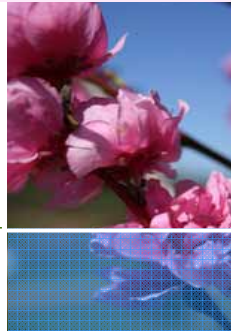


April 23, 2007

Volume 44, Issue 6



The Voice

LOVE FIRST *Caring, Sharing, Connecting*

Celebrating 180 years

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Mission Fair *with an emphasis on hometown mission*

Sunday, April 15, we gathered and learned more about mission ministries within the Marion District, the North Indiana Conference and beyond. D.S. Craig LaSuer gathered us to consider emphasizing mission and shared the vision that United Methodist Churches are a network of churches, individuals and organizations who have a heart for hometown missions.

Rev. LaSuer also presented Jeff Newton from the Kokomo Neighborhood Outreach who gave some practical suggestions on how to be in mission in our own neighborhood. These are:

The Vision:

The vision is that every church would become a mission base; every Christian a missionary.

Our mission is to

Resource the church to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community.

Accomplished through four streams of outreach.

Stream One

Make contact with neighbors in our community. **Build relationships and listen.... listen....listen....listen!**

Stream Two

Active listening. Provide a focused ministry in an established location.

Stream Three

Provide safe places to explore Christian faith.

Stream Four

Birth "Third Places." Most people hang out first at home, secondly at work, and then there are third places. For us a **third place** is a place where people come together for relationship building, bible study, and outreach. Third places are found in homes, restaurants, parks...

.....anywhere free.

As churches are becoming mission bases in their

neighborhoods, we are seeing the Kingdom of God unfold before our eyes.

Questions to ponder....

- Do you consider Anderson First a mission base?
- How is Anderson First involved in mission within our community?
- How are you involved?
- As we open our church doors and look out into the community – what other opportunities are we missing to build relationships?

In this issue:

- Bon Amis on Hiatus for month of May (p. 3)
- Weber Reception scheduled (p. 8)
- Dinner Theater Details (P. 10)
- Summer Worship Schedule (back page)



Quis custodiet ipsos custodies *A message from Pastor Derek*

I thought a little Latin would be a good start this issue. The problem is this phrase doesn't really say what I want it to say. One way to translate the words above is "Who watches the watchers?" Another rendering might be "who guards the guards?"

The second translation is a little closer to what I'm heading toward here. Perhaps we should change it to "Who ministers to the minister?" to really get across what I intend with this article. It was my intention to write some words that might give some suggestions as to how to go about welcoming and working with a new pastor. I originally intended to title this "The Care and Feeding of a Senior Pastor" but decided that might seem too cute to some of you. So, I went high class. Latin, no less! Who ministers to the minister?

It is my intention (and we know what happens to intentions, don't we class?) to cover some of the big issues this time and then to look at some of the smaller things next issue. But then what I consider big issues and small issues may not match your priorities, so just keep an open mind.

One last disclaimer, your new senior pastor didn't ask for this. It was just something I came up with on my own. Well, with a little help from a bunch of District Superintendents who wanted to make sure I do all I can do to smooth this transition. So, I'm doing my best.

Who ministers to the minister? First all, a senior pastor is a human being. This may seem obvious to most of you, I would hope anyway. Yet it is worth saying again. And like all human beings a senior pastor has within the capacity to make mistakes. In all the ways we humans have perfected, we make mistakes by not paying attention, by missing some details; by have prejudices or preferences, or blind spots; by letting emotions get in the way; by getting tired or stressed; by ... well, you fill in your own reasons. But the point is clear; there is the potential for mistakes. And the sign of a Christian community is not how to avoid mistakes (though minimizing them is a good thing to be sure) but how to deal with one another when mistakes are made. When the senior pastor forgets to wave at you in the street it isn't because you are not worth noticing, it isn't a personal slight. Don't bear a grudge, learn to forgive. Or take the time to discuss the situation. Work things out, even with a senior pastor. It can be done.

At the same time, this human being we've called pastor has some incredible gifts too. Like all those who are claimed by Christ, a senior pastor has some talents and abilities that are useful to Christ's church. Let them be used! Your incoming senior pastor also has some considerable experience in this calling. Trust in that. Listen and learn. Find out what passions for mission and ministry are harbored there.

Understand too, though, those gifts and experience and passion are unique. Don't expect the new pastor to be just like a previous one. That is one of the problems of long memories and good experiences, not to mention an impressive line of capable senior pastors. I sensed early on there were those who were disappointed I wasn't more like Phil Klinger, or Bob Jackson. Even a few who wanted me to be more like the Rev. Bransford. So, please don't expect John to do things the way I have done them. If there is something a previous pastor did that you liked or thought was helpful for the church, the way to approach the subject would be to ask, not tell. Would you like to ... always sounds better than Pastor Soandso always ...

This settling in and finding out how to work together is going to take a little while. But you can help in the process by being open and by asking questions. In fact the Staff Parish Committee is in the process of setting up some "house meetings" for this summer and fall to help with communication. The purpose of those meetings is for John to hear from you. He needs to know what is facing First Church these days, what you celebrate and what concerns you have. These small group meetings are designed to open up conversation about ministry and mission. They are not supposed to be a grill the new pastor kind of thing. He needs to hear from you.

If you are interested in hosting one of these meetings, get in touch with Paul Joseph, the chairperson of Staff Parish. If you are interested in attending one – and I sincerely hope you are – watch for opportunities in the next few weeks to sign up on your preferred date. There will be some in the afternoons and some in the evenings to accommodate any schedule.

If these meetings are for John to find out about you and about your Church, then the next step is to set up opportunities to get to know him. I am calling each group in the life of the church to issue an invitation to John (and Linda his wife) to your next meeting, or one fairly soon. In those settings you could have an opportunity to have him share about his life and ministry as well as the beginnings of his vision for First Church. And I say beginnings because as a new pastor it takes some time to grow into a vision for the church you serve. It takes listening to the

Quis custodiet ipsos custodiet

Continued from page 2

church and to God; it takes some assessment of gifts and passions and then some time to put it all together. But some reflection on what he has seen and heard so far would be good.

You may wonder why I'm spending so much time and space on these issues. It isn't a "lame duck" approach, despite what some might think. Instead what I am trying to do is to continue a push that I have had for the past couple of years here. That is hospitality must become second nature to the church as a whole. What you have now is a test case for how well you welcome. Granted a new senior pastor is a little bit different than the visitor on a Sunday morning. But the way you receive John and Linda might be reflective of how you receive anyone. Who will minister to the ministers? And if we are all called to be ministers, then caring for one another, and caring for the potential ministers in our midst might go a long way to making our slogan true: Love First – Caring, Sharing, Connecting.

Make it so!

Shalom,

Donna

THANK YOU!

From Pastor Donna

Thanks so much to all of you for your prayers and encouragement for my Track Two ordination interview. I woke up that morning relaxed and calm and knew I was already experiencing the results of your prayers. The interview went well. The team was thorough in their questions, and I appreciated that. I was approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry to move on to Track Three. I will have more paperwork and requirements to complete this coming year as well as one more interview next spring. God willing, I will then be approved for ordination as a full elder in the United Methodist Church! I so appreciate your support on the journey!

Bon Amis

Schedule for May and June.

The Bon Amis travel group will take a short **hiatus for the month of May** (no trip is scheduled) but will be headed out for fun, food, and fellowship beginning in June through the end of the year. You are invited to come along and enjoy the ride. Call the church office (643-6977) to register for any or all of the trips. If you need scholarship assistance to attend any of the events, please contact Pastor Donna at the church office.

June 8, 2007

Fair Oaks Dairy Farm

A visit to Fair Oaks Farms is a **get real tour** that combines the getting back to the basics and the tradition of living off the

land, with going forward to the the future of ultra sophisticated and sustainable agribusiness.

During this tour you will experience a 3D/4D Movie, tour the dairy and exhibit hall, visit the Birthing Barn, Cheese Plant and have an opportunity to shop. A catered lunch is part of this dairy adventure.

Where: Fair Oaks Dairy Adventure

When: Friday, June 8

Location: Fair Oaks, Indiana

Cost: \$28

**Depart: 7:45 am - 5:30 pm
Lunch and Tour**

J.O.Y. Luncheon

(Just Older Youth)

Come meet new friends and enjoy the, always exciting and interesting, programs scheduled each month. The J.O.Y group meets in fellowship hall on the third Friday of each month at First United Methodist Church. **A donation of \$6 is requested for the cost of the meal.** Call 765-643-6977 for more information or to make your reservation.

The program for May will be "**exploring older adult ministry for First United Methodist Church.**" We will assess what we are currently doing and explore what else God might be calling us to do.

He (God) creates this world new and different every day. *Musings from the office at the end of the hall.*

I celebrated last night. I achieved a great achievement. I did a great deed. I reached a milestone. And what was this great accomplishment you ask? I made a pair of socks by hand. Okay, so I used knitting needles, yarn AND my hands. It took me six months but I did it. Yeah me.

It seemed like a very long time while I worked away on my homemade socks. It felt like forever until I began hearing how long the Beautiful Banner Crew had been working on the banners for our sanctuary. Yeah Banner Workers! Of course, I only had to make two socks, not seven and even if you stretch them out my socks are only 11 inches from cuff to toe as opposed to 40 feet! Aren't you glad I wasn't the primary engineer for those banners?

The size of the gift shouldn't make a difference in how proud we are of our finished creations. The first word a child learns to speak is every bit as exciting as the first time a child recites all the books of the Bible. The first time my niece walked in

our front door by herself was so exciting it brought tears to my eyes. Now, when she walks in our front door it is exciting but I don't have time to tear up... we've got games to play and questions to ask/answer and hugs to receive. The size of the gifts in my life doesn't make any difference in my enjoyment of them. They are gifts to me and I am proud to be a part of the process that causes them to be gifts to others in this world as well.

I don't remember my friends from when I was a baby. It doesn't mean I didn't have them. I took Kaitlin to see my elementary school and THEY HAD TORN IT DOWN!!!! It doesn't mean nothing happened to me from September 1962 through May 1968! My friend Marlene came to spend the weekend with me last summer and we spent almost as much time talking about being 50 years old as we did about what fun we had in high school. My mom and one of her college roommates call each other at least twice a month and

sometimes, when I hear them giggle, I can imagine them in their dorm room in 1948 doing the same thing. All that reminiscing and for what purpose? Well, I guess to say – the more things change the more they stay the same. Windows – clear and colored – come and go; plain tan walls become soft lavender ones inviting guests to feel comfortable on their way to worship; children's voices singing "The B-I-B-L-E" mature into adults singing "Crown Him With many Crowns;" preachers come and preachers go and preachers arrive again.

United Methodists worship - not in the same buildings sometimes but always with the comfort of knowing the family of God is in our midst and we are in the middle of it as well. Sweet, perfectly dressed babies grow into "uniquely clothed" teenagers and yet God is in them both. He isn't more godly in someone who likes what we like or looks like we want people to look. He creates this world new and different every day. Living through yesterday

means I come into today different than I was the day before.

Please don't let changes upset you so much so as to keep you from continuing your faith journey at and with Anderson First United Methodist Church. We can't control most changes in our lives because things like new jobs, graduations, retirement or moves to new cities happen. We can control our attitude in those changes and we can show others our trust in the God who sustains us when things are different than we planned to be! We can be proud of our creations, whether banners on the wall or examples of children, youth or adults choosing the faithful way because we taught them or a pair of plain brown handmade socks.

*Faithfully yours,
Miss Mary Margaret*

Children's Sunday

The theme for Children's Sunday (May 20) is "It Runs In The Family!" As a part of our multi-sensory worship experience we want to have pictures of our families on display. We

need some portraits and some scrapbook pages and some digital prints and some candid shots of our families at work and play. These pictures will be returned to you the week of

May 27 or thereafter. Please send or bring your pictures into Miss Mary Margaret's office as soon as possible. Thank you.



Vacation Bible School

Lift Off! Soaring To New Heights With God!

Vacation Bible School 2007 is all about Lifting Off! We'll all soar to new altitudes as we Lift Off! And soar to new heights with God.

We'll experience the beauty and wonder of hot air ballooning while exploring daily Flight Plans to follow god, trust God, listen to God, repent, and serve others in Jesus' name.

Throughout this VBS program, we'll learn how to reach new heights in our relationship with

God. Each day we will:

- Experience a panoramic view of God's love
- Discover "Power Prayer" Bible verses to fuel our journeys
- Rally with Jesus, our friend and Savior
- Launch into action serving others

A Special component of this year's program will be learning Power Prayers and having a

time each day to share prayer requests with each other.

We hope you'll join us as we enjoy the flight!

Miss Mary Margaret and Mrs. Justine!

PS. There will be classes for children aged 4 through those finishing 6th grade. There will be an adult class taught by Pastor Donna.

Make plans to attend! Head out to the lake NEXT week!



The Responsibility & Privilege of passing on the word of God.

Thoughts about II Chronicles

I know you've been thinking about this book of the Bible Every generation carries the awesome responsibility and privilege of passing on the Word of God to those within our sphere of influence. Those who have faithfully served the Lord in generations and centuries past serve as examples of faith. II Chronicles gives plenty of examples of those who have

faithfully served and we can connect our faith with theirs only when we know the stories! The trust of those faithful persons of the Bible in God cannot compensate for any lack of commitment on our part. What it can do, is remind us of our faith and our need to continue that faith. Our personal faith can't be transmitted to our children without a conscious decision on our part and an openness of heart on their part to receive God for themselves.

No matter the length of the list of one's godly genealogy, one break in that continuity of faith can plunge future generations into a downward tailspin of ungodliness and faithlessness. Tradition, customs, and ancestry alone are not enough. We must pass the Truth of God on to the next waiting generation and to the next. Our work is cut out for us as long as we live. Let's get on with it! There are some precious children and grandchildren counting on us!

No matter the length of the list of one's godly genealogy, one break in that continuity of faith can plunge future generations into a downward tailspin of ungodliness and faithlessness.

Thank you!

Thank you to all those women and men who in some capacity worked on the banners. In order to accomplish this task we needed all sorts of talents and skills – including fabric acquisitioners, cutters, counters and pressers, ribbon measurers, cutters and pressers, banner assemblers, pressers and hand sewers, as well as banner hanging advisors. God provided these skills in abundance for this project at First Church. Below I have attempted to list all those who participated in some phase of the project. I am sure that I have not been able to remember all who helped, so if your name isn't here, but should be, I apologize, and want to thank you for all your time and effort.

Please take the time to talk

to a few of those listed below, thank them personally, and listen to the stories of all the “God-things” that happened during the completion of this project.

Peg Peter, Sanctuary Banner Project Manager

Banner Helpers: Alice Baker, Steve-Anna Bird, Jill Brown, Martina Brown, Faith Brown, Nathan Dirck, Rachael Dirck, Marge Dyer, Donna Goings, Connie Hall, Brenda Haven, Miriam Jones, Nancy Joseph, Julie Kellum, Gail Landwehr, Janet McDaniel, Jill McDonald, Kristine Miller, Karen Nelson, Ruth Nicklet, Toni Overman, Bonnie Reas, Deardra Roesch, Janet Shively, Larry Shively, Janine Spurgeon, Sara Spurgeon, Mary Kay



Our NEW Sanctuary banners were dedicated on Sunday, April 15.

Thomas, Steve Thomas, Jack Thompson, Jackie Thompson, Jackie Todd, Ken Ward, Donna Ward, Mary-Margaret Willbanks, The Wednesday Night Bible Mechanics Class, including Nathan Dirck, Aidrey Hunt, Sara Spurgeon, Brittany Thompson and Mary-Margaret Willbanks, the FUMC Youth group,

including Brittany Thompson, Lauren Moore, Matt Gallegos, Isaac Berky, Ali Nicholson, Maddie Weber, Rhys Weber, and Becca Holdskom, and KNO, including Grace Rusche, Sydney Rusche, Noah Nicholson, Sophie Nicholson, Bailey Strock, Jocie Strock, Heather Rusche, Mike Rusche, and Jennifer Kline.

Update on our NEW Ensemble Worship Experience

I thought it was time we let the rest of the church know how things have been going with Ensemble worship lately. Since we have moved to fellowship hall, attendance has increased at worship. We are averaging between 40-60 people a week. Since December, we have had 30 visitors, with many returning. The

worship services have been awesome! Some visitor statements include “I love this service!” “It was very meaningful; I had to grab some Kleenex because I couldn't hold my emotions in.” Our visitors are starting to invite other visitors. We have had at least four people from Community Café become regulars at

Ensemble. Great things are happening!

The visitors love the service! Even though the area is not the best it could be, they still love the service. Even though we have preconceived notions on why they might not like it, they still love the service. We need to wrap our arms around the idea that the service is working as it is and

the visitors enjoy worshipping with us. We need to overcome our bias and do whatever we can to improve upon the worship area to make it more inviting. We have a goldmine for God in front of us if we could just clear our minds enough to see it. Great things are happening! Let's move forward full steam!

Continued on the bottom of page 7

Something powerful in being the hands and feet of Christ!

Monday, April 9, I had the chance to experience something wonderful. I volunteered to help with our community assistance program. Let me explain a little for those of you that don't know what I am talking about. On the first Sunday of every month we take up a collection during communion. The next day, we use that money to help people in the community who need assistance. Steve Anderson meets with those in need, goes over their paperwork to make sure there is a need, and helps them if we have collected enough money to do so. Because of your contributions, we served almost 50 people this month. These were people that were going to have their utilities shut off unless they were helped. Since November of 2005, Steve has donated his time and has done all the work himself. Through trial

and error he made some improvements including a number system to keep some order. A few months ago Donna Ward came in on Monday and saw what was happening. She decided to step in and help. She started bringing juice, coffee, and breakfast snacks to make people feel more at home as they waited for their turn to interview. Steve starts seeing people at 8:30-9:00am and sometimes they are there until 1:00 or 2:00pm. Donna sent out a message through email, the *VOICE*, Sunday school classes, and any channel she could think of to ask for help from our church members. Monday, April 9, Karen Nelson and I stepped up to help Donna and Steve. We handed out questionnaires and aid forms so that they were filled out prior to their interview with Steve. We served coffee, juice, and pastries. We helped hand out boxed

meals that Bill and Deidre Roesch received from Second Harvest. We helped in any way we could including just talking with the guests to try to make them feel at home. In helping others it always seems to come back to you. There is something very powerful about being the hands and feet of Christ. I wanted you to know how much the people appreciated the assistance we could give. I encourage you to dig deep on the first Sunday of the month. The need is great. We collected \$880, which is wonderful. But the need was over \$1200. With more money we could help more people and perhaps build up a fund for when things get really bad. I also encourage you to help out on the first Monday of the month. This is one of the tangible ways that we can be Jesus to the people of Anderson. Maybe as someone



passes by our church they won't only think, "look at that big magnificent building," but they might also say, "There are good people in that place. They helped me when I couldn't help myself. If that's what Jesus is then I want to know more." Join us as we reach out a hand to those in need. It's what Jesus would do.

If you would like more information, please contact Steve Thomas steve@andersonfirst.org or Donna Ward 765-642-2137.

Thanks,

Steve Thomas
Director of Music Ministries

We have been meeting to discuss ways to improve the fellowship hall and the Ensemble Experience in general. We would love to hear from you if you would like to help.

Some great things are going on at First Church. God is moving at First Church. Come along for the ride!

If you want to stay up to date on the Ensemble worship experience, sign up for my weekly email notes. teve@andersonfirst.org

Steve

Director of Music Ministries

The visitors love the (Ensemble) service!

Even though the area is not the best it could be, they still love the service. ... We need to wrap our arms around the idea that the service is working as it is and the visitors enjoy worshipping with us.



Matt Gallegos, Isaac Berky and Mike Nicholson leading worship during our Ensemble Worship Experience

Weber Reception

As most of you know, The Weber family will be leaving us this June. The Staff Parish Committee is planning a Farewell Reception to celebrate the Weber's ministry to us the past six years and to wish them well as they assume new responsibilities in Ft Wayne. Their last Sunday with us will be June 10.

The reception is planned for that afternoon in the parlors downtown. The time is from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. with the formal part of the event scheduled for 3:00 p.m. Please mark you calendars and attend if at all possible to offer our "thank you" and "best wishes" to Derek, LaDonna, and the children.

We are also offering the opportunity for all to contribute to a "Love Gift" for the Webers that will be presented at the reception. If you would like to participate, please bring your contribution to the church marked "Weber Gift."

Christian Center

There are always opportunities to help in our community. The Christian Center Rescue Mission is no exception.

Stop by the church office for a list of needs that currently exist at CCRM. You can also visit our website www.andersonfirst.org and click on community connections to find out more or call Joyce Burnett at 649-4264 ext. 224 for details.

Memorials given in March 2007

Patsy Ritter
Robert Ritter

Rosemary Davis
Mrs. Joseph Deeley

Kenny Rushton to Bus Fund
Joyce and Bill Mathys

70th Wedding Anniversary

The Deaton Family will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on May 19.

Contact Pastor Kaye Casterline for more information.

Coffee Hour

Summer is quickly coming upon us and while we still have some dates in May open for people to host and bake cookies for coffee hour, we are beginning to plan for Summer at the Park. We would like to try something a little different this Summer. If your group or committee has been trying to find some way you can give back to the church, coffee hour is one way you can do that. Starting on

May 27 and going through the summer at the park we are asking for your Sunday School Class, Bible Study, Choir, Social Group or Committee you are a part of to join in and host coffee hour. We will be at the park for 15 weeks this summer. This should be an easy schedule to cover with all the groups we have in our church.

For those of you wondering

what this involves, your group would need to set up and clean up the porch area for coffee hour following the service. This includes setting up the tables for the donuts and juice and making the coffee. You would also need to have someone designated to pick up the donuts the morning you are assigned.

The fellowship experienced during coffee hour is

something enjoyed by many, including the many visitors we have through the summer. In order for this fellowship experience to continue we are asking you to commit to one Sunday during the fifteen week period. Please consider sharing God's love through our hospitality at Anderson First.

Contact:
Michael Nicholson
Volunteer Coordinator/Program Director
765-643-6977

An Operation Classroom In-Gathering At the North Indiana Conference - May 31 to June 2

Operation Classroom is in need of the following supplies!

Back packs – New or slightly used. (There's even a pattern available at the operation classroom website if you'd like to sew one!)

Children's multi-vitamins (Please get the ones with the

latest expiration date you can find.)

Complete packages of Copy paper

Tylenol – children and adult strength

First aid supplies – Adhesive tape, band aids, alcohol free antiseptic

wipes, sterile, non-fluffy, absorbent gauze, round-ended scissors, triple antibiotic ointment and gauze pads.

United Methodist Women are also encouraged to donate a package of dried milk.

Thank you Carolyn Holler

Please thank Carolyn Holler the next time you see her. She graciously volunteered to work in our church nursery on Easter Sunday, one of the busiest mornings of the year! Thank you Carolyn from all of us!

Now, it's your turn. Stephanie needs your help between this Sunday and

May 27. Make it a point to go down to the nursery and sign up to help.

Help is needed in the Nursery! Stephanie Leng, our Senior Nursery Caregiver, would like to have some assistance in the nursery during the 9:15 worship service and the Sunday School hour each

Sunday.

We will need two adults in the nursery on Sunday mornings! Each Sunday morning! If your young son or daughter would like to help in the nursery, Stephanie encourages you to come with them and be that second adult as your child serves God by working in

the nursery.

Please go down to the nursery and sign up to take care of the youngest of our family. Those of you who have worked in the nursery in years past are encouraged to work again.

Thank you.

Miss Mary Margaret

Ichthus Music Festival Register ASAP to receive your discount.

Youth who will be entering grades 6 through 12 next fall are invited to join us for a weekend filled with camping, music, and lots of fun! Ichthus takes place each June—this year on June 13—17. There are four stages with all the music you could ever want and any style you like. *Pop, Rock, R&B, Hip*

Hop, and any other style you can think of.

All youth are invited and need not be members of Anderson First—which translates to.....**Invite Your Friends!**

Check out their websites at <http://www.ichthusfestival.org> or <http://www.myspace.com/>

[ichthusfestival](http://www.ichthusfestival.org) and take a listen. Contact Steve or Mary Kay Thomas at marykay@andersonfirst.org or steve@andersonfirst.org to get your all-inclusive package price. Price includes 4-day concert ticket, food, transportation and a luxurious accommodations in our 8-man tents! :) Ichthus isn't just

about the music; **it's an EXPERIENCE you'll talk about for years!**

Check it Out *Jocelyn Celeste Jones* *Youth Highlight!*

Charles Swindoll, in his book "Improving Your Serve," relates the most important action one can take to demonstrate what it means to really be a Christian. Disciples may do all kinds of religious functions, but if they are not being servants, they are missing the most important role of a true disciple.

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus explains the necessary traits of servanthood. And when Jesus knelt and washed the feet of his disciples He illustrated the meaning of being a servant.

If you are interested in learning how to test the quality of your own Christian servanthood, go to section 248.8 in our church library and get this important compilation of Biblical requirements for evaluating the depth of your devotion and the quality of your service.

Birthdate: April 30, 1993

School: Frankton Jr. High

Favorite Scripture: John 3:16

Extra Curriculars: Band, flute and piccolo, soccer, cheerleading.

Church Member You Admire: Inger Driffill. I love talking to her!

Future Occupation: I love writing; writing got me into the honors English class at school. So Journalism, maybe I'll write a book. Or Cosmetology.

Favorite activity in the church: I like the play

rehearsals, I got so much closer to everyone. And helping with Youth Sunday was fun.

What else do you want the church to know about you? Band, I love it! I play flute and piccolo. I'm first chair flute in my class. I am in Pep band, Academy band, Marching band and was a two-year honor band student.

Becca says: Jocelyn is a very giving person who gets



along with everyone. She is a talented writer and actor (look for her in the Dinner Theater this May!) and puts her all into everything she does. She was confirmed last year with her twin sister Gabby and brother Chas. Jocelyn seems shy at first, but she is very outgoing and will talk to anyone!



Dinner Theater Tickets

The youth of Anderson First will present a Mystery Dinner Theater, *The Case Of The Show Stopping Nun Nabber!* on Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12. Seating begins at 5:30 p.m.; dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale today at the welcome center. Cost is \$12 per person, \$20 for 2 people; and \$5 for children under 10 years of age. On the menu for the evening is oven baked ham, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, dinner roll and apple crisp. Tickets are also available throughout the week from the church office. Proceeds go to support camp opportunities for kids.

Bible Study Fellowship International

The Anderson area evening men's group of BSF will hold introduction classes on Monday, May 7 and 14 at 6:55 p.m. at the Kingston Avenue Baptist Church, 5403 Kingston Avenue, Anderson. BSF

is an interdenominational group with bible study classes for both men and women. Classes consist of written notes, discussion groups and interesting lectures. For more information, contact Jim

McWilliams at 608-4448 or 425-7010.



Women's Ministries

Book Club

Morning Book Club meets the first Tuesday of every month (May 8) in the church library from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

For more information contact Nancy Upchurch at the church office.

Intercessory Prayer Team

Our desire is to pray for all

needs brought to our attention. If you have a prayer request to share, please contact Francie Seybert at 778-4623. This group meets every Wednesday to pray at 1:00 p.m. in the church conference room. If you would like to be part of this group, please come and join us.

Women's Reunion Group

If you have participated in the Great Banquet, Walk to Emmaus, or similar 72-hour experience, we invite you to join us. We meet every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in the conference room, as we support each other in our daily walk with Christ.

In Mission

Dear Members at First United Methodist Church:

On May 4 - May 13, 2007; I have an opportunity to be part of a mission trip to Vida Nueva Ministries in Piedra Negras, Mexico with Christian Campus Fellowship (CCF), a Christian organization, here on campus at Vincennes University. Vida Nueva is an orphanage which also runs a preschool, a medical clinic, and provides meals for children in the community. Our task will be to help with their ongoing construction projects.

I am asking for your support and help in these ways...

Pray for the students and the adults going on this trip that we may touch someone's life in some way. Please also pray for us in the coming weeks as we prepare our hearts and minds for this trip.

The cost of the trip is \$575. I am trying to raise the money on my own and have received some donations sponsoring my effort. If you're interested in helping me out, donations can be

sent to :
Christian Campus Fellowship
211 West Portland Avenue
Vincennes, IN 47591
Please note: Kari Thomas Mexico Trip Fund
If you would like more information on Vida Nuevas Ministries, visit their website at <http://www.vnmi.org>.
Thank you for taking time to read this letter and for your help, prayers, and support you've given me this past year.
Love in Christ,
Kari Thomas

United Methodist Women

Bible Study Circle

May 3, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

Hostess: Betsey Bachman, 612 Ironwood Lane

Co-Hostess: Margie Wilken
Program: Ruth Jackson

Lesson: What God Thinks of My Ambitions

Matthew 6:19-34

Meetings are scheduled the first Thursday of each month.

Action Circle

May 9, 2007 at 9:30 .m.

Conference Room #125

Meetings are scheduled the second Wednesday of each month.

Lydia Circle

May 8, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

Home of Jill McDonald
Play in May (Fun, Food and Fellowship)

Bring a covered dish.

Meetings are scheduled the second Tuesday of each month.

Friendship Circle

May 3, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

Hostess: Lou Ann Brown
765-643-0448

Devotions: Patty Counts
Program: Jennifer Smith

Meetings are scheduled the first Thursday of each month.



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Fax: 765-642-5232
E-mail: mail@andersonfirst.org

Visit us on the web at
www.andersonfirst.org

Coming Events

May 11&12 Dinner Theater: Youth Camp Fundraiser	June 10 Weber Farewell Reception
May 13 Choir Sunday	June 13-16 Ichthus 2007
May 18 JOY Luncheon	July 1 Bon Amis to Symphony on the Prairie
May 20 Children's Sunday	July 1-7 Senior High Institute
May 20 Heritage Sunday	For updated and current calendar information, visit us on the web at www.andersonfirst.org .
May 27 Summer Worship Schedule begins	
May 27 Praise in the Park	
June 3-7 Vacation Bible School	
June 8 Bon Amis To Fairy Oaks Dairy	



Mark your calendars! Our summer worship schedule begins May 27. Worship times will be as follows: **9:00 a.m. - Outdoor worship** at Davis Park; **10:30 a.m. - Connections** - intimate traditional worship downtown; **11:30 a.m. Ensemble worship experience**—A modern worship experience with praise band, multi-media and interactive practical message. **5:00 p.m. every fourth Saturday - Saturdays at the Park**—casual, informal worship with a special activity following service.

Worship Opportunities

Sundays

9:15 am—Traditional Worship
10:30 am—Sunday School for Everyone

11:30 am - *ensemble*

Modern Worship

11:30 am - Connections - Prayer & Praise Worship

Saturdays

April 28—Saturdays at the Park—5-7:30pm

