

American Baptist Churches of IN & KY

TOGETHER

on God's Abundant
Journey

equipping leaders
empowering churches
expanding mission

The Baptist Observer Magazine

HIGHLIGHTING THE MINISTRIES
OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
IN INDIANA & KENTUCKY

www.abc-indiana.org

BECKY SEPTOSKI, EDITOR • VOL. 14 NO. 6 • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014

CLI Grads Honored



CLI Graduates pictured L to R: Jerry DeHart, Phyllis Kreis, Jason Mays, Steve Culp, Greg Redd, Phillip Meredith and Carol Weaver

A Celebration Worship Service was held in the Richardson Chapel at Franklin College on September 20, 2014 to honor seven program students completing CLI this year. Rev. Dr. Jim Walter, Rev. Joan Friesen and CLI Staff along with family, friends & classmates had the privilege to celebrate the accomplishments of the following individuals: Steve Culp-Versailles (CCL/DPS), Jerry DeHart-New Castle (CCL/DPS), Phyllis Kreis-Ellettsville (CCL/DPS), Jason Mays-Austin (CCL/DPS), Phillip Meredith-Lexington (CCL/DPS),

Greg Redd-Greensburg (CCL) and Carol Weaver-West Lafayette.

Many CLI students choose to complete their credentials in Leadership and Pastoral Studies after getting a taste of the challenge, excitement, fellowship, and support the CLI experience brings. The program that was designed for *any Christian* is made up of eight courses and allows the student to earn their Certificate of Christian Leadership. The second program includes those eight courses, but adds five additional courses that focus more specifically on the foundational areas of Christian

Ministry. After completing these 13 courses, one earns a Diploma of Pastoral Studies. This certificate is not just for Professional Church Staff, but for anyone who wants to be a leader in ministry. It is merely an "educational foundation" to pastoral ministry. Deacons, committee chairpersons and ministry leaders find value in earning this diploma. Ultimately, the church and its ministry benefit from the training of its leaders. It is an investment that bears fruit for years to come. For more information about CLI, please contact Jennifer Greene at 317-635-3552 x 221 or jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org.

ABY YOUTH RETREAT Nov. 7-9 Camp Camby

There is still time to register for the ABY Youth Retreat. Information and registration available on the region website located on the main page.

Camp Tippy Dining Hall Dedication

Nov. 22, 2014
2:00 pm

www.camptippy.org
(574)-834-4184

The afternoon will consist of a time of worship, scripture reading and cutting of the ribbon.



Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford
Executive Minister
sooziford@abc-indiana.org

Expanding Mission

It was a privilege to gather at the region biennial in late September for the biennial gathering of ABC of Indiana and Kentucky. Plainfield FBC were superb hosts, sharing their gift of hospitality as they tended to every need of those who were present. We are indeed grateful to Pastor Dusty Cowell, the local arrangements team, and the Worship team for the graceful manner in which they took care of the behind the scenes details, ensuring a comfortable setting for all of the weekend's activities.

One of the joys of gathering as a regional mission community every two years is to receive an offering, and designate that offering to a ministry connected to the theme of the weekend. This year, your region board chose to designate the biennial offering to one of our region's priorities, Expanding Mission, and they chose to do it through you by establishing the Expanding Mission Church Grant. The board had previously voted to match the biennial offering, essentially doubling every dollar given. Approximately \$1500 was

received, so \$3000 is available to date and will be distributed to churches (see following) in early 2015. Beginning in 2016, 10% of the amount received for the previous year's Region Offering will be distributed as Expanding Mission Church Grants.

How might your church expand its mission to serve the wider community? Would "seed money" help you enhance a ministry with children of incarcerated parents, or get started with a community garden, or provide back-to-school haircuts, or a neighborhood block party? Or, do you have other ideas, uniquely suited to your community setting, to expand the mission where God has placed you? Would you be willing to provide a one-page description including pictures that we can share with others of how God used you? If so, I hope you will apply for the Expanding Mission Church Grant.

The Expanding Mission Church Grant must be used to serve the community and cannot be used for compensation or benefits. It cannot be used to support a church program primarily intended for members, nor can it be applied towards the building or remodeling of physical structures. To apply for a grant, please complete the simple application on the region website, or request it by e-mail from Becky Septoski at beckyseptoski@abc-indiana.org, and return the application no later than Monday, December 15th, 2014. Applications will be reviewed by a team of region leaders whose decisions will be final, and the grants will be distributed no later than January 31st, 2015.

I can't wait to see and hear what God will do through you as you expand the mission right where God has placed you. Your resource ministers Dennis Bickers, Phyllis Goodyear, Jim Walter and I are available for consultation on this or many other opportunities that are before you as we are Together on God's Abundant Journey.

Exploring Our Vocation

By: Shawn Zambrows, BSF Campus Minister, Purdue University

As campus minister of the Baptist Student Foundation located at Purdue University, some days I am the most blessed person on the planet. I get to meet students like "Gillian". I met her the first week of school and she wrote the following to me: "I really want college to be a time where my faith grows ... I also want to be able to figure out my purpose and talents in life and be of use in my community..."

For those of you familiar with the ministry of The Found, you know we are passionate about young lives experiencing a faith that is not only good for today, but good for tomorrow. The students who come to us *get* this. They understand that faith is a lifestyle and living faithfully is our *calling*.

Simply put, this is a critical time when students are sorting out the myriad of questions about faith and calling. In working toward our goal of helping students integrate their faith into all aspects of their adult lives, we've found that engaging them in mission and service is one of the best ways to help them understand how they are part of bringing the Kingdom of God into someone else's life – no matter

what their major or chosen profession is.

Recognizing this critical time of life, The Lilly Endowment, Inc., invited The Found to apply for its "Theological Exploration of Vocation for Campus Ministries Initiative" grant.

Another one of those days when I felt most blessed was when I learned that we qualified for this grant. While the funds may not be used for current programs, salaries or facilities, they can be used specifically for the purposes of the initiative. Our intent is to use the grant to help expand our mission and service opportunities, support the goals of the Ephesians 2:10 House service and learning community, and fund a new Ministry Associate position dedicated to helping students process how God may be directing them vocationally.

This is a very exciting time for The Found and it's going to be a fantastic time to be a student at The Found. We covet your prayers for our current and incoming students, and for us that we can be wise stewards of the lives entrusted to us.

Chile Mission Encounter April 23 - May 8, 2015

You are invited to be part of a mission team of 10-15 individuals traveling to Chile to support and encourage Dwight and Barb Bolick and to partner with them in ministry. Below are just two of the opportunities that you will experience while in Chile:

Worshiping with Baptists in the capital city of Santiago and visiting the summer camp being developed to help reach urban youth with the good news of God's love.

Experiencing the vitality of the Girls Clubs created by Barb and learn of their growing impact throughout the country.

Team members must be 18 or older.

COST: \$3,250.00 per person and includes round trip travel and expenses from Atlanta, GA.

For further information or to request an application packet, contact Dr. Lee Riggs by email at rev.riggs@gmail.com or by phone at 843-424-7658. Application Deadline: December 15, 2014

American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

“Pocket Full of Blessings”

Forty-four ladies enjoyed the Annual Curry's Prairie Retreat. Janet Moore, ABW State President, was the guest speaker and special music was presented by Janet Swalls. It is amazing how God brings everything

together. The theme, “Pocket Full of Blessings”, was shared in devotions, crafts, skits and good food prepared by the “Helping Hands Circle”. The 2015 Annual Retreat is planned for the second weekend of September. All are invited to join!!

Eighth Avenue BC - ABW Circle News

On August 6, fifteen ladies from the ABW Circle of the Eighth Avenue BC along with Pastor Dick Smith, traveled to “A Gathering Place”, located in Sullivan, IN. The group met with the Curry's Prairie scholarship recipient, Luke Allen McPhail.



Luke is currently a freshman at Vincennes University majoring in journalism. The group was very impressed with Luke's character and the kind of young man who represents the ABC-IN/KY churches. The time with Luke was truly enjoyable.

Dress Dedication at Sandborn BC



The A.B.W. of Sandborn BC held a service on September 14, 2014 to dedicate forty dresses which the eight members had made. These dresses, which are

Submitted by: Norma C. Mezoe

a project for Indiana American Baptist Women, will be given to young girls in Africa.

Pastor Scott Rasico blessed each dress, praying for the receivers of the dresses and their families. Nyla Johnson explained the various projects and activities of the group. Nancy Blackwell read a poem applicable for the dedication and Judy Gee closed with a short devotion.

First Annual Quilt Retreat Held at Camp Tippy

On September 11-13, 2014, three ladies met at Tippy Camp and Retreat Center for the 1st Annual Quilt Camp. It was a time of fun, fellowship, and of course, lots of sewing.

Many colorful, seasonal wall hangings, quilts of all sizes, and minis were sewn together in the 3 day period. Those in attendance enjoyed learning from each other, celebrating those “finished” UFO's, and beginning new projects. Delicious meals were prepared by Rebecca Scott.



The 2nd Annual Quilt Camp will be held the third week in September of 2015 on Wednesday-Saturday A.M. Come enjoy a time together with new and old quilting friends! There will be a creative theme to inspire, fun decorations, friendly staff, and a Bible-centered focus that points women to the Creator of our artistic abilities. There is also room for scrap-booking, knitting and crafts if you have an interest in those areas.

It is a low structured, yet organized retreat where one can devote lots of time to catch up on projects.

We hope you will join us as we experience the joy of sharing together and praising the Lord.

**Are you a Musician,
Dancer, Performer,
Soloist, Choir Member,
Instrumentalist?
WE NEED YOU!!**

**The American Baptist
Mission Summit/Biennial
Overland Park/Kansas City
June 26-28, 2015**

**Performers are invited to fill out an application found
on the ABC-USA website and send it in
as soon as possible.**

www.abc-usa.org

The application deadline is November 15, 2014.

CONGREGATIONS

Susan Sneddon Recognized at Terre Haute FBC

Susan Sneddon was recognized and presented with a gift during the morning worship on Sunday, August 24, on the occasion of her 20th anniversary as organist at Terre Haute FBC. A reception was held in her honor following the service.



Pictured are Susan and her husband, T.J., along with her mother Barbara Randall

Liberty BC Celebrates 160th Homecoming



A meal and wonderful time was had by all!

Petersburg & Washington Youth Hold Annual Retreat



Approximately 74 Petersburg FBC and Washington FBC youth recently held their annual Youth Retreat at Camp Illiana in Washington, IN. The theme for the weekend retreat was "All in for the All in All!" The youth partici-

pated in small groups, games, food, campfires, and worship led by Michael Cochren. The weekend event concluded with a message by Dr. Charles C. Baxter.

Mitchell FBC Celebrates 150th Anniversary



Mitchell FBC recently celebrated their 150 year anniversary. Former ministers Charles Newman, Steve Gorman, Phil Whigham, & Raymond Bunn participated in the worship hour. After an uplifting message by former pastor Tommy Fuller, everyone enjoyed a pitch-in lunch. A time of reflection, led by current pastor Reggie Clark, took place and members spoke of memories of Mitchell FBC. Letters from those who couldn't be present were read. Cake and punch were served to conclude the afternoon.

Mitchell FBC began in 1864. Grounds featured an outdoor baptismal pool, hitching posts, and a fence to keep out

straying livestock. Kerosene lamps were the source of light until electric lights were installed in 1898. The furnace which was installed in 1892 eventually caused the 2-story building to burn to the ground in 1901. Joint services were then held with the Presbyterian Church with each congregation conducting services alternate Sunday mornings. The red brick building in which Mitchell FBC worships in today was dedicated in 1903. Mitchell FBC is known throughout the area for their pipe organ, stained glass windows and their community involvement.

Columbus FBC Serves Through After School Program

This year, Columbus FBC is helping with an after school program that meets every other Wednesday, called I-Care and Caring Branches. The program is staffed by teachers, church staff, volunteers from Columbus FBC, adults and youth. When the participants come together, Associate Pastor, Dave Doles introduces the value for the day and explains what it means. Each value has a color and an animal associated with it. Through drama and videos, the meaning of the value is reinforced. After lots of fun, the children divide into small groups to talk about what they have learned. On the day pictured, the value being taught was courage. Dave spoke about bullying and the



courage it takes to tell someone or speak up and tell another person that bullying is wrong. On this particular day, several of the teachers dressed in costume and lip-synched YMCA. They displayed the courage to act silly in front of the students. The next time they meet, the children will make silver colored shields to help reinforce what having courage means.

CONGREGATIONS

Seymour FBC Updates

It has been a time of celebration at Seymour FBC! The 175th anniversary of being a church was celebrated with worship, fellowship, visitors, and activities for all. Several members dressed in the period of the 1830's. Quartets sang older tunes that were enjoyed. It was a good day for all.

In September, the annual Senior Banquet was held to acknowledge the work of the senior members in the church. Yvonne McGuire shared her chalk art ministry and spoke about her work with New Life International Ministries. This is a program that places water purifiers in third world countries.

On Sunday, October 5, Barbara Bolick was present at both services to share about their ministry in Chile.

Seymour FBC is in the process of compiling and printing a First Baptist Church recipe book. It will be a collection of church recipes and the profits will be used to further missions that the church sponsors. It should make for some good eating!

Several members of the church participated in the 1010 project in Seymour. This project uses \$10 from each participant to help people in need with funds and manpower. This is a highly beneficial program for the city of Seymour.

LEADERSHIP

John Campbell Ordained at Terre Haute FBC

John Campbell, associate pastor for youth & discipleship at Terre Haute FBC, was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sunday evening, October 5, 2014. John grew up at Terre Haute FBC and served for several years as part-time youth minister before joining the pastoral staff on a full-time basis in January of 2013. He is a graduate of Purdue University and Wesley Seminary. John is married to Becca and they are the parents of four year old Gavin.



John Campbell (C) pictured with Jim Walter and Rev. Soozie Ford

Steve Allen Named Pastor at Osgood FBC



Rev. Steve Allen was named pastor of the Osgood FBC in August of last year. He served as associate pastor since 2008. Steve served as children's and youth pastor of Aurora FBC from

1998 until 2008. He is married to Debby and they have two daughters, Olivia and Sophie. The family resides in Ripley County.

Steve and Debby both received their Master of Divinity degrees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY in 1992. Debby has been the chaplain of the Dearborn County Hospital since 1997.

Pastor Steve and Debby have settled in quite nicely with the Osgood congregation as they have known them for six years. God is blessing Osgood FBC through this loving, caring Christian couple.

MISSIONS

Unity BC Raises Support for Thailand Missionaries

Unity BC, located in Brown County, held their annual Men's Pie Auction on Sunday, September 28, 2014. The purpose of the event was to raise financial support for the Witmer family who recently arrived in Thailand to begin their missionary work. The Witmer's are from Avoca, IN located near Bedford. The event began with a spaghetti lunch, followed by the auction of numerous pies baked by many of the men of the church. As an additional incentive, several of the men offered themselves for a "pie in the face" including Pastor Lee Snider! The event raised over \$1,700.



Martinsville FBC Provides Help to Youth Through Backpack Outreach



Prior to the current school year, members of Martinsville FBC, helped over 50 youth with new backpacks and school supplies. This is the third year for this program. Pictures were taken that include the student and the person presenting them with their backpack. A copy of the picture is given both to the student and the presenter.

This serves as a reminder to the student who gave them the backpack. The person who gave each student a backpack will be able to pray for that student throughout the school year, as well as, send birthday, Christmas and thinking of you cards throughout the school year.

Barb Bolick Visits Columbus FBC

As part of World Mission Month, Columbus FBC was privileged to host Barbara Bolick on Friday, October 10, for lunch and a time of sharing. Dan Cash, senior pastor, announced that the mission team had voted to give all the money given for the WMO will go to the Bolicks for their ministry in Chile. The day concluded with a time of pray for the Bolick family.



MISSIONS

Bedford ABW Serve as Hands and Feet of Jesus

The ABW of Bedford recently spent time putting together care packages for Becky's Place and the Life Pantry located in Bedford. Pictured L-R are: June Lamb, Carolyn Earl, JoHanna Edwards, Jane Roberts and Bonnie Stalker.



Health and Hope in Hayden Reaches Community



On September 27, 2014, Hayden BC reached out to the community in an unprecedented way. The ministry of Health and Hope in Hayden provided a gospel presentation with prayer opportunities for salvation and healing. Additionally, attendees received dental exams, blood screenings, eye exams, flu vaccinations and two large bags of groceries. Local medical professionals volunteered time and expertise to

help the Hayden Baptist family with this outreach. Members of the church served as "companion missionaries" to those in attendance. Ninety six percent of the food distributed was received from church members. The event took three months of planning with the involvement and cooperation from twenty-two church members. The entire church participated with food donations, prayers and words of encouragement. Health and Hope in Hayden was a physical expression of Hayden BC's vision statement and an act of being faithful to the life and teachings of Christ. Mark Sorrels, pastor at Hayden said, "We want to be a blessing to the community. We want to get beyond ourselves and literally be the hands and feet of Jesus."

Mission Sunday at Madison FBC

On Sunday, October 12, Barb Bolick visited Madison FBC and spoke about the missionary work that she and her family are doing in Chile.

Carlo and Veroncia, members of our sister church in El Salvadoe, were also present that morning. Carlo is one of Madison FBC's scholarship recipients.

A special commissioning ceremony

was held during both services for 18 people leaving on a mission trip to Lynch, KY for the purpose of rebuilding a home for a couple who are in their 80's.

A special mission program was presented during a pitch-in lunch held by the Sister Church Team and the ABW.

Ft. Wayne BC - Friends of India

It will be a year this December since a mission team from Ft. Wayne BC went to New Delhi, India, to see the work that the New Delhi Community Church is doing in the slums there. After the mission trip, Ft. Wayne BC began a partnership with the New Delhi Community Church and through that partnership, God has greatly blessed the slum ministry which centers on education.

With a bird house building project last spring, the church raised enough money to build two school rooms in the slums, with a third room still under construction. The focus is now on providing uniforms for the children - a necessity in order to attend the school. In India, the uniform represents an opportunity for, and a commitment to education as the way out of poverty. The goal is to provide 100 school uniforms.

Children in India slum sing at site of new school rooms



Ft. Wayne BC has formed a Friends of India Mission group through which they provide monthly support for Pastor Angam and the New Delhi Community Church. They have plans for a newsletter to inform others of this ministry and offer an open invitation to anyone who might want to be a part of this important opportunity to help the children in the slums of New Delhi.

MISSION 2015

WHERE: NICARAGUA WHEN: JUNE 2015

If the Holy Spirit has been nudging you to participate in a foreign mission experience, please contact Rev. Dan Hopkins at 815-508-9700 or Rev. Mark Sorrels at 812-592-5198 for more details.

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 1 - CLI Classes - (Franklin College & Vincennes)
- 8 - CLI Classes - (Franklin & Vevay)
- 15 - CLI Classes (Vincennes)
- 17 - CORMS
- 18 - Region Staff Mtg.
- 22 - CLI Classes - (Vevay)

DECEMBER

- 6 - CLI Classes - (Vincennes)
- 24 - January 2, 2015 - Region Office Closed

The ABC-IN/KY staff would like to wish all of you a very blessed holiday season and a healthy & happy new year!

Retired Ministers and Spouses 25th Reunion

"Common Threads" was the theme of the 25th reunion of retired ABC ministers, missionaries and spouses now in Indiana hosted by Hoosier Village and the Baptist Homes of Indiana on September 11.

Approximately seventy persons attended to renew acquaintances, enjoy fellowship and inspiration.

Ray King and Bob Welling led the singing. Greetings were brought by Joan Frieson, executive minister, ABC/GI; Soozie Ford, executive minister, IN/KY region; and Gwynn Perlich, president of the Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board.

Speakers were Dr. Clare Luz, Geriatric Division, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University, and the Rev. Dr. Reid Trulson, Executive Director, International Ministries, ABC.



Gwynn Perlich



Dr. Clare Luz



Dr. Reid Trulson



Steve Jeffris

Steve Jeffris, guitarist, vocalist, and entertainer from Indianapolis provided special music.

The theme for September 10, 2015, will be "Choices." Dr. David Carlson of Franklin College, using as a basis for his presentation Flanner O'Connor's story "The Displaced Person", will speak on troubling questions raised by the current immigration crisis.

Senior Adults Gather for "Colors of Change"

"Colors of Change" was the theme as Anderson FBC hosted more than 150 for a day of food, fun, and fellowship on October 9 2014. After opening devotions led by Rev. Orland Gibbons, retired pastor of Mounds BC, everyone enjoyed some old time hymns played by an instrumental quartet which included Carl Erskine, long time Anderson FBC member and Baseball Hall of Fame member who pitched for the Dodgers. Special Indiana Baptist Camps reports were brought by



Rev. Orland Gibbons leads opening devotions

Tippicanoe Camp Director, Rebecca Scott, accompanied by her grandson, and Jordan Morris, Indian Creek Camp Director, along with his son. Rebecca invited everyone to the Camp Tippy New Dining Hall Dedication being held on November 22 at 2 p.m.

Jordan expressed his appreciation for everyone's prayers for their son, who was born with a heart defect, but is now healthy. All Seniors were excited to see these

two future campers playing together and also enjoying the day. Another morning treat was a slide show and talk by Steve Jackson, Madison County Historical Society representative. It is always interesting to learn new facts about the locations which are visited. After a delicious lunch prepared by the wonderful cooks of the church, Arthur Jaggard, pastor of Anderson FBC,

enlightened those in attendance about "Becoming Spiritually Mature." Two beautiful crock-pots holding some special items were provided by the BHI Senior Living, Inc. for complimentary attendance gifts. Many thanks to Pastor and Mrs. Jaggard, Ella Louise Peyton, Pastor of Senior Activities, and all the hard workers at Anderson FBC for a wonderful day.



Carl Erskine and Friends



**January/February 2015
Observer Article
Submission Deadline
December 5, 2014**

**The next Senior Adult Day will be held on
April 9, 2015, at the Avoca BC.
Mark your calendars and plan to attend
the spring gathering!**



Indiana Baptist Convention
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY
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BHI Mission Trip Supported by BHI Foundation, Inc.

Submitted by: Phyllis Hawkins, Chaplain, Four Seasons



BHI Mission Team



***Mary Garten and Oakdale friends -
Mary is a member of Columbus FBC***

On September 15-19, 2014, sixteen residents and staff from the BHI Senior Living communities, Four Seasons, Hoosier Village, and the Towne House, enjoyed a five-day mission experience, traveling to Oakdale Christian Academy, Jackson, KY. The volunteers supported the ongoing ministries founded in 1921, first offering education for the children and youth in rural Appalachia coal country. Now the academy for grades 7-12 offers college-prep courses and a safe haven for students challenged by the traditional public school setting, with enrollment from 17 states and 8 countries.

Senior team members, ranging in age from 67 – 90, clipped box tops/soup labels; cleaned the church sanctuary, kitchen cabinets, and dining hall; mended clothes; painted; dismantled electronics for recycling; weeded flowerbeds and did general landscaping. They shared their knowledge and appreciation for literature, poetry, textiles, and the arts. BHI residents shared life testimonials and Chaplain Doug Vogel, The Towne House, provided the weekly chapel message. An afternoon with Oakdale students at the Natural Bridge State Park was a closing highlight.