



The Baptist Observer Magazine

BECKY SEPTOSKI, EDITOR • VOL. 10 NO. 6 • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2011

HIGHLIGHTING THE MINISTRIES OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN INDIANA & KENTUCKY

“Reaching and Touching Lives” - 2011 Mission Conference



The Plainfield FBC praise team welcomed the worshippers with singing.



Lauran Bethell shared how Jesus had compassion on the crowds.

Opportunities for learning abounded at “Reaching and Touching Lives,” the 2011 mission conference sponsored by the American Baptist Churches of Indiana-Kentucky and Greater Indianapolis. Opening worship, workshops and lunchtime learning opportunities highlighted the work of our ABC missionaries and taught skills for responding to needs at home and around the world.

In the opening worship, Lauran Bethell (International Ministries global consultant dealing with the issues of prostitution, trafficking in persons and other forms of abuse and exploitation) shared from Matthew 9:1-12 concerning Jesus’ compassion for those who were lost, lonely and

broken. She described compassion as a physical, gut response to someone else’s suffering. His compassion attracted the sick, wounded and abused and he healed them. Jesus calls us to join him and be his compassionate community, being present and bringing compassion to those who feel they are wounded beyond repair.

She shared how in Thailand, girls are raised to be responsible for their parents and siblings and are called to sacrifice themselves, if necessary, to put food on the table. That is how many of them end up in prostitution. Organized crime in Russia works in orphanages to build relationships and traffic the children in other countries. Another source of exploitation is the pornography industry. She indicated that the percentage of population involved

in viewing/purchasing pornography is the same inside and outside the church. Our ABC missionaries around the world are working through economic development and church planting to help deal with the problem of trafficking. Lauran also shared that we are called to show compassion for those who exploit and indicated that part of the work being done is to restore them and deal with the reasons why they engage in exploitation.

Special thanks to:

- Greenwood FBC - host church
- International Ministries - financial support
- Breakout Session leaders: Lauran Bethell, Church Fox, David Jones, Randy & Pat McNeely, Tysha Hardy Sellers, David Weatherspoon, Marie Wiese, Shawn Zambrows, FBC Mitchell and Greenwood.
- Lunchtime Learning Leaders
- Youth from Arlington Heights BC - sanctuary artwork
- Worship participants
- Planning team members: Joyce Castleman, Don & Sandy Clemons, Julia Fisher, Randy McNeely, Mark Sorrels, Don Scott and Joan Friesen



The Zophei Christian Church youth choir prepared the crowd to hear the scriptures and the message.



The Edna Martin Christian Center children’s choir brought everyone back together for closing worship.

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

Anticipation in the Midst of...

It is not news to any of us that the war in Afghanistan drags on, the economy seems stuck on "poor," healthcare costs continue to escalate, political gridlock seems to have become the new national pastime, and on and on. This article is starting out to be a real downer, but what I really want to say is that in the midst of all the "stuff" in our lives, the holiday season is once again upon us.

That means that very soon after Thanksgiving, we will enter the season of Advent. While Easter is my favorite Christian day, Advent is my favorite Christian season.

My mother says that the anticipation of something is nearly as exciting as the reality. Indeed, it is good to look forward and that is what Advent is all about...looking forward to the coming of Jesus, the long awaited Messiah. While we are sensitive to the problems in our world, those who lived in anticipation 2000 years ago also had their difficulties as they lived as aliens under the brutality of the Roman Empire. Hence, in some ways, little has changed. Or has it?

Unlike those who hoped for a Messiah so long ago, we enter the season of anticipation with certainty. Through both the lens of history and the lens of faith, we know that in Jesus, the Messiah was born, lived, died for us, and rose that we might have abundant and eternal life. So for us, Advent is not just a time of waiting and hoping...it's a season of celebration!

My hope for you and for your church is that the entire time leading up to Christmas Day, will be a time of joy and peace and that you will, indeed, have a very Merry Christmas! May it be so!

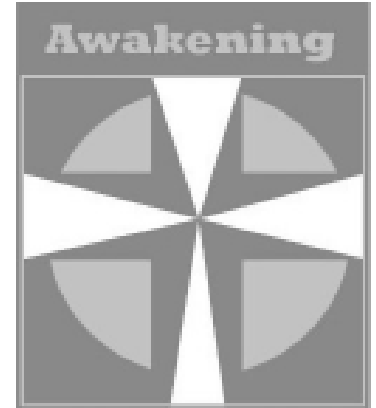
New Region Emphasis to Help Churches

By: Jim Walter, NW Area Resource Minister

The ABC-IN/KY region is an association of approximately 300 congregations. Over 70% of these congregations worship with less than 100 in attendance on Sunday mornings. In an effort to provide direct support and resources to these congregations, ABC-IN/KY is launching AWAKENING in March of 2012. This emphasis will help congregations face the challenges of the church today.

AWAKENING will address issues such as Church Health, Dealing with Change, and What is God's Vision for our Church. AWAKENING will also be a very practical process for dealing with church structure, worship, discipleship and stewardship. These are all areas of church life that every congregation must address today. How well a congregation deals with these aspects of ministry and mission will determine how effectively they fulfill God's vision for the church.

Because we learn best in a community of believers, the format for AWAKENING will be clusters of congregations coming together to learn together and share with each other. Congregations will covenant with one another in this process so



that our commitment will match our desire to see God's vision fulfilled in our church.

Change is never easy. The Church of Jesus Christ has faced many challenges over the centuries and has changed to meet and rise above those challenges. The church is facing some very difficult challenges today and we know that God is working to help us face and overcome these challenges as well. AWAKENING will be a process that local congregations can follow which will enable them to seek God's vision for them.

To learn more about AWAKENING visit the Region website: www.abc-indiana.org or talk with your Area Resource Minister.

"Camp Cat Communications"

Dear Webster,

It was really good to hear from you! Now that fall has arrived and the kids are back at school, it is a bit quieter around ICBC. Jordan and Mindy are now busy working on all kinds of projects that need attention.

We were going to start building a new dining hall, but I guess they have decided to wait. I think that there is something needed called money, so the construction has been put on hold. I hope that people will give some of that stuff they call money so the new dining hall can be built.

Are you busy keeping track of everyone while they are at Camp Tippy for retreats? I am looking forward to people coming to ICBC during the fall and winter, so that I can get some good ear scratchin'! Jordan and Mindy say that people can go to something called the website (campindiancreek.com) and check out the monthly schedule for retreats and maybe schedule one for their group too.

You know, I heard this tapping noise in the camp office the other day and I saw that Jordan and Mindy were typing something. They have put together something called an e-newsletter that people can sign up to receive by email. I think people just have to send them their information at icbcnews@yahoo.com, so they can begin to receive the newsletter. It's called "The Campfire". That's a pretty cool name for a camp newsletter, don't ya think?

Well, it looks like I have to go and check up on all the cabins to make sure everything is closed up for the winter. Maybe I can hitch a ride in Jordan's truck sometime and come visit you at Camp Tippy.



Keep in touch! Bedford

2011 ABC Ministers and Spouses Retirees Reunion

"Be a Blessing" was the theme for the 22nd annual gathering of retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and their spouses who have Hoosier ties. The event, held on September 8, was hosted by the Hoosier Village Retirement Center near Zionsville. As always, this campus of the Baptist Homes of Indiana continued its commitment to provide opportunities for senior adults to engage in personal and spiritual growth.



Dr. John A. Sundquist spoke about the future of global missions.

Retirees had the opportunities to meet recent retirees, renew long term friendships, and to be blessed by a program combining elements which were inspiring, uplifting and challenging. Updates came from state and national Baptist leaders, new resource people were introduced, music from special guests was welcomed, and a medical specialist in health issues of the aging led an informational question and answer session.

A very encouraging presentation was given by Dr. John A. Sundquist, retired Executive Director of International Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA. As he spoke in general about the future of global missions he detailed the past, present and future of two mission fields and his ongoing involvement in each, Russia and Nagaland.

In the middle of the 19th century, the most effective Baptist missionary in Europe was Gerhard Oncken. His desire to expand a witness into Russia fell on deaf ears until he was appointed an American Baptist missionary. By the time of Stalin's attempt to replace all religious movements and to replace them with atheism, there were more than one million Baptist/Evangelicals in that country. In spite of Stalin's efforts, some religious groups, including Baptists survived. Post Communist Russia is seeing strong growth among Baptist/Evangelicals. Dr. Sundquist currently serves on the board of their center for the training of Baptist pastors. ***The fruit of American Baptist witness is still changing lives.***

Nagaland missions is a completely different story. Dr. Sundquist has been a part of a group trying to help Naga tribal groups find peace among themselves and also with the government of India which considers them a part of their country. The first missionaries to the headhunting Naga tribes, Edward and Mary Clark, were sent from First Baptist Church in Indianapolis in the mid 1800s. At the time of their arrival, a tribal young man had to prove his manhood by bringing home the head of a man from a rival tribe. The results of the Baptist witness there has not only eliminated that practice, but some 480,000, or 80%, of the Naga population became Baptist Christians. ***The fruit of American Baptist witness is still changing lives.***

The afternoon session, considering *The Myths of Aging*, was led by Dr. Diane Healey, medical director of the St. Vincent Center for Healthy Aging, and professor at IU Medical School. She utilized a very user friendly style of presentation. She projected on a screen True/False questions, getting attendees answers, and then addressing the correct answer. One true/false question was, "Pain is a natural part of the aging process." Some questions dealt with the frequency and importance of various shots- flu, shingles, pneumonia, tetanus. It was evident why she is loved by the residents of Hoosier Village as she also serves as their Medical Director. This year, the retirees saw the two sides of the theme, "Be a Blessing." We have already been a part of bringing the blessings of our faith to a struggling world, and we can leave here to continue to be a blessing to our churches, families, friends and neighbors.



David Hinson from MMBB, brings greetings.



Dr. Diane Healey engages the audience as she addresses "The Myths of Aging."

SAVE THE DATE!

**23rd Annual Reunion
September 13, 2012
Money Matters
in the 21st Century**

**Sumner Grant & David Hinson
from the MMBB will be the program presenters**



The Four Gospels bring musical enjoyment to the day.

SOUTHEAST AREA

Versailles BC Represented in Parade

By: Natalie Brinson

Every year, the town of Versailles celebrates the harvest season with the annual Pumpkin Show. This year, the Versailles BC was represented in the parade that takes place on the last day of the festivities.

Church member, Dawn Brinson was responsible for organizing and constructing a float for the parade. She began by collecting monetary donations and ideas for a theme. Many compliments were given to the group in charge of organizing



the float and the theme, "One Way to Jesus," was well liked. The float's main feature was a tall, cedar cross at one end with a path leading toward it. Volunteers passed out candy and flyers with information about the church. Plans are already underway for next year.

Columbus FBC Holds Community Work Day

On Saturday, August 6, Columbus FBC held the third annual Community Work Day. Several teams went to various sites including San Succi, a resale shop that provides for those with lower incomes and a house in downtown Columbus. The

house will eventually have three apartments which will provide transition housing for people in need. Help also went to New Song Ministry who builds houses for young children ages 5-12, coming from difficult family environments. These children will live in the homes with house parents and will be provided schooling as well. Still other volunteers put together gift bags



for the teachers and teacher assistants in the congregation, as well as, those who teach at the elementary school across the street from the church. At a later date in August, prayers and blessings were offered up for all those involved in the school system.

Columbus FBC Serves Hungry



Each year as part of a community outreach, Columbus FBC serves hot meals to those in need. The meals are served at different sites around the city, including areas served by bus service or within walking distance of the guest's homes. This year, Columbus FBC served on the first two Tuesday evenings in

September at Asbury United Methodist Church. The Talents class served on the first Tuesday and the youth, along with the Fellow Strugglers class, served the second Tuesday. A meal was prepared and served to the guests and those who volunteered spent time visiting with the guests as well. One of the guests related that this was the only meal he had each day.

Shelbyville FBC Participates in "Bears of Blue River" Parade



On August 28, 2011, Shelbyville FBC participated in the Bears of Blue River Parade. A float was prepared depicting the parade's theme of honoring heroes past and present. Members of the congregation

participated during the parade by passing out candy and cool bottles of water as they walked beside the float. The float was recognized as top of its class and also, best in the overall category.

WEST CENTRAL AREA

Youth Leaders Committed to Learning

Danny & Zella Taylor are a valuable team at Plainfield FBC! They began by teaching Sunday school, but quickly found themselves doing more and more activities with these teenagers that grabbed their hearts. Just this last summer, they traveled 16 hours to the Red Lake Reservation with 25 teenagers. Danny said that seeing a group of teenagers so involved and caring for a community that wasn't even their own was a real blessing and that watching them grow throughout that week was a great experience, not to mention the growth that he experienced personally as well. Zella is working on her Psychology degree at St Mary of Woods with the intention of counseling youth. Danny works at Riley Hospital as a Logistics Specialist while earning his Diploma of Pastoral Studies through ABC's leadership training ministry



called CLI. He says, "I could not pass up this opportunity to learn and grow. The only real hesitation that I had about the CLI program is probably the same hesitation that a lot of people feel. I wasn't sure how I was going to be successful. Once I finished my first class, I was confident that the instructors would assist me in any way that they could. What it really boils down to is this... you are basically in a classroom setting talking about a subject that you love to talk about and learning more than you ever imagined. I grow hungrier for knowledge and wisdom with each class that I take. CLI impacts my life and ministry by stretching me and challenging my spiritual life."

Bethel BC Holds VBS in New Fellowship Hall

In the Fall of 2010, an article appeared in the Baptist Observer about the proposed Fellowship Hall at Bethel BC (Owen County). It stated that rain, sleet, cold, nor wind could not stop the volunteers that were working toward the goal of completion of the Fellowship Hall by the spring or summer of 2011.

Only 10 months later Bethel sponsored a cleaning day in preparation for the first major event to be held in the New Fellowship Hall. Vacation Bible School was held on July 11-15, 2011.

Vacation Bible School included Bible Study, along with a variety of activities all relating to the theme of the Bible Study. The Fellowship Hall was filled

with times of study, joy, laughter and companionship along with growth and learning.

It was through the grace of God, and the leadership of Linda Clendening, that Bethel had a most successful Vacation Bible School. Clendening planned, developed, implemented, directed, coordinated, and kept the focus on the task at hand with patience, kindness, courage, and a constant smile.

God's presence was felt in this little country church and the Fellowship Hall during Bible School week.

Bethel will celebrate its 190th anniversary in 2012 under the leadership and ministry of Rev. Maurice Wright.

Samaria BC Hosts Annual Association Meeting

The Friendship Association held its Annual Meeting at Samaria BC on September 18, 2011. The program read, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20). On that day, 39 people representing 5 churches gathered in His name through prayer, song, music, presentation, fellowship, gifts for others in the community, and more.

Canned foods and items of clothing were brought to the meeting for the Red Barn Social Service Agency in Martinsville. Each year, a different food pantry/agency will be identified for support during the Friendship Association Annual Meeting.

Moderator Robert Abbitt gave the blessing prior to a wonderful meal prepared by Samaria BC along with others from Bethel BC, Oak Grove BC, and Whitaker BC. Don Scott brought greetings and presented information on upcoming leadership programs.

In addition to a congregational hymn that was led by Samaria BC, music was provided by Reverend Jim Allison



Attendees view materials at the display table (Samaria BC), Lola Abbitt (Freedom BC) and Joanna and Charles Tinsley (Whitaker BC).

The guest speaker, Karen Smith of Bethel BC, told her story and shared about breast cancer awareness and research. She also explained why the "Susan G Komen 3-day walk for the Cure - 60 miles in 3 days" represents so much more than just walking and why she has walked for a cure 4 times and "crewed" 4 times. Her strong faith has seen her through the challenging times of being a breast cancer survivor diagnosed at age 33.

SOUTHWEST AREA

Petersburg & Washington Hold Combined Youth Retreat



In the recent past, Petersburg FBC and Washington FBC combined their Jr/Sr High Youth for the annual 3 Day Youth Retreat. The retreat was led by Pastor Tim Baxter of Washington FBC and Youth Leader Tammy Graham of Petersburg FBC. The theme was "Battle Tested!" and

the youth were challenged to put on the "Armor of God" every day and to be soldiers for Christ. More than 50 youth were in attendance and enjoyed Bible studies, activities, and lots of food!

SOUTHWEST AREA

Petersburg FBC Holds Annual Kids Club Kick-Off



Petersburg FBC recently held its annual Kids Club Kick-Off. The youth enjoyed the inflatables, games, food and fellowship! Dr. Charles C. Baxter is the pastor.

NORTHWEST AREA

Union BC Celebrates 103rd Homecoming

With Dale Brittain as pastor, Union BC of Forest, IN, celebrated its 103rd Homecoming on Sunday, September 11, 2011. Worship and Sunday School were followed by a

pitch-in dinner. A special musical program was held in the afternoon. All enjoyed the day and are looking forward to the 104th Homecoming in 2012.

A Woman of Commitment and Faith

Carol Sikler works full time in the Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering at Purdue University. She is a 1985 graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tennessee with a Bachelor's of Music degree. She has served in many different capacities at Miami BC since she and her family joined in 2003, including teaching Sunday school and directing the choir. Carol's late husband, Chuck, was the sort of man who would minister wherever the need seemed to be the greatest and Carol learned greatly from his example. With her own daughter recently turning 16, she became more aware of the need for a youth ministry at Miami BC and worked toward making that happen. Last January, she signed up for the Youth Ministry Course offered by the ABC-Region Ministry, CLI. Carol said, "If I hadn't taken the Youth Ministry course, there is no way on the earth, in the earth, or



Exploration Acres Event.

under the earth that I would even ATTEMPT youth ministry!" After being inspired by Shellie Jordan to move forward, and with the support of other parents, Carol has been meeting regularly with a small group of young people between the ages of 12-16 since May 2011. She has also committed to finishing the CLI Program to equip her with a strong educational foundation in ministry.

NORTHEAST AREA

Mounds BC Partners with Community for Back to School Festival

The sounds of a praise band filtered through the trees of the c park. Children with painted faces threw bean bags and balls. Splas School and community leaders we plunged into the dunk tank. Hot dogs sizzled on the grill. All for a good cause: School supplies for kids.

On Sunday, August 14, Mounds BC in Anderson hosted a Back to School Summer Festival for families in all of Anderson. Over 4,000 people attended the three-hour festival and over 2,000 kids received free school supplies.

Mounds has held back-to-school rallies in the past with free games and food, but on a much smaller scale. This was the first year to give away school supplies and the first year to partner with Anderson Community



The kids loved having their faces painted!

Schools to cooperate system-wide.

Partnering with businesses and organizations in the Anderson Community has opened up opportunities to minister and share the love of Christ one-on-one in the process of planning and implementing this event. Also, hundreds of individuals who attended the event expressed an interest in learning more about the church.

Several local businesses put up booths on the grounds of the park and auctions of donated items were held. Ten percent of the vendors' sales and all proceeds of the auctions will go to support school programs promoting positive behavior.



The Mounds BC praise band added a festive atmosphere to the Shadyside Park in Anderson.

Fairmount BC Strives to Make the Gospel Relevant to Community

One of the challenges that the church faces is making the gospel relevant to the community. One of the ways to deal with that challenge is to present seminars that address needs regarding relationships. Fairmount BC is striving to become more visible and effectively help. Dr. Jerry DeHart presented a lively seminar titled "Celebrating Distinctives and Appreciating Differences: featuring The Myers Briggs Type Indicator". During the seminar, DeHart taught how each person is created with a certain personality type that is to be respected, enjoyed and employed.

However, sin separates us from God and from one another. The gospel redeems and restores us to be free to be others centered, and give our personalities as a living sacrifice. Besides spiritual gifts and talents, God wants us to engage others with affirmation and collaboration. A free light lunch was provided by the church and the energy level of the discussion was inspiring. Fairmount BC plans to offer seminars 2-3 times a year. DeHart is available to share the seminar with other groups and may be contacted at jadehart@gmail.com or 765-465-8809.

Attention All AB Girls of Joy Leaders & AB Girls of Faith



Would you like to help plan for the
2012 Joy Jamboree?

There will be a meeting on November 5th at 12 noon at Anderson
FBC in Anderson, IN. If you are unable to attend and want to help,
please email or contact Tracy Karnes at musictjk@gmail.com,
812.498.4448, or abgirls@gmail.com.
The 2012 Jamboree dates are: May 4th & 5th



ABW Scholarship Fund

Each year, the ABW give \$500.00 scholarships to single undergraduate students. All applicants must be an active member of an American Baptist church in IN/KY for a least one year. Scholarships are granted on the basis of dedication, financial need, and scholastic ability and are for one year only.

All documents, along with the application, must be mailed to the State Scholarship Chairman and postmarked by **February 15, 2012**. Applicants should also have a signed transcript of their grades

sent directly from their school to the scholarship chairperson.

Reference letters should also be sent directly to the Scholarship chairperson from the person writing the letter.

The amount of money received in the Scholarship

Fund by **March 31, 2012** will determine how many scholarships will be issued. The Scholarship committee meets in the beginning of April to review the applications and choose the recipients and alternates for the year. An application may be obtained from your association scholarship chairman or president or by contacting Mary Lou Rude at rudem@tds.net or by phone at (574)-686-2041.

Each student chosen to receive a scholarship is assigned to specific associations in the region. Please encourage these assigned students with cards, messages, gifts, and even visits. Please remember to send contributions to the fund by March 31, 2012!

Adapting to Change

By: Ruth Proctor

I recently read this quote by British economist John Maynard Keynes: "The difficulty lies, not in the new ideas, but in escaping the old ones". Since he lived from 1883-1946, it is most likely he said this nearly a century ago, and yet the words apply to us today, especially as we go about the work of the church.

We know how electronic media has changed the way we communicate and interact with each other. It has shaped our culture and even how we worship. The church really had no alternative, but to learn this new way of doing things and work its way through the struggle of leaving behind the old ways.

This type of urgent change for survival is nothing new. In her book *Baby Boomers and Beyond*, Amy Hanson talks about how in the late 1950s the huge population of post-war babies became adolescents in churches that were totally unprepared for such an influx of teenagers. It became imperative that youth ministers be hired and churches felt an urgency in reaching out to this generation before it was too late.

Those same baby boomers who



revolutionized the way youth ministry is done have now become "the new old". They are approaching the later years of their lives in ways much different from previous generations, causing the church to rethink the way it offers ministry to and with older adults. Once again, it is a new idea – one that will force us to consider how quickly we will adapt and what we must "escape" in order to do so. These children of God born between 1946 and 1964 represent both a huge mission field and a huge resource to the church. Will the church ignore or embrace this reality?

If your church is interested in further exploring this important topic, please contact Discipleship Partners through Ruth Proctor at 260-493-1694 or at proctor606@frontier.com.

Camp Tippy Sr. High Winter Retreat December 28-30

Snow Dates: Jan. 6-8

Jr. High Winter Camp January 13-15

Visit the camp website at:

www.camptippy.org for registration forms

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Sign up now for the Indian Creek Baptist Camp Newsletter

at: icbcnews@yahoo.com

Coming March 10, 2012
AWAKENING



Indiana Baptist Convention
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OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY
1350 N. Delaware St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2493

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Permit No. 8457

Observer Magazine Deadlines for 2012

Issue Date

January/February '12
March/April
May/June
July/August
September/October
November/December
January/February '13

Articles Due:

December 2, 2011
February 3
April 6
June 8
August 10
October 12
December 7, 2012

*Please remember the following guidelines:

- A maximum of 2 articles per church due to space
- Articles should be 180 words or less
- Please do not send newspaper articles and expect an article to be written from them.
- Digital pictures in JPG format via email are preferred. Do not send a print made from a digital picture.
- Photos from film will be accepted and returned. Please be sure to let us know who to return them to.

They may be sent to:

Baptist Observer Magazine
1350 N. Delaware St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

- Articles and pictures may be sent by email to the editor,
[Becky Septoski](mailto:beckyseptoski@abc-indiana.org) beckyseptoski@abc-indiana.org

If you have any questions, email the editor or call: 317.635.3552, ext. 222