, Indiana 47201

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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TIME SENSITIVE – PLEASE EXPEDITE

Sunday Schedule

Contact Information

8:00 a.m. Morning News Class
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Refreshments
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:45 a.m. Fellowship & Refreshments
(Handicap Accessible ~ Childcare provided)

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The in-spire-er is published bi-weekly by the North Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Wanda Gordon, editor. Send address changes to 850 Tipton Lane, Columbus, IN 47201. Email articles to office@northchristianchurch.com. The editor reserves the right to edit articles for grammar, spelling, length, and content. **VOLUME 10 – ISSUE 10**