

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)

WENDY SHULER, EDITOR - VOL. 24 NO. 4 - OCT/NOV/DEC 2024

## INDIAN CREEK BAPTIST CAMP FOSTERS FRIENDSHIPS IN CHRIST

Indian Creek Baptist Camp (ICBC) is a community of believers of Jesus Christ for all ages. This summer a very special gathering happened which underscored that sense of "community."

On Thursday, June 13, Indian Creek had a party with two special ladies. Lori Burke, a long-time camp nurse volunteer, and Kelsie Delong Scott, long-time supporter of Indian Creek Camp and cabin leader, came up with the idea.

Their mothers Margy and Kathryn were best friends and neighbors years ago when they lived in French Lick, Ind. Neither had been to Indian Creek. So, during Discovery Camp and with the help of Session Director Shari Dalton, the two mothers were invited to have lunch with their daughters and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who were at Indian Creek at the time. Since neither mother had been there, they didn't fully understand what their daughters did as volunteers nor what was so special about Indian Creek.

Margy and Kathryn reminisced, had lunch, enjoyed the campers, and some ice cream and cake. To make it even more festive, Donna Anderson supplied beautiful flowers as table decorations.

Jordan Morris, Camp Director, and wife Mindy have maintained a wonderful family atmosphere at Indian Creek, and this celebration of friendship went right along with the ongoing theme there at ICBC!

Think about having a family or friends get-together of your own at Indian Creek. You'll be glad you did!



(Above) The two ladies and their daughters.

Contact Jordan to discuss when it would work best for you, 812.279.2161 or [indiancreek@abc-indiana.org](mailto:indiancreek@abc-indiana.org). ICBC is happy to host all types of events, church retreats & weddings year round!

## BIENNIAL FOCUSES ON FRESH EXPRESSIONS

Approximately 130 pastors and church members attended the Region Biennial, hosted by Muncie FBC on Sept. 27-28. Worship was led by Region staff and board members, leaders of the host church and Taylor University students. Sessions presented by Shannon Kiser and Matt Lake of Fresh Expressions centered around extending the Gospel in "fresh" ways and moving local churches toward new approaches of relating to others who might not be inclined to walk through our church building doors.

After the event, those present were emailed a synopsis of the content so that they might refer to it with their congregations and possibly try in the near future some similar approaches to the ideas shared. Appreciation was expressed time and time again for the opportunity to fellowship with one another during the meals, breaks and Ministry Fair.

For more about the weekend, read on...







Rev. Mark Thompson  
Executive Minister  
markthompson@abc-indiana.org

## WHERE DO WE FIND THE CHURCH THESE DAYS?

One of the questions asked by the *Fresh Expressions* leader at our Biennial keeps coming to mind. We were asked, "Where did Jesus do ministry?" I love simple questions that make me think about the life of Jesus. I thought about the mountain, the plain, the Temple, the tomb, the sycamore fig tree, and many places where Jesus ministered to people to convey the Gospel. In each of these encounters, we find the Kingdom work that Jesus came to do. It is Holy work. I love to read the Gospels and each of these encounters. As I sat and listened to our presenters, I was challenged to follow the steps of Jesus and to take the Gospel to the mountains, plains, prisons, and hospitals. We should find the church in these places but often do not.

I have come to believe that the main barrier keeping the church from a ministry that looks like the ministry of Jesus is the quenching of the Holy Spirit. I gave my life to Jesus as a child and have been blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit for my entire life. I cannot imagine not having the Holy Spirit present in my life to seal me, lead me,

convict me, and love me. Without the Holy Spirit, there is no good in me. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious as Galatians 5 tells us, but as a church, we are often more focused on these acts than we are on the fruit of the Spirit that is shared in the same passage. The fruit that comes from the manifestation of the Spirit in our lives is meant to feed all people.

When Jesus left to return to the Father, He promised that another would come that would allow us to do even greater things (John 14:12-17). I have always marveled at that statement. "Greater things?" But, how? Just like Jesus, we are called to love others and not focus on their sin or who they are when left to that sin. Jesus distinguished His ministry from that of the Pharisees by loving others no matter their guilt. This is mercy. We can only do this when we live in the Holy Spirit. This is where we will find the church, hopefully the Baptist church. Let us be this church as we walk "TOGETHER on God's Abundant Journey."

*Mark Thompson*

Rev. Mark Thompson  
Executive Minister



**M28 COULD BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!**

Would you like to be better equipped as a pastor or lay leader for your congregation? Are you interested in theological education but feel seminary is beyond your reach? M28 may be an affordable option for you!

It is an ABC-IN/KY Region partnership with Kairos University with rolling admission. For more information, email Dr. Dan Cash, M28 Dean, [dancash@abc-indiana.org](mailto:dancash@abc-indiana.org), or visit [www.abc-indiana.org/M28](http://www.abc-indiana.org/M28).

ABC-IN/KY congregations with current or former M28 students:

Calvary Baptist Church, Kokomo  
Center Square Baptist Church  
Cornerstone Church  
Eastview Baptist Church  
Gas City Baptist Church  
Graham Baptist Church  
Great Oak Church  
Iglesia Bautista Emanuel

Indian-Kentuck Baptist Church  
Kimberlin Baptist Church  
Liberty Center Baptist Church  
Martinsville Baptist Church  
Mt. Horeb Baptist Church  
New Market Baptist Church  
Tea Creek Baptist Church

### REGION MINISTERIAL STAFF

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## Observer submission deadlines for 2025

(All are Fridays)

December 6

March 7

June 6

September 5

Please send submissions to Wendy at the below email address.

If you would like more information about churches or events described in this issue, contact Wendy Shuler at [wendyshuler@abc-indiana.org](mailto:wendyshuler@abc-indiana.org) or (317) 635-3552 - press 3.

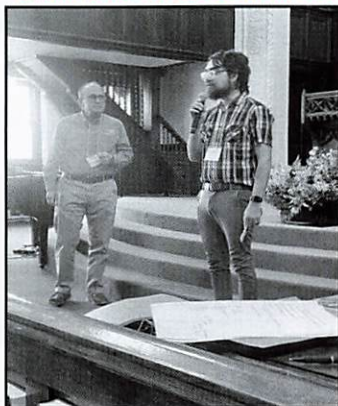


## ORDAINED 50 YEARS!



Howie Ness (above), who was recognized during the Biennial for 50+ years in ministry, briefly addressed the Region audience. Howie also was greeted fondly by several Purdue Baptist Student Foundation alumni in attendance.

Daniel Harris (above right), director of Charis, the recently restarted Baptist Student Ministry of Muncie, spoke to the Biennial crowd as well. Daniel now ministers to & with students of Ball State, Ivy Tech-Muncie, and other NE IN schools. If you know of any ABC students in the Muncie area, please help get them introduced to Daniel, [daniel@charismuncie.org](mailto:daniel@charismuncie.org).

STUDENT MINISTRY  
DIRECTOR WELCOMEDEQUIPPING LEADERS  
YOUTH LEADER SUPPORT OFFERED

Youth Leaders from ABC-IN/KY Region churches are invited to attend the next Youth Leader Zoom on Feb. 4, 2025.

Please also pay attention to the below info about **Youth Ministry University** resources available to all youth leaders of your church. **Sign up for access before April 2025!** Once you are added, you will have access *forever*, normally a \$250 value but brought to you for FREE by the Region! Interested in either opportunity? Email Kristi Jones, [kristijones@abc-indiana.org](mailto:kristijones@abc-indiana.org).

PRAYER TOGETHER, OR  
SO ONE MIGHT THINK...

But, no, this was a competitive mixer game of "Look Up, Look Down" led by Tyrone Edwards during the Biennial. Prayer and worship did also happen throughout the weekend though, of course!

Comment from a  
Biennial attendee:

*"Our IN/KY family has so much to offer that is greatly needed at this cultural moment."*

FREE training  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
UNIVERSITY

We are happy to share Youth Ministry University - online video training for your Youth Leaders and church. Once signed up, you will have instant access (with no expiration dates) to resources from veteran Youth Workers on numerous topics related to Youth Ministry!

YOUTH MINISTRY  
COURSES OFFERED  
101, 201, 301 & 401

- Pastoral Care with Teenagers
- Five Discipleship Essentials
- How to Be a Good Youth Leader on Social Media
- Understanding Mental Health
- Leader First, Friend Second
- ...and more!

TOPIC SPECIFIC  
COURSES  
AVAILABLE

- Developing Student Leaders
- Suicide Detection & Prevention
- Purpose Driven Youth Ministry
- ...to name a few!

We know training is important to your ministry and how it may seem inaccessible.

ABC-IN/KY desires to get these **FREE** resources into your hands **TODAY** & to see your ministry flourish!

## REGISTER NOW

- To gain access, email Kristi Jones, [kristijones@abc-indiana.org](mailto:kristijones@abc-indiana.org), your church name & the names and email addresses of *all* your leaders who would find these resources helpful.

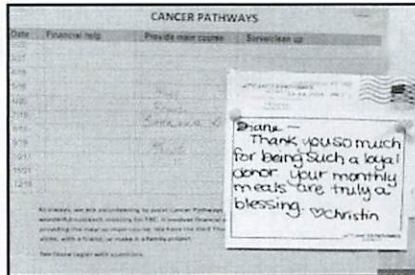
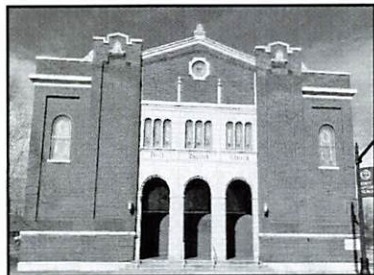


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## EXPANDING MISSION

### EVANSVILLE FBC REMAINS ACTIVE IN MISSION OUTREACH



### REMINDER...


# Fusion

## YOUTH MINISTRY

*Weekend*


**FOR:** Students in Grades 6th-12th

**LOCATION:** First Baptist Church of New Castle  
709 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362



**WORSHIP LEADER:**  
**JASON GRAY**

Since his 2007 nationwide label debut, *All the Lovely Losers*, Gray has established himself as a true songwriter's songwriter. The beloved Centricity Music recording artist has garnered multiple ASCAP Performance Awards for popular songs like "Remind Me Who I Am" and "Sparrows" and summited the radio charts with hits like his first No. 1 hit standard, "With Every Act of Love," and chart-topping indie single "Nothing Is Wasted." Throughout his celebrated tenure, Gray has shared the stage with genre leaders like Michael W. Smith, Steven Curtis Chapman, Third Day, TobyMac, LeAnn Rimes and others, in addition to headlining tours of his own. Moreover, he's the host of the popular Acoustic Storytime, a monthly writers-round radio show recorded at The Well Coffeehouse in Brentwood, Tenn., for SiriusXM The Message that highlights stories and songs from both well-known Christian acts and newcomers alike.



**SPEAKER:**  
**BRYAN MARVEL**


As a seasoned camp and conference speaker, Bryan regularly inspires people to embrace their God-given destiny that stems from a Christ-centered identity. He also pastors a church in Milwaukee, WI where he lives with his wife and three daughters. In his free time, he loves to drink good coffee, read inspiring books and listen to a wide variety of music.

**WHEN:** Friday, November 8th at 7pm  
until Saturday, November 9th at 3pm

**Cost:** \$50/student

**THEME:** Identity in Christ

Sponsored by:



Since 2022, First Baptist Church Evansville, Ind. has been without a Senior Pastor. The congregation (formed in 1847) has continued to spread the Gospel under a committed leadership team. The church continues many ministries sharing the love of Christ!

Their Operation Christmas Child effort filled 2,200 boxes last Christmas. They support Little Dresses for Africa and provide monthly meals for Cancer Pathways. Every Thanksgiving they support Evansville Rescue Mission by donating canned goods. They support Patchwork Central with monthly donations as well.

The congregation is currently providing space in their building for Weekday Religious Education staff who have been conducting weekly classes for children in the public schools since 1942. Yet this partnership between Evansville First Baptist and the program's staff began very recently in August 2024.

Every Sunday the church has a group of 20-25 members who meet for fellowship and breakfast. It is a great way to welcome new members! Monthly they have a carry-in dinner enjoying food and fellowship together after worship.

Church members also attend monthly meetings of the Downtown Evansville Economic Improvement District to build stronger ties with their community. - "Fresh Expressions!"

### FUSE EVENTS MOVING INTO OTHER AREAS OF THE REGION

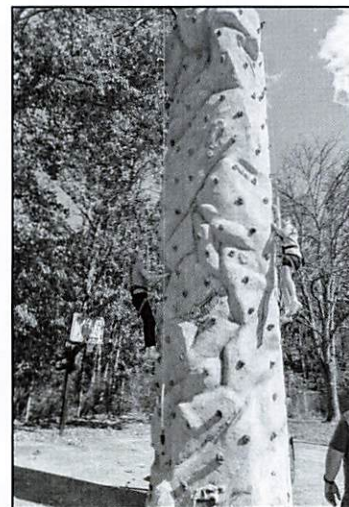
On October 6, another FUSE Student Gathering occurred in the central part of the Region at Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp (SBYC). Over 50 students and leaders from eight different ABC-IN/KY churches came together for a few hours. Students went on a relaxing ride around the camp, played BlasterBall, did some black light painting and climbed the rock wall at the camp. They ended their time together with a shared meal and a message from Tyler Griffin, Youth Pastor of Kimberlin Creek BC. The heart behind the FUSE Student Gatherings is to see students connect with God and one another.

At press time, we were looking forward to having our first FUSE in the southwestern part of the Region hosted by First Baptist Church Petersburg (October 20), and we hope to offer FUSE in the northern part of the Region in early 2025. FUSE is for students in grades 6-12 connected with any of our ABC-IN/KY churches. Whether your church has an active youth group or not, we'd love to have your students with us at FUSE!

For more info about FUSION, FUSE, & other Region Youth Ministry opportunities, contact

Kristi Jones, [kristijones@abc-indiana.org](mailto:kristijones@abc-indiana.org).

(Photos from Oct. 6 FUSE are at right)



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## EMPOWERING CHURCHES

### IGLESIA BAUTISTA LOGOS COLUMBUS SHARES BLESSINGS



(At top left) Photos from the IB Logos celebrations of Baptism and (at left) the church's Associate Minister Yamilis Hidalgo-Placeres.



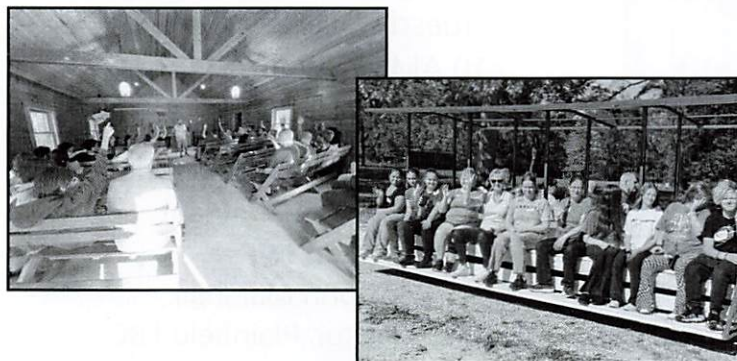
*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Mathew 28:19 NIV.*

On March 31, 2024, Iglesia Bautista Logos, one of the Hispanic ministries in Indiana (ABC-IN/KY), had a glorious day

when they baptized five churchgoers. The church has the blessing of having Christian Rodríguez-Tamayo, Andrelys Díaz-Navedo, Jaden Marín-Rosado, Bolívar Marín-Torres, and Leyda Navedo-Manso as new members. At this moment, they are active leaders of the congregation working with their hands on the plow.

IB Logos is also blessed to receive Yamilis Hidalgo-Placeres as the congregation's associate pastor. In August 2023, the congregation selected her unanimously as associate pastor. Yamilis is currently starting the third year of her MA in Theology and Ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary.

*May the Lord Bless you on this day and every day that follows!*



### TWO CHURCHES RECOGNIZED DURING 2024 REGION BIENNIAL



Region Vice President Tyrone Edwards (right) recognizes two Region churches for 200 years of ministry, with certificates of recognition accepted by Pastor Bill Cordes of Mt. Moriah BC (left) and Pastor Scott Johanningsmeier of Elizabeth BC (middle).

### IGLESIA BAUTISTA LOGOS COLUMBUS COMPARTE BENDICIONES

*"Id, pues, y haced discípulos a todas las naciones, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo." Mateo 28:19 NVI.*

El 31 de marzo de 2024, la Iglesia Bautista Logos, uno de los ministerios hispanos en Indiana (ABC-IN/KY), tuvo un día glorioso cuando bautizaron a cinco feligreses. La iglesia tiene la bendición de tener como nuevos miembros a Christian Rodríguez Tamayo, Andrelys Díaz Navedo, Jaden Marín Rosado, Bolívar Marín Torres y Leyda Navedo Manso. En este momento, son líderes activos de la congregación trabajando con sus manos en el arado.

IB Logos también tiene la bendición de recibir a Yamilis Hidalgo-Placeres como pastora asociada de la congregación. En agosto de 2023, la congregación la seleccionó por unanimidad como pastora asociada. Yamilis actualmente está comenzando su maestría de tercer año en Teología y Ministerio en el Seminario Teológico Fuller.

*¡Que el Señor los bendiga en este día y en todos los días que siguen!*

**The ABC-IN/KY Region is moving more and more toward electronic communications.**

**Don't be left out!** - Subscribe to e-news on our website & be sure to Follow the Region on social media.

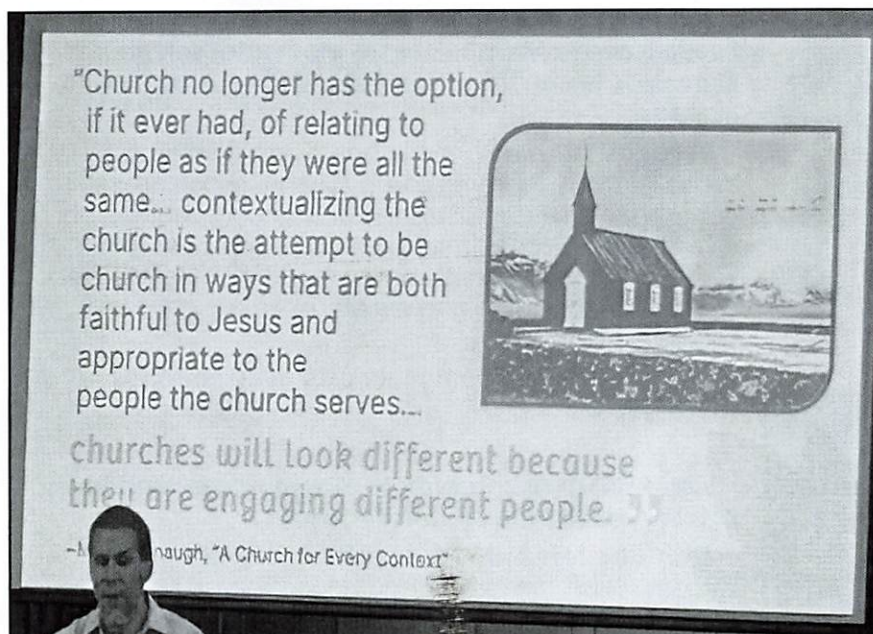
*If you aren't technologically-inclined, ask a friend or your pastor/church staff to help keep you "in-the-know!"*



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## EQUIPPING LEADERS & EXPANDING MISSION



### NEXT Pastor/Staff Zoom Call

Tuesday, November 12  
10 AM (EST); 9 AM (CST)

#### Topic:

An Example of Fresh Expressions -  
A NEW Church Plant

#### Led by:

Rev. John Marshall  
Senior Pastor, Plainfield FBC