

THE VOICE

Love First *Caring, Sharing, Connecting*



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CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING!!

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial

commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete *Estimate of Giving Cards*. During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, following a brief time of instruction and inspiration, members will make their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Church Council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

*Pastor Jeff Taylor &
Consecration Sunday Team*

Women Alive in Faith November 7, 2009 9:30 am Davis Park Lodge

The Lydia Circle of United Methodist Women invites you to join us at Davis Park Saturday, November 7, at 9:30 am, for brunch and to hear Moreblessing Ndana, an Anderson University student from Zimbabwe in Africa. Moreblessing has been here at AU for two years and is the daughter of a pastor. She will be speaking of her life in Zimbabwe.

There is a \$6.00 cost for the brunch. Please call the church office (643-6977) during business hours to make your reservations.

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MISS MARY MARGARET'S MUSINGS

We have three new Bible Scholars among us! As of Sunday October 25th, we have three third grade students who have now begun what I hope will be a lifetime journey of Bible reading and study! Congratulations to Mason, Jocie and Jaden! If you received a Bible from your church when you were in the third grade (or whatever was the equivalent when you were young! :o), please seek out Mason Barnett, Jocie Strock and Jaden Wilcox and encourage them as they begin spending time in their very own Bible.

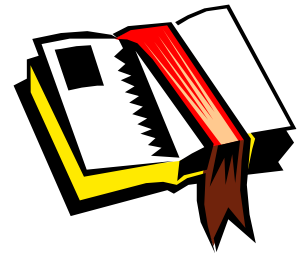
Because, after all, YOU gave them this Bible. Each member of this church did something toward this special gift. Maybe you gave a little bit extra financially. Maybe you read the Scripture lesson one Sunday in worship. Maybe you invited a child to walk down the aisle with you as you went forward for Communion. Maybe you brought your Bible to church one

Sunday morning and used it during the worship service. Maybe you stood out of respect when the Gospel was read.

Yes, I think all those things are important when we talk about giving our children their very own Bibles. Without the adults showing the importance of the Bible in their lives, the children would have no desire for a Bible of their own. Without the adults giving of their time and talent to read the Scriptures (and sometimes stumbling over the sometimes impossible to pronounce words), the children wouldn't realize that it doesn't matter if we pronounce every word the same, it's important to read them with reverence. Without seeing the adults who worship beside them each week being comfortable enough with their Bible to find the day's lesson, the children won't work on learning the books of the Bible in order so they too can find the lesson. And without your praying for Mason and Jocie and Jaden as they begin this journey, they won't get very far!

So thank you for giving these three special children a very special gift. And thank you for allowing Pastor Jeff, Pastor Donna and me the opportunity to work with these three as they open The Holy Bible they now have in their own hands!

Faithfully yours,
Miss Mary Margaret



Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship
Sanctuary

10:10-11:10 a.m.
Sunday School
Downtown
Opportunities for all ages

11:10 a.m.
Modern Worship
Worship Center
Lower Level

4:30 p.m.
Community Café
Free Meal, Brief
Devotional Message
And Music
Fellowship Hall

Please Remember to Complete and Turn in your Communication Survey!!!!

ALL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER

OMIGOSH-The holiday season has snuck up on us again. There will be tons of events to participate in, lots of decisions to make. Here at First there will be lots to do as well, and we would like to see our entire church family at every event.

One family celebration we'd like to have everyone join in is the All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner on November 14, 2009, at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

The church will supply the turkey, gravy and mashed potatoes, but we are depending on you to bring the salads, vegetables and desserts.

It would be helpful if you would bring your own tablesetting and a beverage. This event will be right after the Advent Workshop upstairs in the Narthex, so join us in ushering in the season.



BON AMI SCHEDULE

On Friday, November 13, 17 Bon Amis are headed to Springboro, Ohio for the Christmas spectacular at La Comedia dinner theater. The show will be a musical journey that features spectacular dancing, fun-loving characters and Santa Claus himself. It will also include the warmth and beauty of the Nativity and the traditional rendition of "O Holy Night." Lunch will include the house signature salad with Papaya Chutney Dressing followed by chef-carved meats, deep-fried Norwegian Cod, a variety of pastas and fresh vegetables, fresh baked breads, the famous sweet potato soufflé, and dessert. 3 spaces are still available at a cost of \$55 each. The bus will leave from the church parking lot at 8:15 am.

The Bon Ami trip in December will be Friday, December 11, to the Yuletide Celebration of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

The cost of the tickets are \$45 each, and 40 have been purchased. These tickets always go quickly, so be sure to call the office (643-6977) to make your reservations.

The bus will leave the downtown parking lot at 12:30 pm and return by 5:30 pm.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle Activities for October:

Bible Study Circle—November 5, 9:30 am

Hostesses: Jan Olive and Bev Briles
2234 Riviera Drive, Anderson

Lesson #3—"Growing Older and Wiser" led by Francie Seybert

Friendship Circle—November 5, 9:30 am

Hostess: Nina Coyner
3509 Berkely Road, Anderson

Devotion: Janet Casterline

Program: Kaye and Janet Casterline

Lydia Circle—

November 10, 7:00 pm

North-South Parlor

Program: World Thank Offering



PASTOR JOHN WINS CHESS TOURNAMENT

When last heard from as he retired, Pastor John Wortinger was honing his chess playing skills in order to enter the Indiana State and US Open Chess Tournaments.

We have recently heard that Pastor John won first place in both the Indiana State Tournament, AND the US Open Chess Tournament.



Congratulations, Pastor John!!



First UMC's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, November 3, at 9:30 am, to discuss "The Lost Quilter" by Jennifer Chiaverini, who has written the Elm Creek Series of books concerning the events in a group of quilters lives.

"The Lost Quilter" tells the tale of an escaped slave who was returned to the south and her experiences during the Civil War. It is a view of the Civil War unlike many other books written about the subject.

Take an hour out of your schedule and join us in the library downtown to discuss this book—everyone is welcome.

CHECK IT OUT!! "Cast of Characters..Common People in the Hands of an Uncommon God."

Max Lucado keeps amazing me with his tremendous books about Biblical characters. In 2008 he compiled a group of 20 excerpts from previous books which bring together the most important characters from the Old and New Testaments. He then tells the stories in an effort to help the reader discover how God has always used common people to do great things.

Esther risked her life to save the Israelites from a cruel death. Abigail made up for a foolish king and again saved the ancestors of Jesus from death. Two criminals exhibit differing reactions to the offer made by Jesus on the cross. One showed some repentance, and was given the gift of eternal life. The other failed to demonstrate any semblance of faith in what Jesus could do for him. Moses, after forty years of repentance, was chosen to confront Pharaoh, and the slaves were let loose from bondage and began the trek to the promised land.

About 25 characters are lifted up to help us see what God is continuing to do to guarantee our eternal life. These may be old stories, but they ring with a clarity which speaks to the reader. Pick up the book "Cast of Characters..Common People in the Hands of an Uncommon God." You will be blessed.

Check It Out!

THE VOICE

YOUTH NEWS / JAKES'S CORNER

Good afternoon!

Actually, the afternoon part was just a guess; it could be morning, or even evening, when you read this! I have to say something that will help lead into what's going on with the youth ministry; I've been much busier than I was at this time last year. A lot of the things I've been doing are more associated with creating some more structure to the youth ministry; although I have been doing a lot of planning with everything that's been going on too.

October held a lot of good things for us. We cooked and served the dinner for Community Café, which is always a tiring experience. I'm sure a lot of you can relate. We also took a day to clean out the youth room again. We did the same thing last year and were able to throw away a bunch of clutter that had built up. I'm not sure if any of you have been up there in a while, but it's starting to look a little rough. As I'm writ-

ing this we have not had the chance to clean it yet, but I'll give you the full update in the next issue. We originally wanted to do a Rake and Run (we would go around to different houses and rake leaves), but the lack of leaves made us change our plans. I think cleaning out the youth room is just as necessary. I'm actually glad the Rake and Run didn't work out just so we can clean things up in our own area.

The big thing that occurred in October was the start of Something Different, which is the name of our church's new Sunday morning worship service for the youth. Just like the cleaning day, we haven't had the service yet as I'm writing this article, but I will give the full update in the next issue. I really think this service has great potential. It can be a good place for the youth to get what they want and need out of a church service. It's also something they can invite their friends to on Sunday morning that might help draw those kids in on Sunday nights. It could also help draw in families with youth who are looking for a church that

offers something like this. In the end, if it's not supposed to happen, then it won't and at least we can say we tried. November looks to be a great month. We're participating in United Way's Operation: Weatherization again, which is on November 7th from 10 am to 2 pm. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so, or let me know you want to help out! We're also going to be holding a Youth Auction fundraiser. We'll be auctioning off the youth to do a little bit of work for members of the congregation. It's going to be a silent auction and the bidding will start on November 8th and the winner will be announced on the 29th. The youth with the highest winning bid gets a trophy, so let's bid for a kid! Who knows, maybe even the guy who leads the youth will be up for auction. We might also look to do the Rake and

Run, since most of the leaves will have fallen by then. Lastly, the second service of Something Different will be on November 22nd at 9:00 A.M.

There are so many things going on, I almost used a whole page, single-spaced! God bless!

Jake

Youth Calendar

November 7 – Operation: Weatherization

November 8 – Youth Auction bidding starts

November 22 – Something Different

November 29 – Youth Auction winners announced

Youth Birthdays

November 1 – Evan Scherer

November 2 – Jeffrey Seitz



J.O.Y. LUNCHEONS AND PROGRAMS

The J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) group will meet for lunch and a program on Friday, November 20, at 11:30 am. The speaker will be Wendy Cook from Healthy, Tobacco-Free Madison County, Inc. Wendy will share about the goals and work of this group in trying to reduce smoking rates as well as exposure of Hoosiers to secondhand smoke in Madison County. She will also share highlights of a recent study done about the impact of substance abuse in our county.

The group is targeted to individuals 55 and older and is open to individuals both within our congregation and in the community. A \$6 donation is requested for the cost of the meal. Pastor Donna is the contact person. Reservations are requested—please call the church office (643-6977).

HOMEBOUND CARD MINISTRIES

Don't you like to get cards, or friendly phone calls? No! Not someone asking for help or a contribution... but just a friendly, "Hi! How are you doing?" kind of visit?

That's what this program is all about. Dropping a card to someone who is alone or homebound is a valued ministry. Some of our people have been doing this for years. Now we need more people. We need you!

We will have a reorganization meeting, Saturday, November 14, at 10:00 am in the North-South Parlor, Downtown. If you think you are interested, come and learn more about it, or call Rev. Casterline at 643-4957 or 606-1027 (cell phone).



Youth Auction

The youth ministry is putting together another fundraiser, and lo and behold, it's another auction! This time, though, we're not auctioning off baked goods, but ourselves! As a part of the congregation of this church you can bid on one, or all, of the



youth who are involved in this auction, and if you win, he or she will do work for you; it can be anything from raking leaves, to walking your dog, or to building an addition onto your house (we charge extra for that, though). The day and time must be decided upon between the youth and the winner. This will be a silent auction. The bidding starts on November 8th, and the winners will be announced on November 29th, so that gives you a few weeks to submit your bids or to outbid someone. The bidding forms will be located in the Narthex. Please bid on one or more youth and help us raise money so we can develop an effective ministry!



TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

We need to stay with the times. I've been trying to do that so far. I've started up Facebook groups and fan pages for the church and for the youth. I've been texting, e-mailing, sending newsletters through e-mail, and I even started up a MySpace account for myself (a part of me died that day, though). The next adventure that I'd like to take us on is creating a website

I want to build a separate website for the youth ministry in the church and link it to our church's website. If anyone would like to help out with this, please let me know. I want to get this going and finished as soon as possible. This is going to be awesome!

Jake



THE TIME HAS COME AROUND AGAIN.
IT'S CHEERLEADING TIME!
GO UPWARD TEAM! WIN UPWARD TEAM!
YEAH UPWARD!



Registration for this year's Upward Basketball and Cheerleading program began on October 19th and continues through the middle of December. So, if your child is in Kindergarten through 6th grade, feel free to register him or her for this exciting opportunity to perfect their sport skills as well as their knowledge of the Word of God! There is a fee for this but there are some scholarships available.

Basketball games will begin in January and the season runs through March. Games are on Saturday morning in the Wesley Free Methodist gym.

Cheerleading practice is held at 1st UMC on Tuesday evenings.

We are also in need of some volunteers to make sure this mission outreach in our community is as strong as it can be in order to witness to every child who wishes to play basketball or be a cheerleader.

We need **PRAYER PARTNERS!!!!** Will you partner with us through prayer as we seek God in every aspect of our Upward league? We are in need of those who will be committed to praying each day for our Upward season to change lives. The Time Commitment is 5 minutes a day for 100 days beginning Tuesday, January 5, 2010.

If you feel the call to be a part of this ministry, please call Miss Mary Margaret as soon as you can. She'll love to talk with you about your role.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday night class (7-8)

New class led by Pastor Jeff

Senior Pastor Jeff Taylor will lead an adult educational opportunity on Tuesday evenings at 7:00, from October 27 through December 15. The topic will be the 10 most important events in church history and how they have impacted us and are continuing to impact us. Come join Pastor Jeff in North-South parlor.

Wednesday night Quest class

(6:30-7:30)

Come join the Wednesday night adult study from 6:30-7:30 pm, in the East-West parlor. We are exploring Christianity's family tree-what other Christians believe and why. Topics include Catholicism, Lutheranism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and our own Methodism. The class is facilitated by Pastor Donna and includes video segments from Rev. Adam Hamilton.



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NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Hear the happy sound of toddlers playing in the Nursery? We need you to hear them up close and personal especially on the weeks when the AU students who have been staffing the nursery will be on breaks from school. We need members of Anderson First United Methodist church to step up and staff the nursery those Sunday mornings. You may work the entire session (8:45 until 12:45) or you may sign up for one hour blocks! Please sign up

at the nursery door or by leaving me a note or email. The Nursery is in room 136 which is right across from my office. Please sign up!

Those dates are:

November 29th

December 6th

December 20th

December 27th

Thanks,
Miss Mary Margaret

Grief Recovery Workshop

A four week grief recovery workshop series will be offered on Thursday evenings from October 29-November 19, at 6:00 pm. These sessions are open to anyone who has lost a loved one to death.

Please call the church office (643-6977) to make a reservation. Pastor Donna will facilitate the sessions.



New Additions to the Library

Here's the new books in the library this month:

Adult:

Still Alive - Lisa Genova

The Preacher's Daughter - Beverly Lewis

Very Valentine - Adriana Trigiani

Comfort Food - Kate Jacobs

Psalms Now - Leslie F. Bradt

The Last Song - Nicholas Sparks

Young Adult:

Young Samurai:

The Way of the Warrior -

Chris Bradford

The Mysterious Benedict Society -

Trenton Lee Stewart

Children:

Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls :

Moving Day - Meg Cabot

How Do Dinosaurs

Go To School? -

Jane Yolen

Spooky Hour -

Tony Mitton



THOUGHTS ON WISDOM



Indiana is often struck by tornadoes. News about impending storms interrupts regular television programming, warning what to do to stay safe. On Palm Sunday in 1965, eleven tornadoes touched down in central and northern Indiana, leaving incredible devastation in their paths. At one point, my family and I stood in our front yard and watched a tornado tear across the horizon. When things became too threatening and the lights had gone out, we went to the basement for safety with our three children. We huddled there in the dark when our youngest son said, "I know what! Lets turn on the lights!" In his young life, the lights had always come on with the press of a button. Not this time. Sometimes in our lives, the light doesn't seem very bright. We live in fear, not knowing what to do next. Solomon felt unsure too as he succeeded David to the throne. God told Solomon to pray for whatever he wanted. He could have asked God for money to hire enough political and spiritual

advisors to meet his needs. He could have hired people to run the country while he enjoyed all the things wealth could bring him. Instead, he confessed to the Lord that he was like a child needing wisdom and discernment. He recognized the power of David's rule and knew he did not have the abilities it would take to walk in his footsteps. So he humbled himself, asking for what he needed...wisdom and discernment. God was pleased Solomon had asked for wisdom. God honored his prayer, giving him not only wisdom and discernment but wealth and long life as well.

Gracious Lord, grant that I may see my inadequacies and confess them to you. Grant me wisdom and discernment. Turn on the lights; guide me in your way. Amen

Continuing our series—Janet Casterline wrote this devotion for the book **Upper Room Disciplines for 2009**.

MEMORIALS GIVEN IN SEPTEMBER, 2009

Wilbur Roby

Sara and Joe Vargo
Joyce and Bill Craigie
Cheryl and Dennis Baker
Mae Ellen and Jim Gale
Brain Senninger
Raymond McCaslin
Hazel and Charles Dickmann
June Tibbetts

John Miles

June Tibbetts

Godna James
Bonnie and Ron Reas

Godna James to Music Department

Norma and Bob Scott

Wilbur Roby to Bus Fund

Millie Shepherd

Maxine White

Caroll Pentecost

ADVENT WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 14—3:00PM TO 5:00 PM

This year's Advent Workshop is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, November 14th – before the All-church Thanksgiving Dinner. Please plan to join us in the Narthex for an afternoon of family fun. We'll make some advent wreaths, advent calendars, tree ornaments, decorated cookies and the like. If you'd like to help, please contact Leisa Jones at 649-1598 or Peg Peter at 643-9769. We'll contact you back with information about who and what we need for a successful afternoon.



We will also be assembling Christmas Shoeboxes for Operation Shoebox this year. We're still collecting items at the office for this worthy program.

In case you've misplaced your list-here's what we are collecting:

School Supplies

Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads, paper, solar calculators, coloring books, picture books

Toys: (NO war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures)

Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch-A-Sketch, toys that light up or make noise, batteries, Slinky's

Hygiene Items: (do not include liquids, lotions, aerosol cans)

Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth

Oh, yes, we could use some sturdy shoeboxes, too

HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

Today (October 14) we had 76 families visit the Helping Hands Pantry. This was a record for a month and we still have tomorrow. We were thrilled to be able to help with flannel sheets and blankets. They went very fast. We also went through most of the dish detergent, tissues, and shampoo as well as paper towels we had on hand. The new list of needs are:

Small bottles of dish soap
Tissues
Shampoo
Paper towels
Diapers - all sizes but newborn

We feel that with the cold weather early and the economy as it is the situation and needs will only become greater. We have a large supply of "samples" so we will be putting together gift baggies for the holidays. It was also noted today each family receives a bag of approximately \$5 to \$7 worth of supplies. The diapers were the big difference in the estimate.

FIGHT HUNGER IN INDIANA



Here is an easy way to join the fight against hunger in Indiana! Go to

www.chunky.com/ClickForCansLanding

and vote for the Colts! Campbell's is working with the NFL and each week they pair

up the teams that are playing each other that week.

The team that wins (the one that gets the most clicks on the Campbell's website...not the team that wins the football game!) gets a donation made to area food banks in its honor. At the end of the season, the team with the most wins gets a really special donation!

So...Go, Colts!





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Love First: Caring, Sharing & Connecting

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andersonfirst.org and
 follow us on Facebook

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| November 3-7 | Directory Pictures |
| November 7 | Women Alive In Faith—9:30 am—Davis Park |
| November 13 | Bon Ami Trip to La Comedia |
| November 14 | Advent Workshop 3-5 pm Narthex |
| November 14 | All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner—5:30 pm—Fellowship Hall |
| November 15 | Consecration Sunday |
| November 15 | Church Cluster Charge Conference—New Horizons—3 pm |
| November 26 | Thanksgiving Day |
| December 6 | AAYC Christmas Concert |
| December 11 | Bon Ami Trip to Indianapolis Symphony |
| December 11-12; 18-19 | Walk in the Lights—Davis Park |
| December 13 | Lessons & Carols |
| December 21 | Longest Night Service |



All Church Thanksgiving Dinner—
 November 14

Its Coming!!!