



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 20 NO. 4 - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

## ADAPTIVE CHANGE - PUTTING THE PUZZLE TOGETHER

Like many of you, I often have a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle going on my dining room table. Unlike many of you, however, I have only worked about 7 of them since the start of the pandemic. (From what I hear, many among us have worked quite a few more over these last several months!) Working a jigsaw puzzle allows my brain to function in different ways – defining borders, and then, working to fill in the pieces to form the image pictured on the box; working from small segments of a photo to a large cohesive whole; and looking for patterns of color and design in pieces that “match” and fit together. I often find myself pondering ministry-related opportunities while searching for those few elusive pieces that will join one section to another.

Completing a jigsaw puzzle is not a very complicated process. I typically start by looking for all of the edge pieces – although, I always miss a few at first – so I can define the border and size. Matching colors, shapes and lines comes next, grouping and slowly piecing parts, then sections, together until a coherent, visible,

recognizable image emerges and the puzzle is complete.

Because I only spend a few hours each week at the puzzle/dining table, it takes a while to complete them. It's not unusual for me to break away to answer a call, complete a household task, talk with a neighbor, or do something with my husband. I have been known to temporarily “lose” a few pieces. They drop off the table and blend amazingly well with the carpet or another item is momentarily placed on top of a few stray pieces. Those are interruptions to my work of completing the puzzle.

The heavy, dark piece of felt I work on can be, if I am not careful, accidentally slid off the table entirely, dumping in an uncere- monious heap ALL of the pieces – both already pieced together and those yet to find their place. Fortunately, that has not happened in a very long time, but if it did, that would cause a complete disrup- tion to my work of completing the puzzle. I would essentially have to start all over from the beginning.

An interruption can be short or long but, eventually, the process can be continued by proceeding

in the same manner as before. A disruption would likely require starting again from the very beginning to bring order to the chaos.

In the early weeks and months of our experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic, it was more of an interruption. Pastors and churches quickly adjusted in response to the public health and safety mandates, with many shifting to some type of online worship while at the same time, placing other ministries on hold. Our language indicated the interruption in our typical ways of doing life together. Many conversations were permeated with words of hope and longing this pandemic interruption would soon pass, so we could “get back to normal”. More recent discus- sions have surfaced with language indicating to me, at least, we are facing a major disruption in the way we do ministry and mis- sion together. Recognizing the typically larger numbers who have connected with our online expe- riences, questions are surfacing: How do we continue to engage those who may never join us in person? What about discipleship



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and building community? How do we now understand church membership and stewarding our resources, including our largely unused church facilities? Many other questions are surfacing with which church leaders will need to struggle with in the coming season. Among them, how do we understand ministry in a post-pandemic world, and most of all, what do we need to change in the way we do church in order to remain faithful to God and respond to God in the opportunities He places before us?

Leaders from all sectors have spoken about adaptive change in

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recent years. Now, this pandemic's disruption(s) are forcing us into adaptive change when previously we were able to consider it as a mostly abstract concept. Simply put, adaptive change is living into – and responding to – the current realities for which our previous responses are no longer adequate. This new season will require us to learn new ways of being faithful together; will likely require us to change our habits and priorities; and will require us to experiment and learn as we go. There are no easy answers nor any "one size fits all" techniques or responses.

I firmly believe God is not surprised. In the midst of the unknown, the opportunities for ministry abound, and it is for just such a time as this, that God has been preparing us. Recently, I have been greatly comforted by these words from the author of Hebrews, "Let us hold fast

to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:23)." God has been, and will be, faithful to lead and guide us. The writer continues by suggesting we should "consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds (10:24)." The word for provoke literally means, "to pester" which brings to mind how I may (or may not) have pestered my parents or sisters in years gone by. In a more positive light, how can we pester (i.e. encourage, challenge and support) those around us to step into the new realities before us – with confidence, hope, joy? Most of all, how can we pester one another to remember we have the full assurance that God, who has been faithful in generations past, will be faithful as we move into the future, continuing to lead and guide as we are Together on God's Abundant Journey?

## ABHMS CONNECTS WITH AMERICAN BAPTISTS IN THE MIDST OF DISASTER RECOVERY

Since August 10, forces of nature have caused extensive loss among American Baptists and the communities where they live and serve. Calling for our prayers and active response are dangerous winds and rain in the midwest, which severely impacted parts of Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana; fires in western states, primarily California, Arizona, Nevada and Colorado; and Hurricane Laura on the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana. Most recently, Hurricane Sally impacted parts of Florida and Alabama. ABHMS staff have been closely monitoring the situations and communicating with regional executives and other ministry partners in all these states, expressing concern and support for them.

To read more, go to:

<https://www.abc-usa.org/2020/09/abhms-connects-with-american-baptists-in-the-midst-of-disaster-recovery/>

## HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Offered via Zoom on Three Consecutive Tuesday Evenings

November 3, 10 & 17  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Registration deadline is: October 27, 2020

You can easily register and pay online or download an information/registration form and send in via US mail. All information can be found on the Healthy Boundaries page on the region website at:  
<https://abc-indiana.org/healthy-boundaries/>

## ABCUSA UPDATE - 2021 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT EVENT

The Executive Committee of the American Baptist Churches USA Board of General Ministries, at its meeting on Thursday, September 10, voted to hold a virtual Biennial Mission Summit in 2021 and to seek to hold an in-person Biennial Mission Summit in Puerto Rico in 2023

Go to the link below to read a letter from the Executive Committee

<https://www.abc-usa.org/2020/09/update-regarding-american-baptist-churches-2021-biennial-mission-summit-event/>

## American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

### NEWS - ABWomen's Day

The in-person event that was originally scheduled for October 10 has been cancelled.

A virtual alternative is being planned, and you will be informed via the ABWM newsletter and Observations once the event has been finalized.

## INDIAN CREEK NEWS



### INDIAN CREEK ONLINE PRAYER PAGE

We pray for our camp family often, but would love to be more specific in our prayers for you.

Our new prayer form will allow you to enter any prayer request, so your camp family can lift you up in prayer. (You can do so anonymously if desired). Visit today so we can Connect-Refresh-Grow with you through prayer

Go to: <https://campindiancreek.com/prayers>

### ONLINE CAMP STORE

Visit the online camp store and place your orders today! Get your awesome camp merchandise shipped directly to you! Support your camp and receive something awesome in return!

Go to: <https://campindiancreek.com/store>

## CAMP TIPPECANOE 100TH ANNIVERSARY



**Mark your calendars now!!**

**May 15, 2021**

**1:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Come participate in a time of celebration, reflection and praise. There will be a special speaker and activities on the lake.**

## CAMP WEBSITES

Indian Creek

<https://campindiancreek.com/>

Camp Tippy

[www.camptippy.org](http://www.camptippy.org)

Southeastern Baptist Camp

<https://www.sbycamp.com/>

## SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST CAMP HOLDS 4TH ANNUAL "THE RACE"

On August 1, Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp held its fourth annual fundraising event, "The RACE". There were two divisions this year with FIRE teams mostly outside and ICE teams inside where it was air conditioned. There were a total of 8 teams (5 FIRE and 3 ICE) that were sponsored by individuals and churches, along with 4 event sponsors that raised a total of \$7,712 for camp. Teams had cheerleaders and many spectators to cheer them on during the competition.

Churches with teams included Hebron BC, Kimberlin Creek BC, Tanglewood BC, Tea Creek BC and Zenas BC. Each team had 4-5 members with challenges begin-

ning at 9:00 am and finishing by noon, in time for lunch provided by the camp. The winners were announced during lunch. The winning team for FIRE was "Cool Kids from Kimberlin Creek" and the winning team for ICE was "Zenas Brain Freeze".

The purpose of "The RACE" is not only fundraising, but also to raise awareness of the ministry SBYCamp provides. As each team raises \$500, the members contact people asking for support which gives the opportunity to tell them about camp and invite them to attend "The RACE" as a spectator to see the camp. Teams can be formed by anyone age 12 and older that would like to participate and they don't to



Pictured to the left: FIRE winners: Cool Kids from Kimberlin Creek

Pictured below: ICE winners: Zenas Brain Freeze



be a church team.

We appreciate the camp fundraising team, volunteers, sponsors and participants that make this event so much fun and rewarding!

## EXPANDING MISSION

### COLUMBUS FBC OUTREACH CONTINUES



**Left:**  
Volunteers  
work together  
packing  
meals

**Right:**  
Thank you notes  
received from the  
staff at Richards  
Elementary



Columbus FBC continues to provide outreach to their community during this time of the pandemic. The seeds garden continues to do well and provide produce to the local food bank and community center, Love Chapel.

Each year, Columbus FBC has provided the meals for the hot meal site located at Memorial BC on the first two Tuesdays in September. Normally, the meal is served to the folks in the fellowship hall, however, meals were packed so people could eat outside or take the meals home. No extra meals were given out, as is the usual practice. People were required to come in person to receive a meal. Forty-five to fifty people were served each

evening.

For the past several years, Columbus FBC has provided gift bags for the teachers and aides at Richards Elementary School located across the street from the church. Gift bags are also given to school personnel who are a part of the family of faith. This year, due to the Covid-19, this ministry was accomplished in a different way. Gift cards from Walmart were purchased and Pastor Dan Cash took the cards to the church to be handed out. A total of 91 cards were bought, 16 for the church and 75 for Richards Elementary school. The congregants received thank you notes from the staff at Richards Elementary.

### SOUTH BEND FBC CREATES NEW WAYS TO REACH COMMUNITY

South Bend FBC has created new ways to deliver their mission efforts to the community while the pandemic limited traditional methods. Taking advantage of summer weather, the Mission and Outreach Team organized and hosted two driveway gatherings in the church parking lot in July and August to receive donations for community organizations. They partnered with Saint Margaret's House for a diaper drive in July, and in August,

they worked together with Broadway Christian Parish to host a drive for easy-open non-perishable food items. In both cases, they experienced an overwhelming response, generous donations while enjoying fellowship and refreshments in an outdoor setting. With these successes, South Bend FBC plans to continue their efforts to find new and innovative ways to make a difference in their community.



July Mission Gathering



August Mission Gathering

## EMPOWERING CHURCHES

### SHELBYVILLE FBC DISCOVERS NEW METHODS OF OUTREACH

Shelbyville FBC has been referred to as “a small church in a big building”. They are striving to create new methods to spread the Gospel during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pastor and deacons have a weekly rotating call schedule to touch base with all members that have not returned since the church “reopened” on May 17, and congregants are encouraged to reach out to each other as well.

A mailing program has been developed and notes are sent to people that have not yet returned to in-person services.

Several months ago, the website was updated, and now, the sermons are posted each Sunday. Sermons are in the process of being uploaded to youtube, and there is a link

on the website to direct viewers to youtube. This is currently a work in progress.

The guidelines for the food pantry have been revisited to make them Covid-compliant. The food pantry now provides a no contact driveby pick-up to help with community needs.

Volunteers have made special deliveries of milk and fresh produce to members as well.

Shelbyville FBC also provided a catered lunch for their neighbors - the Shelbyville Fire Department.

The church is striving to develop new ways to spread the Gospel during this time of COVID and believe by staying focused on God, their numbers will increase, they will survive COVID, and lastly, they will no longer be able to say, ‘We are a small church in a big building’. Praise God!

### KEEPING CONNECTED THROUGH HOME & OUTDOOR MEETINGS



Columbus FBC has continued to connect during Covid-19 in two ways; by holding neighborhood home meetings and outdoor meetings at the church.

The neighborhood meetings are mainly held at homes and meet outdoors. The purpose is for folks to get acquainted with the new Worship Pastor, Daniel Kane.

Another way the church is

connecting with folks in worship has been to hold outdoor worship services. This has been a great success.

Columbus began holding in-person worship services on June 7, 2020. Attendance has been steadily increasing.

An outdoor worship service was held in September and the church is also offering online live worship services every Sunday as well.

### 2021 OBSERVER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

**SPRING ISSUE (April, May, June) - Friday, March 12**

**SUMMER ISSUE (July, August, September) - Friday, June 11**

**FALL ISSUE (October, November, December) - Friday, September 10**

**WINTER ISSUE (January, February, March 2022) - Fri., December 3**

#### REGION MINISTERIAL STAFF

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If you would like more information about churches or events described in this issue, contact Becky Septoski at [beckyseptoski@abc-indiana.org](mailto:beckyseptoski@abc-indiana.org) or (317) 635 3552 X222.

### Summitville FBC Calls Brian Ball as Associate Pastor



On Sunday, July 19, Summitville FBC called Brian Ball to be its Associate Pastor. He begins ministry at the church with a focus on young adults, youth and children.

The vision for hiring someone with this ministry focus goes back almost a year when the church began looking at its future and what it needed to do to grow and minister to the community. The vision was

set forth by Interim Minister, Rev. E. Paul Albrecht, at the 125th Anniversary of the church in November. Former Area Minister, Dr. Riley :Walker, a pastor at First Baptist in the 1970's, preached the message that morning and jump started the campaign for an Associate Pastor by committing \$1000 to the effort. Since then, almost \$20,000 more has been raised to undergird Brian's ministry. Summitville FBC looks forward to what the Holy Spirit will now do!



Pictured left to right: Mark Thompson, Harvey Taylor, Soozie Ford & Kristi Jones

### Kristi Jones and Harvey Taylor Ordained

Kristi Jones was ordained on August 9, 2020. She is serving as the pastor at Memorial Baptist Church located in Columbus, IN.

Pastor Kristi has spent years understanding her faith, her calling as a servant leader, and her role in God's Kingdom. She has sought the level of education that prepared her for the ministry to which she is called.

Harvey Taylor was ordained to ministry on September 19, 2020. He is the pastor at Lewis Creek Baptist Church, located in Waldron, IN.

Harvey trusts the Holy Spirit to guide he and his family through every step of their ministry at Lewis Creek.