

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](http://www.abc-indiana.org)

BECKY SEPTOSKI & JEFF TRYON, EDITORS - VOL. 18 NO. 3 - JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018

## The ABC-IN/KY office has relocated to Greenwood, IN! OPEN HOUSE

Please join ABC-IN/KY in celebrating the opening of our new location

TUESDAY, JULY 10 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
and  
FRIDAY, JULY 20 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

65 Airport Parkway, Suite 120, Greenwood, IN 46143

Directions:

Take I65 to exit 99 (Main Street/Greenwood) and turn west.  
Continue on Main Street through Emerson Avenue to Acordia Drive.  
Turn right. The office is located on the right (next to "The Refuge").

REGION BIENNIAL  
SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2018 SEYMOUR FBC

Save the date and register now!

A registration form is included in this issue of the Observer  
Complete details regarding the Biennial can be found  
on the region website: [www.abc-indiana.org](http://www.abc-indiana.org)



**Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford**  
Executive Minister  
[soozieford@abc-indiana.org](mailto:soozieford@abc-indiana.org)

I have always loved this brief phrase from scripture: *[Abraham] set out, not knowing where he was going* (Hebrews 11:8b, NRSV). In this great chapter on faith, the writer of Hebrews reminds us that Abraham's obedience to God's call compelled him – in faith – to journey towards an unknown destination. Even in the land he had been promised, he made a temporary home in tents, along with Isaac and

Jacob. God directed Abraham towards a destination without necessarily pointing out all of the transitory waystations. Part of the challenge of our own journey is to recognize God's presence, guidance and direction along the way.

As many of you are aware, we have relocated the Indiana/Kentucky office from its most recent home to Johnson County. After almost 65 years at 1350 N. Delaware, it feels a bit like Abraham, pitching a tent in a new and unknown space. I am personally grateful to our office staff (Becky, Jennifer, Brandon, Lianne, and Melva) for the cheerful ways they stepped up to ALL of the necessary tasks while staying on top of their normal workloads. Even so, we could not have done it on our own. Thanks to Larry Sayre, Becky Rhea, Phyllis Hawkins, Homer Ford, Pete Septoski, Mark Kern, Seth Alexander, Dan Chadwick, Jaime Flores, Jim Walter, Phyllis Goodyear, Melanie Zeiner and Bruce Cochran – each of whom gave hours and hours of their time to assist with sorting, packing and moving. Please note elsewhere in

this issue the invitation to our open house – on July 10 and July 20.

Your IN/KY board has led the way in developing a partnership with Northern Seminary to allow students to pursue a M.A. degree while serving in context with a local church. Accepted into the Teaching Church Initiative (TCI) to date are Pastor Troy Burns (Bethany Baptist, Crothersville); Pastor Scott Johanningsmeier (Elizabeth Baptist, Nabb); and Pastor Mark Kern (Pleasant View Baptist, Indianapolis). You will have the opportunity to hear more about TCI at IN/KY's Biennial Gathering on September 28-29, hosted by Seymour FBC, as Dr. Bill Shiell, president of Northern Seminary, explores the call of God on all of our lives. The Teaching Church Initiative supports IN/KY's priority of Equipping Leaders, and our New Pathway of Emerging Leaders, and is partially funded by a Palmer Grant we received through the American Baptist Foundation.

I am grateful to the IN/KY board and the Personnel Committee for the gift of sabbatical time away, an extended period of rest and renewal, beginning July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Homer and I are looking forward to a "bucket list" trip to explore the journeys of Paul in late September, and I have already begun additional reading on Paul's ministry, including Acts and the Pauline letters, in order to prepare. I'll spend some time delving into a few of the great stories of Indiana Baptist mission, including the life of Isaac McCoy, and hope to have more to share with you when I return. (If you have a story from your church's mission and history that you think would be of interest to me, please be in touch!) I am especially looking forward to spending a week with our oldest daughter in Spokane in July, and celebrating my mom's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in September. While I am away, your region staff will continue their faithful ministries and presence among you, and Dr. Jim Walter will serve as the Acting Executive Minister. I trust this sabbatical will be a waystation of rest and renewal in my own faith journey, and I look forward to returning to serve with and among you around October 15<sup>th</sup>, as we serve Together on God's Abundant Journey.

## Ministerial Excellence Fund

*2 Corinthians 9:8*

Unexpected financial burdens happen to Professional Church Leaders, just as with everyone else.

Issues such as unexpected dental conditions, sudden onset of symptoms requiring medical diagnostic procedures, expensive new medication, accidental injuries, family emergencies, or mounting credit card debt due to these or other factors can create stress and distractions.

In addition, PCL's carry the burdens and concerns of their own congregational members.

If any of the above describes your situation, relief is available through the Ministerial Excellence Fund. We have grant monies to help you. Take the first step by contacting MEF through [www.abc-indiana.org](http://www.abc-indiana.org). It's worth it!

## Healthy Boundaries Saturday

### August 11, 2018

**COST: \$25.00 - includes lunch**

**TIME: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm**

Download a registration form at the region website!  
Here is the link:

<http://abc-indiana.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/HB-1-August-11-flyer-2018.pdf>

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR &  
REGISTER TODAY!!**

# American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

## Feeling Thankful

By: Judy Cutler, ABW Treasurer

Feeling thankful is my theme as I've begun the treasurer's job for ABW Ministries of Indiana this year.

I have been encouraged by the generous giving of our American Baptist Women. There are many projects we support statewide, along with individual churches and associations. As I write this in May, we are preparing for Summer Conference where we will have the Edna Martin Bazaar, which provides funds for EMCC.

We will welcome some new scholarship students that we help support, and we are also working on

our project, which this year is helping with Phase 2 of the building program at the Center for Missions and Urban Spirituality in Metro-Manila, the capital of the Philippines.

We have an ambitious goal of \$25,000 for the project, so keep that money coming in to help in this building project! Even more importantly, we appreciate all that American Baptist Women's Ministries contributes to the building of the Kingdom of God!

Again I say THANK YOU!

Together we serve in His Name.  
Judy Cutler

## Upcoming Events Camp Tippy

Fish Fry  
Saturday, August 4 - 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Quilter's Camp  
September 12 - 15

Scavenger Hunt  
Saturday, September 15 - Dinner at 6:30 pm  
Scavenger Hunt begins at 7:00 pm

Young at Heart  
October 24 - 26

For more information about these events go to:  
[www.camptippy.org](http://www.camptippy.org)  
or call: 574-834-4184

## 2018 Spring Sr Adult Day

The Spring Senior Adult Day was held at Greenwood FBC on April 17th with 143 registered and host church attendees. Pastor Sean Holloway brought devotions and the inspirational solos were coordinated by Barb Farnsley, music minister. The theme of "Glimpses" was emphasized by program speakers. Sherri Waugh, Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist, shared the challenges of senior adult driving. Rev. Roberta White presented options for "End-Of-Life" decisions with Palliative and Hospice Care. Amy Gray talked about how therapeutic massages often benefits ones physical, mental, and spiritual

health. Jordan Morris gave glimpses of activities and needs for the 2018 Camping Ministry. After a delicious Italian lunch, Rev. Walter Glover challenged everyone to look for glimpses in their capacity to dream. He presented slides of his accomplished dream of climbing mountains on the seven continents.

The fall gathering will be held on October 11th at Muncie FBC. There is a need for hosting future Senior Adult Day events, including 2019. For information about how to use your church's gift of hospitality, contact committee member Terry Harke at 765-702-3631.

## Sr Adult Day Moments



Left: Pastor Sean Holloway brings devotions

Below: Jordan Morris, Indian Creek Camp Director, shares glimpses of the activities at camp



Above: Rev. Roberta White brings options for "End of Life" care



Left: Rev. Walter Glover challenges all to look for glimpses in their capacity to dream



# “Modern Worship Experience Brings Growth at Rushville FBC



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

In September of 2017, Rushville FBC began a “modern worship experience” titled “The Journey”.

The Fellowship Hall was completely redecorated, including adding top quality audio and visual equipment, a stage, and new very comfortable movable seats.

“The Journey” was promoted through a series of 60 second spot videos on social media. Prayer for the new service played a vital role. On the first Sunday of the new service, approximately 85 people attended. The vast majority of those in attendance were young couples with children and teenagers who

had not previously attended.

In conjunction with beginning the new service, the children’s education program was changed to a Workshop Rotation Model of teaching Bible stories. The children’s wing is now called “The Train Station” and the hallway walls are decorated with a railroad motif.

The response has been amazing. There are now 20-25 children attending on a regular basis. The church is reaching that many different children throughout each month. The children are excited each week to head to “The Train Station”. When the dismissal

moment arrives during worship, one of the leaders blows a train whistle and the little children scurry as fast as they can out of the sanctuary and down the hallway to their classrooms!

“It’s pretty cool to watch!” said Pastor Dave Richardson.

Approximately seventy new faces have continued to come to worship, with around fifty coming on any given Sunday.

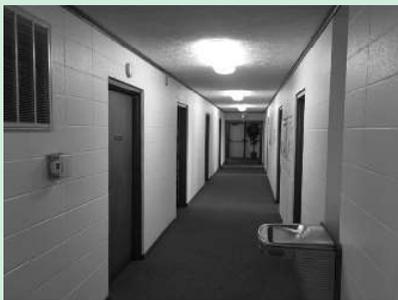
After beginning the new service eight months ago, the most gratifying thing is seeing friends and relatives of those attending “The Journey” beginning to attend

because they see something different about their relatives and are curious as to what is creating the change in attitude regarding church.

“Why is Rushville FBC excited? Because young families are coming to a place where they can hear about Jesus and the real difference He can and does make in their lives,” he said.

Has it made a difference? There have been ten conversion baptisms in the past twenty months. It is exciting to watch the Holy Spirit at work changing lives.

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



## ing Churches Commissioned for Mission



Liz Lipson, Missions team leader, organized a group of ten people between the ages of 19 – 70+ to travel on a mission trip to Murrow Children’s Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The group was recently commissioned at Columbus FBC.

The group will be working on one of the cottages, as well as, participating in various maintenance projects as time allows. Each team member has been given a prayer partner that will be praying specifically for them.

## Celebrations & Transitions at Columbus FBC

May has been a month of celebrations and transitions at Columbus FBC.

On Mother’s Day, four babies were dedicated, three boys and one little girl. Each of the parents were given a “Faith Box” for their child. A “Faith Box” is used to hold special mementos from their church and Sunday School years.

On Sunday, May 27th more celebrations and transitions occurred. Lucy Cash was honored upon graduating from East High School, and was presented with a “Faith Box”. She also received the E.

Don Tull scholarship award given to a graduating high school student. Lucy is also the ABW Ministries college scholarship student for the upcoming school year. She will be attending the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville.

The First Baptist Foundation awarded a scholarship to Matt Hamon. Matt is a student at Judson College in Elgin, IL.

Four children received Bibles: Nolan and Natalie Pickup, Karston McIntosh and Jaimie Brown.

It has been a wonderful time of celebration at Columbus FBC.



## Sullivan FBC Celebrates 165 Years



Sullivan FBC Men’s Chorus

On Sunday, April 22 Sullivan FBC celebrated 165 years of ministry.

The congregation was founded on April 23, 1853 with 16 members. Rev. William Stansil was instrumental in forming the church as he traveled from Vincennes to Terre Haute to preach and encourage small groups of believers throughout the Wabash Valley.

The first church building was

constructed on East Jackson Street in 1854, the second on the corner of Court and Harris Street in 1895. This was the church home until the present building was constructed in 1960.

Forty-three pastors have served Baptists in Sullivan. The current pastor is Bret Cox, who returned to pastor his home church in September of 2017.

## Wolcott BC Observes the Lenten Season by “Giving To”



During the Lenten season, Wolcott BC observed Lent by “Giving to” rather than “Giving Up” something. Each Sunday during Lent, the congregation was challenged to put their pocket change in the “Pocket Change” box. The money was donated to the Wolcott Council of Churches Ministries. The church also participated in collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to the Wolcott United Methodist



Pastor Rogers is pictured here with donated food items

Church’s Bountiful Blessings Food Give Away. Each Sunday during Lent, Brenda Rogers led a devotional on the history of Lent, and shared little known facts about Holy Week, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

## Edna Martin Christian Center Celebrates Upcoming Renovation



On May 31, staff, volunteers and friends of the Edna Martin Christian Center (EMCC) walked and prayed to consecrate and celebrate their upcoming renovation.

Over 30 people participated in the one-mile walk from EMCC's main office to their second campus, stopping to pray at six strategic spots along the way.

After the Prayer Walk, the official groundbreaking service featured Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett, US Congressman André Carson of Indiana's 7th District, Indiana House District 98 Representative Robin Shackelford, representatives from the offices of both Indiana Senators, and Joan Friesen, Executive Minister of ABC of Greater Indianapolis.

"We are appreciative of all of the support we have received to make this project happen," said Tysha Hardy-Sellers, president of EMCC. "Making a positive impact at a community, family, and individual

level is important to us."

"We believe the programs, services and environmental reclamation activity resulting from this project will result in more kindergarten ready children, youth prepared to graduate and choose a career path, and provide a strong future, and older adults and families enjoying a quality of life with new amenities in the community they cherish."

The second location, now known as EMCC's Leadership & Legacy Campus, has hosted EMCC youth and senior programs since 2016.

The 25,000 square-foot facility was originally a heating-oil distribution facility designated as a Super Fund site because of petroleum and lead pollution. The EPA remediated the entire 13-acres, replacing more than 5,000 tons of soil. More than 100 nearby residential properties were also remediated in the process.

More than 250 kids have been

coming to the Leadership & Legacy campus for before- and after-school care, home-work help, tutoring, and a hot meal. More than 100 seniors have also gathered at the facility for Bible study and social programs.

The renovation will modify spaces to better accommodate the growing intergenerational programming and add more services to the Martindale-Brightwood area. The renewed space will more than double capacity to provide daily activities for as many 250 school-age youth and 200 seniors. It will also add a new preschool that can accommodate 80 toddlers.

Most of the building's essential parts were aging badly, so the renovation will address plumbing, wiring, windows and doors, insulation, internet connectivity, and more.

Future development will include further improvements such as sidewalks and trails, an urban farm and expanded teen services such

as a youth entrepreneurial center and additional education, enrichment, and youth employment options.

The \$3.5 million renovation was made possible through a combination of public funds—including the EPA's half-million-dollar cleanup—private funds, grants, and in-kind services. Key investments have been made by the American Baptist Churches, City of Indianapolis, IDEM, Shepherd Community Center, United Way Capital Fund (multi-agency funding body) and individuals and businesses.

Fundraising for Phase II of the project is ongoing. EMCC welcomes donations and volunteers in its mission to "bridge cultural, racial, and economic differences in order to support and nurture the people in the community by providing holistic programs that empower, encourage, and engender a vision of hope."

For more information, see <http://ednamartincc.org> or call (317) 637-3776



TOGETHER ON  
GOD'S ABUNDANT  
JOURNEY



# ng Mission

## Coordinated Assistance Ministries (CAM) Celebrates 25 Years

Coordinated Assistance Ministries, Inc. (CAM) is the creation of the religious community of Howard County to "...unify the assistance ministries of the religious community, show God's love, and meet needs not being met by community agencies."

With the participation of all area American Baptist Churches, CAM, Inc. became an ABC-IN/KY Mission many years ago, and continues to be a people-to-people ministry.

Because clients have a relationship with CAM, they can begin to trust them with what they need. They feel safe to begin dreaming and looking at life beyond day-to-day needs.

Recently, a Bill Hudson resident moved from his \$5-a-night bed to permanent housing. For him, eight months was the time it took to make some new life choices. He began on a mat on the floor. He now has a job with a company that cares about him and has helped him find the apartment he needs to be on his own. He said this is the first time he is ahead, rather than behind. He told Kathy Esslinger, CAM executive supervisor, that if it wasn't for CAM and the love and care given to him, he is sure he would be dead.

In these 25 years, we affirm our calling from the Lord – 'I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger and you took Me in, naked and you clothed Me, sick and in jail – and you visited Me.'," said Rev. Ruth Lawson,

community service provider for the Center Township trustee. "This is about relationships. How do you know that I'm hungry, or thirsty, or need a place to live, or need shoes?"

"If I know you care about me, and I'm sick or in jail, I know I can call you – and you will visit me."

CAM, Inc. has grown because of the needs of others. Former homeless people have led us in our development by serving on our Boards, Committees and becoming our Employees. We are people, together, reaching out to help one another. "Hope, Hand, Heart for the Homeless."

A suggestion to assist CAM in their 25th year of ministry is "Consider the number 25" – Collect quarters, \$2.50, \$25.00, \$250, \$2,500, etc.

"Please pray for our clients, volunteers, and CAM employees," Rev Lawson said.

"Let us not be weary in well doing" - Galatians 6:9

Coordinated Assistance Ministries, Inc. is an ecumenical ministry to the homeless; P.O. Box 523 - 210 N. Market - Kokomo, Indiana 46903. Telephone 765.452.8963 Fax 765.453.5072

Executive Director, Rev. Ruth Lawson  
www.CAMincHopeForHomeless.org  
Facebook.

"CAM - Hope Hand Heart For the Homeless."

## A Firsthand Look Inside Human Trafficking

By: Irina Sorrels, Hayden BC



When Irina P. Sorrels of Hayden BC learned of a mission trip to Amsterdam with ABC International Ministries, she literally jumped for joy because one of her dreams has been to go on a mission trip to help combat human trafficking.

"For several months, I asked God to open a door where I could help women who have been abused or trafficked," she said. "The journey started when I was accepted to go to that mission which God had prepared."

She arrived in Amsterdam with a group of American Baptist women from several churches around the United States and met their ABC anti-human trafficking consultant, Lauran Bethell.

"During my trip, I had the opportunity to visit several organizations that work, helping women to leave the sex industry," she said. "I

met the directors of those organizations, and I was amazed at the passion and commitment they have for helping the trafficked survivors and women working in prostitution.

Irina was chosen to go to the Red-Light District, visiting the women behind the windows with a caseworker from an organization that rescues people from prostitution and trafficking.

The women knew the case manager and allowed them to go inside the window/room to talk about their needs and pray with them. The women she visited were Latinas and because she is also Latina, communication was facilitated.

"I never thought I would be doing that; being inside the window/room to pray with women working in prostitution, asking God to set them free," she said. "It was a powerful moment. Those women smiled and hugged me. They told me they wanted to leave that job/business. They were very kind to me. I felt privileged that God was using me to reach people for His kingdom."

"I could see in those women the desire to be loved and accepted. God allowed me to sow a seed in their hearts, and I know the seed will someday produce fruit."

"God wants to use all of us in different ways," she said. "Ask God where and how He wants to use you, and He will make the way. We are the hands and feet of Jesus on earth, and we need to use those hands and feet to reach people for his kingdom."



### OBSERVER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

FALL ISSUE (October-November-December)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

WINTER ISSUE (January-February-March 2019)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

## COMING EVENTS

### JULY

- 10 - Region Staff Mtg.
- 10 - Open House
- 14 - CLI - Franklin
- 20 - Region Board Meeting
- 20 - Open House
- 21 - CLI - Franklin
- 28 - CLI - Scottsburg FBC

### AUGUST

- 11 - Healthy Boundaries
- 11 - CLI - Franklin
- 13 - Region Staff Mtg.
- 18 - CLI - Scottsburg FBC
- 25 - CLI - Franklin

### SEPTEMBER

- 8 - CLI - Franklin
- 11 - Region Staff Mtg.
- 22 - CLI - Scottsburg FBC
- 28-29 - Region Biennial - Seymour FBC