



# Connections

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 1

THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2010

## COMING TO A PATIO, DRIVEWAY, & PARKING LOT NEAR YOU

*(While Pastor Tim is on vacation we share one of his front page columns from back in 2003.)*

Steve and Ann Jones sent me a link to a web page this week that has to be the most ridiculous venture into church architecture ever made: an inflatable church.



I kid you not. It's forty-seven feet long, twenty-five feet wide, with a forty-seven foot spire, faux gray stone, plastic stained glass, with angels 'sculpted' around the front entrance. It comes complete with inflatable pipe organ, pulpit, and neatly adorned altar. Evidently high heels are okay (it has a solid floor), but smoking is absolutely out.

The advertisement says something along the lines of, "When you can't get to church, bring the church to you." You can set this

church up in a matter of hours virtually anywhere, any place it is needed.

Targeted primarily toward couples wanting to get married "in church" and yet "out doors," I can't imagine having to explain your wedding pictures with the plastic candles and an inflated cross in the back ground. What a dumb idea.

Or is it?

When you can't or won't or aren't too eager to get to church, what if someone brought all of the blessings of church to you, right where you are?

When someone figures going to church means being made to feel even worse than they already do about themselves, imagine what it might mean to be surrounded by folks who were more concerned about loving you than judging you.

When someone is convinced that there is no more boring place in the world than sitting in a pew listening to some "holier-than-thou" preacher tell them how to live their life, what might happen if they heard the incredible excitement of a life changed and an entire perspective transformed



## CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STUDY STARTING

*20 minutes a day will take you through the whole Bible in one year*

Have you been thinking you could learn a lot and grow your faith by reading the Bible regularly? Would you like some help and the support of others as you do it? Could you find twenty minutes a day, if it meant you could read the whole Bible in just one year?



### New Bible Study Series

Some St. Andrew folks are starting a new Bible Study in January...just in time to fit in with your New Year's resolutions. We will be using a special Bible that is arranged so you know what you need to read each day to stay on schedule to complete it in one year. This Bible is also chronological, with events arranged more or less in the order they happened, and there is a brief introductory commentary for each day. We have ordered a quantity of this one year chronological Daily Bible (NIV), and they are now available in the office. The cost will be \$16 each.

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(Continued from page 1)

first hand and in person?

When your experience of friendship is wrapped around disappointment, manipulation, betrayal, or even just a sense that people care about you only to the extent that you can do something for them, what would it be like to witness a group of folks who cared for one another precisely at the point when there was nothing in it for them?



What we sometimes forget is that the church is nothing more and nothing less than the living presence of Jesus in our world. And the story of Jesus, the Son of God, is the story of God going anywhere and everywhere His rebellious, indifferent, and ungrateful people needed Him to be. You get the picture most clearly in the second chapter of Paul's letter to Philippi:

*<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!*

Being a church that people come to is always a good thing, but being a church that goes to people where they are, when and how they need the presence and power of Jesus Christ, that's down right incarnational! As we start to anticipate Pentecost—or the birthday of Christ's church—let's do our best to remember who we are and what Jesus Christ is eager to do in and through us. The church is not a build-

ing, it's not an institution, it's not even a religion—it is the embodiment of everything God has already shared with us through His Son. It is a faithful community committed to the business of sharing those same and wonderful gifts with folks who have earned them or deserve them just as little as we do.

An inflatable church gives every appearance of being fake, a cheap and phony knock off of the real thing. But what about a real church—what about bringing a genuine Christ-centered circle of friends to someone's office, backyard, or gathered around a kitchen table? I didn't read far enough along to find out how much an inflatable church goes for, but if you could bring the body of Christ to those who can't or won't get to church—that, without a doubt, would be priceless.



(Continued from page 1) *Study Series*

Look for a table in The Commons this Sunday (1-10) where you can get your questions answered and look over the Bible we will be using. This version is a nice, low-key, introduction for those who are relatively new to reading the Bible. At the same time, the chronological arrangement will create a new experience for those who have been reading the Bible for years.

The plan is that all who are reading will get together once a month, with a resource person from the congregation, to share our reading experience and have questions answered. Pastor Tim will join us in January (date to be set soon) to cheer us on. We will select a regular monthly meeting day and time at that get-together. If you have questions, contact Cathy Potter, [cathrynpotter@juno.com](mailto:cathrynpotter@juno.com) or 743-9804.

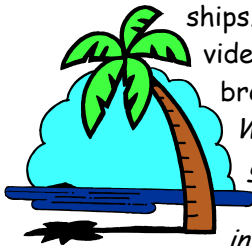


## WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS

We have entered the winter season where it might become necessary to suspend church operations for weather reasons. If you are ever in doubt as to whether a service will take place, please check the web page (<http://andrew-umc.org>) for closings or watch WFLI. We will also endeavor to put a message on the phone at the church office. For committee meetings, please contact the chair of your committee for the most up-to-date information.

## THE OASIS—IS IT CALLING YOU?

Did you make a New Year's Resolution to get more involved at church and find new friends here? The Friday morning Bible Study for Women "The Oasis" will help you keep that resolution. It starts on January 15 at 9:00 a.m. If you've been looking for a way to build relationships with other women and explore what God might have in mind for you, please join our group. Our name grew from the refreshment and renewal we gain each week as we share our lives with each other, learn, laugh, "get away" from our hectic lives and grow in our faith and friendships. Childcare is provided, as are great breakfast snacks.



We are using a study guide entitled: *Searching for God in a Bottomless*

*Purse.* It's for all those who are yearning for understanding and a more meaningful existence. Our group is for every woman at St. Andrew, and their friends are welcome too. "The Oasis" is calling you!

## START WEEDING OUT YOUR BOOKS

*Early Warning—Book Fair In February*



You are already asking...will there be a church Book Fair again this winter?

The answer is YES. Echoes of the Gospel, St. Andrew's book group has enthusiastically agreed to sponsor another Book Fair on Sunday morning, February 21. For three Sundays in advance of this date, contributions of books will be accepted. On the morning

of the sale, everyone can check out the offerings and take some home. Books will not be priced, but a donation will be requested. Last year we received about 1200 books, and made more than \$1000 for our cause, the Family Promise ministry. This time the beneficiary will be the Lafayette Urban Ministry. Do you have books you want to find new homes? We are counting on your January "clear out." All books not carried away at the sale are donated to the library book sale. Watch for more details later this month.

## ECHOES OF THE GOSPEL

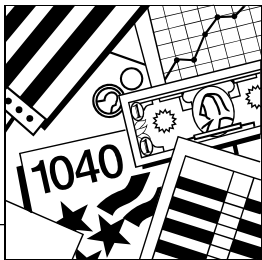
**Book Group Meeting**

**Sunday, January 10, 6-7:30 p.m.**

*Beloved*, by Toni Morrison, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988 and is the next selection for the St. Andrew book group. Everyone is welcome to come discuss it on Sunday, January 10, from 6-7:30 p.m. in Adult I. This book was an early Oprah Book Club selection and is often part of university curriculum. It is described as depicting the devastation and human cruelty that takes place in the business of slavery and slave trade. It is definitely disturbing, but you will be glad you read it. *Beloved* is available in paperback and at our local libraries.



"Echoes of the Gospel" is a group that talks about books, applying the lens of our faith and our understanding of lessons we learn from the Bible. It is an informal group, and a good place to get to know others at St. Andrew. Some read every book and come to every session, others attend just when the chosen book is of interest. You are always welcome to enjoy the conversation, whether you have read the book or not.



**TAX DAY**

## BE A VOLUNTEER TAX PREPARER

at Lafayette Urban Ministry

Are you interested in a short-term, effective volunteer opportunity and in receiving free tax training by the IRS? Would you like to help hard working families claim the tax credits they have earned? No experience is needed, but training is required. If you can commit three hours a week from mid-January to mid-April, contact Patti O'Callaghan at Lafayette Urban Ministry--phone 423-2691 or [pocallaghan@lafayetteurbanministry.org](mailto:pocallaghan@lafayetteurbanministry.org)



## Please Pass the Salt!

*By Monica Arrowsmith*



You are the salt of the earth . . .  
 What a compliment! And, from Jesus! How great is that? I hope I live up to it, am living up to it. But I think I might need it clarified a bit; especially because today, salt generally has a bad rap. What seems pretty clear is that we eat too much salt and that too much salt contributes to hypertension, stroke, and heart disease. Processed foods are loaded with it. Restaurants pour it on. Chicken noodle soup (diluted) has 1106 milligrams of sodium and even Cheerios has salt - 213 mg per cup! It is generally recommended that healthy people eat no more than 2,400 milligrams of sodium a day — about the amount found in

one teaspoon (6 grams) of table salt. But the average American eats more than twice that, around 9-12 grams per day, even if they rarely pick up a salt shaker!  
 But Jesus called us, called me, the salt of the earth. And Paul told us to season our conversation with salt. In this context, salt sounds like a GOOD thing! And it is. Salt is used to cure meat and fish, to rid them of harmful microorganisms so the food will be safe and will last. Salt is used to heal infections, to replenish our bodies, to maintain equilibrium. Salt is also chemically stable; it's reliable. Salt tastes good, and it brings out the best flavors of our food. Salt is abundant. Salt is essential for life.

So maybe instead of eating (too much) salt, I should act like salt. Well, how do I do that? Mr. Russell. I had Mr. Russell for Human Physiology as a senior in high school. Mr. Russell LOVED physiology. He was over-the-top passionate about it. I can still see him, arms waving in explanation, face getting a little red with excitement, as he shared with us the secrets of the cardiovascular system, the integumentary system, the neurological system. He really loved the brain - the cerebrum, cerebellum, medulla oblongata; all of it really. Not only did he love it so much, but he just KNEW that all of us would love it too, would want to know it

as well as he did, and that OF COURSE we were all smart enough to understand it and do well in his class. He expected it, and he encouraged us every step of the way. His passion for the subject and his confidence in us brought out the very best of every person who took his class.

From a faith perspective, then, I think acting like salt, living up to the title "Salt of the Earth" is a little like being like Mr. Russell. It's letting my passion for and from Jesus, His abundant love, shake from me so obviously, so consistently, that like salt and like Mr. Russell, it brings out the best in everyone I encounter, AND it makes them want Him too! Can you imagine if we liberally salted all our thoughts and all our conversations and all our actions with genuine kindness, positive encouragement, true compassion and joyful giving all the time? Please pass the salt!

## Keeping In Touch with InTouch: On Your Mark, Get Set . . . . *By Monica Arrowsmith*

We all know that we need to exercise, that a sedentary lifestyle contributes to obesity, which is linked to just about every condition we don't want - hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, metabolic



syndromes, depression, and the list goes on. It's easy to not exercise too. We have lots of things to do. We are busy, busy, busy. We have hectic schedules, our kids have hectic schedules, and we would really rather hang out at home and watch some tube or read in the

evening than work out. And get up at, what, 5:30 or so in the morning to get it in BEFORE work? That DOES sound crazy. Well, how about if we re-frame exercising as a way to improve our spiritual health too? InTouch has just the ticket! Beginning Ash Wed., we

will have the opportunity to improve our spiritual, physical and emotional health on our Lenten journey by taking an imaginary walk to Jerusalem, Israel from West Lafayette, Indiana. We will "earn" miles for a variety of physical and spiritual activities that, collectively, will

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(Continued from page 4)

take us the entire 6243 miles - including walking across the ocean!

On our journey, we just might:

- Improve our own health by increasing our activity;
- Connect with Jesus by using His main mode of transportation - walking - and talking to him as we go;
- Become aware of the needs of our neighbors around the world;
- Grow closer as a congregation and a people of God and renewing our commitment to serve Him.

More information will be coming soon. We would LOVE more helpers for this program! Exercise enthusiasts, geography wiz-bangs, missions-minded people, technical/web sorts, cooks, creative arts-types, writers, really anybody, any age are invited. The more involved the cooler the program will be!

## CENTER STAGE JANUARY EVENT



Plan to join us on Sunday, January 24, 12:30 p.m., at Cathy Potter's (817 N. Chauncey, WL) for our January carry-in luncheon where we look forward to excellent food and company as we kick off the new year. Please RSVP to Cathy (743-9804 or [cathryn.potter@juno.com](mailto:cathryn.potter@juno.com)) if you plan to attend. Also, please don't forget the Community Meal which we will be providing on Sunday, February 28 at Trinity UM Church. More details on that will be provided at our January meeting.

## NEWS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

### 2009 Operating Budget

Operating Budget for 2009:	\$502,600
Actual receipts for 2009 (112% of budget):	563,240
Actual expenditures for 2009 (107% of budget):	535,936
<b>2009 Operating Balance at end of year:</b>	<b>\$27,304</b>

Thanks to all for your support to make 2009 a very good year. The expenditures include a \$25,000 payment on the Building Loan. An unofficial report is available from the church office. The official detailed Operating Budget report for 2009 will be available after the church gets the December reports from some of the banking institutions. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

**2009 Giving Statements:** The 2009 giving statements will be sent out in mid-January. Let the church office or Larry Biehl (583-4041) know if you do not receive one by January 26 and wish to have one or if you have questions about them.

### Building Fund Status as of 12/31/2009:

Total Income:	\$3,878,828
Total Expenses:	\$5,009,480

**Total Loan Balance: \$1,247,535**

**Relocation Account Balance: \$116,883**

Follow-on campaign income for December:	\$33,468
Payments from 2009 Operating:	\$25,000
Expenses for December:	\$6,837
Loan principal payments for December:	\$47,106

Note that the detailed Building project report for December is available on the credenza outside the church office.

## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP CHALLENGE



We are testing a new curriculum in Children's Worship. As a part of the curriculum change, we are changing what the children receive from the pastors on their way out of the service each week. Instead of a coloring page or item to use in their craft project, each child will receive a small card. On this card, you will find the scripture reference and worship theme for Children's Worship. You will also find a challenge for the upcoming week that relates to the lesson. For example, this Sunday, Children's Worship focuses on The Good Samaritan. The challenge for the week is to try to find a way to help someone each day. Please take time to talk with your kids about what they learned in Children's Worship and help them with their challenge. We'll look forward to hearing each week how the kids put their lessons into practice throughout the week!

## FINANCIAL ASST. NEW HOURS

Tricia Sembroski is the Financial/Office Assistant for St. Andrew. With the new year beginning, Tricia would like you to know she will be in the office on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, if you have any information or questions for her. She also has a mailbox in the office if you need to drop something off for her, and she can be reached by e-mail at [tricia@andrew-umc.org](mailto:tricia@andrew-umc.org).

Along with entering deposits and closing the books at the end of each month, Tricia's responsibilities include writing the checks for the church. It is important to note here that Tricia cannot sign the checks. In fact, no one in the office can sign the checks, so the Treasurer (Abby Forbes) or her assistants will be called in to do that. If you need to be reimbursed for a purchase you have made for the church, please follow these simple steps:

- Pick up a reimbursement form (on Tricia's desk), and complete the information for amounts and the accounts the money is to come from.
- Attach receipts or documentation for the purchase.
- Place the requests in Tricia's mailbox, if she is not in the office.
- Please allow a week to 10 days to process the check.

Tricia plans to write checks on Wednesday afternoons, and Abby Forbes will come in on Thursdays to sign the checks. The checks will be mailed to you if you do not have a church mailbox. If you have a church mailbox, plan to check it for your reimbursement so that we might save on the postage.

## ST ANDREW RECEIVES GIFT FROM AFRICA UNIVERSITY STUDENT

On Sunday, December 20, St Andrew formally accepted a shadowbox art piece given by Lovemore Karumazondo, a student in the faculty of education at Africa University. Lovemore is pursuing a Bachelor in Business Education and has received a full scholarship from St. Andrew and two other churches from Indiana. He grew up in a rural village near Nyadire U.M.C Mission in Mutoko District, Zimbabwe.

He graduated from the Nyadire Teacher Training School located on the Methodist Mission Station in Mutoko District and taught school there for 3 years prior to enrolling at Africa University. Without the full scholarship, he would not have been able to continue his education or pursue his dream of becoming a Business Management professor and help set up voluntary organizations designed to change the future of Africa.

Lovemore is married to Juliah and has four children, three sons, Kudakwashe Emmanuel, age 12; Kumbirai Brian, age 9, and Kudzai Benson age 9; and one daughter Dona Lou Rudairo, age 6.

Lovemore benefitted greatly from his interaction with United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (VIM) teams whom he met while working as the Livestock supervi-



sor at the Nyadire Mission farm in 1999. There he worked closely with Mr. Larry Kies, currently a technical advisor to AU farm and a lecture in the faculty of Agriculture. He subsequently has become been a leader in developing student VIM teams to serve the University and the Old Mutare Mission Station near the University.

Lovemore graduated from Africa University in May 2009 with a degree in Education. He and his wife are both teaching in the Nyagadzi School system, located in a rural area between Mutare and Harare. Lovemore is also the Lay Leader for a newly forming Methodist Church in an area that was formerly a large tobacco farm. Currently ten Wednesday bible study/prayer groups meet throughout the area, and the plan is to start a building program as soon as fifteen groups have been organized.

Lovemore said, "I will ever be grateful to God, St. Andrew U.M.C and the other churches that are investing in me so that I may become a knowledgeable leader for Africa. I see God's hand and love through your support. Without your love and support I would not be at the University. It is by His grace that I am here. May you receive more of God's grace and love."

# January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				31	1 New Year's Day	2
3 8:45 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Con. Worship 6:00 PM C.I.A. Youth Group 6:00 PM T.O.M. Youth Group	4 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop Comm. Mtg. 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	5 11:00 AM Staff meeting 12:00 PM Trad. Worship Planning 12:30 PM Contemporary Worship Planning 6:30 PM Young Adult Planning 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Tutoring	6 Epiphany 7:00 PM Eagle Scout Brd. Review 7:00 PM Simply People Puppets	7 Newsletter Pub 6:00 PM Tipp Fly Fishing Fellowship 6:30 PM Disciple II 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00 PM Jr. High Lock In	9
10 8:45 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Con. Worship 4:00 PM CRoads Leaders' Book Study 6:00 PM C.I.A. Youth 6:00 PM Echoes of the Gospel	11 5:30 PM Disciple I	12 10:00 AM Trad. Worship Planning 11:00 AM Staff meeting 12:30 PM Contemporary Worship Planning 5:45 PM Patrol Leader's Con. mtg 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM CAB mtg 7:00 PM Campaign Completion Team 7:00 PM Tutoring	13 7:00 PM Eagle Scout Brd. Review 7:00 PM Simply People Puppets 7:30 PM Comm. Min.	14 6:30 PM Disciple II 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 AM Kitchen Cabinet 9:00 AM Oasis Bible Study	16
17 8:45 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Con. Worship 4:00 PM CRoads Leaders' Book Study 6:00 PM C.I.A. Youth 6:00 PM T.O.M. Youth	18 Martin L. King, Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 PM Disciple I	19 10:00 AM Trad. Worship Planning 11:00 AM Staff meeting 12:30 PM Contemporary Worship Planning 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Tutoring	20 7:00 PM Simply People Puppets	21 6:30 PM Disciple II 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM Education Work Area 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22 9:00 AM Oasis Bible Study	23
24 8:45 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Con. Worship 4:00 PM CrossRoads Leaders' Book Study 6:00 PM C.I.A. Youth 6:00 PM T.O.M. Youth	25 5:30 PM Disciple I 7:00 PM CareNotes	26 10:00 AM Trad. Worship Planning 11:00 AM Staff meeting 12:30 PM Contemporary Worship Planning 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Tutoring	27 7:00 PM Simply People Puppets	28 Newsletter Pub 6:30 PM Disciple II 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 9:00 AM Oasis Bible Study	30
31 8:45 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Con. Worship 4:00 PM CrossRoads Leaders' Book Study 6:00 PM C.I.A. Youth 6:00 PM T.O.M. Youth	1 5:30 PM Disciple I 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop Comm. Mtg. 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	2 Groundhog Day 10:00 AM Trad Worship Planning 11:00 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM CRoads Leaders' Gathering 7:00 PM Tutoring	3	4 6:00 PM Tipp Fly Fishing Fellowship 6:30 PM Disciple II 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 9:00 AM Oasis Bible Study 7:00 PM Scrapbook Crop Set Up	6 8:00 AM Scrapbook Crop

# St. Andrew Connections

St. Andrew United Methodist Church  
4703 N. 50 W.  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
Thursday, January 07, 2010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Lafayette, Indiana  
PERMIT NO. 54

## ST. ANDREW CONNECTIONS

St. Andrew UMC

Phone: 497-7755

Traditional Worship: Sunday 8:45 a.m.

Contemporary Worship: Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Mid-Week Worship: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.—September—May

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Childcare provided at all times



### Staff

Pastor:	Tim Burchill
CrossRoads Pastor:	Pat Sleeth
Administrative Secretary:	Donna Biehl
Financial/Office Asst:	Tricia Sembroski
Dir. of Children's Ministry:	Melissa Martin
Director of Music:	Dave Evans
Organist/Pianist:	LuAnn Boggess
Asst. Organist/Pianist:	Lisa Tally
Dir. Of InTouch Ministry	Monica Arrowsmith
Coordinator InTouch Ministry	Laurie Klenosky
Joyful Sound Director:	Jeni Leaird
Caretaker:	Linda Hamilton

### E-Mail Addresses

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