

Indiana Dunes Great Banquet & Awakening Community Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR



Blessings to you, Indiana Dunes Great Banquet Community!

Welcome to all the new members—30 men and 41 women from Banquets #73 and #74. Thank you so much to all of you who helped Jonathon Parker and Mary Lou DiCostanzo do our Lord's work at this fall's weekends. If you were able to make it to the closings you know I am correct when I say that the Holy Spirit touched many this fall through your efforts.

Our Lay Directors for next spring are Sue Anderson and Corlin Stein. Please keep them in your prayers and let them know if you are interested in helping during their weekends.

Lisa Pavlopoulos lead our Fall Alpha and Omega team (A&O). They did a fantastic job with preparing, maintaining and closing our beautiful Camp Lawrence. The A & O team serves such an important function for our weekends and needs your help to continue being the invisible hands and feet of Jesus. If you are interested in helping on the Alpha and Omega team for this spring, please send me a volunteer form (from the website) or an email to: communitylaydirector@idgb.net.

Our Awakening weekend is coming up November 2nd through the 4th. They need your prayers, snacks, kids and ears at the closing! Also remember they can always use any gently used books as donations to their book table.

De Colores,
Rick Oliver, Community Lay Director

Awakening #22 Directors



Denise Stanko
and
Barry Cummins

Spring KONI and Banquet Directors



IDGB #75
Corlin Stein



IDGB #76
Sue
Anderson



KONI #14
Ruth
Joyce



Issue 20, Fall 2012

Upcoming Events:

- **Nov 2-4, Awakening #22**
- **January 26, 2013 - Annual Meeting and Gathering**
- **April 19-21, 2013—KONI #14**
- **April 25-28—Men's Banquet #75**
- **May 2-5—Women's Banquet #73**
- **May 11—BOD Mtg and 4th Day Gathering, Location TBA**

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Sharon Merrifield,
Editor
Kristin Mahle,
Secretary

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

"He will rejoice over you with singing"



I confess to sometimes having somewhat of a cynical side and I can find myself being critical of those overly optimistic, everything is "fine" people. We live in a world where many people are homeless and starving. Crime is all around us. People I know are facing incredible challenges with their health or jobs or finances or family issues or other equally devastating events. To put it simply, times are extremely tough. In Zephaniah 3:17 it teaches that, "The Lord your God is with you... He will rejoice over you with singing." Sometimes when I hear scripture like that I want to shout, "But I haven't heard God singing lately!" Yes, there are times that God does seem to be out of the picture and those times can seem to be very long and sometimes reoccurring. God's presence feels elusive, if not totally absent. It is then that I turn to one of my favorite books in the Bible. It is then that I take a deep breath, pause for a moment and listen and I mean diligently and intently listen to the words in the book. I turn to Psalms. The Psalms are not just words of praise and gratitude; they are also words of lament. The psalmist wrote in Psalms 13, "How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?" Pretty heavy stuff and seemingly absent of faith in God. But in this cry of lament and in the psalmist's courage to speak those words I find hope. We need not hide from the realities of life. I realize that I don't have to pretend that everything is "fine" when it is clearly not. Sometimes terrible things happen and it's not our fault, it's not because we have sinned. Terrible, devastating things happen in our lives and it's okay to acknowledge them. We have even heard a cry of lament in the words Jesus spoke from the cross, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" When I cry out in lament I also find it so very important to sing praises to God even when I am surrounded by darkness.

Sometimes I can forget about all the blessings I have received and there have been many. Sometimes I can forget about the love of God that surrounds me and it is then that I turn to the words in Psalms and I am reminded of that love. "But I will sing of Your power; yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning. For you have been my defense and refuge in the day of trouble. To you, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, the God who shows me steadfast love." (Psalm 59: 16-17) When I sing praises to God I feel more connected to Him. I feel His presence and I can claim His love. I know that I can acknowledge my pain and that God will not dismiss or diminish my experience; instead He will surround me with his care. Whether it is the loss of a love one, health problems, financial troubles or anything else; we touch the heart of God when we praise and love Him in the midst of trouble.

I don't know why we are faced with the challenges that come our way. I only know that we are, but I also know that we need not face them alone. God is with us. God cares for us. God walks with us on one side and Jesus in on the other and they will embrace us with their love. I will continue to pray for strength and healing and patience. I will continue to call out to God for His help. I will continue to cry out a prayer of lament when I feel forsaken. And I will acknowledge that even if everything isn't "fine" I will be okay. More than okay I know that I can live an abundant life in the midst of pain. "You (God) show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16: 11)

Joan Dell
IDGB Community Spiritual Director

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Men's Fall Banquet #73 – September 27-30, 2012

Lay Director – Jonathan Parker

Richard (Rick) Adams, Jeremiah Anderson, Jim Arnett, Fred Bailey, Peter Boyles, Jon Clendenin, James Cooper, Bill Darrah, Justin Evans, Tom Frazier, Mark Galimoto, Dennis Green, Hubert Hausoul, Robert Hensley, Perry Hershman, Denny Hiatt, Joseph (Joey) Johnson, Matt Kilarski, Stan Krysa, Roger Lamb, Vinnie Nowarita, Kurt O'Connor, Brian Otto, Paul Ozelie, Phil Patterson, Joseph (Joe) Pawlus, Dennis Schweller, Andre Smith, Mike Sutter, and James Zimmerman.

Women's Fall Banquet #74 – October 4-7, 2012

Lay Director – Mary Lou DiCostanzo

Becky Atkins, Tabatha Bates, Katherine Brooks, Tanya Buff, Jamie Clendenin, Debbie Courtney, Lana DeRolf, Barbara (Barb) Durkin, Jessica Evans, Lydia Frazier, Carol Galimoto, Alvene Gbur, Cara Germann, Shameco Green, Kamlesh Gupta, Krystal Hoffman, Beka Jackson, Carol Johnson, Ruth Ann Johnson, Theresa Johnson, Amy Kessinger, Peggy King, Kay Knopf, Amy Konz, Cama Lawson, Nancy Mullins, Anne Muntean, Jeannie Nowarita, Christina Ramirez, Lorie Reading, Brea Rice, Jennifer Richey, Kim Rush, Linda Shipley, Germaine Smith, Wendy Smith, Gloria Thomas, Paula Tilton, Traci Tollar, Joan Turner, and Christine Wilson.

THANKS TO OUR TEAMS

Men's Fall Banquet #73

Lay Director-Jonathan Parker; **Asst. Lay Directors** – Dave Mangel, Ken McAloon; **Speakers**-Kevin Birky, John Shields, Fred Carpenter, Matt Germann, Skip Hankins, Peter Anderson, Rob Adlard; **Table Leaders**-Shawn Blank, Troy Manago, Jim Vadas, Dennis Sutton, Jim Knopf, Bill Rogers, Rick Oliver, Jr., Dan Fabbri, John Simerlein; **Head Music Team**-Mike Croarkin; **Music Team**-Dean Stolpe, Trevor Mahle; **Head Kitchen**-Mike Williams; **Kitchen Team**-Justin Williams, Brent Bowgren, Frank Honjacki, Tony DiCostanzo; **Head Agape**-Kelly Goodpaster; **Agape Team**-Nicholas Svetich, Gus Atsas, Pat Monroe, Jeff Schroeder, Tom Medly; **Table Decs**-Bryan Mecca; **Head Spiritual Director**-Brian Harding; **Spiritual Team**-Mike Becker, Corlin Stein; **Alpha & Omega**-Adam Puskac.

Women's Fall Banquet #74

Lay Director-Mary Lou DiCostanzo; **Asst. Lay Directors**-Kristin Mahle, Sandy Mangel; **Speakers**-Tanya Parker, Sharon Merrifield, Kraila Yowell, Marlo Harding, Lynni Bainbridge, Lori Hanaway, Angie Croarkin; **Table Leaders**-Debby Atsas, Jennifer Hofferth, Carolyn Hughes, Diane Karlen, Ashlee Isaacs, Nancy Norris, Lynn Schweitzer, Penny Luchene, Alina Kilarski; **Head Music Team**-Suzanne Killmer; **Music Team**-LaTonja Ellis; **Head Kitchen Team**-Lolly Dogan; **Kitchen Team**-Jessica Savich, Kimmy Dawson, Christine McAloon, Marilyn Mussman; **Head Agape Team**-Tracy Goodpaster; **Agape Team**-Tammy Phillips, Therese Morfas, Terri Tarquinee, Valerie Adams; **Head Table Decs**-Donna Pleasant; **Table Decs**-Sue Anderson; **Floater**-Susan Radovich, Terri Brown; **Head Spiritual Team**-LouAnn Karamel; **Spiritual Team**-Charlene Grant, Judy Elwood, Barb Vinson; **Alpha & Omega**-Lisa Pavlopoulos, Jennifer Dechaine, Susan Williams, Jennifer Seeburger, Sonia Fabbri.

Banquets #73 and #74



AMAZING GRACE



PO Box 353
Lowell, IN 46356

www.idgb.net

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
- Communications Coordinator**—Dan Ball
- 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
- 4th Day Coordinator** – Lori Hanaway
- Website Newsletter** – Sharon Merrifield



IDGB #74 Women’s Theme Song

Savior to Me (Sing Glory)

Chorus -

Glory to the God above, Full of truth and endless love
 He who is and was and always will be
 I surrender to the one, Gentle and most powerful
 Of all the things You are, You’ve chosen to be, A savior to me

IDGB #73 Men’s Theme Song

Forgiven

Chorus—

In this life I know what I’ve been
 But here in your arms I know what I am
 I’m forgiven, I’m forgiven
 And I don’t have to carry the weight of who I’ve been
 Cause I’m forgiven