



The Journey

Southport Christian Church

We're Living Out Our Mission:

- ✓ **Filling our soul**
by sharing the good news of God's saving love.
- ✓ **Filling our mind**
by growing disciples of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ **Filling our heart**
by serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MAR. 14 MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW SO YOU WON'T BE LATE FOR CHURCH!



SOUTHPORT
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

201 E. Epler Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
(317) 784-4431

www.southportchurch.org

24 Hour Prayer Vigil Opportunity

Southport has a long standing tradition of offering the members of our congregation a very special opportunity for personal reflection and prayer during our preparation for the Easter experience.

This year we will share in a 24 hour prayer vigil starting at noon on Friday March 26th and lasting until noon on Saturday March 27th. For those who would like to participate this year, there will be sign up sheets starting Sunday March 14th and staying up until the day prior to the prayer vigil.

This year the Elders will, as in the past, provide security for those sharing during nighttime hours.

The prayer vigil will take place in the fellowship hall and will have reading material, prayer concern lists, the labyrinth, and communion available for participants.



For those who have shared in this vigil in the past, many feel it is one of the high points of the Lenten and Easter season.

Please plan to sign up and participate in this wonderful opportunity as a part of your Easter preparation.

JUST A THOUGHT . . .

by Rev. Doug Lofton

I was on vacation a little over a week ago and had the chance to grab lunch one rainy day in San Francisco. We decided to get some seafood and so off we went to the Wharf area. I had a crab sandwich and a bowl of clam chowder. To say the least, I would do it again.

I hadn't been in San Francisco in several years and was reminded this time what a cosmopolitan city it is. In the couple of hours on the Wharf I heard at least a dozen different languages being spoken and could not understand a one of them. San Francisco is that melting pot that my teachers used to talk about in school, well beyond what we know and experience in southern Indianapolis. But even here, on any day at the Greenwood Mall, you can hear and experience several languages and a handful of cultures. Our once vanilla world is changing dramatically. Some think this is a bad thing...a cause for concern.. while others of us are enjoying the ride wondering just how much more our world will change in the next decade of our lives.

You can hear and see change happening all around us...everyday. And the bottom line is this: change is not going to change.

A recent study came out that talks about change in the church and more specifically, how people are changing in their attitudes towards religion in general. If you are a student of history you probably know that when things get tough in the world due to war or economic turndown, people have historically flocked to the church. During the 50's, in the midst of the cold war, churches would fill up simply by opening the doors. It isn't that way anymore.

Lots of people today consider themselves spiritual, in connection with God. However, many of these people have no interest at all in organized religion. In a recent Gallup Poll it was determined that about 47% of all Protestant Americans consider themselves attending members of a church (as far as I can tell

membership was defined by the individuals polled). This number is only a decline of 6% over the last two decades. At the same time Roman Catholics who consider themselves attending members dropped from 76% to 47%. In other words, of those who are on membership roles of churches, only 47% of Christians consider themselves active.

Add to this that only about 48% of Americans consider themselves Christian, the percentages of active members drops even more dramatically. Participating church members are not simply a minority, they are, we are, an increasingly small one.

Why is this? One, people mistrust authority often represented on any organization, churches included. Two, very public church leaders have proven to be unworthy of the trust given them. Three, people currently would prefer a personal God over a communal one. Four, as the world changes more quickly some people want to control what they can and being faithful means giving up control. Five, many churches are about creating guilt and people avoid things that make them feel badly about themselves.

And yet for many of us that love the church and all its imperfections, we continue to participate because it represents the one unchanging thing in this world...God's love for us. No matter what happens in this world, or in our lives, God's love never changes.

I have had countless conversations with people over the years who have suffered incredible loss and the most consistent thing I hear from them is "What do non-believers do when tragedy strikes? How do people function without a church family?" In a world that seems to easily discount what the church represents I find that I continue to ask those same questions. What would my life be without the church? I simply can't, and wouldn't want to, imagine!



Hygiene kits are urgently needed!

Church World Service (CWS) is asking for 40,000 Hygiene kits to replenish their warehouses which were left empty after the Haiti disaster.

In Chile, CWS was able to help with a cash grant to the church affiliates there. The aid was able to arrive that day, and it was done while Chile was turning down other aid.

CWS provides help through established local charities. These groups know where help is needed the most and are able to work fast.

We will collect Hygiene Kits until **March 21st**. These kits will be delivered to a truck in Indianapolis on the 22nd for immediate transport. Please make sure your kits are complete with only the items listed. Do not double up on items. The bags must be uniform or they will not be accepted. The sorting of extra items will slow down the distribution. For more information contact Michelle Soruco at 289-4439.

Contents of the Kits:

(1) hand towel; (1) washcloth; (1) bar of soap; nail clippers; toothbrush (no toothpaste); (1) large tooth comb; (6) band aids
Place all items in a ziplock bag.

Sunday Morning Breakfast Needs Baked Goods

Do you like to bake? Have a little extra time in the coming week? We are looking for muffins, breads, pastries, etc. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Simply mark them "Sunday Breakfast" and place them in the **tall stand up freezer** in the kitchen. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Contact Linda Simmons with questions (317) 225-7920.

**Help Decorate the Sanctuary . . .
Order Your Easter Flowers
now through March 21**

Plants available for sale this year:

- Bulbs..... \$10.00
- Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils or Hyacinths
- Azaleas or Ferns \$15.00
- Hydrangeas \$20.00

Flowers can be purchased in memory or honor of a loved one and taken home on Easter Sunday.



The Brokenness of Homelessness

This Sunday, the Lenten theme of brokenness continues with the topic of homelessness. One way you can help lighten the load of homelessness for the women staying at the Wheeler Mission is to donate a pair of pantyhose for the women to wear when attending church.

They are asking for larger sizes (250+) in coffee, black or neutral colors. Please bring your donation March 14 or 21st.



Thank You for your generous support of Week of Compassion!

\$4,325 was collected specifically for Haiti relief and **\$1991.81** has been given for our annual collection for disaster relief.



walk to
create a world
free of MS

Dream Team Green Open House

On March 27th,
Judy Green will be host-
ing an open house to ex-
plain how you can partici-
pate in this year's

M.S. Walk on April 24th at the IUPUI cam-
pus. Your participation can help make this
Dream and Team come true.

SCC Book Club Ends

Due to conflicts with other personal and
professional commitments, the active mem-
bers of the Southport Book Club have decided
to indefinitely postpone all future meetings.

I would like to personally thank everyone
who has ever attended one of our meet-
ings. Thank you for all of your prayers and
support in this ministry.

But remember... just because the Book
Club isn't meeting, doesn't mean you should-
n't be reading! There is a whole new world
just waiting for you to explore in the nearest
book!!!

Happy Reading,
Sarah Altizer

Christian Women's Fellowship

All women are invited to join us this
Monday, March 8th at 9:30 as we gather for a
time of fellowship and Bible study.

Need a New/Updated Name Tag?

Please fill out a slip on the clipboard by the
name tag board and put it in the office. You
can find updated/new name tags on the
board under the bright orange sign.

All Are Not Welcome at SCC

During the winter months critters have
been trying to get in from the cold. We have
been providing them with sustenance and
they like it in the kitchen. Since the discovery
of these stowaways, the exterminator has
made a call, the sustenance has been removed
and hopefully these tiny vagrants are moving
on.

We are asking anyone who uses the
kitchen to **PLEASE wash, dry and put away**
any dishes and utensils you use. Take any re-
maining food home with you or put it in the
refrigerator or freezer marked with what it is
to be used for and when it



was placed in the refrigera-
tor or freezer.
Remember to contact the
intended user so they know it's in there. This
will keep the rodent population out of our
building.

Thank you!

Your Safety is Important in Our Parking Lot

Our parking lot can become a very busy
place, especially after the 10:30 service.
When you are pulling out of a parking space
please use your mirrors frequently. Also,
when you are driving through the lot, please
slow down.

Over the past couple of weeks there has
been a minor collision and an extremely
close call.

Please watch out for each other and drive
cautiously when entering and leaving the
parking lot. Your safety is important to us!

FOR Youth GRADES 6-12

Chi Rho Jam

Six youth and three adults will participate in this year's Chi Rho Jam event at Camp Camby March 6-7. They are: Lauren Estes, Riley Gillespie, Gabe Opsahl, Codey Rohl, Alex Sinclair, and Collin Timmons along with adults Scott Opsahl, Anne Timmons, and Jennifer Steele-Lantis. These youth and adults will gather with other Disciple youth and adults from all over Indiana to explore the theme "Where's the Faith?"

Youth Win (Mock) Olympic Gold!



At youth groups on Feb. 21 Olympic fever overtook us and we "competed" in our own mock version of the winter Olympics. Youth "Olympians" from the fictional but beloved countries of Blashlovachia and Czechpolina participated in Short Track, Cross-country Skiing, Curling, and Pairs Figure Skating. Anonymous bystander commented on the inspiring Olympic performances, "I've never seen anything like it!" There were tears in the eyes of several athletes as they received their medals.



1 By Youth – Day of Service (May 1)

Christian teens around the country will be uniting in local communities "to show what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus." The Indianapolis work day is May 1 and will be in the neighborhood of St. Clair Place. Our groups are planning to be involved in this special work day. We will "work together to bring the neighborhood back to being a neighborhood of choice." Work includes painting, landscaping, and cleaning the neighborhood block by block. There is a fee associated with this that pays for lunch and materials (we will cover part of this from youth funds). If you are interested in participating, please talk with a youth sponsor.

30 Hour Famine – Date to be determined

Around the world there are people who have to go without food on a regular basis – not by choice, but because they don't have enough food or money to buy food. The 30 Hour Famine gives youth the opportunity to choose to go without food for 30 hours to help identify with those who have this as a daily struggle. Our youth are considering possible June dates for participating in the 30 Hour Famine. Talk to a youth sponsor if you're interesting in participating.

Calendar

March 14	Youth Groups Meet	5-7 pm
March 21	Youth Groups Meet	5-7 pm
March 28	No Youth Groups – Spring Break!	

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) Sponsors are: Scott & Angie Opsahl, Anne & Matt Timmons
CYF (grades 9-12) Sponsors are: Jim & Nina Eads, Holly & Matt Kraick

Board Notes

The Board met on the evening of February 18th in the Gathering Space. Deacon Helen Hicks joined us as Carla Windisch's permanent stand-in at board meetings. (As you may recall, Carla, Chair of the Deacons, has new employment that prevents her from attending Board meetings.) We look forward to Helen's insight into the work of SCC.

Jim Ream started us off with scripture about the wealthy man who wanted to follow Christ but who seemed unwilling to part with that which kept him from Christ. Jim asked us to ponder quietly what it is that keeps us from having the freedom to follow God's will for our lives. It's a challenge we should all keep intentionally before us.

The Board also approved an increase in wedding fees. It seems that SCC was among the lowest priced sites for weddings on Indy's south side. Of course, there are differing fees for members and non-members. The Board discussed generally how it should be determined if a wedding involves a member or not. The question seems simple, but it's not always.

Board Member Anne Timmons had announced her reluctant decision to step down as an At-Large Member of the Board. Anne understands the importance of consistent attendance at Board meetings but that family scheduling prevents her from doing so. We regret the loss of Anne's intelligent presence at the meetings but, of course, understand and honor her decision. The Nominating Team hopes to announce Anne's replacement by our next meeting.

The Nominating Team is close to filling the Elder vacancy. We hope that replacement will be made by March's meeting. Randy Johnson told us that the Elders are still working toward making a smooth transition of helping SCC's shut-in members enjoy the worship services by listening

to CDs instead of tapes. The Elders' work with our special members is a great ministry and we thank them for that work.

Oversight reported that Enid Bobbitt has started a new ministry of helping Burkhart students and that several SCC members have expressed their willingness to help. Keep this ministry in your prayers as SCC members reach out to young students.

Jennifer Steele-Lantis celebrated the youth by commending the splendid job they did in leading worship on Youth Sunday. Their diverse gifts created a service that will be remembered with joy for years to come. Jennifer also told us that planning for Youth Camp has begun. We look forward to hearing more of those plans in the future.

Doug Lofton reported that 2010 has started well with the number of visitors to the church and the fact that many have decided to make SCC their church home. (Make it a point to get to know these terrific people!) Doug urged the church leadership to work toward better definition of SCC's ministry and mission. We must maintain our communication with SCC's congregation so that our financial and decision making processes are transparent to all. He also encouraged us to "listen closely to what God is asking us to do and have the courage to risk it."

This Board works so that SCC can be a vital and effective tool for Christ's ministry long after all of us are gone. This is a ministry that requires honest and dedicated dialogue, visioning, and imagination. Please continue to keep SCC in your prayers so that it can continue to serve Christ's ministry for many, many years to come.

Blessings,
Cindy Ploughe, Board Chair

Prayer Concerns

Hospitalized: Donna Floyd; Steve Coffey; Jerry Henderson

Recently Released: Carol Lundy

Other: Paul Wilson (brother of Becki Cook)

Calendar

Sunday, March 7

9:00 AM	Early Worship & Classes	
10:30 AM	Late Worship & Classes	
2:00 PM	Chin Church Worship	Sanctuary
4:00 PM	Young Children's Choir	Choir Room
5:00 PM	JYF Choir	Choir Room

Monday, March 8

9:30 AM	Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF)	300
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Tuesday, March 9

6:30 PM	PRC	Library
6:30 PM	Quilting	300
7:00 PM	Scouts Den Meetings	301, 302, 303, 400

Wednesday, March 10

11:30 AM	PTREA	300
5:45 PM	Disciple Bible Study	300
6:00 PM	Soul Stretching	302
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Thursday, March 11

10:30 AM	Social Networking Class	Computer Lab
6:00 PM	Oversight Team	Library
6:30 PM	9AM Worship Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Saturday, March 13

10:00 AM	Chin Prayer Meeting	Library
2:00 PM	Meyer Event	Fellowship Hall

Worship Attendance

February 14

9:00	Worship	64
10:30	Worship	190
	Children's Worship	29
	Nursery	<u>6</u>
Total:		289

February 21

9:00	Worship	52
10:30	Worship	155
	Children's Worship	35
	Nursery	<u>8</u>
Total:		250

The dinners for Feasting on Faith have been discontinued due to low participation.

Rev. Jennifer Steele-Lantis' class "Soul Stretching" will meet at 6pm on Wednesdays. Please contact Jennifer if you would like to join the class.

Dear Ones,

How do I say thank you for so much love shown to me, us, by such a band of angels - your cards, calls, notes, flowers, food and above all the prayers at church, Sunday school class, everyday. With you all in my and our corner this is just another bump in the road for us. We are so humbled by all of you allowing us to be a part of SCC.

Billy Graham is right - there are angels on our earth today and always and they are here at 201 E Epler!

Love and Thanks Always,

Carol Lundy

Thanks to all for your kindness and concern at the sudden death of our beloved Dad and Grandpa. We also appreciate your continued prayers for Dad and Grandpa Woodard.

Rick, Denise, Erick, Heidi and Jillian Reisinger

Dear Southport Family,

I can hardly express my appreciation for the calls, cards, and visits during Dick's month long hospitalization, death and my subsequent month of surgeries and hospitalizations. We also appreciated the support of the staff, the reception after the memorial service and the church's donation to the memorial fund.

Muriel Williams, Kathryn (Bob), Richard and Douglas (Amy)

We have reached our goal to raise the funds for purchasing the 50 new robes to outfit our outstanding choir. Thanks to all who have made it possible with their generous donations!

SOUTHPORT Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

201 East Epler Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46227
(317) 784-4431
Fax (317) 784-4603

Church office hours:

Mon.-Thur.: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Fri.: 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

The office is closed at noon for lunch.

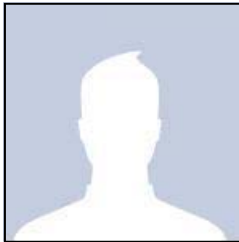
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Don't Be Left Out

We want **YOU** to be in the Church Photo Directory.

The LAST day to have your picture taken is Sunday, March 28th from 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

Call the church office (784-4431) to schedule your appointment.

Food for the Journey



Filling Heart • Mind • Soul