

June 25, 2007

Volume 44, Issue 10



The Voice

LOVE FIRST *Caring, Sharing, Connecting*

Celebrating 180 years

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The Pastor's Prayer

Boxes and more boxes, they seem everywhere. Yet, where is the box in which we packed the blue bedspread, or our 2nd quarter tax form or... . Boxes have a way of defining us and frustrating us, do they not? And that frustration can be more than just at moving time, for the boxed in feeling becomes an all too familiar feeling in our modern world of office cubicles, health limitations, and economic barriers.

So it was with great pleasure we started our ministry with you out at Davis Park, where trees beckon our eyes upward and the green grass invites wandering into the wonder of God's great creation. The experience for me was a reminder of the necessity to lift up my

eyes and recognize we are not boxed-in or alone in this world. But "my help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." And joy comes from brothers and sisters who meet us with smiles and welcoming hands.

You here at First United Methodist have been that joy for Linda and me as you have graciously welcomed us in so many different ways to make us feel a part of your family. We thank you all for the smiles, warm handshakes, delicious food, kind directions, and caring thoughtfulness that have meant so much to us. We look forward to learning each of your names and getting to know you as persons who have experienced God's grace. There will be opportunities for small

group settings in which we can get acquainted with you and you with us. They will begin in mid-July and later publication will list the dates and details.

My prayer is through the summer you will regularly lift up your eyes and know your help comes from the Lord, as well as experiencing the joy of brothers and sisters gathering together to praise the Father. And may the Lord be your Keeper and the Shade at your right hand.

Pastor John

Psalm 121

In this issue:

- Movie, Munchies and Musings. Christmas in July Movie Night! (p. 2)
- "Disciple" Bible Study opportunity coming soon! (p.6)

Marion and Muncie districts co-sponsor program for older adults. Ponderings from Pastor Donna

If you are 65 or older, you are invited to a morning of fellowship, food, and entertainment on **Wednesday, July 25 from 9:00-1:15 pm!** The Marion and Muncie districts of the United Methodist Church annually cosponsor a program, *"We've Come This Far By Faith."* This year the keynote speaker is our very own Doug Berky. He will use his many talents in addressing the subject of

the need for humor in our lives. Many of you have already experienced Doug's ability to make you laugh—come enjoy this opportunity!

The program also includes devotions, special music entertainment, and lunch. It will be held at College Avenue United Methodist Church in Muncie, and the **cost is \$7.00.** **Registration is due by**

July 16. Please make your reservation through the church office—payment will be due at the time of reservation. If we have enough interest, we will take the church bus.

Please contact Pastor Donna with any questions. Let's have a great representation from First United Methodist Church!

Bon Amis

Bon Amis will be hitting the road again on Monday, July 2. They are headed to the Yankee Doodle Dandy concert of Symphony on the Prairie at Conner Prairie. This trip has become an annual tradition. The evening starts with a picnic supper and continues with the concert and ends with fireworks (unless we get rained out like last year!) Due to the high interest, we have purchased additional tickets and they are going fast. Please call the church office if you are interested in attending.

J.O.Y. Luncheon

A special thanks to all those who volunteered at the June J.O.Y. meeting for helping with upcoming events. I will be contacting you in the next week to confirm your willingness to help.

July 20 program—
Babushka's Garden

Dressed in an authentic Ukrainian costume, Babushka (Grandmother) Mary will take us to the land of Russia and the Ukraine. Through folktales and stories, songs, history, and games, Mary Jackson will bring the Russian and the Ukrainian cultures to life.

August 17 program—
Pastor John Wortinger

Our senior pastor and his wife will be our special guests in August. Pastor John will share about how God has worked in his life, and you will have the opportunity to ask him questions. This will be a great opportunity to get to know our new senior pastor.

September 21 program—
Paul White

Paul is a vocalist from Alexandria and will share his musical talents with us.

A Movie, Munchies, and Musings

Some of you have asked for opportunities to connect with others from the church during the summer. Come enjoy an evening watching a movie and munching snacks and then musing together with others about some of the themes. All are invited—bring along some friends. Children are welcome and encouraged! Child care will be provided, if you prefer your children not view the selected movie.

Our first movie date will be **Tuesday, July 10, at 7:00pm. Location: TBA** We will have Christmas in July and watch, **"It's A Wonderful Life."** If it's

part of your Christmas tradition to watch this movie, think how much fun it will be to see in July with a group of friends. If you hate the movie, think how much fun it will be to groan over it with a group of friends! And think how refreshingly cool the snow in the movie will make us feel as we may be sweltering in the July heat!

Our second movie date will be **Tuesday, August 7, at 7:00pm.** That movie is yet to be announced. If you have a suggestion, contact Pastor Donna.

MEMORIALS GIVEN IN MAY, 2007

Greg Berry

Francie and Steve Seybert

Phyllis Childress

Francie and Steve Seybert

Neva Jane Snider

Mr. and Mrs. Al Litsey

Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Church

Virginia Tichenor

Mr. and Mrs. Thurman

Parker

Argie and Rodney Willman

Sherry and Bob Curry and Family

Virginia Glaze

Mr. and Mrs. Derrel Richardson

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Richardson

Carol and Charlie Burnett

Carmen Salin

Jim McNeelan and Family

Kathleen Campbell

Jeanette Snider and Family

Wilcie Rea

Janice and Richard Taylor

Neva Jane Snider to Community Dinners

Pam and Jim Jackson

Neva Jane Snider to Bus Fund

Virginia Musser

Neva Jane Snider to Margaret Ann Hudson Memorial Library

Sheridan Street Neighbors and Friends

Are we at Anderson First as welcoming and connecting as we claim to be? You make the call.

In the next several weeks we encourage everyone to really look to see how we're doing as individuals and as "the church." In July (date to be announced) we will gather together to focus on and discuss one aspect of our welcoming community - the "Welcome Center." Those who've been part of this ministry (past or present) have already received a letter requesting their feedback and participation in the

coming meeting; however, all are invited to participate.

We ask our entire congregation to jot down your observations and consider the following questions as you begin your observation. Have you ever utilized a "Welcome Center" either at Anderson First or a church you've visited? What was your experience? If you were new to town and entered our facilities how and who would help you find the nursery, restroom, Sunday

school class? What parts of our "Welcome Center" work well? How can we improve? What gripes you when you visit other churches while on vacation? How can we avoid those mistakes here at Anderson First?

Please contact the office at 643-6977 to let us know of your desire to be part of this initial discussion. You will be contacted with the scheduled meeting date, time and location for the gathering. You can also submit your

comments and ideas to marykay@andersonfirst.org or in written form to the church office.

In His Service,

Mary Kay Thomas



“My Master’s Touch” Check it Out!

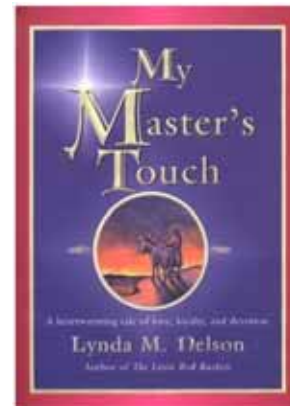
Here’s one for the children in your family. Lynda Nelson has written a delightful story about a little gray burro who spent his life with Jesus. Born on the same night as Jesus, the baby of the burro Mary rode to Bethlehem, the little burro became the constant friend of Jesus as he grew up.

Events which could have happened in the life of the young Jesus were everyday activities the little burro remembered with great fondness.

Written as the story of the burro, the events of the life of Jesus took on significance to the little animal. Each milestone of Jesus’ life was

remembered by the little burro. As the little friend aged, so did Jesus, leading to the final weeks of our Savior’s life. The death of the faithful old burro happened on the same day as the crucifixion of his Master.

For a tender story, which will give special insight to a child, get this book from the library and share it with a child or grandchild.



“My Master’s Touch,” by Lynda Nelson. It’s in the fiction section of our library. “Check it out!”



Here are a few more hints to help you as a

parent assist your child to being a full worshipping member of the church.

Read the Scripture lessons in advance of the service. Sometimes you may know a week or more in advance and sometimes you won’t know until you get the bulletin that

morning. Whenever you find out the scripture lessons – direct your child’s attention to the Holy Bible and help find the scripture and read it over at least once. Most children are very excited to find the lesson on the screen has come from someplace they can put their hands on!

While children are full, relaxed, calm and happy, remind them about what being reverent means. Do this BEFORE they have misbehaved. Practice “being

reverent” at the movies or in front of the TV.

Acknowledge to your children when you see someone, their age or any other!, being reverent. While you’re in a museum, mention the similarity between being reverent in a church. Praise them when they are reverent, for however long they can manage it. I promise, they will get better and have longer attention spans!

Most adults are not capable of paying total and rapt attention

during an entire worship service and neither are our children. A child worships with heart, mind, soul and BODY! The other people around you have had children and they will understand! Smile and offer a prayer to the Father to accept the offering of love your children are bringing and worship Him in your way too!

Miss Mary Margaret

Now Accepting Items for our All-Church Rummage Sale

Donations are now being accepted and can be dropped off at **the North-West (Narthex) Entrance** during normal business hours, **9am - 4pm, Monday through Thursday**. Please Note - due to the large number of weddings scheduled and short office hours, we cannot accept donations on Fridays.

If you have large items and are unable to bring the items in, (i.e. bikes, mowers, beds, furniture, etc) contact the church office (765) 643-6977 and we’ll send someone to pick up your items.

What: Service Project All-Church Rummage Sale
Where: 1215 Jackson Street (Downtown Parking Lot)
When: August 11, 2007 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Drop Off Location: North/West (Narthex) Entrance
Drop Off Times: Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: 643-6977

Worship Opportunities

Sundays

9:00 am - **Traditional Worship**

10:30 am - **Connections**
Intimate prayers & hymns

11:30 am - **Connections**
Modern worship experience

Every fourth Saturday

Saturdays at the Park
July 28 at 5-7:30 pm



In Community

Musings from the office at the end of the hall

Several of us met to do some scrap booking last week. We're a small, very eclectic group. I guess you could call us a community! We have a common goal (get ALL those pictures and memorabilia in order!). We gather regularly and we support one another as we strive to reach that common goal through our own individual paths. Now and again we'll break bread together and we can often be found serving one another with education, gifts and affirmations. We encourage others to join with us. So, it was good to be there last week and I encourage you to come be a part of our community.

I attended Regional School of Christian Mission the week of June 14 which can be an example of community on a wider scale. For some of us at Regional School, it's definitely an education training event with leaders giving us hints, ideas, resources and experiences

so we can share the subject we've agreed to teach. Now there are other people there too, in various degrees of openness, willingness, abilities and desire who are also learning to lead. We arrive from at least eight different states and we come with many different responsibilities. We all have one ultimate goal – to spread the story and action of the missions of God to the people at School of Christian Mission. We were a community those four days and it was good to be there. I encourage you to be a part of the community at North Indiana School of Christian Mission in July.

Everybody feels the need to be a part of a community. It's why we have school songs and mascots. It's why we design and wear uniforms or costumes or robes. It's why we gather – week after week and sing songs of faith, hold hands while we pray and stand in line, side by side, for communion, offering gifts

for the poor or poor in spirit.

I like the idea of scrap booking my faith memory snapshots so others can get ideas (both good and sometimes ways to do it differently!). When we have concerts out at Davis Park for example, it gives all of us a chance to get together for group pictures. Green background with multi-colored embellishments surrounding pictures of the people we love. Even if you don't bring a camera to the concert, the picture you see as you share the concert with others can be shared and reinforce the faith.

I like the idea of increasing my faith encounters through study and learning experiences. Attending Vacation Bible School or Quest or Disciple Bible studies often times forces us to reach outside our pre-existing, comfortable faith paths to travel the road where we may find ourselves the Samaritan or the wounded one.

I like being a part of the community of United Methodists known as Anderson First. It's good to feel the support of those who want the best for me, even when I don't know what that is or to be a part of the support when our physical bodies need more than we may know how to physically fix. It pleases God, I am sure, when we gather together – at the Park, the North/South parlor, the ensemble sanctuary in Fellowship Hall or in the library, grocery store or gas station and then move out to spread the Peace of God with the world around us.

Faithfully yours,

Miss Mary Margaret

Bible Challenge Let's Talk Blessings!

When God promised Abraham a son despite his old age, what did Abraham do?

- a) wept b) laughed c) raised his arms in thanksgiving and praise d) made an offering of a calf

Who first delivered to the children of Israel the famous benediction that begins "The Lord bless you and keep you ..."

- a) Aaron b) Judah c) Michah d) Levi

In the Beatitudes, the first

blessed are the _____

- a) meek b) poor c) poor in spirit d) mournful

Abraham laughed (Genesis 17:15-17)
 Aaron first blessed the Israelites by asking the Lord to bless and keep them. (Numbers 6:22-26)
 The Poor in Spirit are the ones first blessed (Matthew 5:2-3)

Answers:

DISCIPLE

DISCIPLE Bible Study can help transform our church into a biblically nourished congregation that nurtures and encourages people to live as disciples of Christ.

The DISCIPLE Bible Study program is designed to develop strong local churches through the in-depth study of Scripture. Through DISCIPLE, persons are strengthened in their faith and guided into

service and ministry. Strong, biblically nourished leadership will help your church grow in vitality and Christian discipleship.

Does this sound interesting? Watch for more details coming soon.

We need your help to reach out to our community!

There are a couple of downtown events coming up soon. These can be just ordinary things that happen and are forgotten OR they could be a way for First Church to make its presence known in downtown Anderson. It could be a time where people walk by and say, "Oh there's one of those church groups. I don't think I belong there." or it could be a time when people come by and say "Hey, what's going on over there. I want to be a part of that." The choice is really ours. Do we want to be a presence in the downtown area or do we want to be known as that

church on the corner across from the YMCA?

In order to pull this off we need YOUR help. Please look at this list and see where you can help. Send me an email to let me know where you will be helping. Let me know of other people who might be interested in helping.

Wednesday, June 27, or Thursday, June 28, during the day or early evening:

- People to distribute door hangers. We will map out street locations. We are planning to put door hangers on every door within one mile of the

church. We will stay in groups of at least two.

Thursday, June 28:

People to help tear down band equipment @ Davis Park 8:30pm

Friday, June 29 (First Light is playing at the Lions Family Festival):

- People to help set up at Athletic park 5:00pm
- People to welcome visitors and hand out information/gifts
- People to help tear down equipment at Athletic Park 7:30/8:00pm.

Sunday, July 1 (We are having Ensemble service outside at the Town Center Park):

- People to help set up band and welcome/food areas at Town Center Park 9:00am
- People to welcome visitors
- People to help grill and serve hotdogs
- People to help tear down equipment 1:00/1:30pm

EVERYONE please pray for good weather for the weekend.

Helping Those Less Fortunate

Emergency Community Assistance Day

On July 2 we will have people lined up at the church seeking assistance. These are people who for one reason or another are going to have their gas or utilities shut off unless they receive some help. Some are single mothers. Some are people with disabilities whose disability checks haven't started coming in. Some are people who are looking for jobs but can't seem to find one. Some are people who have just gone through a job change and won't receive their first check until it's too late. Some are unemployable and have no where else to turn. There are many reasons

people need our assistance. And I am proud members of First Church have decided to step up and help when many others would turn their backs on those less fortunate. I would like to pass on some of the comments I heard from people last month. "You guys are wonderful. Thank you for helping." "You treat us like regular people. You don't look down on us. Thank you." "I just need to get this month taken care of then I will be back on my feet. Thanks for helping." "I don't know what to do. I can't seem to get my life together." As we are helping them financially we are also

helping them to get a leg up. We are trying to help them get to that next level so they can become self sufficient. We give them suggestions for job opportunities, money management, and spiritual help. If you are on the email prayer chain, you saw the huge list of prayer requests Donna Ward sent out. These are the concerns the community has. Not just for money, but for jobs, for families, for addictions, for children, for marriages, for health. They are asking us to pray with them. They are asking for physical and spiritual help. And with your help we are able to provide it. When you take

communion on July 1, think about these people, pray for them, and help however you can. Give what money you can. We have been blessed, and it is truly a blessing to be able to share with those less fortunate. If you are available on Monday morning, come by the church to help out or even to just observe. I promise you being the hands and feet of Jesus will change your life.

Thanks for your support,

Steve Thomas

Mission Opportunity

Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, Illinois

This year's trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center will be October 7 – October 13. This is a great chance to do some much needed mission work close to home. In the past we have packed school kits, layettes, and health kits and sewers are kept busy making school bags and hats & mittens. These are sit-down jobs that need little or no

experience. Some of the guys have worked on building a gazebo and a new entrance to the warehouse. Also, we have built school desks and packed flood buckets. We work in teams and take breaks so fellowship abounds. In the evenings, we prepare and eat our meals together and afterward play games, watch TV and read. The lodge is very nice and we

usually sleep two to a room. Parking areas for motor homes are available.

If you would like to know more, or are interested in going, please contact Charlie Jones at 643-9613 or via email at K9tzj@arrl.net.



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Visit us on the web at
www.andersonfirst.org

Madison County Directors Band Featured at next summer concert

Our second of three concerts is scheduled for **July 19**. This concert will feature the **Madison County Directors Band**.

On August 9 Sarah Scharbrough and friends will entertain us and inspire us.

Fried chicken dinners will be available at each concert. The cost is: \$5/adult, \$3/children under 10, or \$18/family.

Picnic dinners are served starting at 5:00 p.m. and concerts begin at 6:30 p.m.

Remember to invite your family, friends and neighbors for a wonderful evening of food and music out at Davis Park.

Davis Park is located at 4507 Nichol Avenue. Contact 765-643-6977 for more

information.

Concerts are held rain or shine. In case of rain, Listen to 98.7 WQME or Channel 13 WTHR for any changes in venue. Alternate venue: First United Methodist Church at 1215 Jackson Street, in Downtown Anderson, Indiana.

Coming Events

- Jul 2 Bon Amis to Symphony on the Prairie
- Jul 1-7 Senior High Institute
- Jul 19 Davis Park Summer Concert
- Jul 20 JOY Luncheon
- Jul 22 MAD (Music Arts Drama) Camp
- Jul 29 Choir School
- Aug 5 Sacred Music Concert
- Aug 9 Davis Park Summer Concert
- Aug 11 All Church Rummage Sale
- Sep 9 Rally Sunday

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