



THE MESSENGER

a bi-monthly publication of
Indianola First United Methodist Church

Letter from the Finance Committee

**Making, Growing,
Sending Disciples
into a hurting &
broken world**

VOL 64, NO. 4 - FEB 17, 2010

SERVING IN WORSHIP:

Feb 21, 2010 -

Pastor Kay Hooper

Sermon: "To Observe A
Holy Lent"

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Music:

8:30 - REJOICE! Band

9:45 - Celebration Singers

10:30 - Wesley Chimers &

Chancel Choir

Feb 28, 2010 -

Pastor Andrew Bardole

Sermon: "Bread of Shane"

Scripture: Philippians 3:17-
4:1

Music:

8:30 - Leah Jacobs

9:45 - Celebration Singers

10:30 - Chancel Choir

MAR 7, 2010

Pastor Kay Hooper

Sermon: "An Urgent
Patience"

Scripture: Luke 13:109

Music:

8:30 - REJOICE! Band

9:45 - Celebration Singers

10:30 - Chapel Bells

*Coffee & fellowship from 9:15
to 10:45 a.m. Sundays in the
Hospitality Room.*

First UMC Family,

There is a great deal to be thankful for concerning the budget results in 2009. As you may remember, early last Fall in response to an anticipated significant budget deficit, Pastor Kay Hooper issues a "PK Challenge" to the congregation. She challenged the congregation that if 200 persons would give \$100 over and above their annual gift to the church, we could raise \$20,000 to meet our budget needs.

We are excited to report that the congregation responded enthusiastically and generously. The "PK Challenge" not only raised \$19,185, but many of you redoubled efforts to pay pledges and give to the Christmas offering. As a result, we ended 2009 with only a \$1,385 deficit, not counting the "PK Challenge" gifts. This deficit amount was much less than the projected amount earlier in the fall. The deficient amount of \$1,385 has, of course, been covered by funds from the "PK Challenge".

But, the greatest news is, because of your generosity and faith in this church's ministries, the "PK Challenge" will enable us to invest in extending and expanding ministry program to the 2010 year. For example, we have been able to fund a part-time Care Coordinator position, a position we have needed for several years, using \$8,000 of the "PK Challenge" money. In addition, we have invested additional monies in our education ministries and have recognized the great work of our staff by providing them with modest raises. Plus, a small portion has been held in reserve to meet any unanticipated needs during this budget year.

The message we wish to share with you is that, because of your faithfulness and commitment, even during these difficult economic times, we have been able to continue to expand our ministries. This is indeed cause for thanksgiving and joy, for it is a sign that our congregation believes deeply in what we are doing and is willing to sacrificially support our church's work.

As stewards of your gifts we, the members of the Finance Committee, thank God for your faithfulness and generosity. May God bless you all and may God continue to bless the ministries of this congregation.

Elodie Opstad
Finance Co-Chairs

Bob Downing

From the Desk of Pastor Andrew

I am a huge football fan. Naturally, that makes the Super Bowl a borderline holiday for me. You better believe that anytime you can bring together massive amounts of fried foods, a large number of raucous friends yelling at the TV and a handful of hilarious commercials, I am definitely going to be a part of it all. But this year, there was a bit of a different feel to the game; it had a different significance that one team emerging as victor and getting to host the Lombardi Trophy.

It just so happens that one of the participants of the game this year was the New Orleans Saints. As a football team, the Saints have historically been one of the worst teams in the league. It took them 43 years to finally make it to the Super Bowl. But New Orleans as a city has had an even worse time as of late. To me, it seems like Hurricane Katrina happened a mere few months ago, not years. The devastation New Orleans encountered was heartbreaking. If you saw the images coming out of the aftermath of the disaster, you are likely not to forget them anytime soon: people scurrying for their roofs to escape the rising water; homes and businesses completely submerged; when the water receded, people's belongings spread all over the streets, homes covered in mud and mold.

Of course, it is easy to forget about continuing to help New Orleans, now that this happened nearly four and a half years ago. The swell of support to help the city and the region has subsided, but the need for help has not. I got into talking about New Orleans for a reason, and the Super Bowl was just a natural jumping off point. See, I love it when sports and church can find some common ground. The connection is this: New Orleans still is working on putting itself back together, and the 11th and 12th grade youth group is answering the call. In a little over a month, a handful of high school students, parents and other adults will be packing up a couple of vans and heading south to do their part in helping New Orleans.

These kids will be sacrificing their spring break, a time generally to relax and to not have to worry about school work, and are going to be doing things such as putting up dry wall, painting, and who knows what other strenuous labor. Be aware of what the kids are doing; they have acknowledged, along with the leaders, the need that New Orleans still has. After the glow of the cameras faded a few years ago, it was easy for the city to fade from our collective conscience. But First UMC Indianola will be descending upon the city for five days to work with and for the residents, to learn about what it means to be in mission, and hopefully to see God in action. Support them in whatever way you know how. Be in prayer for those who will be participating.

While Mardi Gras and a Super Bowl Championship may energize and encourage the people of New Orleans, there is still rebuilding to be done. We are going to work, using our own two hands to try and make the world a better place.

Blessings,

Pastor Andrew Bardole



UMW Schedule

February 2010

Unit Meeting

Memorial Service by Linda Brice
February 11th - 2:00 p.m.
Smith Chapel at Wesley the Village
Hostess: Rachel Circle

Elizabeth

Feb. 17 @ 1 p.m.
Hostess: Jerri Kingery,
1106 E. Girard
Program: "For the Love of God:
John's Letters"
by Mary Lou Staubus

Hannah

Feb. 22 @ 7 p.m. - John Wesley Rm.
Program: Pledge Service
by Linda Brice
Hostess: Lois Van Wyk
Devotions: Linda Brice

Lydia

Feb. 24 @ 7:30 p.m. - Carver Rm.
Program: "Children in Poverty"
Devotions: All

Rachel

No Meeting in February

Ruth

February 20 @ 11:45 a.m.
Lunch - Place to be determined
Program: "Let's Get Together"

Sarah

Feb. 24 - 9:30 a.m. - John Wesley
Program: "Volunteers in Mission"
by Carolyn Fellows
Hostesses: Ruth Dutcher &
Margaret Bancroft

Susanna Wesley

Feb. 18 @ 1:30 p.m.
John Wesley Room
Program: "Pledge Service"
by
Larola Gibson
Hostess: Larola Gibson

Pastor Kay invites you to a 4-week Lent Study

"Where Else is the Cross True?"

Tuesday, Feb 16, 23 & Mar 2 & 9
at 11:00 a.m.

Explore how the cross is at work today - a historical reality that is true - in nature, in relationships and in the fabric of everyday life. Teachings in this series are "The Ground is Level", "Dying to Live", "Is That All You Got?" and a forth that helped originate the bumper-sticker take over in West Michigan and elsewhere - that one's called "The Cross", but it's also affectionately known as "Love Wins".

The teachings are pure Rob Bell!
Pastor Kay will facilitate.

T.G.I.W! Food Court Menu

Feb 24: Pizza, Salad Bar
Mar 3: Italian or Mushroom
Chicken, Mashed
Potatoes
Mar 10: Tacos, Refried Beans

Mar 17: NO TGIW! SPRING BREAK

Mar 24: To Be Determined
Mar 31: To Be Determined
Apr 7: Hot Dogs, Maid Rites,
Chips
Apr 14: Sub Sandwiches, Cole
Slaw, Chips
Apr 15: Pizza, Salad Bar



**The NAMI Family Support
Group meets the 1st
Thursday of the month
from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
in Gable Chapel**

**This group is open to
anyone who has a family
member with serious
mental illness.**

New Group Forming!!!!

Join us for "COFFEE HOUR" on the 4th Monday of each month
at 10 a.m. in the John Wesley Room.

This will be a casual group that will
get together for fun
and fellowship!

**New Member Class: A second session will be offered
contact the church office for more information**

In this new member orientation, led by Pastor Kay, we will use the book "*What You Do Best in the Body of Christ*" by Bruce Bugbee.

Come and find out how uniquely gifted you are and explore ways you can use your gifts for the glory of God and the building up of the Church. We will also learn or *re-view* some of the basics of The Bible, Christianity, Methodism, and life here at FUMC Indianola.

We will introduce you to our staff and key leaders in the church. This orientation class lasts 4 weeks. We will be happy to offer a day time session in the summer if there is interest.

NEW T.G.I.W! ADULT CLASS STARTING FEB 3RD

You are invited on a journey focused on intentional faith development. Consider accepting this adventure through an 8-week Wednesday night Bible study called, "**First Persons**". This is a new concept in a study program which revolved around a Biblically-accurate story of a person living in New Testament times, who witnessed an event in the life of Jesus: a shepherd boy who was at the birth cave; a magi's apprentice; a wine merchant, who saw the baptism of Jesus; the wife of a potter in Nazareth, who saw Jesus get thrown out of the synagogue; a fisherman who witnessed the call of Peter, Andrew, James and John; the wine steward in Cana; the sister of an adulterous woman; the centurion at the cross and others.

Each story is Biblically-accurate, based on specific scripture references for study, and filled with detail about life in First Century Palestine. Together, we will learn about particular events in the life of Jesus and explore how people of his time lived, played, worked and worshiped.

Dates: Wednesday, Feb 3 - March 24, 2010

Times: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

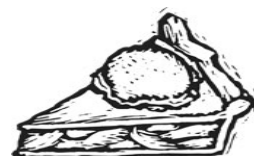
Facilitator: Heidi Long, h.long@msn.com or 962-2079

Who should attend: Anyone wanting to focus on Intentional Faith Development.

**11th Annual
Soup Supper &
Pie Auction**

Feb. 20 - 2010
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Has been
cancelled!**



Save the Date!

A conversation with....Carol Howard Merritt, author of "*Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation*"

An occasional conversation series focusing on the theological grounding of and the practical implications for ministry with young adults

Evenings of: February 19 & 20, 2010 at First UMC, Des Moines

For more information contact:
Eric Guy, Leadership
Development Minister for
Young Adult and
Generational Ministry,
eric.guy@iaumc.org or call
515-874-8944

Thank You

for your prayers,
presence, gifts and service

thank you

prayers

Prayers of sympathy are extended to the family of Ruby Boothe, who passed away on Feb. 6th.

Blessings and welcome to Michael Schenfeld, who was baptized on 2/14. His parents are Nicole & Alex Schenfeld.

We welcome Doug & Kelly Lewis into membership on 2/14 and rejoice in the baptism of their daughters Clair & Julia.

Prayers of sympathy to Carolyn Patch & family at the passing of her husband, Rodney on February 15th.

Blessings to the Edwards family at the baptism of David & Hannah on 2/14. We also welcome their parents, David & Krystal into membership.

Our prayers are extended to Deb Tierney, Becky Lane and families at the passing of their mother, Loraine Oswald on February 10th.

We welcome Sherrie Stark, who was accepted into membership on Feb. 14.

Our sympathies to Twila Wilkinson & family at the loss of her son-in-law, Tom Christensen. Services were held in Webster City, on Feb. 18.

Congratulations to Jud Lee, who received his Eagle Scout award on February 21st.

Recently Discharged: Dale Goodwin, Dolores Teas, Wauneita McConnell, Steve Darling, JoLynn Ferrell, Ron Zumwalt

presence

Sunday Worship 2/7/09 - (492)

8:30 a.m. - 247

9:45 a.m. - 154

10:45 a.m. - 91

**attendance last year on this date (580)*

Sunday Worship 2/14/09 - (396)

8:30 a.m. - 154

9:45 a.m. - 131

10:45 a.m. - 111

**attendance last year on this date (638)*

gifts

Financial Summary

Operating Fund:

2010 Annual Budget	\$786,000
Budgeted Gifts thru Feb.	\$133,133
Actual Gifts thru 2/15	\$136,133

Capital Campaign:

Gifts received in 2010 both campaigns)	\$50,438
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2008 Campaign Totals

Pledged	\$1,092,326
Received thru 2/15	\$895,348

2003 Campaign Totals

Pledged	\$1,680,537
Received thru 2/15	\$1,531,322

Placing flowers on the altar in honor or memory of our loved ones is a great way to enhance our worship service. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Darla Kickbush at 707-5456

Dear friends,

The love and concern Neal and Amy and our families has received during this sad time at the loss of our little Brock has been humbling and appreciated. The many cards, calls and visits we have received has helped to lift our burden. The generosity and the many food gifts have helped sustain us. Your care and the many acts of kindness have helped to ease our broken hearts. Blessings to you and thank you,
Randy and Barb Gould

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concern during Rick's stay in the Iowa City Hospital. Surgery seems to be a success & his healing is going well.
Rick & Ellen Gripp

"So Nice of You"...a bountiful meal of meatloaf, baked potatoes, green beans, salad and other sides were prepared by the caring crew of T.G.I.W! and brought to our door following Rod's shoulder surgery. With Appreciation.
Rod & Carolyn Erb

To the confirmand who: care, can & will, what a blessing God put you in my life with all your fellow followers of Christ. Your gift last week was more precious than gold. May you SOAR through life with Christ under your wings! Faith-Full-y, your Friend for Life.

You Did - You Do - You will Always!

Library News by Bernice Pickup

The following books were given by Judy Pool: **"Healing Stones"** is a story of pain, healing and God's invitation for second chances; **"Healing Waters"** tells of tragedy and how to find the courage to go on; **"Fight Like a Girl"** shows how to embrace and express the femininity, God designed for us. **"Believing God"** shows us what it means to believe in God. **"Intercessory Prayer"** shows us how God can use your prayers to move Heaven and Earth.

"Heading for Home" is a book about Kent Stock's journey from Little League to Hollywood. Also about time spent in Norway, Iowa and the different towns in Iowa where he coaches. This was written by our own, Ken Fuson and was given by Herb & Ruth Dutcher.

"A 5th Portion of Chicken Soup for the Soul" is a collection of stories that war the spirit. This was given by Veda Johnson.

The following books were given by Lisa Baker: **"The Fibromyalgia Handbook"** is a 7-step program to halt and even reverse this syndrome. **"The Gluten Free Diet"** helps us understand and thrive with gluten allergies. **"Recapture Your Health"** is a program to reverse chronic symptoms and create lasting wellness.

"River Town" is a story of a correspondent that spent two years on the Yangtze. This was given by Darla Kickbush.

"You Gotta Keep Dancin'" shows us how to cope with life's hurts. This was given by Mary Kay Pendgraft.

U.M.W Readers

A "social action" book is **Closing the Food Gap**. This book combines deep personal experiences with the stories of patrons of food pantries, bodegas and convenience stores, and those who use organic and local produce to expose the dangerous dietary split in the United States. This presents a vision for realistic partnerships in which family farms and impoverished communities come together to get healthy, locally produced food onto everyone's tables.

Special one-time event!

Join Dr. Barb Ramos for a powerful and informative presentation on Shaken Baby Syndrome. Dr. Ramos will bring a Shaken Baby doll simulator, show a DVD of Elijah's story, provide education and help us make a plan on what you can do to help prevent this tragic injury.

Wednesday, March 10th
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Gable Chapel

For further questions, please contact Lisa Gray, 961-5299 or 961-4716

Sponsored by the Child Abuse Prevention Council of



more library news...

The following books were given by Nita Lewis: **"What the Heart Knows"** is a story of a lady that has lost her husband, has difficulty with her son and how she got God back. **"Crossroads"** tells of a single mom that has a son, who has gotten in with the wrong crowd. **"A Baby for Dry Creek"** is a story of a bride that discovers that her life is in shambles and how faith will give her peace.

"Dewey" is a beautiful story about a cat that lives in the Spencer, Iowa Library and how he gets along with patrons. This was given by Dave and Sheryl Potratz, that live in Spencer and are friends of the author.

"The Will Know Us By Our Love" is a helpful book for planning services for small groups. It can be found in the Church Section

Girl Scout Spaghetti Supper & Silent Auction



Friday, February 26th
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5 includes spaghetti, salad, bread, drink and homemade dessert.

The girls are raising money to go on a trip to Savannah, George, the birth place of Juliette Low, founder of GS.

Food Pantry Sunday is February 28th

Over 350 items were collected last month. Items needed this month include: soups, crackers, fruit juice, canned meat, toilet paper, Kleenex, peanut butter, bar soap, pudding and jello.

Grocery list will be available on Sun., Feb 21, 2010

Thank you to all who contribute, helping those in need.



Church Staff position available

Indianola FUMC seeks an individual as **part-time Care Ministries Coordinator**.

Position responsibilities include: oversight of care ministry programs; the recruitment, training and support of lay members of these ministries; ability to be self-directed and to work with and support a diverse number of people. Flexible hours are available. Send letter of application, resume and references to: First UMC, Pastor Kay Hooper, PO Box 258, Indianola Iowa 50125

Thinking of Lent

Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us do regarding our spiritual life that makes lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means "Good News".) A college student decided to work his way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom, leaving the authorities dumfounded.

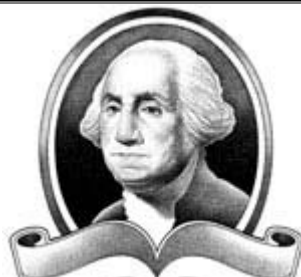
During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant son of God, who was only in his 30s. Get to know the good new, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.

-taken from "The Newsletter Newsletter" - Feb 2010 issue

Becoming a Woman of Simplicity

St. Thomas Aquinas Altar & Rosary Society is hosting a coffee and conversation with guest speaker, Jodi Lockwood. Jodi is a women's ministry speaker from Dubuque, Iowa. She will be talking about "Becoming a Woman of Simplicity" and how to declutter our calendars and explore a simpler life with God.

Please join us for a morning of fellowship on Saturday, March 6th from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center. The cost is \$5.00 per person or \$25.00 for a table of 6. Registration will be taken for those interested from our congregation by the FUMC office. Please call 961-5317.



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Lenten Prayer Services

Wed., Feb 24

Wed., Mar 10

Wed., Mar 17

from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

**Join us in Gable Chapel
for a time of prayer.**



Des Moines Bureau of Refugees Update

Due to Federal funding cutbacks, the Des Moines Bureau of Refugees is projected to stop receiving Refugees on June 30, 2010. However, until then we will continue to need good, clean apartment sized furnishings and welcome yours. (Complete story online at Des Moines Register, Jan 27.)

Indianola FUMC has been a generous source & certainly a vital link towards providing the needs of the most vulnerable in the Metro area. Our thanks to these January donors: Glenda Sellers, Karey Bishop, Joyce Koehler, Sue Libby, Deb Collins, Jerri Kinger, Irene Lyon, Leila Schlenker, & Eileen Tomlinson.

In Appreciation: Rod & Carolyn Erb