

# Indiana Dunes Great Banquet & Awakening Community Newsletter

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR



What an incredible Spirit filled spring we enjoyed at Camp Lawrence! Thirty-five (35) men and Forty-six (46) women were guests at our Banquets, #'s 71 & 72; that is eighty-one (81) new members who heard and answered yes to our Lord Jesus' call to experience His Love through our Community. Praise God for His faithfulness through us. In addition, we had over three hundred (300) attend our Gathering on May 12<sup>th</sup> at First Pres Valparaiso! The worship was extraordinary with Harry and Jonathan leading the praise band, and special music signed by Laura Smith. We heard a great message from Ken Crews and Chris Kearns said goodbye as God has sent them to Florida. Peace to the Kearns family, good luck in your new home, and thank you for serving Jesus so faithfully through our IDGB Community. And finally, what a blessing it was for all of us in attendance to witness Adam Puskac propose marriage to Jennifer Dechaine, and she said YES! It is always awesome to be in the presence of God's Love and I can still draw on that Gathering's experience to bring a smile to my face and love into my heart. PRAISE GOD FOR HE IS TRULY WORTHY!

Jonathan Parker and Mary Lou DiCostanzo are our Lay Directors for the fall weekends, #73 & #74, and are busy preparing for their Banquets. Please pray for them and if Jesus sends a call to you through them, ask for His will to prevail in your answer to that call.

Please remember to pray for the potential guests Jesus puts upon your heart, then ask them to attend His Fall Banquet. Remember, it costs approximately \$130.00 per person for a Banquet weekend and, although as sponsor you do not have to pay for your guest's weekend, it is very helpful to the Community if you do. Also, we encourage you to make a donation to our Community or pay for someone else's weekend if you have the financial ability to serve in this way. May our Lord Jesus fill you with His marvelous Spirit and may you feel His presence all your fourth days.

I look forward to seeing you at the Dedication for the Fall Banquets Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm at the First Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso.

De Colores,  
Rick Oliver, Community Lay Director

## Fall KONI and Banquet Directors



Sue Haring,  
KONI  
#13



Jonathon Parker,  
Men's  
#73



Mary Lou DiCostanzo,  
Women's  
#74



Issue 19, Summer 2012

## Upcoming Events:

- Sept 21-23, KONI #13
- Sept 27-30, Men's #73
- Oct 4-7, Women's #74
- Oct 13, BOD Mtg & Fourth Day Gathering, Location TBA
- Nov 2-4, Awakening #22
- January 26, 2013 - Annual Meeting and Gathering

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Sharon Merrifield,  
Editor  
Kristin Mahle,  
Secretary

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

As a chaplain I feel extremely blessed to journey with patients, family members and hospital staff in their most challenging times and sometimes in their most triumphant moments. I see in these people God's amazing grace. I end each day thanking God for the many blessings I continue to receive and more often than not I also end the day realizing that although I am in the business of serving people it is I who so often feels served. My life is continually enriched by all these people I meet each day; I sit with each day and talk with each day. The other night proved to be no different. In my position at the hospital where I work I am privileged to attend and sometimes facilitate various support groups. The most recent one I attended was a Spinal Injury Support Group. For an hour I listened to the guest speaker talk about his paralysis caused by an accident he experienced at the age of 19. I listened as he spoke about thinking that his life was over and that he would never experience all the things that "normal" people experience in their lives. Then someone said to him that he should consider his life to be a book. He had a choice: he could write a boring book, without substance or he could spend his life writing the most fascinating, exciting and meaningful book possible. By God's grace, the speaker told us, he began to write his book, to live his life. This man has become successful in the business world in his wheelchair, lectures around the world in his wheelchair, has climbed mountains in his wheelchair, completed marathons in his wheelchair, married the woman he loved in his wheelchair and helps raise his children in his wheelchair. He lives a very large, very full life in his wheelchair and yet he is not defined by his disability, he is defined by the content of his heart. He is defined by his life of grace and his willingness to live that life. By all standards he does not live a "normal" life; he lives an extraordinary life.

God offers to all of us a life of grace and we are given a choice to accept it or not. We are given a choice to offer that same grace to other people or not. I pray that each one of you will spend each day writing an amazing life story. I pray that each one of you finds your way to living a life of grace and offering that grace to all around you.

Joan Dell

IDGB Community Spiritual Director



# WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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## Spring Men's Banquet #71 – April 26-29

**Lay Director** – Doug Buuck

Christopher (Chris) Becherer, Jeff Bender, Kevin Birky, Brent Bowgren, David Degard, Mike Daunora, Eric Ellis, Andy Goodpaster, Dennis Gulleson, Frank Hojnacki, Donald Johnson, Tim Johnson, Mike Kingma, Michael (Mike) Kralj, Stan Krysa, Joe Lain, Frank Lambert, Stephen (Steve) Martin, Bryan Mecca, Jim Navarro Jr., Darren Newberry, Rick Oliver Jr., Eric Paul, Matthew Puskac, Michael Puskar, Larry Raber, Mario Samaniego, Colin Sandefur, Hans Scheller, Larry Schiesser, Jeff Schroeder, Jim Smith, Ken Susdorf, Gene Taiclet, Andy Wiseman, Mike House, and Scott Fields.

## Spring Women's Banquet #72 – May 3-6

**Lay Director** – Lisa Pavlopolous

Valerie Adams, Janice (Jan) Becker, Pat Belmonte, Meridith Blake, Jacki Bustos, Donna Campbell, Virginia (Gigi) Creel, Michelle Davenport, Kimmy Dawson, Linda Dyerly, LaTonja Ellis, Kim Emshwiller, Nancy England, Dorothy Esch, Heather Forste, Joyce Golob, Thais (Ty) Gram, Cortney Gulleson, Janet Helsper, Valerie (Val) Hite, Jennifer Hofferth, Sarah Milisavljevich, Sandy Miller, Patti Morgart, Amber Mullins, Tiffany Newberry, Monica Nibbe, Kathryn Nichols, Becca Peterson, Diana Pitts, Kristina Press, Bernardine Renehan, Brenda Rigg, Melissa Roberson-Melody, Jennifer (Jenny) Seeburger, Ashley Shipley, Mary Jayne Shurr, Carrie Sosa, Katrina Spence, Judith (Judy) Spornick, Glenna Taiclet, Stephanie Taulbee, Kim Walden, Patricia (Pat) Williams, Jeanette Wilson, and Kim Young.

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## THANKS TO OUR TEAMS

### Spring Men's Banquet #71

**Lay Director** – Douglas Buuck; **Asst. Lay Directors**-Jim Peyton, Dan Ball; **Speakers**-Justin Savich, Harry Karabel, Doug Riddell, Corlin Stein, Brian Harding, Tommy Taylor, RG Skadberg; **Table Leaders**-Jeff Coe, Ryan Phillips, Anthony (Tony) DiCostanzo, Kyle Treble, Steven (Steve) Smith, Bob Taylor, Daryl Schweitzer; **Head Music Team**- Jonathan Parker; **Music Team**-Brian Harding, Koja Fillwock; **Head Kitchen**-Trevor Mahle; **Kitchen Team**-Kelly Goodpaster, Skip Hankins, Gus Atsas, Pat Monroe; **Head Agape**-Pete Goodpaster; **Agape Team**-Dave Mangel, Larry Gazda, Dave Noble, Dan Ragon, Tony Fisk; **Table Decs**-Adam Puskac; **Head Spiritual Director**-Jim Norris; **Spiritual Team**-Don Yowell, Gary Germann, **Alpha & Omega**-Jim Pachin.

### Spring Women's Banquet #72

**Lay Director**-Lisa Pavlopoulos; **Lay Directors**-Rebecca Hunt, Wendy Buuck; **Table Leaders**-Monica Ball, Elise Cummins, Maria Ison, Kristin Loos, Kathy Ragon, Lori Steighner, Maureen Taylor, Kay Wiseman, Genia Wilgus; **Speakers**-Linda Comingore, Debra Fisk, Jeri Kris, Christine McAloon, Linda Sherer, Kathy Stein, Susan Williams; **Head Music Team**-Bev Colom; **Music Team**-Kathryn Carroll, Sonia Fabbri, Jayne Mann; **Head Kitchen**-Penny Luchene; **Kitchen Team**-Jennifer Dechaine, Donna Fedor, Ashlee Isaacs, Norma Ozelie, Tanya Parker; **Floater**- Khraila Yowell; **Head Agape**-Mary Lou DeCostanzo; **Agape Team**-Terri Brown, Tracy Goodpaster, Nancy Pachin, Debbie Ragon; **Table Decs**-Sandy Mangel, Carol Zehmer; **Head Spiritual Director**-Joan Dell; **Spiritual Team**-Olga Koch, Gretchen Seidler-Gibbs.

# Banquets #71 and #72

## ***Blessed Be The Name of the Lord!***





### **From the Spirit**

Though you may falter  
Though you may struggle  
Know that it's My hand  
Raising you up

Open your heart to Me  
Hear the beauty  
Only I can sing  
Let your soul become enveloped  
In My majesty

It won't be easy  
It doesn't have to be hard  
Reach out to me  
I've reached out for you



Know My love is boundless  
Yours should be too  
Grace makes all things possible  
My loving gift to you.



Bryan Mecca (guest of IDGB  
#71) wrote and read at closing.

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### IDEAS?

#### SUGGESTIONS?

If you have a suggestion or an idea for the next IDGB newsletter, please contact the website administrator under IDEAS at www.idgb.net.

## IDGB Board of Directors

**Community Lay Director** – Rick Oliver  
**Asst Community Lay Director** – Lolly Dogan  
**Community Spiritual Director** – Joan Dell  
**Asst Community Spiritual Director** – Jim Norris  
**Community Awakening Lay Dir.** – Harry Karabel  
**Asst Awakening Lay Director** – Sue Goodpastor  
**Treasurer** – Linda Comingore  
**Secretary** – Kristin Mahle  
**Reservations Coordinator** – Doug & Judy Hollar  
**Community Agape Communication Coordinator**—Karen & David Noble  
**Community Agape Team Coordinators:**  
Men's Team—Jack Walter  
Women's Team- Lynni Bainbridge  
**Community Kitchen Coordinator** – Pam Hay  
**4<sup>th</sup> Day Coordinator** – Lori Hanaway  
**Website Newsletter** – Sharon Merrifield  
**Webmaster** – John Kastak  
**Kairos Outside Liaison**—Betsy Kastak

## Camp Lawrence Cross Ceremony

On Wednesday evening, June 27, I had the honor and pleasure of joining Rick Oliver, Leila Buford and several other members of the IDGB and KONI boards at Camp Lawrence for a very



special event. Bishop Dale Melczek of the Gary Diocese was present to lead campers and visitors in a lakeside Mass celebration. Mass was followed by a beautiful ceremony to dedicate the new cross which is now permanently fixed at the west end of the lake. Both the Mass and cross dedication were quite moving, especially with the beautiful evening weather and scenic background of lake and woods. I encourage everyone who visits the camp to walk to the grotto and spend some time meditating at the foot of the cross. It is a beautiful addition to our beloved camp!

~ Pam Hay, IDGB Board Member