

July 16, 2007

Volume 44, Issue 11



The Voice

LOVE FIRST *Caring, Sharing, Connecting*

Celebrating 180 years

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The Pastor's Prayer

Beginning on Sunday, July 22, a "Prayer Concern List" will be printed in the Sunday Bulletin. The purpose of the Prayer list is to lift up Prayer Concerns before our whole Community of Faith for daily prayer. We encourage everyone to take his/her copy of the prayer list home and pray for those concerns each day in the coming week. This practice is encouraged in scripture when James (5:16) calls for us to pray for one another. This practice can also help us experience a greater sense of connection. Prayer has the power to make a difference in our lives as we open ourselves to the Lord and to the needs of others.

Persons who are hospitalized will be asked if they wish to be listed with their hospital. No health specifics will be listed. Persons may call the church office to be added to the list. If calling for a relative or a friend, please get their permission for their being listed. If a person for whom prayer is being asked is not a member of the church, the connecting person to the church will be listed. For example, if Kenneth Wortinger were listed, the designation of Pastor John's Father would be added.

The list will be refreshed each week, and for a person to

continue on the list the church office needs an update of the prayer concern.

This "Prayer Concern List" will be one part of a far more extensive prayer atmosphere here at First Church. Other specific prayer programs include:

The Intercessory Prayer Team meets at 1:00 pm on Wednesdays for prayer at the church. The contact person to add prayer concerns or join the team is Janet Shively: 765-644-8209.

Prayer Counselors are persons who will pray with others having particular needs or concerns after the Ensemble Service at 11:30 a.m. The contact person for more information or becoming involved in this ministry is Kristine Miller: 765-734-1154.

E-mail Prayer Chain. This ministry is to connect prayer concerns with people who will lift particular needs up before God by e-mail. The contact person for this ministry team is Deardra Roesch at Deardraoesch@insightbb.com for prayer concern or enlistment as part of this ministry team.

Telephone Prayer Chain Team. Francie Seybert, 778-4623, is the contact person for

the Telephone Prayer Team. This team will phone one another in chain fashion to lift up prayer concerns of the Church Community.

A new prayer team will focus on our downtown outreach and will pray through the prayer concerns that come in at the Emergency Assistance Program, Community Café, and the Ensemble Service. This group will meet at noon on Thursday for thirty minutes in the Chapel to pray together over the prayer requests that have been received in the previous week. Pastor Donna Goings, 765-643-6977, is the contact person for this prayer team if you would like to join or have prayer concerns. This group will begin on Thursday, July 19, at 12 Noon.

"You do not tarry, O God of all goodness, to show us Your favor. You hear us whenever we call. Bathed in the brightness of your radiant love for us, we can see clearly Your care for creation. You are never far from us. If we take the time to acknowledge your presence, we are blessed by Your nearness. You can do all things; nothing can surpass Your care for all creation. We are thankful for Your comforting presence during times that try our faith. You can be trusted; we need only rely on Your guidance."

Pastor John

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Babushka's Garden, Pastor John, and Paul White

What do they all have in common?

These are the scheduled programs for our coming J.O.Y. Luncheons.

Babushka's Garden will be the program for our **July 20** luncheon.

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.

Our August 17 program welcomes **Pastor John K. Wortinger and his wife, Linda.**

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.

Our September 21 program welcomes **Paul White.**

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



An opportunity to welcome Anderson University students

In a little less than 2 months, Anderson University will welcome over 500 new students to campus. In this time of transition Anderson University attempts to connect students to those who will help them succeed in their academic and personal pursuits. Being part of a local congregation where they can find spiritual nourishment and opportunities to minister is a necessary part of this transition. To help facilitate this connection, Anderson University has invited Anderson First UMC and other area churches to

participate in their New Student Orientation.

Church Fair

Monday, September 3 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. we are invited to be part of a Church Fair on campus. This opportunity allows Anderson First and all area churches to introduce themselves to many new and returning students.

Move-In Day

Students will be moving into their dorms on Thursday, August 30. Anyone willing to help students and represent Anderson First should

contact the church office as soon as possible. Sherri Schrieber and Mary Kay Thomas assisted last year and the work is minimal. Typically a student and family drive into the parking lot. Each helper takes an armload (box, bedding, etc.) and walks it to the specified dorm room and you're pretty much done until the next student arrives.

If you are interested in being part of this or any other effort to connect students to Anderson First, please contact Mary Kay Thomas at 765-643-6977 or Doug Nelson at 765-649-6250.

Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord!

*M*A*D Camp 2007 starts on SUNDAY, JULY 22!*

If you are entering grades 2 through 6 this fall you are eligible to be a part of Godspell Jr!!!!!! If you have friends who are entering grades 2 through 6, they too are welcome. There are brochures in the Davis Park lodge and downtown. We encourage you to enroll because we will be limited to 50 children. Registration fee is \$12 per child and includes snacks each day, a Show T-shirt and fun each day!

Auditions for Godspell Jr will be held this year on Sunday, July 22 from 6

p.m. until 8 p.m. at Davis Park.

PASS THE WORD!

If you are interested in solos for Godspell Jr., you need to be at Davis Park on Sunday, July 22 to audition. Regular rehearsals for Godspell Jr will begin at 9 a.m. at Davis Park on Monday morning, July 23. Rehearsals will run from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Monday, July 23 through Friday, July 27 at Davis Park. This year we'll be having a final Dress Rehearsal performance of Godspell Jr at 7 p.m. on Friday evening at Davis Park, a 5 p.m. Saturday evening

performance, and we will be leading the 9:00 a.m. worship service at Davis Park. (Actors need to be at all rehearsals/performances.)

We can also use additional adult help during the week's rehearsals and performances. If you are available to help, please call the office and leave your name and the hours you are available. We also would love to have freezer pops, cookies, juice, Kool-aid, napkins and plastic cups. If you can help with any of these items, please bring them to Davis Park on Monday morning!



What: **GODSPELL Junior**
Music, Arts, Drama
Camp (M.A.D. Camp)

Where: **Davis Park** 4507 Nichol Avenue - a ministry of Anderson First United Methodist Church

When: July 22 through July 29

Auditions: July 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Rehearsals: July 23 - July 27 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

***Dress Rehearsal:** Friday, July 27 at 7:00 p.m.

***Performances:** Saturday, July 28 at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 29 at 9:00 a.m.

Register: Register online at www.andersonfirst.org

Registration fee: \$12 per child

Contact: 643-6977

***Primary performers must be at all rehearsals and performances.**

Trick or Treat at the Park

I know we are in the middle of the hottest weather yet this year, but it's still not too early to be thinking about Trick or Treat at the Park, which is scheduled for October 28, at Davis Park. This event has traditionally been a terrific community outreach opportunity for Anderson First United Methodist Church. We are host to tons of kids and

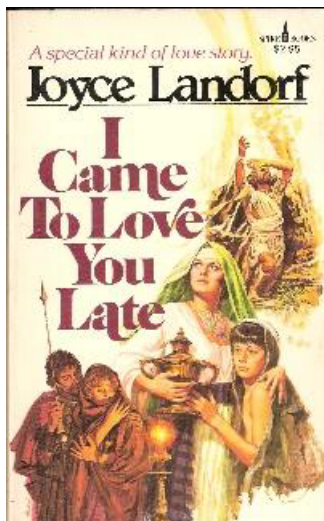
parents experiencing a fun, not frightening time, with lots of games, storytelling, refreshments, a bonfire, and trick or treat walk in the woods. There's plenty of opportunity for you to get involved. We are looking for a volunteer to oversee the event, as well as volunteers to chair each area, such as registration, games, refreshments, trick or treat

walk and the bon fire. One person can't do it all, but a team can share the work. If you are interested, please call Peg Peter at 765-643-9769; Janine Spurgeon at 765-644-7990; Janet McDaniel at 765-644-1853; or Mike Nicholson at 765-617-6887. Chat with them about where you might fit in and volunteer.

Contact information for:
**Pastor Derek Weber
& family**

2425 Candlewick Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Telephone # 260-755-0396
email - derekcw@aol.com

Church address
Aldersgate Community UMC
2417 Getz Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Telephone # 260-432-1524
www.aldersgatecommunity.com



“I Came to Love You Late”

Book Review by Pastor Bill Mathys

Joyce Landorf wrote a great novel about two sisters, Mary and Martha, who were friends of Jesus and the sisters of Lazarus. Landorf's book, “I Came to Love You Late” is about the relationship these two women had with Jesus.

As the fame of Jesus spread across the Biblical landscape, the untimely death of Lazarus brought about great consternation for his sisters. Lamenting how Jesus could have saved the life of their brother if he

had come on the scene in a more timely manner, the revival Lazarus experienced brought great faith to the women and others in the village of Bethany.

Viewing this miracle through the eyes of Martha brought it to life anew. As the villagers saw this miracle take place, their faith in Jesus was kindled and began to grow. They certainly were not prepared for

the events of Holy Week which soon took place.

For a first person look at this memorable time in the life of Jesus, look in the fiction section of our library.

Check it out!



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: 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



MarriedLife *Date Night*

What: MarriedLife *Date Night*

Where: Anderson First UMC

Room: TBA

When: Friday, September 14, 2007

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5/couple - includes childcare.

Activity: Dinner and a variety of fun activities will be available for engaged or married couples.

RSVP: Please let us know of your plan to attend so we can prepare food accordingly and whether you will be utilizing our childcare services in order to schedule sufficient childcare workers .

MarriedLife at Anderson First UMC is designed to help encourage married or engaged couples to grow and develop stronger, more vital relationships. We are also developing various opportunities for fellowship with other couples such as *Date Night* scheduled for September and a *Marriage Workshop* scheduled for October.

Make your marriage a

priority and join us for a special dinner and evening of fun and laughter. We encourage you to invite your friends and co-workers for this special *Date Night*. This is not a “churchy” event just a night of fun.

Our desire is to encourage and support all marriages through events and activities that foster love and honor among couples.

Childcare is available onsite.

School of Christian Mission

Musings from the office at the end of the hall

School of Christian Mission. Boy, does that hold a wealth of emotions and memories for me. I hope it does for you too. This camp truly is a hidden gem in the outreaches of the United Methodist Church. Early on in the history of our church, women began to understand how important it was for them to understand about the cultures and histories of the countries where the Church was sending missionaries. I imagine they also realized it was easier to convince people to give their monetary gifts to mission projects they understood. So Schools of Christian

Mission were established all over the country. Ours in North Indiana Conference is held on the campus of Manchester College. This year we're learning about Israel and Palestine and Globalizations and the music of mission. These studies all intertwine around each other and it's amazing to see how often the class discussion in one class connects with the songs we're learning about or the actions we can take.

I worry about this camp though. Does all this "education" really help us learn of missions? Do the people who come here, the adults, the teenagers, the children, the teachers, the

students...do we take what we receive and just hold it tight to ourselves and think how good it is for us to know this stuff? I have learned so much about the different filters I use to look at the situations in Israel-Palestine and climate control or ozone depletion or gas emissions or whether a song is racist. I've even learned how my concept of communion changed when I looked at it from a Middle Eastern perspective! I guess what I'm really saying with this musings is that I want you, each of you who ISN'T here at School of Christian Mission to ask Janine, Sara, Peg, Danielle, Donna, Rachel, Nathan, or

Rachel Monnier what they learned this past week. Ask them what they're going to do different because of the time they spent at School of Christian Mission. Ask them what they think YOU should know about in order to be a better citizen in God's world. And then listen to their answers. You just may be surprised.

Well, it's time for class to start and since I'm the teacher I'd better get going!

With love from North Manchester,

Miss Mary Margaret

Bridging the Gap Prayer Guide

Teachers are needed for Sunday School and other areas.

Sunday School will begin soon and we invite you to participate. One of the first ways (and last ones!) is in prayer. Please pray for the coming Sunday School year. Sunday School offers a variety of opportunities to connect and refresh us as well as reaching out to those who are spiritually thirsty. Pray for those who aren't connected to a Sunday School class. Pray they will choose to join in and continue to grow spiritually

through participation and in turn develop strong long-lasting relationships with one another and with Christ. Pray for the Spirit to move in the hearts of those in our midst who do not normally attend a Sunday School class - to decide this is the year of Jubilee, the year to share God's love through their leadership or participation.

Next...Pray for our leaders. Pray for those who feel ill-

equipped to lead, that someone from our congregation will take their hand and guide them. Pray for those who are weary who may feel another season is too much to ask. Give them the strength to continue your work. Pray for those who've already said "Yes" to leading another season - through their obedience giving you praise.

There are still gaps in many classes, but we know

through Christ all things are possible. We trust He will provide the right number of leaders and assistants for every age level from babies to adults.

Please prayerfully consider how you can participate, even in the smallest way, with this ministry by sharing God's love with His people this year!



Hospitality at Anderson First *Committed to being a welcoming community*

Dear Friends -

A date has been selected to meet and discuss one specific area of hospitality at Anderson First - our **Welcome Center**.

We invite all who are interested in this topic to come

share your experiences, insight and vision for this ministry. We will meet in the Wesley Room (just outside the sanctuary downtown) on Tuesday, July 31 from 6:30 - 7:30/8:00 p.m. Feel free to arrive a little early and enjoy

refreshments and conversation prior to our meeting.

Meeting Facilitators:

Pastor John and Mary Kay Thomas.

Helping our Homebound

Have you ever thought about helping out but aren't sure where?

Well, I can use some help and I'm looking for people to assist in delivering radio

prepared bulletins to people in retirement and nursing homes or who may be homebound for a period of time. Anyone interested please call the church office

at 643-6977 or Pastor Kaye R. Casterline at 643-4957.



Habitat for Humanity Building Project

In cooperation with several churches here in Madison County, Anderson First is assisting with the funding and construction of a new home in Alexandria. It is an important project as the family which will receive the home has been selected and is working with those involved in the building to prepare their new home for habitation. This is a great mission outreach of our congregation to place qualifying families in quality homes.

We have been asked to provide fifteen volunteers to work on this project and to prepare the lunch for these persons on August 18. While I can't be specific at this point as to our work responsibilities, it looks as if we will be asked to do much of the interior painting. We need fifteen men and women who would be willing to volunteer either for the full day or a portion thereof to assist with this project. Volunteers do not need special qualifications --

just a willingness to work and assist with the completion of this new home.

If you would be available to assist either with the lunch or with the work of the day, please contact Doug Nelson at 649-6250.

Doug Nelson is also the contact person if you have questions regarding Habitat for Humanity or this specific project.

Saturdays at the Park - July 28, 2007

A special presentation of the musical "Godspell Jr."

This month's worship experience is a musical based on the Gospel According to St. Matthew, and featuring a sparkling score by Stephen Schwartz. *Godspell Jr.* boasts a string of well-loved songs, led by the international hit, "Day By Day." As the cast performs "Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All

For The Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man" and "By My Side," the parables of Jesus Christ come humanly and hearteningly to life. Drawing from various theatrical traditions, *Godspell Jr.* is a groundbreaking and unique reflection on the life of Jesus, with a message of kindness, tolerance and love.

Godspell Jr.
A special musical performance by our M.A.D. campers
Saturday, July 28, 2007
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
A reception will follow the performance

Camp is a wonderful experience!

A look at Senior High Institute.

As many of you know, six of the senior high youth: Isaac Berky, Lauren Moore, Grace Mendel, Cameron Mendel, William Griner, and I just came back from senior high Institute. First off, I thank everyone who supported us with fundraisers, anonymous gifts, and prayers. It would not have been possible without you! A special thanks goes out to Alice Baker, Toni Overman, and Tom Hart for all their hard work with preparing our food and keeping smiles on our faces!

Camp is a wonderful experience all of us look forward to each year. It allows us to be with old friends and to meet new ones while coming to a

closer relationship with Christ. We are able to talk about our faith struggles and know people are right there to help. We discuss the bible in ways we understand and are shown ways to use it in our daily lives. One major thing I learned was you need a plan when temptation strikes you. You need to know how to overcome it! One night we spent an hour and a half praying over each other - it was amazing. I've seen how prayer can impact so many peoples lives. We also have loads of fun playing games and goofing off all in praise to our Lord. These are just a few things that impacted my life over this last week. There are so many others, but if I wrote

of all of them we would be here forever! But one more thing I thought was interesting. When we arrived back to the church we stayed in the car for at least 5 to 10 minutes longer because we didn't want to return to the real world. That shows you the amazing time we had!

Thank you again for allowing us to keep focused on our faith journeys and become faithful followers of Christ!

In His Love,

Brittini Thompson

P.S. Thank you pastor John for the amazing giant tumbling tower. We had so much fun with it!

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

July 28 at 5-7:30 pm





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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U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 909
Anderson, Indiana

Downtown
1215 Jackson Street
Anderson, Indiana 46016
Davis Park
4507 Nichol Avenue
Anderson, IN

Phone: 765-643-6977
Fax: 765-642-5232
E-mail: mail@andersonfirst.org

Visit us on the web at
www.andersonfirst.org

Sarah Scharbrough and friends in concert at Davis Park

Our final concert is scheduled for Thursday, **August 9 at 6:30 p.m.** We are honored to welcome Sarah Scharbrough and friends. Sarah's style of smooth jazz will entertain us and inspire us.

What a great way to spend an evening with friends.

Join us at 5:00 p.m. for a picnic dinner prior to the concert.

Fried chicken dinners will be available at a cost of: \$5/adult, \$3/children under

10, or \$18/family.

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. Our alternate venue will be First United Methodist Church at 1215 Jackson Street, in Downtown Anderson, Indiana.

Coming Events

Jul 19	Madison County Directors Band Concert (Big Band Jazz)	Aug 19	Open the Door Concert
Jul 20	JOY Luncheon	Aug 25	Saturdays at the Park
Jul 22	MAD (Music Arts Drama) Camp	Aug 29	Traditional Choir Kick-off (Pitch-in)
Jul 29	Choir School	Sep 1	AU Church Fair
Aug 5	Sacred Music Concert	Sep 7	Bon Amis - Warsaw
Aug 7	Movie, Munchies and Musings	Sep 9	Rally Sunday
Aug 8	Bon Amis to Bear Creek	Sep 14	MarriedLife Date Night
Aug 9	DP Summer Concert: Sarah Scharbrough	Sep 21	J.O.Y. Luncheon
Aug 11	All Church Rummage Sale	Sep 17	Quest Studies begin this week
Aug 18	Habitat for Humanity Work Day	Sep 29	Women Alive in Faith Brunch
Aug 17	J.O.Y. Luncheon		

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

In Concert

This Week:

The Madison County Directors Band will bring you a big band jazz sound, Thursday, **July 19 at Davis Park.**