



# The Baptist Observer Magazine

BECKY SEPTOSKI, EDITOR • VOL. 10 NO. 4 • JULY/AUGUST, 2011

HIGHLIGHTING THE MINISTRIES OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN INDIANA & KENTUCKY



## 1010 in 2010 - Revisited!

By: Dan Barringer, SW Area Resource Minister

We have reason to celebrate! After receiving annual church reports for 2010, we are able to celebrate 1092 reported baptisms in the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky. This number exceeds our goal of 1010 by 82.

It seems to me a church near to Jesus is going to grow. As a church sees evangelistic activity going on and new believers stirring the baptismal waters, the congregation cannot help but be excited. One fact of life is, whatever you starve, dies. Another fact of life is, whatever you feed, lives and grows. A church that is experiencing growth is alive and must be continually fed

with new followers of Jesus Christ.

It also seems to me that numbers are important, because they represent people, and people are what the church is all about. As individuals accept Jesus as Savior, follow Him in baptism, join in study, prayer, evangelism, giving and serving, we count them. Why? Because it helps us understand what is going on in the life of the church.

Some folks have said numbers are not important. As believers, we need to realize that numbers in the church represent people, and people are souls for whom Christ died. Ultimately, that is what the mission of the church is all about. Isn't it? Souls that are precious in the sight of the Lord.

## Save the Date - Region Celebration Service

On August 13, 2011 in the Richardson Chapel of Franklin College, five leaders from Southern Indiana will be honored at a Celebration Service for their completion in the Region Leadership Training Program (CLI). They are representatives of the following

ABC Associations: Bedford, Coffee Creek, Madison and Long Run. CLI encourages all to come celebrate what these leaders have accomplished in their ministry for Jesus Christ! RSVP to Jennifer Greene at 317-635-3552 x 221 or [jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org](mailto:jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org).

## 2011 Mission Conference Reaching and Touching Lives Saturday, October 1, 2011 First Baptist Church of Greenwood



Rev. Lauran Bethell, Global Consultant for International Ministries will be the keynote presenter and a Breakout Session leader. Lauran lives in Amsterdam and travels the world on behalf of IM consulting on issues of human trafficking.

Early registration and group discounts apply for pre-paid registrations received by August 31st.

## Mark Your Calendars Now! ABY Gathering November 11-13, 2011 Franklin College

Theme for the Gathering is:

**P<sup>3</sup> - Prepared and Privileged with Purpose**

Theme Verse: Ephesians 2:10

*"We are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."*

You can go to either the ABC-IN/KY website: [www.abc-indiana.org](http://www.abc-indiana.org) or the ABCGI website: [www.abcgi.org](http://www.abcgi.org) to download a registration form and view more details regarding the conference.

The 2011 Mission Conference is a joint ministry of the ABC of GI and the ABC of IN/KY.

## ABC-IN/KY Vision Statement

**"As the hands and feet of Christ, *compelled* by his love, we will *do whatever it takes* to reach the lost and serve our communities and churches."**



**Dr. Don Scott**  
Interim Executive Minister  
donscott@abc-indiana.org

## Eager - But Reluctant!

As a child, I was a swimmer. I loved the water and learned to swim well at a very young age. But, for a long time, diving was another story. I remember when I was about 7 or 8 years old, I participated in a day camp swimming program at the high school. I remember that my Grandfather came to watch on the day I was supposed to dive from the 3 meter board. I stood at the end of the board for what seemed to be an eternity and finally walked back and down the ladder. I was embarrassed, but I could not make myself dive from that height. Grandpa smiled at me and later offered gracious words of encouragement. I was eager, but also obviously reluctant. I continued swimming, but never did embrace diving from a 3 meter board!

This spring a robin carefully built a nest just outside our front door. Soon her four eggs hatched and we watched as all four baby robins

grew. One day, we noticed that two had left the nest and the remaining two were perched on the nest's edge. They seemed ready and eager to take off. Yet, there was the sense that they were reluctant. Suddenly, an adult robin (the mother?) swooped near the nest as if to encourage the young birds. Within seconds, the two took flight and began their new lives.

For many of us, the life of a Christian disciple is like these two stories. Often, we want to be more dedicated followers of Jesus, more committed to prayer, to the study of the Bible, to mission and witness. We get ourselves to the end of the board, so to speak; we are almost there when we turn and go in a less threatening direction. I suspect most of us know what that feels like.

We may also know what it's like to have someone swoop by, as it was, offering the exact encouragement we need. Suddenly, we leave the familiar and the comfortable to try something new enabling us to grow in our discipleship.

Sometimes, our role will be that of the baby robin's, which I like to think received encouragement from another robin (Mom?). Let me encourage you to find a person who can fulfill that role in your Christian life. This will be a person who, like my Grandfather, will walk with you, pray for and with you and see your potential even when you can't quite take that plunge off the board.

Sometimes, our role will be that of the adult robin, as we are called upon to coach or mentor others. We may even be in both places at the same time. After all, coaches need coaches too!

All of this is to say that as we emphasize Discipleship in 2011, I hope that this will be a year of growth for all of us, including those standing at the end of the board or on the edge of the nest in need of encouragement as well as those equipped to offer that to others.



## ABW Summer Conference

Those attending the ABW Summer Conference at Franklin College the first weekend of June laughed out loud for the pure joy of it! Such glitter and bling, as the ladies dressed in their most sparkly attire in celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> summer gathering!

Memories were abundant as AB women reflected and celebrated heritage along with recognizing how we learn from that heritage as we move forward to impact the future. As missionaries shared, we learned that IM has changed. We were reminded that in spite of these changes, God's call to minister and to reach the lost has not changed and although the mission of our AB women remains

constant, we learned that computers have changed the way we do mission and ministry. We celebrated all that has been and will be accomplished in the name of Christ. As worship and music were embraced at the conference, the corporate body joined hands and tears flowed.

New faces assure our future. Allowing ourselves to be shaped and reshaped "In the Potter's Hands", we embrace the challenge to move out into today's world and make a difference. Thank you, Conference Committee, for leading the ladies of Indiana on a 3-day journey of joy!

## "In the Potter's Hands"

**By: Cynthia Leffel, Secretary ABWM of Indiana**

As we consider the new theme of the ABWM, *IN THE POTTER'S HANDS*, and the words in Jeremiah 18:1-6, it is quite obvious how very obedient Jeremiah was to the instruction of God. The scripture also reassures all that God is always there to remold, reshape and fix our imperfections. We **are** in God's hands.

As we serve thru American Baptist Women's Ministries, we strive to value diversity, welcome positive change, be flexible, seek God's leading, and allow Him to make us what He wants us to be. These goals apply both individually and in the group efforts of the ABWM.

The hope of the ABWM is to:  
Work with diligence  
Serve with joy  
Praise God in all things  
Pray and pray and pray  
Trust in God's promises  
Give thanks that we are

**"In the Potter's Hands"**



**Article Submission Deadline for the September/October Issue of The Baptist Observer is Friday, August 5**

**CAMP NEWS CAMP NEWS CAMP NEWS**

## Camp Tippy to Hold Fundraiser



**Date: July 2, 2011**

**Time: 11:00 am - 3:30 pm**

**Spaghetti Meal - Cost: \$5.00**

**Children under 2 FREE**

Come enjoy a meal at camp along with many activities including: Face painting, Auction - a chance to take a plane ride over the area (one of the items up for auction), Super Slide rides, Silent Auction, Baked goods for sale.

Plan to come and help make it possible to keep the wonderful ministry of Camp Tippy going strong!

Your donations will help with various projects at camp.

For more information regarding the event, contact Rebecca Scott at: 574-834-4184

or visit the camp website at: [www.camptippy.org](http://www.camptippy.org)

## Indian Creek Baptist Camp Dining Hall Going Away Party

**August 20, 2011**

**Noon - 5:00 pm**



Indian Creek Baptist Camp is very excited about the new Dining Hall that they will be building this September, and before they begin the construction they want to have all of their past and present family there to celebrate with them! They know that many of you have great memories from camp that involve the current dining hall and they want you to be there to share those memories. If you have ever been a part of camp then they want you to come fellowship and share this day with them.

The event will begin at noon with lunch, so please plan to come and enjoy the day at Indian Creek! There will be a silent auction to help raise money for the construction of the new dining hall. The hope of Indian Creek is to have churches donate themed gift baskets to auction off. If you, your Sunday School class, youth group, or church family would like to donate a basket, just let the camp know! You can call the camp office at: (812) 279-2161 or email them at: [indiancreek@abc-indiana.org](mailto:indiancreek@abc-indiana.org).

Please bring along camp pictures, stories, and great memories to share. There will also be a time of fellowship as well as a time to share the plans for the new building. Mark your calendars now and plan to come and share this special time with fellow campers both young and old!!

Visit the camp website at: [www.campindiancreek.com](http://www.campindiancreek.com) for more details and information about the camp.

# WEST CENTRAL AREA

## 175th Anniversary Celebration at Terre Haute FBC

Terre Haute FBC has planned a weekend celebration

in conjunction with its 175th anniversary. The congregation was founded on July 9, 1836 with nine charter members. A banquet is planned for Saturday evening, July 9th, beginning at 5:30 PM at the church. Speakers for this event will be Drs. Ken & Sally Dodgson, former American Baptist medical missionaries to India. Both of the Dodgson's grew up in the church and Kenneth's father, Rev. Arthur Dodgson, served as pastor from 1945-56. A worship celebration is planned for Sunday, July 10th beginning at 10:00 AM with music by the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra. Former pastors and staff members will be recognized. Dr. Willie Lucas, former staff member with the Indiana Baptist Convention and close friend of First Baptist for many years, will be the guest preacher. The service will include



performance of an anniversary anthem written and composed by church members Jackie Reeves and John Penry. On Sunday evening at 6:00 PM, there will be a presentation of an historical pageant that was first performed at the church's sesquicentennial celebration. An old fashioned ice-cream social will follow the evening service. The anniversary logo, which has been used on church letterhead and publications throughout the anniversary year, was designed by church member Micahlyn Allen. All former members and friends of the congregation are invited to join Terre Haute FBC for these anniversary celebrations. Reservations for the Saturday evening banquet are requested by June 25th. Rev. Bernie Jackson has served as senior pastor at First Baptist since 2000.

## Amo FBC Outreach

By: Becky Rhea

Amo FBC was the recipient of many, many travel size personal hygiene items which included shampoo, conditioner, sewing kit, body lotion, lip balm, shaving kit, flip flops, shower caps and refreshing facial spray. Many individuals and organizations have been blessed by these items, including but not limited to: Mustard Seed Food Pantry located in Amo, Sheltering Wings in Danville, Edna Martin

Christian Center, Military personnel in Iraq, Girls Scouts for Shut-ins, Veterans Hospital of Indianapolis, American Baptist Women's Spring Conference, Baby Baskets, American Baptist summer camps, Homeless Ministry in Indianapolis, Cypress Manor in Danville. Praise God for the gifts that Amo FBC was able to share with so many!

## Oak Grove BC Has Reason to Celebrate!

Oak Grove BC has been in service to the Lord since 1912. Next year will be the 100<sup>th</sup> year of its existence. Many activities are being planned for the hundredth anniversary.

Pastor, Al Brown and wife Clarice, with the Lord's help, are leading the church to growth. With faith and God's guidance, Oak Grove BC is bringing Jesus Christ to the surrounding community and beyond.

Sadly in 1997, an arsonist burned the old church to the foundation. Some thought that was the end of the little country church. With guidance and faith, and the Lord leading, the church was rebuilt on the old

foundation.

Presently, improvements are being made in the basement. Thanks to the pastor, leaders and members, and a large donation to the church, the basement is getting a facelift. New paint and carpet will make an enjoyable space for new classrooms for young people and little children.

Thankfully, God is providing ways to make this happen. Praising God, Oak Grove BC will continue to grow.

## Virginia Farley-Combs Receives Outstanding Service Award

Virginia Farley-Combs of Bethel BC in Spencer, IN received an Outstanding Service Award in November of 2010. The award was in recognition of more than 14 years of Service as Mission Outreach Advocate/Coordinator for Bethel BC. Under Virginia's leadership, a "Missionary Moment" was implemented and continues to be a part of the church service each Sunday. Financial contributions totaling thousands of dollars were collected under Virginia's leadership to assist Region, State and World Missions.

Virginia was baptized at age 12 and has been a member of Bethel BC since that time. In addition to serving as Missions Outreach Advocate/Coordinator, she has held a number of other leadership positions including Youth Sunday School Teacher, Chair of Bethel's ABW, Bethel Church Superintendent, President of the West Central Area's AB Friendship Association, and White



Cross Chair to name a few.

The picture accompanying this article shows Virginia receiving her award from Rev. Maurice Wright.

# SOUTHEAST AREA

## Amity BC Holds Block Party!



*Retired Pastor Wally Jeffs takes children for a ride*

Amity BC, located on US Hwy 31 between Franklin and Edinburgh, held a Community Block Party on Saturday, May 21, 2011. The event was held on church property from 11:30am to 6pm with a public outside worship service. Local and County Emergency Service Officials

attended, as well as, a number of businesses and other benevolent and social organizations. Franklin College was also well represented by Wendy Hagn. My Delilah, Mike Tetrick and Amazed were the live bands for the



*Deer Valley Golf Owners, Doug, Kimbo and Judy Weddle*

day.

God held off the rain and it is estimated that there were approximately 450 in attendance throughout the day. The event was announced on the church marquee, in two



*Amity Fire and Rescue Emergency Staff*

newspapers and a letter was sent out to over 650 residents in the Amity area. Church members were very encouraged by the outcome. The community responded with such positive feedback that it was decided to make this an annual event.

# NORTHWEST AREA

## Miami BC Provides Shoes for Orphan Souls

Shoes for Orphan Souls is a Texas-based ministry that provides shoes to children and teenagers. Many children do not own or may never have owned shoes, which makes it impossible for them to attend school or hold a job. On Sunday, June 5, the youth group of Miami BC, "connected2Christ", led the Logansport congregation to gather shoes and socks for Shoes for Orphan Souls. The c2C members went barefoot during the Sunday morning service and sent the church members out with reminders to bring new shoes and socks back to the church at 5pm.

The teenagers returned to the



*Pictured l to r: Destini, Cammie, Joey, and Jasmine with shoes donated by Miami BC*

church just before 5pm, only to be met by a mountain of shoes! "We were overwhelmed by the response," said Carol Sikler, youth leader. They had

hoped for 20-25 pairs of shoes.

Shoes for Orphan Souls counts each individual shoe and sock, and as a result the church donated 244

socks, 70 flip-flops, and 92 shoes! "I only showed up with one box," said Carol, "Oh me of little faith!" Four cartons were used to ship the shoes and socks to Texas! The youth group had a time of prayer for the 82 children who will now have a pair of shoes to call their own.

More information about the church can be found at [www.miamibaptistchurch.net](http://www.miamibaptistchurch.net) and more information about Shoes for Orphan Souls can be found at [www.shoesfororphansouls.org](http://www.shoesfororphansouls.org).

## SOUTHWEST AREA

### Rev. Lee Brown Receives Leadership Award

The leadership of Perry County recognized Rev. Lee Brown with the first annual Nautilus Leadership Award during the organization's graduation for the 2010-11 class. Lee was a member of the first leadership class in 1991-92, and was selected to receive this award because of his recognized servant

leadership in the church and community.

Lee is pastor of the Tell City FBC and the Deputy Director for Operations of the Lincoln Hills Development Corporation, whose corporation office is also in Tell City.

### Coffee Creek Association News

By: Stan Carroll

In the first week of October 2004, the Coffee Creek Association began its first association revival. The revival was so well received that it has become a yearly event. Services are held on Monday thru Friday. There is no offering taken at the services.

A small committee plans the services which are held at a different church each night. The host church gives the welcome, chooses the songs & pianist, creates a bulletin, and provides refreshments for fellowship.

The pastors from the association volunteer to bring the message at the various locations. Local talent is called upon to voluntarily provide

special music. One evening is chosen for youth night and their program begins one hour earlier with games, food, and fellowship. The youth join those in attendance for the revival service.

This weekly service is not to take the place of our sister churches' own revival services. It gives the Coffee Creek association the opportunity to serve the Lord, hear the Word proclaimed by pastors of the association, be blessed by talent within our churches, and show our unity and love for the Lord to our communities.

If you would like more information you may contact Stan Carroll at: [stan.carroll@insightbb.com](mailto:stan.carroll@insightbb.com)

## NORTHEAST AREA

### Rushville FBC Enjoys Pitch-In Dinner and Concert

The Rushville FBC congregation gathered for a pitch-in dinner on May 11, 2011. The dinner was followed by a public concert featuring Kristine Stout, handbell soloist.

Solo handbell ringing is a fairly rare, graceful form of musical expression. Kristine plays three octaves of Malmark English Handbells. She employs a unique combination of choreography and traditional handbell weaving

techniques to make her own special style of solo ringing.

Kristine arranges her own music compositions and interjects humor during her presentations. We were fortunate to have Kristine's mother present, and she played a handbell duet with Kristine.

It was certainly a musical evening that overwhelmed your musical senses. The event was planned by the American Baptist Women of Rushville FBC.

Opening the Front Door...Closing the Back Door in the 21st Century Church

FREE Workshop hosted by ABC-IN/KY

Saturday, August 6 at

Plainfield First Baptist Church

Registration deadline is Friday, July 29.

Go to: [www.abc-indiana.org](http://www.abc-indiana.org) for registration information

### 22nd Annual Retired Ministers and Spouses Reunion

Hosted by: Baptist Homes of Indiana Retirement Communities

DATE: Thursday, September 8, 2011

LOCATION: Hoosier Village

Registration begins at 9:00 am with a continental breakfast and fellowship time. The morning program begins at 10:00 am.

Morning Program highlights include:

Dr. John Sundquist, keynote speaker

Music by the Four Gospels, a male quartet from the Noblesville area

Following lunch, Dr. Diane Healey, Geriatrician/Internal Medicine with the St. Vincent's Healthy Aging Institute and also serving as a medical doctor at Hoosier Village, will speak on overall issues affecting the aging population. Save the date and watch for more details to come soon!

### Mark Your Calendars Now!



### Discipleship Workshops to Be Held on September 10, 2011

The workshops will be held at 2 locations

Columbus FBC will be the location for those in the southern part of the state

Peru FBC will be the location for those living in the northern portion of the state

These will be in-depth workshops for churches to continue their focus upon this "Year of Discipleship". More details will follow in the near future.

## Youth Ministry: Prepare NOW for the Future!

By: Jim Walter, NW Area Resource Minister

In the area of Youth Ministry, churches generally do the best they can, but often youth leaders don't have training or resources available to reach young people effectively. Many volunteer youth ministers, leaders and workers have asked for more training and resources to assist them in reaching the youth in their community. It is often a struggle to get this current youth generation to meetings and develop relationships with them. Without these important steps, it is an even bigger challenge to share Jesus and disciple them for the future of the Church. Investing in the youth is one of the most effective ways to make a difference in the world and grow the Church. This generation can be reached!

Church Leadership Institute (CLI) will offer both training and resources in a course titled "Youth and Young Adult Ministries", which will be taught by Rev. Shellie Riggs

Jordan. Shellie is the Director of Youth Ministries at FBC Seymour. She has 18 years of experience in Youth Ministry—both at a volunteer level and a leadership level. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Ball State University and a Masters of Divinity from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. She works with the ABY Leadership Team to coordinate the Jr/Sr High Convention and has also led workshops on youth ministry for Region Events.

This is an excellent opportunity to supplement training. Every church would benefit from this training. The hope of the Region leadership is that every church will send someone to seize this opportunity. Time is quickly running out. Call today! For more information, please contact Jennifer Greene in the Region Office at 317-635-3552 x 221 or [jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org](mailto:jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org).

**PREPARE NOW FOR THE FUTURE!**

## Show Your Pastor You Care!

By: Dennis Bickers, SE Area Resource Minister

In my years of ministry, I have met a lot of clergy that have developed unhealthy habits that have damaged their ministries and their relationships with their families. Some have even damaged their health. They may develop these unhealthy habits in the mistaken belief they are doing it for the good of the church, but the truth is, their churches suffer as well. A church cannot be any healthier than its pastor, and if we want healthy churches, it is imperative we help our pastors develop healthy priorities for their lives.

Once a year, I commit to teaching a very practical course called "Personal and Family Care" that looks at some of the stresses of pastoral life on both the minister and the family while also providing some solutions to ease those stresses. We

will cram a lot into four class sessions, but every topic is vitally important to ministers, their families, and the churches they serve.

One does not have to enroll in the entire CLI program to take one of the courses. Each of the CLI courses can be taken for personal development. I would like to encourage you to consider sending your pastor to this class as an investment in his/her personal well-being and ministry...and ultimately your church's ministry. There are only a few days left to register, so please contact Jennifer Greene at 317-635-3552 x 221 or [jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org](mailto:jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org) TODAY! If you have specific questions about the course, please feel free to contact me at [dennisbickers@abc-indiana.org](mailto:dennisbickers@abc-indiana.org). I hope to see your pastor in class this summer!

## Offering the Seeds of God's Love

By: Ruth Proctor

"Our afghans were on TV!!" I excitedly emailed those words to a lady in my church, explaining that I had just seen a news story about our local shelter for abused women. The camera showed the sleeping area and there on two of the beds were afghans that a little group of women at our church had made and given to the shelter about ten years ago. The pattern and colors indicated that these afghans were undeniably from our church, and they were still being used! Much joy sprang up in my heart to know that people were still benefiting from this ministry.

Some ministries offer immediate feedback as to their effectiveness. For others, that knowledge might come years later in a chance encounter with a person or an event such as the television program described above. This is often true in the area of discipleship, especially that which involves teaching children and youth. The harvest may be years away from the time of planting and those who did the planting may never personally see the results of their labors.



However, that should in no way discourage those who offer the seeds of God's love.

Our Afghans are labors of love given without ever expecting to see proof that they are being used and cherished. Is it not the same with our teaching of the gospel? While it is really fulfilling and heartwarming to see evidence that our efforts have fallen on good soil and taken root, we make the effort regardless and trust God for the outcome. "Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation." (Elton Trueblood)

The Discipleship Partners Network is available to help with your discipleship and teaching needs. Contact Ruth Proctor at [proctor606@frontier.com](mailto:proctor606@frontier.com) or Jim Walter at [jimwalter@abc-indiana.com](mailto:jimwalter@abc-indiana.com) for more information.



## Ministers Council Retreat September 19-20, 2011 Franklin College

Joe Kutter, National Director for Ministers Council, will be the plenary speaker.

Additional details will follow soon.  
Be sure to save the date now!



Indiana Baptist Convention  
**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES  
 OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY**  
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| <b>DATE</b>     | <b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>                               | <b>LOCATION</b>         |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------|
| August 6        | FREE Workshop - Sponsored by New Church Specialities | Plainfield FBC          |
| September 8     | Minister/Spouse Retirees Reunion                     | Hoosier Village         |
| September 10    | Discipleship Workshops                               | Columbus FBC & Peru FBC |
| September 19-20 | Ministers Council Retreat                            | Franklin College        |
| October 1       | Mission Conference                                   | Greenwood BC            |
| October 13      | Senior Adult Day                                     | Seymour FBC             |
| October 15      | Women in Ministry Gathering                          | TBA                     |
| October 17-20   | ABWM Fall Conferences - Week 1                       | Various Locations       |
| October 24-27   | ABWM Fall Conferences - Week 2                       | Various Locations       |
| November 11-13  | ABY Convention                                       | Franklin College        |