

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 & JEFF TRYON, EDITORS - VOL. 17 NO. 2 - APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2017

Building the Body of Christ Intergenerationally

Could your church become a church where all generations interact regularly and grow together in their faith?

"Beginning the Intergenerational Journey", an interactive workshop coming up in April, will explore how churches can think and plan intergenerationally.

"Church is the one organization where all different age groups come to the same place at the same time for the same purpose, and then we turn around and segregate them out by age groups," said Phyllis Goodyear, ABC IN/KY region minister. She will lead the four-hour workshop along with Jan Goodyear, church leadership strategist for ABC-GI.

The goal is to help churches begin to look at their whole church as the body of Christ, where all parts of the body are equally important and have something to contribute to the life of the church.

In order to accomplish that, different generations within the church need to be able to relate to one another in meaningful ways.

Both older and younger generations have things to learn from one another about faith. The issue is more complex than just "older generation", "younger generation", because with people living longer and other changes occurring in society, generations are much more narrowly segmented. It is not unusual for four or more generations to be part of a single congregation.

There are a lot of differences between the different generational cohorts and one goal is to learn how the generations can begin to learn to talk to one another about relationships, about community and being together as the body of Christ.

Many churches think they've got to get young people in because they are the future of our church, but

sometimes in doing things to attract young people they are leaving the older people behind.

The Intergenerational Journey program demonstrates that the church is a place for everybody and they're all equally valued. It's not just about getting young people in, it's also about equally valuing the older people of the congregation who have been part of it, helping them to also have an active role in the life of the church.

Goodyear said the workshop is not just another new program for your church to try; the idea is to encourage churches to look at what they are currently doing and how that could be adapted to be more inter-generational.

Attendees will do some brainstorming about activities in their own churches and how they can make those more intergenerational, so they will come away with some

ideas from their own church's programs they've already started working on.

Attendees will leave with hands-on resources and ready-made activities that can be used immediately or explored further.

Churches should plan to bring a group, if possible, including individuals from multiple generations, ages 18 and above.

The workshop/seminar is scheduled for Saturday, April 22 at Franklin College from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The registration deadline is April 7. Registration information is available on the front page of the region website: www.abc-indiana.org.

The workshop is sponsored by the American Baptist Churches of Indiana & Kentucky and Greater Indianapolis, and is made possible by your church's giving to Region Ministry through United Mission and Region offerings.



ABCUSA 2017 Biennial Mission Summit
Portland, OR: June 30 - July 2
To register go to: www.abc-usa.org,
click on the Mission Summit logo
found in the right hand column





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

News & "Notes"

My early attempts learning to play the violin as a young elementary school student were probably what you would expect – a lot of sawing and squawking across the strings; a real desire to play something recognizable; and a general unwillingness to dedicate myself to practice enough to make that happen.

One had to learn the fundamentals, positioning and holding the instrument correctly, mastering bow technique while learning to draw it musically across the strings, not to mention the challenge of reading music for the first time. I was an impatient violin student as I was required to play millions of whole, half, and quarter notes, all on open strings, for months on end. Sooner than I had imagined possible however, I progressed to fingering and positions I, II, III, and IV, and beyond. The music flowed through the years from "Twinkle, Twinkle" to sonatas and concertos in ways that I barely remember.

Perhaps the most difficult lesson of all was learning to tune the violin, beginning with the "A" string. To hear that clear tone, often from a piano, and then to tune the instrument to match it flawlessly,

was imperative. No matter the skill of the violinist, an out of tune instrument only produces jarring, discordant notes.

While it is my deep desire to "tune my heart to sing [God's] grace," Lent invites me into a season of deeper preparation and practice as I revisit the biblical accounts of Jesus' journey to the cross, the tomb, and beyond, to the resurrection. My prayer is that the dissonant habits of my heart will, with continual practice, emerge into a clear and authentic symphony of God's love and grace.



Expanding Mission Church Grants Awarded

Congratulations to these four churches who were each recently awarded Expanding Mission Church Grants between \$500 and \$1000:

- ◆ Rushville FBC – for "The Filling Station," a safe place for teens to gather on weekend evenings, providing snacks, activities, and tutoring;
- ◆ Kimberlin Creek – for providing school supplies to area schools;
- ◆ Bethel Baptist in Columbus – for a community block party; and
- ◆ Fort Wayne Baptist – for parenting workshops, snacks, and childcare for those applying for food vouchers to the community food pantry.

The Expanding Mission Church Grants are made available each year and made possible by 10% of your gifts to the Region Offering. Information for the 2018 cycle will be available by early September. For more information, please speak with an IN/KY staff member. The EMCG is a ministry of the IN/KY board of directors.



Several upcoming events can be helpful to your church's ministry and mission efforts. On Saturday, April 22nd, a workshop on Intergenerational Ministry will be

available. Please see the related article on the front page of this issue. Additionally, two of the six planned Poverty Simulation events are scheduled for April: hosted by Kimberlin Creek on April 23rd, and on April 29th in Muncie. See the related announcement on page 3 of this issue. Additional dates and locations will be announced soon.

MINISTRY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

IN/KY is pleased to announce a position opening for a Region Minister to serve in southern Indiana and Kentucky. The position announcement is included in recent e-news ("Observations"), and can be found at the ABC-IN/KY website (abc-indiana.org) on the main page, on the IN/KY Facebook page, or can be requested by contacting a staff member.

The Search Team is composed of three pastors from southern Indiana: Dr. Darrell James (Culbertson, New Albany); Rev. Steve Allen (Osgood FBC); and Rev. Marsha Bishop (Bicknell FBC). Working with Executive Minister Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford, they look forward to discerning who God has been preparing to serve among us. If you are interested in being considered for this position, the search team welcomes your application. If you know of someone who possesses the gifts, skills, and experience for this position, please urge them to apply and feel free to pass on the position information to them. The deadline for application is April 25th. Your prayer support is coveted for this search and discernment process.



ABC IN/KY is well served by a board of directors and several standing committees. These leaders bring tremendous gifts and experience to the role of shaping IN/KY's ministry for our identified priorities of equipping leaders, empowering churches, and

expanding mission. Following the recent "Discerning New Pathways" process, three new pathways have been identified to enhance the priorities: Networking, Asset Mapping, and NextGen Leaders. These are the people serving you on the board and standing committees, along with their church membership:

Wade Allen, region president (Muncie FBC)
Archie Patterson, vice president (Gary FBC)
Lee Brown, secretary (Bedford FBC)
Josh Carney, treasurer
Rebecca Rhea (Amo FBC)
Connie McCoy (Little Union, Bloomington)
Mark Thompson (Brazil FBC)
Melanie Zeiner (Plainfield FBC)
Steve Allen (Osgood FBC)
Jim Spon (Richmond FBC)
Darrell James (Culbertson, New Albany)

Finance Committee:

Josh Carney, chairperson
Becky Burch (Madison FBC)
Kent Waggoner (Seymour FBC)
David Carroll (Vienna FBC, Scottsburg)

Personnel Committee:

Darrell James, chairperson (Culbertson, New Albany)
Marsha Bishop (Bicknell FBC)
Dan Cash (Columbus FBC)
Joe Wiley (Warren FBC)
Barb Reif (Federated, West Lafayette)

Volunteer Mobilization Ministries (through ABHMS) facilitates individual volunteer missionary appointments, summer service opportunities, group mission experiences, specialized service projects, and disaster response.

To find out more go to:
abhms.org/ministries/healing-communities/volunteer-ministries/

Do you know how to
live without a checkbook?
No Food, no money,
3 children - what do you do?

Take 3 hours to experience how 37 million
Americans live - in a
POVERTY SIMULATION

**Kimberlin Creek
Baptist Church**

4766 E State Road 356
Scottsburg, IN 47170

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017
Simulation: 2:00 - 5:00pm
Dinner: 5:00pm
Poverty 101 Workshop:
5:30 - 7:00pm

To register via email:
jene.bridgewater@gmail.com
or call 812-752-6365

**Second Harvest
Food Bank**

6621 N Old State Road 3
Muncie, IN 47303

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017
Simulation and Poverty 101
Workshop:
9:00am - 1:00pm
Lunch provided

To register via email:
circles@curehunger.org
or call 765-287-8698 X119

These events are free thanks to a generous grant from
the Palmer Foundation. Space is limited! Register now!

**AB Ministers Wives
of IN/KY Retreat**

April 21-23, 2017

Retreat Leader: Rhonda Compise
Theme: "The Fragrance of Christ"

Retreat Highlights:

**NO COST, Prayer, Devotions, Bible study, Music, Make new friends,
Unwind and relax, Get refreshed in the Holy Spirit to return
and serve others, Fellowship, Healthy food**

RSVP by April 15, 2017

To register, go to the region website: www.abc-indiana.org
Click on the link found on the main page.

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

ABW Summer Conference
"See...The Needs"
June 2-4, 2017
Franklin College

AB Girls Gathering
June 2-4, 2017
Franklin College

For more details and to register for both of these exciting
events, go to the region website: www.abc-indiana.org
and click on the links provided on the main page.

CAMP NEWS

**Convenient online registration
and payment for your campers
is now available!!**

Online registration:

<http://abcin.campmanagement.com/enroll>

Indian Creek News

Day of Service and Prayer
Saturday, April 29
9:00am - 5:00pm

Take this time join and serve as
Indian Creek prepares for the
2017 summer camp season.
Go to the Indian Creek website
to register:
campindiancreek.com
scroll down and click on the "Day
of Service and Prayer" block.

Camp Tippy News

**Work days every Saturday
in May**

If you would like to come to the
camp during the week to help
prepare for the summer season,
please give Rebecca a call at:
574-834-4184

Tippy is in need of summer staff.
*Call the number above to talk
with Rebecca about
those needs.*

Equipping Leaders

Planning for the Next Generation of Leaders

ABC-IN/KY is developing a new working relationship with Northern Seminary to assist with the implementation of Next Generation of Leaders (NextGen Leaders), one of three new pathways that grew out of IN/KY's recent Discerning New Pathways process: Networking, Asset Mapping, and NextGen Leaders.

Dr. Wade Allen, senior pastor of Muncie FBC, said there is a shortage of new leaders, especially younger ones, available for pastoral and other church leadership positions. According to Sam Ranier, North American churches are not prepared to replace Baby Boomer pastors (currently between the ages of 53 and 71) as they retire, and only 1 in 7 pastors leading congregations are under the age of 40. Further, Ranier is convinced that established churches will struggle to find a pastor for the next generation. (See *"Why Would A Millennial Want to Pastor an Established Church?"* at www.samranier.com)

In a January meeting, IN/KY leaders met with Northern Seminary officials to explore the possibilities of linking IN/KY churches with students enrolled in two degree programs designed to prepare seminarians for leadership roles in churches. Students would pursue one of the two degrees through "Northern Live" (www.seminary.edu/live) while serving an IN/KY church in a pastoral role or other staff position. They would participate in classroom work through Northern Live while living and serving locally, traveling to Northern only as required by their degree program.

"ABC Indiana/Kentucky and Northern Seminary have enjoyed a strong and mutually supportive relationship through the years and this potential venture is

yet another way that we can each build upon our strengths to prepare pastors and churches for the future," said Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford, executive minister.

Both groups will be pursuing grant monies to fund this initiative, which has yet to be named. In a recent meeting, the IN/KY board approved pursuing the initiative with Northern, and identified start-up funds that could be used in addition to a potential grant. "One of the desired outcomes is that the student would complete the academic degree with little or no debt," said Rev. Ford.

IN/KY staff will be working to identify churches that might host students and welcomes inquiries from any congregation, no matter the size or location. Students would work in some capacity with the church while attending seminary classes, and would participate in an intentional mentoring process designed for this initiative. "Our goal is to begin to mentor these students in our churches while they are still in seminary with the hope of connecting them with American Baptist life and helping to equip them for ministry," Dr. Allen said.

While many details are yet to be determined, Allen said he hopes that many of the necessary pieces, including a written covenant between Northern Seminary and IN/KY, will be in place by the fall of 2017.

IN/KY churches who are interested in serving as hosts for this initiative are encouraged to speak with an IN/KY staff member. Pastors or leaders who are considering the pursuit of a seminary degree through Northern are encouraged to speak with seminary officials about their hopes and plans, and indicate that they are part of an ABC-IN/KY congregation.

The church leadership team asked Ron Hamrick to serve as an interim pastor two years ago. During that time, Hamrick preached, visited the congregation, and led them through a journey of transition and relocation.

Rev. Soozie Ford joined the congregation Sunday, February 26 for the

installation service. She read from Isaiah 61, "The Lord has anointed me to bring good news". Rev. Hamrick is leading the church to send out good news in their community and in their ABC Mission offerings.

Ron's wife Fan, their son Samuel, daughter, Gwendolyn and her son,

New Pastor at AB East

The celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas is a source of great joy, and Rev. Frank Coleman had reasons to rejoice this past December as well.

Not only did his wife, Leigha, give birth to the couple's second child, he was also named the new senior pastor at American Baptist East in Evansville, IN.

Coleman, a 31-year-old graduate of Pike Central High School in Petersburg, IN, earned his Bachelor's degree at Oakland City University and also attended the University of Evansville. He is currently completing his Masters in Divinity program at Oakland City's Chapman Seminary.

He has ambitious plans for American Baptist East. "I want to focus on what Jesus asks our focus to be, which is to love God and love others," said Coleman. "I think if we strive wholeheartedly and seek what that means,



that we will, as individuals, draw closer together." Pastor Coleman said the church already has "a ton of love and hospitality," which are their strongest traits. He wants the church to expand from those strengths to fully understand what it means to love God and love others, which will cause them to grow stronger together and as a church body.

"When a community sees that a church is united, that's attractive to the world," he said. "For a church to do that, it sets them apart from the norm and that's exactly where we want to be."

Rusty Strickler Installed as Pastor at Warren BC

Rev. Rusty (Russell) Strickler was installed on January 29, 2017 as the new full-time pastor at Warren FBC. Phyllis Goodyear, Region Minister, and church moderator, Brady Smekens, presided over the official service.

After just a few months at Warren FBC, Rusty is excited by the energy of his new congregation. "The leadership and creativity in this church are so strong, and it's solid theologically. There is so much potential here."

Rusty and his wife Cindy come to Warren from Belgrade, Montana where he had been the senior pastor at Belgrade Community Church. Although they lived in Montana for 23 years, the Stricklers are originally from northeast Indiana and they are excited to be back home.

Pictured L-R: Rusty & Cindy Strickler, Phyllis Goodyear, Brady Smekens.



McDoel BC Calls Ron Hamrick as New Pastor

The church leadership team asked Ron Hamrick to serve as an interim pastor two years ago. During that time, Hamrick preached, visited the congregation, and led them through a journey of transition and relocation.

Rev. Soozie Ford joined the congregation Sunday, February 26 for the

installation service. She read from Isaiah 61, "The Lord has anointed me to bring good news". Rev. Hamrick is leading the church to send out good news in their community and in their ABC Mission offerings.

Ron's wife Fan, their son Samuel, daughter, Gwendolyn and her son,

Clark, were with him on this blessed occasion. The installation included the Baptist tradition of food at gatherings with a pitch-in dinner. New tables were spread with food, people visited, ate, and shared fellowship and laughter.

While the new location may have fewer square feet of space, every inch is

filled with warmth, welcome, and love through Jesus Christ.

The new physical address of the church is 719 S. Rogers St., Bloomington. Their mailing address is PO Box 1220, Blookington, IN 47402.

Empowering Churches

Seeking Vision at Madison FBC

Madison FBC is an exciting church that is not sitting idle during the pastoral search process.

Former IN/KY staff member, Dennis Bickers, has begun leading the church through his visioning process starting with Core Values. "It's been 10 years since they've done any visioning work and they are now seeking a new pastor, so it is time to go through a new visioning process," Bickers said.

The group has begun nine small groups that will meet for 10 weeks. Many in the church are reading the Bible through in 2017. The church has

increased its mission support for 2017. They just signed up to be one of four churches in the community providing shelter for the homeless during cold weather.

"For a church this size, I am impressed with the number of gifts we provided for the persons on our Angel Tree and the number of shoe boxes we sent to Samaritan's Purse," Bickers said. "I believe whoever the church calls as pastor will find a church that is moving forward, doing exciting ministry in the community, and ready for solid leadership."

Amo FBC Celebrates 150th Anniversary



"WHAT WAS, WHAT IS, WHAT WILL BE" was the theme of the Amo FBC 150th Celebration in September of 2016.

WHAT WAS - Friday evening was a "homecoming" for many who had grown up at Amo FBC and are now living in different cities and states; out of those pictured, four are still active at Amo FBC. It was an evening of many blessings through special music of former members and congregational singing. Worship Leader for the evening was Larry Buchanan.

WHAT IS - Saturday was filled with a cruise-in, games for kids, craft and antique vendors in the Mill Creek West Elementary School, food stations, a Town Walk including the Amo Community Building, filled with many historical documents and items.

The evening service featured special music by Bobbie Lancaster. Those bringing greetings included Pastor Marty Pursel, former pastor of Amo FBC and current pastor of Young America.

WHAT WILL BE - Sunday's worship featured the Slap Happy Singers and recognition of the Celebration Team. Those bringing greetings included Pastor Shelly Zook of Amo FBC, former minister Rev. Wallace Jeffs, Rev. Don Lambert, who was licensed by Amo FBC, Rev. Soozie Whitten-Ford, executive minister of ABC-IN/KY, Rev. Bruce Cochran, region minister of ABC-IN/KY.

Pastor Jeff Sexton of Calvary BC in Kokomo brought the message for all three worship services.

The church was grateful to have the Town of Amo Town Council, Amo Fire Department and Amo Police Department come along side of them, literally closing the streets for the weekend of celebration.

Praise God for a safe and blessed weekend, for all those who gave so freely of their time, talent and work for the Celebration and for 150 Years in Ministry!

Sunday Surprise for Kelly Rector

On a recent Sunday morning, Madison FBC surprised their Director of Children's Ministry, Kelly Rector, by licensing her to the ministry. Kelly has been with the church for approximately 11 years, and some were surprised to learn that she had not ever been licensed.

When the Church Council was approached about giving her a license, they were very supportive, but most were unaware of what the move signified. The Council had the right to decide to grant her the license, but wanting to be sure they were transparent in everything they did, they asked the adult Sunday School classes for their feedback. There was almost no opposition.

Since shortly after Thanksgiving, Kelly has suffered from chronic fatigue syndrome, an issue she seems to battle a couple of times a year when

she allows herself to overwork. She's been unable to be at church most Sundays since then, but she was able to come to the second service on the Sunday she was presented with the license. She was completely surprised, as the church had been able to keep the secret from her.

In addition to working with the youth at the church, Kelly also coordinates the community VBS each summer, works with community kids in some of the more difficult areas in the Madison community, and ministers to battered and abused women in the Madison area.

Rector is very loved and appreciated by the church for all she does. Along with the license, someone in the church created a secret Facebook page called "Friends of Kelly" where people could post appreciation messages for her.

Rev. Dr. Jeremy Myers as Senior Pastor at Seymour FBC

Rev. Dr. Jeremy Myers has been called as senior pastor of Seymour FBC. Dr. Myers, his wife Robyn, and two children, Mikayla and Jeremiah, are relocating to Seymour from St. Albans, West Virginia, where he served as minister of youth and Christian education at First Baptist Church of St. Albans.

In 2016, he received a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership of Missional Church Renewal from Palmer Theological Seminary with particular focus on creating intergenerational ministry between senior adults and youth.

Prior to serving at St. Albans, Rev. Dr. Myers served five years as associate pastor at North Webster United Methodist Church in North Webster, IN and two years as a youth pastor at Oakwood Baptist Church in Charleston, West Virginia. He is a native of Elkhart, IN.

His first Sunday in the pulpit was January 15. The congregation held a welcome reception for the Myers family on Sunday, January 22, in conjunction with the annual chili cook-off.



Empowering Churches, continued

Evansville FBC Celebrates Mortgage Burning

On Sunday, March 19, Evansville FBC had a day of celebration. A large group of members and friends joined to burn the mortgage. This historic 170 year old church underwent a major renovation in 2002 and the congregation gathered to celebrate the burning of that mortgage. Evansville FBC has intentionally remained in its central downtown location and has active members from Illinois, Kentucky and the Evansville area. The church is excited to reach this milestone so that even more resources can be used to serve Jesus in the community.



Expanding Mission

Sandcreek BC Makes a Difference Through Fall VBS Program

Sandcreek BC stepped out in faith and adventure in October of 2012. It had been a few years since the church had held VBS and they decided to host a Fall Break VBS.

The first VBS, held in 2012, consisted 15 helpers and 16 students. In 2016, the program has grown to 36 students and young helpers, and 14 adult helpers.



Each evening of VBS begins at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary with music and pledges, followed by a meal in the lunch room. After dinner, the children attend various classes which include crafts, music or games. VBS is held 5 nights and the children return the following Sunday to sing for the congregation.

Sandcreek BC has reached 3 counties and 7 schools through the VBS program, including both churched and unchurched children.

2017 Camp Schedules

For complete details and info regarding camp go to:

CAMP TIPPY: www.camptippy.org
 INDIAN CREEK: campindiancreek.com

CAMP TIPPY

SESSION	DATE	GRADE
Explorer	June 11-16	2nd - 3rd
Leadership	June 11-17	9th - 12th
1st Timers	June 16-17	K - 1st
Trailblazer	June 18-24	5th - 6th
DAY Camp (9am-4pm)	June 25 - July 1	1st - 6th
J.A.M.	June 25- July 1	7th - 12th
Senior High	July 2 - 8	9th -'17 grads
Challenge	July 9 - 15	7th - 8th
Discovery	July 16 - 22	3rd - 4th

INDIAN CREEK

SESSION	DATE	GRADE
Special Persons	May 30 - June 3	16 and older
Explorer	June 11 - 13	1st - 2nd
Discovery	June 14 - 17	3rd - 4th
Girls Camp	June 18 - 22	4th - 6th girls
1st Timers	June 23 - 24	K - 1st
Senior High	June 25 - July 1	10th -'17 grads
Boys Camp	July 2 - 6	4th - 6th boys
Focus	July 9 - 15	7th - 9th
Challenge	July 16 - 22	6th - 8th

SAVE THE DATES

Call Retreat
 July 28 -30, 2017
 Indian Creek Baptist Camp

Retired Ministers and Spouses Reunion
 September 7, 2017
 Hoosier Village

The deadline for submission of articles for the July/August/September issue of The Baptist Observer is: Friday, June 2, 2017

Expanding Mission

Evansville FBC has New Outreach Program “Make a Change”

Evansville FBC has a new Outreach program called “Make a Change”. Church members are encouraged to contribute their pocket change each week to make a change for Christ in their community. One of the ministries of “Make a Change” is a partnership with Lodge Community School. Members of the church volunteer every week to help teachers and staff, organize donated clothes and pick up bags of food from a local food pantry for students to take home for the weekend. In addition, the church has donated money for snacks and meals for the school’s sports teams. They have also served meals at evening family engagement nights. The response from students and staff alike has been very positive. The congregation is blessed to be able to serve the students, staff and families at large.



Pastor Steve Claspell and Youth Director, Ben Smith, serve children at Lodge Community School

Seymour FBC Hosts First 5th Quarter



Over 100 youth and adults fellowshiped, built relationships, and had a great time at the Seymour FBC inaugural 5th Quarter on Friday, February 25. Young and old alike shared the space and stories, exploring new avenues for the gospel.

Columbus FBC - ABW Circles Roll Bandages for the Congo

In January the ABW Ministry circles at Columbus FBC met to tear sheets, measure out strips, and sew them together to make bandages for the Congo. The total completed from the Abigail circle was 155, and the Hannah circle completed 51, for a combined total of 206 bandages that will be sent to the Congo from FBC Columbus.



The “Souper Bowl of Caring” - Rushville FBC

Every year during the month of February, there is an event that happens in America that literally causes almost half of people in the world to stop what they are doing and turn on their televisions. That event is the Super Bowl. Super Bowl Sunday has become a national holiday focused on consumption (just think of the ads that run during the game). In 1990, one person began a movement to do something with a positive result.

The goal of the movement is to use the six weeks leading up to and including Super Bowl Sunday to help those less fortunate. The movement was only loosely organized in the beginning and went by a variety of names but soon all united behind the one name – the “Souper Bowl of Caring”. In the days leading up to the Super Bowl, congregations are encouraged to collect as many cans of soup or as many dollars as possible for their local food pantries.

In 1990, the first year of the effort, \$5,700 was collected to buy soup. Over the course of the past twenty-six years the movement has grown amazingly to the point where \$10,522,000 dollars was raised or that value of soup was donated in 2016!



This year the “Souper Bowl of Caring” found its way to Rushville FBC. Their pastor, Dr. Dave Richardson, introduced the church family to the idea of collecting soup which they have joyfully embraced. As a way of keeping the campaign fresh in congregants’ minds every available space at the front of the church was used to stack the cans of soup! All who come into the sanctuary during this period of time cannot help but notice the progress being made as week-by-week, the altar area becomes covered with cans of soup. The net result of this year’s effort resulted in more than 1,000 cans of soup collected, which means that the local food pantry in Rushville will be able to provide one hundred families with two meals of soup per week for about five weeks. Now that’s “Souper”!

Book Signing at Columbus FBC

On February 26, 2017 the library committee of Columbus FBC sponsored a book signing and coffee hour for the book co-authored by Dr. Daniel Cash and Dr. William Griffith. This book grew out of a Men’s Bible Study that Cash and Griffith teach. The book is written for a wide variety of people and examines the teaching style of Jesus through the questions he asked. The book is published by Judson Press and may be obtained through them. Dan Cash is the current Senior Pastor at Columbus FBC and Bill Griffith is a former pastor and now a member of the church.



COMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 21-23 - Ministers Wives Retreat
- 22 - Intergenerational Journey Workshop
- 22 - CLI at Franklin, Liberty Center, Vevay

MAY

- 16 - Region Staff Mtg.
- 17 - Finance Committee Mtg.
- 6 - CLI at Franklin, Liberty Center, Vevay
- 20 - CLI at Franklin, Liberty Center, Vevay

JUNE

- 1 - Personnel Committee Mtg.
- 3 - CLI at Franklin, Liberty Center, Vevay
- 2-4 - ABW Summer Conference and AB Girls Gathering
- 9 - Region Board Mtg.
- 13 - Region Staff Mtg.
- 30 - July 2 - ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit