



The Baptist Observer Magazine

HIGHLIGHTING THE MINISTRIES OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN INDIANA & KENTUCKY

www.abc-indiana.org

BECKY SEPTOSKI, EDITOR • VOL. 15 NO. 3 • JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2105

Group Travels to Chile

On April 26 through May 8, 2015, Lee Riggs led a group of ten people from 4 states on a mission trip to Chile, where they spent time with missionaries, Dwight and Barb Bolick.

Barb has taught women ways to market wool they process, and the items they knit from the processed wool. Dwight has begun a successful beekeeping ministry with the Mapuche Indians. The Richmonds, from Columbus FBC, visited the water retention project that Dwight has recently started. These projects promote economic independence and personal dignity among Mapuche Indians.

Those on the trip had the opportunity to see how Chilean Baptists have improved housing conditions in Tubal when hundreds became homeless after the 2010 tsunami. The group visited the school in Temuco, where Barb is partnering to create a curriculum for moral and spiritual growth based on lessons from the girls' clubs program. Two pastors shared their vision regarding reaching inner city youth by utilizing a Baptist camp in the mountains south of Santiago.

To learn more about the Bolick's ministry and how you can support them and their mission in Chile, go to <https://www.internationalministries.org/people>.



Dwight Bolick and one of the "Beekeepers"



Worshipping at the Mapuche church



Barb Bolick pictured with some of the "knitters"



Barb sharing with the girls

“I am about to do a new thing...can you perceive it?” **Isaiah 43:19**

Sometimes, we just ask the wrong questions. A mom discovers her young daughter allowed a cow to come into an enclosed back porch during a cold winter day (YouTube: “Oops, I Let the Cow In”) and asks, “Do you want to tell me how she got in...?” A dad discovers his two sons covered, head to toe, in paint (YouTube: “Little Brothers with Painted Faces”) and asks, “Whose idea was this?” The parents’ questions are intended to invite the opportunity for the children to take responsibility for their actions, confess their misdeeds and, of course, to learn a lesson. The kids instead deny their role, deflecting the parental questions in order to provide their own plausible account of HOW THIS HAPPENED.

Consultants and commentators of all stripes offer their own spin on the incredible, rapid and accelerating change occurring in all facets of the world, impacting our experience no matter where we reside. Certainly, you have noticed the changes taking place and have felt the impact in every corner of your own experience – home, recreation, community, and market, school, work and church. Some of the change is welcome. We can buy produce at the local grocery or farmer’s market even in seasons when we are unable or unwilling to grow our own. We enjoy having news and media streamed directly to us on a multitude of screens, from wall mounted to handheld, no matter the day or the hour. Magnified and multiplied by global communication and social media, new migration patterns and immigration policies, we realize that each new advance or cultural shift results in sometimes completely unanticipated results and consequences.

No change happens in a vacuum. Faithful, seasoned and well-intentioned church leaders have been experiencing the effects of societal change for years, along with the related impact on church life. Often lamenting the decline in program and worship attendance, financial contributions, and overall commitment to one’s faith community and personal discipleship, assistance is sought from region staff, online resources, nationally known speakers at well-produced large-scale events, or the latest book or idea. The assumption is that if the cause, or causes, of HOW THIS HAPPENED can be identified, providing just the right ____ (fill in the blank: pastor, worship style, location, program emphasis, cool factor, etc.) will cause the trend to be reversed. The same thought process is often used at the region level. If we could simply understand the factors that have impacted regional ministry and resources, we would understand HOW THIS HAPPENED and take action to fix it.

When Jesus healed the man with congenital blindness, the disciples asked, “Who sinned...this man or his parents?” (John 9) Stuck in a cultural belief system that required someone to be responsible for misfortune, their reality allowed only two possible outcomes – obviously the responsibility for HOW THIS HAPPENED resided with either the man or his parents. Soon the Pharisees were denigrating Jesus (“clearly this man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath,” 9:16) as they inquired of the newly sighted man HOW THIS HAPPENED, and on the Sabbath, no less.

Sometimes, we just ask the wrong questions...out of habit, or because the words are so quickly formed that we immediately head towards a predictable path of response. Asking HOW THIS

HAPPENED can be helpful indeed, especially when little boys are covered in paint or cows appear indoors; but, at other times, asking the wrong questions may cause us to miss an opportunity. How might have the ninth chapter of John ended differently, if the disciples or the Pharisees paused to celebrate the man’s healing and then asked and discerned, “What is God doing here?” and “How can I be involved?”

Our region board recently decided to enter into a season of discernment, based on God’s promise and question in Isaiah: “I am doing a new thing...can you perceive it? (43:19, *paraphrased*). Keenly aware that we are likely entering a period of incredible opportunity, these wise leaders want to pause, taking intentional time to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit for our region at this time and in this place. We will be asking “What is God doing with, for, and through ABC Indiana/Kentucky?” “What is being asked of us?” “What do we need to set aside, do differently, better, or less/more of, in order to join God in this new thing?”

This season will be entitled, **“Together on God’s Abundant Journey: Discerning New Paths,”** and you are invited to participate in the process. Between mid-July through mid-November, you will have the opportunity to respond to a series of questions in one-on-one (or group) conversation, online or in print form. Between the holidays (2015) and early spring months (2016), the responses will be examined, sorted and sifted to see what patterns may be emerging. In the spring of 2016, the board will engage a facilitator to further assist in the discernment process, most likely in a retreat setting. Together, we trust that this process will help us become more attuned to that which God is calling our region, and be able to identify the initial steps



Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford
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necessary to move in that direction. The remaining spring and summer months (2016) will be a time to begin implementation and communication, culminating with a celebration at the regional biennial gathering in October. And then, the real work for this new season of ministry will begin!

When invited, I hope you will participate by responding to questions and conversations offering your own wisdom, experience and thoughts. Just as importantly, I hope you will join us in prayer as we seek to discern, perceive and see what God is doing and that we will have the courage to join in God’s activity. As American Baptists in Indiana and Kentucky, we have an amazing history and heritage, abundant resources and, even still, incredible opportunities. Please join us as we are **Together on God’s Abundant Journey: Discerning New Paths.**



American Baptist
Women's
 MINISTRIES

I Stand Amazed!

By: Cynthia Leffel, Treasurer of ABW Indiana

The ladies across the state of Indiana continue to take the American Baptist Women's Ministries theme to heart. It truly is "STILL, A Time to Serve", and the women continue to serve faithfully thru their donations. I continually receive contributions to the State Project, Scholarship fund, Ella Mae Tomlinson Memorial fund (for the benefit of young girls), State operating fund, National support, Leadership,

Refit and others in the mail.

I have been aware of the many, many hours spent doing endless tasks in support of ABWM. I am just now learning of the monetary gifts that are given for the purpose of furthering God's work and plan.

My hat is off to those who love, give and then, continue to give even more. Who can know the number of lives that have been touched and the blessings received by both the recipients and the contributors?

Women's Day
October 10, 2015
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Anderson FBC

"Keys for Communicating"

The 2015 Women's Day promises to be an event filled with wonderful workshops, a delightful missionary speaker, delicious food and a special time of fellowship. A brochure that includes details and a registration form are available on the region website at: www.abc-indiana.org

**Mark your calendars
 and register today!!**

**Deadline for submission
 of articles for the
 Oct/Nov/Dec issue
 of the Observer
 is September 11, 2015**

Mission & Service

By: Linda Hardin

Hello, my name is Linda Hardin and I am the new Mission and Service contact for the ABW of Indiana. The following is a list of ways and ideas to get involved with, and learn more about Mission and Service.

1. Get everyone involved.

Knowing about the ministries of the Special Interest Missionaries (SIM) enables pastors, adults, youth and children to get involved.

2. Keep up to date. Biographical information and journals or newsletters from the Special Interest Missionaries can be found on the web at:

www.abhms.org - American Baptist Home Mission Societies missionaries serve in the United States and Puerto Rico.

www.internationalministries.org - International Ministries missionaries serve in countries around the world.

One may subscribe to receive journals and newsletters via e-mail. Visit the above Websites or call 800-222-3872 ext. 2449 for American Baptist Home Mission Societies or ext. 2208 for International Ministries.

3. Read. Learn about the challenges, successes, and concerns that missionaries face. Journals and newsletters are excellent sources for sermon ideas, children's stories, devotional topics, moments for Mission, Bible studies and small group discussions.

4. Write. Everyone loves to get mail, especially missionary kids. Send an e-mail or mail a birthday or holiday card. Please understand missionaries always welcome correspondence, but are not always able to send a personal response. Please note: All correspondence should be sent DIRECTLY to the missionary. For security reasons, please call International Ministries to confirm addresses for International Ministries Missionaries. To send mail overseas, check with your U.S. Post Office for current postal rates.

5. Pray. Prayer is the most important way to support the SIM. Put them on church prayer lists.

6. Projects. SIMs may have a mission service project that could use help or support. For a current list of ideas, request a copy of the American Baptist Mission Service Project book by calling 1-800-4-JUDSON. This resource is free.

PLEASE DO NOT POST ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION (SUCH AS ADDRESSES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, etc.) ABOUT MISSIONARIES ON YOUR WEBSITE OR PUBLIC PLACES.

7. Glifts. For Missionaries living overseas, check first to see what is allowed through customs and if missionaries have to pay to receive packages. We just learned that Ngunze and Kihomi in Haiti have to pay a terrific tariff bill. Please DO NOT SEND EYE GLASSES OR PILL BOTTLES TO HAITI.

8. Financial Support. Include ongoing financial support for Special Interest Missionaries in the church annual budget. This should be noted on the Monthly Report of Mission Support that is sent to the Region Office. Please call 800-222-3872 ext. 2311 to learn how to provide the ongoing support necessary for each missionary.

Heavenly Father, we pray each Missionary's needs are met, so they can do Your work in the United States and overseas. Use the local churches of Indiana & Kentucky to make it possible for them to be a witness for You. Guide us and give us the desire to want to support our missionaries, and continually pray for them. Lord, it is awesome they give so much to reach people and guide them to a saving personal relationship with You. Bless each missionary and their family as they witness for You. In Your Holy Name. Amen.

Linda D. Hardin e-mail: lindahardin8828@gmail.com
 812-883-2964.



Cedric C. "Ced" Cox
2/26/1934 - 4/25/2015

Beloved former region staff member, Ced Cox, passed from this life into the loving arms of Jesus on April 25, 2015. He served in various ministries in the ABC-IN/KY region, as well as, in the national capacity. He was appreciated for his creative ideas, caring attitude, being a good listener and his leadership skills. Ced will be missed by all who were privileged to work with and know him.

LEADERSHIP

Carol Weaver Ordained at Miami BC



During the Sunday morning worship service on March 8, 2015, in response to a unanimous vote of the church, Carol Weaver was ordained to the gospel ministry and installed as Associate Pastor of Miami Baptist Church in Logansport. Carol's father, Bill Morris, is a minister in Clarksville, Tennessee, and her parents participated in the service. Her late husband, Chuck Sikler, was also a pastor, and Carol has served at Miami BC since his death in 2003. She is a graduate of

Union University in Jackson, Tennessee and she received her Diploma of Pastoral Studies through the ABC IN/KY Church Leadership Institute at Franklin College in September of 2014. Carol is married to John, and they have three grown children and five grandchildren. The Miami BC family not only received spiritual food, but also shared physical food with friends and loved ones on that day.

MISSIONS

Ladies of New Liberty Bring Hope to King's Cross School in Gal Gal, Haiti

The Ladies of New Liberty BC, located in East Enterprise, donated money to *You Have a Choice Ministries* to purchase shoes for some of the students at King's Cross School.

King's Cross is a Christian school that serves the rural community of Gal Gal, Haiti. It educates and ministers to 180 students ranging in age from 4 to 19 from kindergarten thru the sixth grade.

Pictured at right are students from the King's Cross School with their new shoes.



Members of Columbus FBC Plan Mission Trip to Chile in December of 2015

In the month of December 2015, folks from Columbus FBC are planning a mission trip to Chile. The group is holding several fund raisers in hopes to raise a total of \$10,000 to help with the cost of the trip. Some of the events that have already been held were a pancake breakfast, a rummage and bake sale, along with local restaurants getting involved by donating a percentage of each check when accompanied by a flyer about the



Members of the mission team prepare for the pancake breakfast.

mission trip. These events not only raise money for the group that will be traveling to Chile, they also raise awareness of the trip itself.

Scott Murphy and Family Begin Ministry at Memorial BC, Columbus

After 30 months of praying and patiently waiting for God to send a pastor, Memorial BC in Columbus, IN is excited to welcome Senior Pastor, Scott Murphy and his family to the church family. Pastor Scott officially began his ministry on June 1st. He has already been very active behind the scenes over the last few weeks learning about Memorial's history, submitting a website upgrade proposal, meeting several of the Memorial families, along with numerous activities that are helping to prepare him for the exciting ministry that God has planned for Memorial BC.



CONGREGATIONS

A Unique Approach to the Easter Story

In the weeks leading up to Easter, children at Avoca BC worked in small groups led by youth leaders and adults to present the story of Easter using Legos. Each group came up with their own Lego design and presentation for Easter Sunday. Groups were comprised of ABC kids and new friends from the Courts for Christ basketball program. Each child invited friends and family to the Easter Service and presented the Easter story to a packed house. It was a wonderful and creative way to celebrate!

Pictured here is just one of the many creative Lego displays



Music Ministry at Columbus FBC Presents Musical on Mother's Day



On Sunday May 10, (Mother's Day) Joyce Crowder and the music ministry of Columbus FBC presented the musical "The Sailor's Bible."

It is a musical with three stories that involve water.

The first is the story of Noah, the second, Jonah and the third one is Paul's shipwreck on the way to Rome. Both pastors, Dan Cash and Dave Doles, participated in the musical with the children and youth.

As a result of having been a part of this very lovely musical, the young people who participated will remember these Bible characters and their place in God's Word.

The Laughery Association Brotherhood Awards Scholarships at Annual Meeting at Versailles BC on June 1, 2015.

Recipients are pictured here:

*Front Row left to right:
Haley Schmalts - Versailles,
Anna Goodpastor -
Tanglewood, Faith Lafary -
Versailles*

*Back Row left to right:
Ramone Humphrey - Shiloh,
Clay Lewis - Osgood, John
Kittle - Aurora*



Amo FBC to Celebrate 150th Anniversary in 2016

God continues to use and bless the First Baptist Church of Amo. In 2016, Amo FBC will be celebrating 150 years of ministry. The Celebration Team has been working diligently on events for the celebration since last year. If you would

like to be added to the mailing list to keep informed of upcoming plans and events, please e-mail Becky Rhea at rarhea23@gmail.com. Amo FBC would love to have you join them at their services on September 16, 17 and 18 in 2016.

News from Richmond FBC

WANTED! Tired Ministers, Missionaries, Christian leaders and their families, in search of a place to stay when traveling or looking for a quiet get-away. Richmond FBC has an apartment titled, "Servant's Quarters". It is located on the church grounds and those who

want to get away for some time of rest and quality time with God are welcome. Richmond offers many points of interest in the area, such as antique stores, historic sites and many fine restaurants. For more information, please call the church office at 765-962-3074.

Healthy Boundaries Saturday, August 29 Franklin College

Healthy Boundaries Fundamentals (Level 1) is an introduction to the concepts of boundaries in pastoral and teaching relationships. Understanding boundaries can help ministry leaders manage the difficulties inherent in the role of clergy or spiritual leader. Knowledge of what is appropriate, what is not, and whether an action is in the best interest of congregants or students can help clergy leaders avoid possible boundary violations. This seminar lasts from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with lunch.

Completion of Healthy Boundaries 1 is required for ordination candidates and CLI students before graduation. It is also a requirement to take this training seminar prior to taking Healthy Boundaries 2.

You can register for this training seminar by going to <http://abc-indiana.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/HB-1-AUGUST-29-2015.pdf>

Who is Training Your Church Leaders?

A common complaint heard in many churches is that their volunteers and leaders need training. Many lay people serving in our churches would like training for the ministry roles they are doing, but

churches often find it difficult to add such training to their other ministries. Your ABC Region ministry is here to help through our Church Leadership Institute! We want to be your church's training partner. Send us your current

and future leaders, and allow us to provide the training they need to be more effective leaders in your churches.

Classes are held at various sites in the Region to make CLI as accessible as possible. Tuition costs are kept very

low, especially for the quality of training we provide, and some scholarship assistance is available. For more information or to register for an upcoming course, contact Jennifer Greene at 317-635-3552 X221 or go to our website at www.abc-indiana.org.



A Brief Look at Some of the Faces Coming Later This Summer and Fall

Peru, IN - FBC

Rev. Bruce Cochran will lead students through an overview of the Old Testament this summer and the New Testament this fall. Join the journey! Register for the Summer by July 3rd and the Fall by September 25th.



Westport, IN - Westport BC Outreach Center

This fall, Rev. David Jones with his Master of Divinity that focused on "Christian Education" will make those two words more relevant than ever before in the minds of those choosing to participate in his class. Don't miss it!



Franklin, IN - Franklin, College

Rev. Dr. Jim Walter will help students discover skills and methods that enable them to become effective in teaching the Bible in their churches. Come and learn how to be a better teacher!

Westport, IN - Westport BC Outreach Center

Rev. Rick Kassel will bring American Baptist History alive in the classroom as he guides students in examining the early beginnings of Baptist life and thought, and also trace the influence of these early beginnings on American Baptist life today.

**This class also serves as ABC polity for individuals seeking ABC ordination.*



Franklin, IN - Franklin, College

Rev. Dr. Dennis Bickers will focus on providing those in ministry some practical ways to maintain balance in their personal, professional and family lives. Come to be encouraged and refreshed!



Vevay, IN - Switzerland County Technology & Education Center

We anticipate and hope, Rev. Dr. Don Scott will coordinate the journey through learning about American Baptist Mission, Evangelism and Stewardship this fall. No matter the topic of the day, students can always depend on the generous hospitality of Jay & Mary Ellen Baker. Whether it's through the breakfast food often delivered or their efforts in coordinating the lunch hospitality of multiple churches in the area (if they aren't providing it themselves), they truly live out hospitality!



Vincennes, IN - FBC

Rev. Marsha Bishop will guide students in exploring & developing ways that will nurture their lifelong relationship with God. Students will be equipped to touch the lives of others through sharing what they have learned by leading a similar experience in their own church.



CAMP NEWS

INDIAN CREEK - FAMILY CAMP

June 26-28

Friday 3pm - Sunday 11am

\$12 per person/night

Kids under 5 are free

See the Indian Creek website for meal prices

Come enjoy the full camp experience with your family!!

Indian Creek Baptist Camp - 812-279-2161

www.campindiancreek.com

CAMP TIPPY - RETREATS

Men in the Outdoors

August 7-9

Young At Heart

October 20-22

Camp Tippy: 574-834-4184

www.camptippy.org

Senior Adult Day - Avoca BC

On April 9, 2015, over 180 American Baptist Senior Adults made their way through the beautiful hills of southern Indiana among the blooming dogwood and magnolia trees to Avoca BC. A fun and refreshing day with the theme "Peace and Rest" was achieved with music, programming, fellowship and plenty of good food.

Approximately 30 members of the church, working with Libby Wilcox as Chairperson, did a fantastic job of planning and organizing the day. After congregational singing lead by Steve May and Tammy Wilkinson, an uplifting devotion was given by Pastor Steve Wilkinson based on Romans 5. All enjoyed special music by Kirby Stailey who took the day off from his full-time job as



Kirby Stailey leads in a time of worship

an Indiana State Patrolman. Kirby lead in some hand clapping old hymns, as well as, singing some of his own meaningful creations.

The guest speaker for the morning was Lori Roberts, who portrayed in costume, the life of Anna Jackson, wife of General Stonewall

Jackson. Lori has researched Anna Jackson and portrayed her since 2009. After a plentiful lunch and additional music by Mr. Stailey, Doris Richardson related her experiences about her time in Washington D.C. on that fateful day of September 11, 2001. After hearing about the ABC-IN/KY Baptist camps from Jordan Morris, the afternoon closed with drawings for gifts given by BHI Senior Living and a special drawing for a beautiful quilt made especially

for the day by the Avoca Quilting Club. The happy recipients were Tim and Brittany Stonecripher from Lebanon FBC who had only been married one week. The next Indiana/Kentucky Senior Adult Day will be held on October 8, 2015 at Richmond FBC. If your church would be interested in hosting a Senior Adult Day in the future or just has questions, please contact Janet Sillery, chairperson, at 765-942-2867.



Ministers Spouses Retreat



Front Row (Left to Right); Grace Flynn, Margo Long, Janet Jackson, Jody Burks and Connie Tingle. Back Row (Left to Right): Janet Nichols, Roxie Hobbs, Connie Cochran and Ann Britton.

The Ministers' Spouses enjoyed the State-wide Retreat held in April at Indian Creek Baptist Camp. Pastor Jody Burk led those in attendance in, "What it Takes to Have a Healthy Church." The group worshipped, relaxed, renewed

friendships, exercised, and enjoyed Jordan's delicious meals. Next year's retreat, "The Chocolate Café", will be held on April 22-24 at ICBC again. For more information, contact Janet Nichols at: nichols-janet@sbcglobal.net.

The prayer of ordination offered by Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford for Rev. Marsha Bishop, executive pastor of Vincennes First Baptist Church, on May 3, 2015 .





Indiana Baptist Convention
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY
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COMING EVENTS

JULY

- 9 - MEF
- 11 - CLI - Peru & Franklin
- 18 - CLI - Vincennes
- 25 - CLI - Peru

AUGUST

- 1 - CLI - Franklin & Westport
- 8 - CLI - Peru
- 11 - Region Staff Mtg.
- 15 - CLI - Franklin & Westport
- 22 - CLI - Franklin (C107) & Peru
- 27 - Personnel Committee Mtg.
- 29 - Healthy Boundaries - Franklin College
- 29 - CLI - Franklin (C205) & Westport

SEPTEMBER

- 4 - Finance Committee Mtg.
- 11 - Region Board Mtg.
- 12 - CLI - Vincennes
- 15 - Region Staff Mtg.
- 19 - CLI - Westport
- 22 - Ministers Council Fall Retreat
- 28 - CORMS