

June 11, 2007

Volume 44, Issue 9



The Voice

LOVE FIRST *Caring, Sharing, Connecting*

Celebrating 180 years

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Sending of the Saints Approved!

What if...every church in our conference began asking the question, Who outside our church is God calling us to reach, disciple, and serve? What if the Annual Conference helped churches do just that? Just think of the lives and communities that would be transformed. Well, God is making it a reality, so fasten your seat belts!

The Sending of the Saints effort grew out of Bishop Michael Coyner's reoccurring dream of the North Indiana Conference sending teams of people to start new faith communities.

The Annual Conference on June 1, 2007, approved the following recommendation, which was recommended by the Church Development Ministry Team:

"In 2008, each NIC church—alone or in cooperation with another church or churches—is expected to help start at least one faith community or congregation in order to reach, disciple, and serve persons outside its existing congregations."

A "faith community" or "congregation" would be an on-going group that consists of persons who regularly participate in worship, discipleship (e.g. a Bible study), and mission/service. Starting a faith community or congregation could be accomplished in many different ways, and they could target

many different types of unreached people. It could be an out-post Sunday school meeting in a retirement center or mobile home community, or a home-based group that developed out of a kids club or Vacation Bible School. It might reach those incarcerated or who struggle with addictions. It could be a new worship service targeting the unchurched or an off-site congregation. There's no end to the possibilities. Each church will determine on its own—with God's help—how it will carry out this important mission. A prayer and discernment guide, as well as a Q & A sheet and list of workshops, can be found by going to Sending of the Saints resources. All can be reproduced for your church's use. May Jesus Christ be glorified by all we do through this effort!

Welcome

Pastor John and Linda!



GODSPELL Junior M*A*D* Camp 2007

The Gospel of Matthew never had it so good!

We have requested the musical rights to perform "Godspell, Junior" as the play for this year's M*A*D* Camp production.

Mark your calendars now and start practicing!

This year M*A*D* Camp will be from Sunday, July 22, through Sunday, July 29. We will be holding auditions on Sunday evening, July 22, at Davis Park, beginning at 6 p.m. The performances



will be Saturday, July 28, at 5 p.m. and Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

What: GODSPELL Junior Music, Arts, Drama Camp (M.A.D. Camp)
Where: Anderson First UMC
When: July 22 through July 29
Audition: July 22 - 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Time: M-F/9a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Performances: July 28 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, July 29 at 9 a.m.
Contact: 643-6977

Register Online at www.andersonfirst.org
 Or call 765-643-6977 to submit a phone-in registration.



"The Power of Commitment"

June is wedding month, and that's true at First United Methodist Church as well. We have weddings booked almost every weekend either at Davis Park or downtown or both! Couples come together before families and friends to pledge their commitment to each other in the covenant of marriage. What an appropriate time for us to explore the power of commitment in relationships in our next **Saturday at the Park service--June 23, at 5:00 p.m.!**

We will examine the power

of commitment in relationships--all kinds of relationships. Commitment is critical in our relationship with God, in our relationship with our spouses, in our relationship with family, and in our relationship with friends. We invite you to join us in worship through video, music, Scripture, preaching, and conversation.

Most weddings have a reception afterwards to celebrate the joy of the occasion, and we will too! We will have cake and punch and appetizers.

We will honor those who have been married 25 years and longer. We will offer a special time for reaffirmation of marriage vows for those who wish to do so. All are invited to come celebrate with us.

P.S. We need pictures again--wedding pictures! If you have one you are willing to share with us (even if you can't be at the service), please bring it into the office. We will display it in our service. Thanks!



Ceramic Tile and Stones!

Have you tiled your floor in the past and have leftover tiles you would like to get rid of? **NEEDED BY JULY 8TH:** Sixty 3-4 inch ceramic tiles and sixty 3-4 inch stones for the School of Christian

Mission Children's Mission Camp. Please contact Donna Ward at (765) 620-2373 or wardfam6365@insightbb.com

Thanks to Justine Cook and the VBS Team!

Thank you to Mrs. Justine Cook and the Vacation Bible School team for another successful week of fun and faithfulness! We appreciate the time the teachers and helpers have given to ensure a good time of learning and growing together could happen!

Thank you!

Connecting People to Jesus Christ

Ponderings from Pastor Donna

One of my areas of responsibility is overseeing older adult ministries at First United Methodist Church. I laugh sometimes when people ask me what older adult ministries we have. Of course the first things which come to mind are J.O.Y., the group that meets monthly for lunch and a program, and Bon Amis, the travel group that takes day trips monthly. There is also the homebound ministry team headed up by Pastor Kaye. He visits our homebound and shut-ins at least monthly and takes worship bulletins weekly to most of the homebound. Others on the team send cards to the shut-ins on a regular basis. These are all wonderful parts of our older adult ministries, and a special thanks to all involved in them.

Think about where else in the church older adults are involved. We see them in the music program—choir, bells, ensembles, special music, playing piano. We see them reading Scripture for worship. We see them serving as communion stewards—setting up and assisting with serving. We see them leading and serving on community café dinner

teams. We see them leading and participating in United Methodist Women. We see them leading and serving on all of the church's committees. We see them serving as volunteers in the church office. We see them preparing the Voice for mailing. We see them in Bible studies. We see them serving in the library. We see them teaching and attending Sunday school. The list goes on and on and on. There isn't one place in the church where older adults are not involved in some way or another. (The same can also be said for the youth.)

That's why I laugh when I am asked the question—because older adult ministry includes every part of our church's ministry; and I thank God for that!!!!

Older adult ministry is not just ministry for older adults; it is also ministry by older adults and ministry with older adults.

Older adult ministry at First United Methodist Church incorporates all three—ministry by, with, and for older adults.

Another question I am frequently asked is what is the age at which you are considered an "older adult"? That is one of those questions to which there is no one right answer—each person will give you a different response. I recently asked the J.O.Y. group that question, and we had all kinds of

responses—50, 55, 65, etc. A person is eligible for AARP at age 50; many restaurants give senior discounts at age 55; age 65 is typically considered retirement age; what should the measure be???? To be honest I don't try to answer that question for anyone in relation to our ministries. All persons are invited to participate at any time as they so choose—no matter how young or old their age!!!

I also asked the J.O.Y.

group for ideas on improving and enhancing our older adult ministry. They shared excellent feedback.

Some of their insights included: being more intentional in follow-up; offering more opportunities for sign-up to be Scripture readers for worship; making more opportunities for day-time activities (such as Bible studies and small groups); providing transportation assistance; and providing health ministries such as a parish nurse.

The primary purpose of older adult ministries at First United Methodist Church is to connect people with Jesus Christ.

We invite all of any age who wish to help in helping make that connection to come join in our "older adult" ministries—as a participant or as a volunteer!

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“The Sunflower” Check it Out!

If you want to spend some time reading an exciting love story, pick up Richard Paul Evans’ book “The Sunflower.”

This tender story begins with a hope-filled girl having to cancel the wedding of her dreams because of a hesitant groom.

Her rebound trip to Peru to assist in an orphanage opens possibilities for joy she never even dreamed possible. The dangers of the Amazon jungle and the needs of street children in Peru grasp her heart and change her life forever. This trip to the rugged and



dangerous jungle station gives meaning to her life and joy to her heart.

Found on the new fiction shelf in our library, check it out.



Annual Bake Auction (Youth Fundraiser)

The youth of Anderson First hold a Bake Auction every year, this year June 24, to raise money for Summer camp. This event has raised thousands of dollars over the years and has helped send many children who might not have been able to go otherwise to a camp

where they were able to enrich their Christian life. Join us **June 24, following the 9 a.m. service at Davis Park**, and bid on some of Anderson’s finest baked goods made by men and women from our congregation. If you are not able to come to the event,

but would like to support our youth by a monetary donation, those can be made at the church office, just mark it Youth camp fund.

Hope to see you there!

Worship Opportunities

Sundays

9:00 am - **Traditional Worship**

10:30 am - **Connections**

Intimate prayers & hymns

11:30 am - **Ensemble**

Modern worship experience

Every fourth Saturday

Saturdays at the Park

June 23 at 5-7:30 pm

A special activity follows each service.



What: Youth Fundraiser Annual Bake Auction

Where: Davis Park

When: June 24, 2007

Contact: 643-6977 if you would like to submit a baked item for auction.

All-Church Rummage Sale

What: All-Church Rummage Sale Community Service Project
Where: 1215 Jackson Street (Downtown Parking Lot)
When: August 11, 2007 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Contact: 643-6977 for more information.

Anderson First will host an all-church rummage sale on August 11, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, in the church parking lot downtown at 1215 Jackson Street. The focus of the event this year is to serve the community around us, offering items at a minimal cost. This is not necessarily set up as a fundraiser. Donations are now being accepted and can

be dropped off at the church office during normal business hours (9a - 4p Mon-Thurs; 9-12p Fri.) If you have large items and are unable to bring the items in, (i.e. bikes, mowers, beds, furniture, etc) contact the church office and we'll send someone to pick up your items.

Someday Soon!

Musings from the office at the end of the hall

I've kept myself busy doing things the last couple of weeks so I wouldn't think about the future and it's become a habit! I'm not thinking of anything to talk with you about! Surely things happened at Annual Conference I could muse about. Nope, not that I remember.

In the midst of the Gateway Developmental Preschool moving into our building there MUST be something I should be musing on. No, nothing big enough to claim attention or small enough to be interesting.

Well, what about Vacation Bible School (VBS)? It's good and it's pleasing to God, but it's just VBS.

How about your pet sitting? What could I tell you about Hairy the cat? Other than we're still testing the boundaries of our new relationship, there's not much to tell.

Staff meeting was exciting but I think you have to be there to really appreciate a

staff meeting!

Pastor John was in today. He came to the staff meeting and stayed through lunch and visited a bit with others during the afternoon. I hope he likes us. I hope he saw potential in what we're doing and what we have planned. I hope he still is looking forward to coming to be with us.

Our staff meeting today was a miniature example of what life with us is like. We expressed our joys and concerns before each other and the Lord. We talked about our ability to talk to each other. We practiced communicating new things. (Poor Pastor John...we all better drop the acronyms for awhile. Between the references to "EEC", "AACC", "DP", "DT", "M*A*D Camp" and "S.A.P", he won't know if he's coming or going!) We articulated our opinions, occasionally in a rather heated manner. We closed one session and moved to another location and

worked on the next thing. I wish I could say Pastor John saw us at our best but what I truly believe is he saw us at our norm. Busy but lazy, excited and disgusted, happy and involved, faithful and scared, in community and yet only concerned with our own desires and fears...

Looking back, it seems Pastor John and the folks at First Church are in much the same place as Hairy and I. Hairy the cat belonged to LaDonna's dad and now he appears to belong to LaDonna. Every few days he's meeting new people. He is shy about expressing his gifts, fears, grief or his needs. He wants me to know him and his abilities or disabilities but he doesn't want to have to tell me. I think he wants me to love him but he's afraid.

Pastor John might be shy around us and maybe we're sort of unsure of ourselves around him. We want him to feel comfortable around us but he doesn't know

how we do things. He wants to include us in the things he hears God saying but we're not used to the way he shares it with us. But just like Hairy and me, we just have to keep accepting the newness until we get used to one another.

Someday, I'm sure Hairy will understand he'll be taken care of no matter what. Someday soon, all the boxes will be gone and the Wortinger's won't even remember how awkward our relationship was. One of these days, we won't think about how we used to do things. Pretty soon Pastor John and the folks of Anderson First will realize God has gifted us once again.

In the meantime, I have letters to write, rooms to clean and set up, books to read and balloons to fill up. I have too much to do to just keep musing today!

Faithfully yours,

Miss Mary Margaret

The Lapel Community Band

Kicks off the 2007 season of the Davis Park Summer Concert Series.

The Lapel Community Band will be in concert on **Thursday, June 21, at Davis Park** (4507 Nichol Avenue in West Anderson) **Davis Park opens at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, followed by the concert.** Fried chicken dinners are available at a **cost of \$18/family, \$5 for adults, and \$3 for children under 10.**

Take this opportunity to seek out someone you know who is not connected to a church, or invite someone you know who has stopped attending and may not know how to quietly get reconnected.



It's always good to find reasons to celebrate! Anderson First UMC celebrating 180 years of ministry

Our church, First United Methodist Church – Anderson, has been a presence in this area for a very long time! As a church, we're looking to celebrate this fact. Let's look at the unique ways God has blessed not

only our denomination but also our particular congregation! How many can you name? Yes, I want you to tell me, but especially tell one another and tell your neighbors the many ways God has blessed our church

and our towns and our denomination (can you say Bishop?). Let us give thanks for the many ways our church has been blessed by God during the past 180 years!

Nehemiah

God's book about what happened as God's people rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem and looked beyond themselves!

Nehemiah's heart was like God's when it came to poor people. In almost every book in the Bible, God asked people to take care of poor people and Nehemiah took this a deeply personal request from God! You can help your family understand Nehemiah and his book better by engaging in the "giving activities."

God is in the business of working through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. Throughout the

generations, God has worked in the lives of individuals whom He has gifted with the specific temperaments, characteristics, experiences, and abilities. He wants to use people to get important jobs done. As we depend upon the Lord's power, and call upon His ever available resources like Nehemiah did, we, too, will be used in amazing ways.

Decide as a family on a project you can do to help those in need: Perhaps you

could buy fast food gift certificates to donate to the Emergency Aid program at our church. You might choose to take good, usable items to the Salvation Army, Goodwill or the Christian Center. Make a habit every time you shop for groceries to add one or two non-perishable items to your cart to give to the Community Café to give to those in need. Maybe you could sponsor a needy child or someone who wants to go on a mission trip.

If you create within your family a generous spirit of compassion toward other people and practice different ways to express it, you'll find your whole lives will be changed as you regularly make personal commitments to help others.

In Community With The World Around Us!



1



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Each day as we read and listen to the local and national news, we are continually reminded of the pain and hurt which surrounds our world. Many of us are not even aware or may not feel we are directly affected by a robbery or shooting that occurs in Indianapolis; but this pain filters through each of our communities and across the world.

What can we do about it?

1 John 4:7-8 tells us.....

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Many, here at Anderson First, have given our lives to Christ, chosen to be Christians, disciples, followers of Christ! With that, comes a responsibility - a responsibility to our neighbors, our friends, our community, our children and grandchildren, even our enemies - we are called to Love!

We are all given an opportunity each and every day to "love."

To love our spouse and commit to working things out even when we may not feel like it, to love our children even when they test us, to love our community both near and far, rich and poor, young and old!

Mary Margaret spent this past spring searching for individuals to "love on" the children in our nursery. Throughout the year she continually seeks those willing to share their spiritual journey with others by leading a Quest or Sunday School Class or by offering other opportunities

to meet the needs of those around us. God equips each of us with the gift of Love.

Let us begin thinking about the needs of those around us, the opportunities we can offer and how each of us at Anderson First can help to meet those needs.

The world struggles financially. There were several couples and individuals who participated in the Financial Peace University class - who from this group will take the lead, loving those around us, by offering hope and a better way of handling our finances?

How can the church "love on" those who struggle with divorce, living in single parent homes, support grandparents raising grandchildren, assist the working mom and dad?

Members often times state they aren't qualified or are too old to help out anymore - but really, we as children of God, are born qualified. We just need to trust, follow and love the world around us.

Together - Let's stretch ourselves and find ways to be the face of Christ to those around us. Let's not wait on the new young family who has more energy than we do, yet struggles to make ends meet and has less time as a family because both **have to** work.

When an opportunity to build community arises, or a need is expressed, let US be the first to love one another and participate—inviting others to join us, as leader or participant ...in community... *Loving First, caring, sharing and connecting!*

How will you take part?

Building community.....*Cookout after Saturday service:* Picture 1- Janine Spurgeon & Bob Willbanks flipping burgers, Picture 2—Noah & Sophie Nicholson and Steve Thomas cooking and sharing S'mores together; Picture 3 –Pat Smith & friend

spend time getting to know one another. **Opportunities for members to be an inviting community as well as youth connecting and sharing their gifts:** Picture 4—Isaac Berky, Jocelyn Jones, Rhys Weber, Matt Gallegos, Stephen Shaw, Brittini Thompson, Maddie Weber. **Anderson First meeting the needs of the daycare housed in our facility by providing space and offering financial support in a time of need.** Several parents and grandparents looked on as their children spent the morning racing in the church parking lot at the first *Gateway Services* "Gateway 500."



First United Methodist Church is a community of Christians committed to the kingdom of God, focused on Loving First and inviting all to join us in Caring, Sharing, and Connecting through joyful service in Jesus Christ.

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Visit us on the web at
www.andersonfirst.org

Coming Events

Jun 17 Anderson First Welcomes our New Senior Pastor	Jul 19 Davis Park Summer Concert
Jun 13-17 Ichthus 2007	Jul 20 JOY Luncheon
Jun 15 JOY Luncheon	Jul 22 MAD (Music Arts Drama) Camp
Jun 21 Davis Park Summer Concert	Jul 28 Saturdays at the Park
Jun 23 Saturdays at the Park	Jul 29 Choir School
Jun 24 Youth Bake Auction	Aug 5 Sacred Music Concert
Jun 29 First Light at Lions Family Fun Festival - Athletic Park	Aug 8 Bon Amis to Bear Creek
Jul 1 Worship at Town Center Park	Aug 9 Davis Park Summer Concert
Jul 2 Bon Amis to Symphony on the Prairie	Aug 11 All-Church Rummage Sale
Jul 1-7 Senior High Institute	Aug 25 Saturdays at the Park

For updated and current calendar information, visit us on the web at www.andersonfirst.org.

What: Gymnastics
Offered by: Martin Sports Academy
Instructor: Pam Martin
Where: Downtown (Gymnasium)
When: Thursdays
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Cost: \$35 per month
Contact: Pam at 649-0694

What: HATHA YOGA CLASSES
Class will consist of centering, warming up, postures & strengthening, breathing, stretching, and final relaxation all geared for the beginner.
Instructor: Lisa Leever
Where: Davis Park
When: Wednesday, June 20, 2007
Weeks: 6-weeks
Time: 9:30 a.m.
(approx. 75 min. class)
Contact: 642-1528
Cost: \$56 for 6 weeks
What to bring: Mat, Yoga belt, blanket to serve as a cushion.

Summer Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fridays
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.