

Slowly but surely an urban garden takes shape

A church reaches out....

Lindenwood's renewed passion for outreach and mission has landed – hundreds of hands and feet strong—on a gnarled bit of old ground in the middle of the city. And one small neighborhood will never be the same.

The result this spring will be the Lindenwood/MIFA Neighborhood Garden, on Estival near East Street, where dozens of plant beds will allow residents to grow vegetables, and neighborhood kids can play where littered bottles, rotting tires and broken bricks once ruled.

The project is a joint program of the congregation and the Metropolitan Interfaith Association, which controls the property. Nearly 50 people turned out for the first work day, Saturday, March 13, to begin a massive clean-up and clearing of the grounds. Some people in the neighborhood, including excited and wide-eyed children, walked over to help.

With prayer bookending each day of work, there proved enough for everybody to do. There were trees and vines to remove and trim, garbage to collect, old building

foundations to uncover. A massive mound of leaves in the middle of the property needed to be moved to a site in the corner where composting will be started.

Two more work days were held the following Tuesday, and on the next Saturday, when rain held off, the sun shone and dozens more people armed with rakes, shovels, pitch forks and chain saws cheerfully continued the labor. A mountain of debris lined the curb for city removal.

A sign has been posted on a tree near the front of the property pronouncing the new urban garden to come. After Easter, additional work-days will be announced to begin building the plant beds, rock pathways and other improvements.

"This is so amazing," said Margaret Craddock, executive director of MIFA, who one morning brought donuts to sustain workers. "It already looks like an entirely different place."

As she spoke, a six-year-old neighbor girl ran up to show an old green marble uncovered from the earth. It's not an exaggeration to say her eyes were brighter than the gleaming marble where she had rubbed away the dirt.



MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER



I really love the following line from the song “Closing Time” by the pop band Semisonic: “Closing time; every new beginning is some other beginning’s end.” But that is really a sort of “glass half empty” approach. I would prefer to turn the phrase around and view every ending as an amazing new beginning. For the original disciples, Jesus’ hasty burial after the crucifixion was an ending. Despite all that he had told them, they were unable to see past death until they encountered the empty tomb – the ultimate new beginning. His ascension a few weeks later was another ending. However, as he told his followers, the Holy Spirit would not come until he had gone. On the day of Pentecost, which we will celebrate in May, the Holy Spirit came and, in another new beginning, the church was born.

During Lent, many of us had the opportunity to study Bill Hybels’ book, *Just Walk Across the Room*. In that study we saw examples of how forming relationships with the people we encounter, sometimes through random opportunities, can lead to new beginnings for us and for them. My prayer is that we will take that message and find people with whom to share it. The new beginning that we have experienced is available to all people who need to start again. Sometimes we are so busy rejoicing in the good news, we forget that the world is a broken and tragic place for many people around us—people who need to hear words of hope. Our job is not to point out their brokenness, but to point them toward the new beginning that is within reach.

Not long ago I spent the night in a casino hotel. It was the only nice hotel in the area and was quite affordable. I have to admit, I am not their target audience. I left the place with my record intact – I have still never put a

quarter into a slot machine. All they got from me was a very reasonable amount for the room and \$8 for the breakfast buffet. The thing that really struck me about the stay came from two brochures that were in the room. One described a “self-exclusion” program offered by the casino in conjunction with the Mississippi Gaming Commission that would allow you to suspend check cashing and credit privileges. The other was a reminder that you should not leave your children in the room unattended while you gamble. Both of these offered a stark reminder that the world in which we live is indeed a broken place. I do not say that to judge or to place blame: it is simply a statement of fact. The world is broken. But the good news that new beginnings are available *because* of what happened on Easter is as important today as it has ever been.

Share the good news of the empty tomb with the people you encounter. Take a walk across the room to say hello and to begin a new friendship that will be rewarding to you and to the person you greet. Remember the vast chasm between the way things are and the way things can be in the kingdom that Jesus proclaimed. See this Easter season as an end to the way things have been and the beginning of the way things will be. Don’t be satisfied merely to believe the good news: *be* the good news for those who need to hear.

Grace & Peace,
Ron Buck

Lindenwood Youth on the go in 2010



Recently the Lindenwood youth group sent nine high school youth to Bethany Hills for their annual “Spring Fling”. While the weather wasn’t very spring-like everyone had fun making new friends, listening to the keynote speaker (our own Trey Flowers) and hanging out. Pictured above, the youth are under a painting done by Harold Goodwin at Bethany Hills. We are proud to be a part of such a rich history at Bethany Hills. On March 20, the youth participated in a Day of Service; prepared the Easter Eggs, all 1500 of them, assisted with Angel Food and worked in the Urban Garden.





The apostle Paul loved the churches he had established and felt much concern for them. And, in his zeal for unity during a somewhat “interesting” time in his relationship with the church in Corinth, he implored the Corinthians to “...open wide your hearts.” (2 Cor 6:13) Paul asked for acceptance for him and his followers and also asked for the church to fully accept the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And so, in that spirit, the chosen theme for

Open Wide Our Hearts

this year’s Stewardship Campaign is “Open Wide Our Hearts”.

Lindenwood is ever changing, and we are experiencing the excitement of change right now! No doubt, one of the most gratifying aspects of this excitement involves a renewed focus on outreach and mission. A new vision is in place and is gaining momentum – building on our good works to date and striving to achieve much, much more. If you’ve read or heard anything from Dr. Ron, then you know from where the passion for outreach comes. If you’ve talked with Rev. Johnny, then you know what mission is all about.

Our annual campaign will officially begin on Sunday, April 18 and will continue through “Celebration Sunday”, May 16. During that time, you will be well aware of the importance of this spiritual discipline through messages of varying forms and through personal contact. And, as you see, read, and hear about the campaign, please prayerfully consider your personal spiritual path as well as that of our church community.

Although stewardship is emphasized during a yearly “campaign”, it is truly much more. It is perpetual, it is personal, it is corporate, and it includes the careful use of our gifts. You should know that your ministers, staff, and lay leaders have worked extremely hard to save where we can and still do what we must in order to further the ministries of our church. And, this coming year, the focus for the use of our gifts will shift outward. Of course, we need to fund our facilities, personnel, and programs. But, our purpose as Christians, and as the church, is to serve others. It is simple and is basic to the teachings of Jesus. It is our sincere prayer that we use as much of our gifts and blessings as we can to help and serve those who are in need, and we hope to influence our budget process to reflect that goal.

We have heard from Dr. Ron that God blesses us as individuals and as a church and that we should find ways to use our blessings in order to bless others. He has also said that, although giving may sometimes be out of abundance, it should always be out of gratitude for our blessings. How wise. How true.

We all serve a special purpose and are so fortunate to be able to serve through a very special church. Our purpose is to help others in the name of Jesus Christ. That is the vision. That is our mission. If we “open wide our hearts”, we may change some of the lives we seek to serve, but the lives we will most certainly change will be our own.

In Christ,

Kevin D. Kenny

Chair, Stewardship Ministry

Lindenwood Summer Camp 2010 - “Discover the STAR Within You!” May 24th thru August 6th

Entering grades K-10 - \$107 per week

The word STAR in our theme, “Discover the STAR Within You”, stands for Spiritual, Talent, Academics, and Responsibility. The camp experience includes classes, talent performances, athletic competitions, and chapel. Our talented staff offers great experience and abilities to make this camp one your child will long remember.

KIDZ WORLD is a new component of camp this summer in which kids (grades 4-10) learn responsibility by participating in summer jobs, earn *Linden* bucks, purchase items at the camp store, serve on the camp counsel, learn how to mediate minor conflicts, and conduct camp chapels.

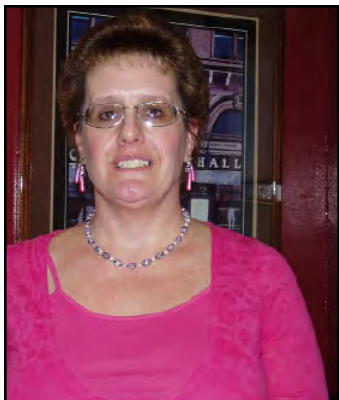
Summer camp is housed at the Life Center’s two story education building. The facilities includes a gymnasium, playground, ball field, climbing wall, movie theater, 40 foot slip-n-slide, the Lindy Café Arcade center, dance floor, and more.

Grade groups are divided into 5 groups, Kindergarten-1st Grade, 2nd & 3rd grade, 4th & 5th grade, 6th & 7th grade, and 8th -10th grades. Each group has its own counselors, lounge, arcade center, and recreation games.

Check our website (www.lccamp.org) or call us at 327-5433. Register by May 7th and receive a free camp t-shirt.



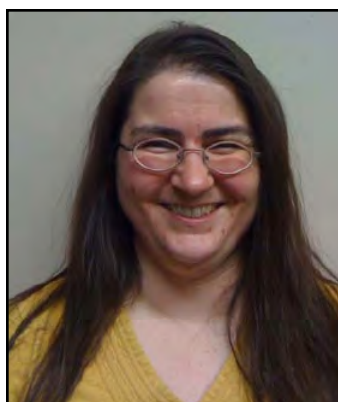
Welcome new members to Lindenwood



Kalista Britt



Joan Bailey



Carol Tarcza

Welcome to our Lindenwood family: Kalista Britt comes to us by transfer. Kalista is self-employed (Jewelry & Beading) and sings in the Chancel Choir. Joan Bailey is a commercial pilot and flight instructor. Carol Tarcza comes by rededication. Carol is a TV traffic coordinator with WMC. Member Vickie Wright is responsible for bringing Carol to Lindenwood.

Servant leader from Zimbabwe to preach, teach at Lindenwood

Lindenwood is pleased to welcome Mr. Boniface “B. J.” Mpofu, President of the World Convention of the Churches of Christ and former President of the Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe, to our pulpit on Sunday, April 11 – the Sunday following Easter.

Mr. Mpofu has spent much of his life working to build up the church in his native country, where he has been a tireless and courageous advocate for the poor.

The Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe is the historic Campbell-Stone church in this South African country. The World Convention, with headquarters in Nashville, is the umbrella fellowship body that brings together all the branches of the Campbell Stone movement, including the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

In addition to preaching in the W.O.W. and Sanctuary services on the 11th, Mr. Mpofu will interact with our senior high youth during their weekend retreat at Johnny and Deborah Wray’s farm in Mississippi.

In the current publication of Global Mission Partners Churches of Christ in Australia, Mr. Mpofu writes, “Over the years I have experienced the joy of supervising the drilling of many bore holes. I have noticed that if you give a man a glass of water he will thank you, but if you drill a well the whole community will thank the Lord. Water is indeed life and God is the provider.”

He went on with his story:

“Recently we drilled during the rainy season. This is a difficult time to drill because of the associated problems of mud and accessibility to the sites. Because of the weather limitations I found myself having to work on a Sunday, which I wasn’t comfortable with.

“As I was driving to the site I met a group of ladies dressed in their uniforms going to church. I stopped to chat and mentioned that I wished I could attend church with them. Their response surprised me. They each agreed that, ‘There is no better way to serve the Lord than to give people the gift of water on a Sunday.’” I felt uplifted and as I drove on thinking about what they had just said, my thoughts were with the special group I was going on to meet. I realized that I was in fact going to meet a special congregation and not just going to a drilling site.

“As I met the expectant villagers I took this opportunity to minister to them under a tree shed in a way they were comfortable with. We shared the story of the encounter of Jesus and the woman at the well from John 4. As we all celebrated the gift of physical water I reminded them to always remember to celebrate the real water of life that Jesus provides.”

Holy Week

April 1, 6 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service, H.T. Wood Chapel

April 2, 5:30 p.m. - Good Friday Service, Sanctuary

April 4 - Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service - 6:30 p.m.
8:30 Chapel Worship
9:30 W.O.W. Worship
11:00 Sanctuary Worship

Easter Special Offering - you are invited to participate in the Easter Special Offering on April 4. Our gifts support several ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in our common witness to the power of the resurrection.

ALL HANDS ON DECK... for Vacation Bible School

Our theme this year is a “High Seas Expedition - where children explore the mighty love of God”. Children ages 4 years through rising 6th grade will enjoy songs, crafts, and games from 9am – noon, June 28 – July 2 in the Underground. Youth can participate in VBS as Crew Leaders. Registration will begin in May. For more information or to volunteer, contact Angie Brittain at 682-8674.

A CORNER FOR PRAYER

Prayer and Meditation
By Rev. W. Harold Goodwin



By meditating we prepare ourselves to experience God's presence in a deeper more profound way. Meditation is a special kind of attention focused on an object or a few words. Examples include sentences of scripture like, "Be still and know that I am God," or "My heart longs for you O God." Objects chosen for meditation might include a leaf, a flower, an acorn, a pine cone or an interesting rock.

If you will choose one of these and then reflectively turn it over in your mind you will find that it is impossible to worry about anything else. Your mind will be calmed and prepared to feel God's presence. You will be in a state of readiness to listen for God's voice and to talk to God in simple, honest words of thanksgiving and praise. Follow your moments of adoration and praise by asking God's forgiveness for things done or left undone. Intercede on behalf of the needy. Petition God for things that you know He would approve for yourself. Conclude by a few moments of meditation. You will be blessed by this combination of meditation and prayer.

Caring for the Caregiver

The Lindenwood Caregivers' Support Group will meet Sunday, April 18 in the Bell Conference Room after the Sanctuary service. You are invited to bring your lunch from Stauffer Hall and join us.

In our meeting we will introduce ourselves and tell about our loved ones we are caring for. Then we will explore specific ways we can reduce caregivers' stress. Caregivers who have already been through moving the loved one from their home or giving up their car can suggest what helped them through this process.

Caregivers are usually the last to ask for help. We will explore how your family, friends, and church can help. We will discuss specific things others can do to brighten your loved one's day and to help you.

Resource material will be available for the continuum of care including services for in-home care, residential care facilities and specialized services with addresses and telephone numbers. All listed service providers are licensed and bonded. Hope to see you there. For more information contact Nelle Lewis at 763-1642.

GO GREEN: If you would like to receive "Life@Lindenwood" through email, sign up at www.Lindenwood.info or call the Church Office at 458-8506.

Journey to Bethany Attention attendees!

Those who are coming out Friday night, April 16, be thinking about your favorite verse of scripture. Your planning will expedite or move along an exercise that will follow the welcome and the "New Best Friend" exercise. Friday evening's schedule looks like this:
5:30 - Bus leaves Lindenwood
6:30-7:00 - Snack meal in the Red Barn
7:10 - Meet in the Conference Room
7:15 - Welcoming words - Dot Goodwin
7:20 - Music/sing-a-long - Morgan Parks and musicians
7:45-8:15 - New "Best Friend" exercise - Dot Goodwin
8:15-8:45 - "My Favorite Verse" - Dr. Ron Buck
9:00 - Special music, closing prayer.

It's not too late to sign up and be a part of Journey to Bethany XIII. Deadline is April 7.

LIFE IN FAMILIES

CONGRATULATIONS

Howard and Ann Whitsitt on the birth of their new great granddaughter, Elizabeth Meeks Hinson born March 19.

SYMPATHY

Melinda Wood and daughter Madison Swofford in the death of Dollye Hayward, Melinda's mother.

Dot Williams in the recent death of her brother.

THANK YOU

Dear Members and Staff of Lindenwood, Thank you so much for your outpouring of prayer, thoughts and condolences on the passing of my mother. Your care and love is beyond words and myself and family thank you for your support.

Peace,
Melinda Wood



LIVES & MINISTRIES WE HONOR AND REMEMBER

REMEMBERING

Internet Fund

Dr. Warde Jones.....Jeanne Nelson

Minister of Music Discretionary Fund

Hester Carson.....Dr. Thomas Fortner

Music Fund

Dr. Tom Nelson.....Jeanne Nelson

SAMSAL

Dr. William Hough.....Anna Hough,
Cindy, Jeff, Ryan, and Natalie Smith

HONORING

Benevolent Fund

Rev. Joe & Betty Bryan.....Shelley
Dycus

Ministers Discretionary Fund

Dr. Ron Buck.....Clarice Willis
Gary Beard.....Dr. & Mrs. Robert
Palmer, IV

Chris Nemece.....Dr. & Mrs. Robert
Palmer, IV

Minister of Music Discretionary Fund

Music Ministries.....Elinor Reed

Music Fund

Dr. Ron Buck.....Doyle & Ruth Ann
Harris

WOW Music

Las Savell.....Frank Hemphill

DONATIONS

CrossOver Fund.....Alasdair & Bettina
Halleron

John F. Reed Scholarship.Elinor Reed

KidzXpress.....Harold & Sarah Cloud

Kole's Club.....Ruth & Paul Johnson,

Claudia Lyons, David & Monica

Skipper

Laudate!.....Kirk Whiteside

Media.....Melinda Wood

Minister of Music Discretionary....Hal

& Peggy Bishop, Paul & Nina Ross
Music Fund.....Jesse Johnson
Nursery Fund.....Alasdair & Bettina
Halleron
Pantry Fund....Kathie Gouge, Alethea
Klinke, Kate Lind, Matt & Mimi
Salazar, Gail Schledwitz, Steve Steed,
Walter White Open Door
SAMSAL.....Jack & Dottie Blake,
David & Ann McCabe, Johnny Wray
WOW Music Director's Discretionary
Fund.....Denise Martin, Matt & Mimi
Salazar

Worship @ Lindenwood

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

9:30 a.m. W.O.W. Worship

in Stauffer Hall

11:00 Sanctuary Service

