

Indiana Dunes Great Banquet ~ Awakening Community Newsletter

Issue 11, Fall 2006

Our Fourth Days

I've been thinking about Fourth Days...yours and mine.

"Every morning is a Fourth Morning, a new opportunity to offer up to God that which is God's anyway...our very lives."

Most of us look back with longing to our Great Banquet and Awakening experiences as moments when we felt closest to God. But, as we're reminded at the end of the weekend, we return to a world that is exactly as we left it. The challenge is to go back into that world with a new vision, a new understanding of what it means to live as Christians.

Ultimately, it's our Fourth Days that matter more, the choices we make after we leave Camp Lawrence.

And if every day is a Fourth Day, then every morning is a Fourth Morning. We wake to each new day with one simple choice before us: to let the world come crashing in, with its deadlines and pressures and worries...or to give the day and all it holds to God.

In his book, *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis writes: "The real problem of the Christian life comes where people do not usually look for it. **It comes the very moment you wake up each morning.** All your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in simply shoving them all back; **in listening to that other voice...letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.**"

How can a voice be both "stronger" and "quieter"?

Elijah knew. 1 Kings 19:11-13 describes his encounter with the Lord, who tells him to "go out and stand on the mountain...for the Lord is about to pass by." And so Elijah waits on the mountain, as a succession of huge and terrifying natural events occurs: a great wind, an earthquake, a fire. But scripture tells us that God was in none of these. Rather, God was in the "still, small voice" that followed, posing this question to Elijah: "*What are you doing here?*"

Isn't this the question God asks of us each day?

"What are you doing here? What will you do with this day? Will you spend a quiet moment with me, listening for my still, small voice? Will you share with me all of your concerns, knowing that they are, after all, in my hands? Will you live for me today, or will the world be your priority?"

Every morning is a Fourth Morning, a new opportunity to offer up to God that which is God's anyway...our very lives. A new opportunity to listen to that "stronger, quieter" voice. A new chance to live as Christians, making a difference in a broken world.

And though we respond individually, we know that we are not alone. We live in community with other Christians. In our churches, in our reunion groups, in our Fourth Day Gatherings each month, we find the support, the inspiration, and the joy that allow us to answer God's call anew each day: "*Father, I am yours.*"

And for that, as for all blessings, thanks be to God.

De Colores~
Lou Ann Karabel, Newsletter Editor, IDGB #17, Table of Lydia

MEN'S BANQUET #47

Peter Boyles, Robert Coican, John Coppel, Daniel Fabbri, Walter Fles, Jon Gleason, Dennis Kellenburger, Larry Koebecke,

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 20
Fall Team Dedication
First Presbyterian
Crown Point

September 28-October 1
Men's Banquet #49

October 5-8
Women's Banquet #50

October 21
Fourth Day Gathering
First Presbyterian
Portage

October 25
Awakening Team
Dedication
Westminster Presbyterian
Munster

November 2-5
Kairos #5
Westville Correctional

November 3-5
Awakening #14

November 10-12
Kairos Outside #1
Camp Lawrence

November 18
Fourth Day Gathering
Gloria Dei Lutheran
Highland

December 9
Fourth Day Gathering
First United Methodist
Lowell

January 20, 2007
Fourth Day Gathering
& Annual Meeting
Location to be announced

Welcome to the newest members of our community!

Wayne Lander, Bruce Larson, Mark Lecy, Jason McDaniel, Kurt McKinney, Kelley O'Brien, Jonathan Parker, John Peters, Mark Rose, Eric Sizemore, Mark A. Smith, Dean Squire, Tom Toering, Russell Zea, Daniel Zeigner

WOMEN'S BANQUET #48

Kathy Angelo, Robynn Badten, Joan Berner, Patricia Cummings, Deborah Devine, Sandra Dill, Janie Doane, Kellie Dolliver, Sarah Donovan, Sonia

Fabbri, Denise Fles, Janet Fox, Susan Fraley, Jerilynn Harris, Pamela Hass, Jacquelyn Hill, Sandi Howard, Rebecca Hunt, Donna Ingram, Kathleen Jeanor, Carolyn Johnson, Karin Kemp, Deana Lecy, Katie Lindberg, Jayne Mann, Amy

McDaniel, Marlene McKee, Diane Meeks, Norma Ozelie, Tanya Parker, Jean Patton, Gabriela Rose, Julie Sannito, Denise Sola, Denise Stanko, Margo Toering, Lynne Tone, Sara Torres, Kristin VanHoose, Ginger Wegner, Virginia Wilhelm, Jennifer Zeigner

AWAKENING #13

Josh Bryant, Bethany Bucher, Jonathan Chalabis, Ryan Cherry, Juliane Christoph, Aaron Cieselski, Austin Davis, Matt Dogan, Andrea Falk, Michelle Gottschlich, Elizabeth Griesse, Phil Heckhausen, Laura Hefner, Mary Hepler, Nicole Kepler, Jessica Kohlen, Katie Maresh-O'Brien, Kaitlyn McKenna,

Colleen Moran, Megan Moran, Kelsey Morton, Clark Mussman, Diana Neff, Kim Partyka, Derek Poznanski, Nick Ray, Cody Richart, Chelsea Schroeder, Julia St. John, Jessica Sobocinski, Joey Teague, Katie Westerhoff, Luke Wheeler, Bryant Wojtkowiak, Jeff Wojtkowiak

In Living Color

When I was a guest at The Great Banquet about two years ago, one of the speakers spoke on discipleship. The image that stuck in my mind was the difference between the black and white life of a Christian and the living color life of a disciple.

As I recall, when it came time to draw one of those lovely posters, I tossed out some not-so-good idea and then excused myself to the restroom. By the time I got back, my more creative table mates had discarded my lame idea and were in the process of drawing the picture of a woman with a crease down the middle from head to toe. We then proceeded to color her in on one side of the crease, while leaving the other side black and white.

The Great Banquet experience has put my faith journey on fast forward. I used to be that black and white person—not what I would consider a bad person, but not living in God's fullness. I think of years ago when the only TV we watched was black and white. It seemed fine to me. I could see all the scenery and actors just fine, like the Lone Ranger with his white hat, black mask, white horse and a "Hi Ho Silver!" What more could you want?

But I remember how it was when we got our first color TV. What a difference! The color added such life and dimension; I couldn't imagine going back to the flat dullness of the old black and white. The Ponderosa never looked so good on *Bonanza*.

That is where I am, too, in my life. I have left the black and white Christian sitting on her hands in the pews. You know, the one who attends church on Sunday, gets a dose of God, and then heads out the door to live her other life. I once viewed church as a place to meet God and to feel better about myself, but was careful not to let church responsibilities interfere with outside work and family.

Now, I have crossed the bridge to discipleship. I still go to church on Sunday, but now I go to worship the God that walks **with me** as I head out the door to live a life **for Him**. Rather than trying to house God in a building, I have let Him take up residence in me. It saves a lot on gas this way, because we travel together.

My family and friends have noticed the new me. At work, when I take a day off, my co-worker will say, "Don't tell me. It's for church." I suspect that sometimes family members wonder why I do so much for my church and actually seem to like it. At home I have been known to barricade myself in my room for a meditation time that has become as necessary for me as food and water.

Living with the Spirit in my heart and mind brings me a true fullness and depth of joy that I didn't even know I had been missing. I still have my share of disappointments and problems, and I am not any more artistic, but in the colorful world of discipleship, all that takes a back seat to the love, peace, hope, and joy that are mine in Christ's service.

It is a love that when given, returns three-fold, a peace that passes all understanding.

It is a hope beyond this world. It is a joy that is rooted so deeply that sorrow cannot take it away. When the winds of misfortune blow, I can take refuge in knowing that Christ walks with me. It is in response to these gifts that I am motivated to give who I am to God.

That living color of discipleship manifests itself in many ways. We can show Christ's intervention in our lives by what we say and do, by living up to our discipleship. Christ gives each of us an avenue to express His love, which we are called to share with others.

May it be so for you.

Alice Yacullo
IDGB #42, Table of Mary

A friendly reminder from the Board...

Please do not bring children to Camp Lawrence on Awakening and Great Banquet weekends.

While we may want to share the events with our families, children who have not yet experienced an Awakening are not likely to fully understand the activities, and may distract guests and team members.

Thanks!

Let's Keep Our Ministry Alive!

As you know, guests at the Great Banquet pay only \$20 for their weekend experiences. Guests at the Awakening pay nothing, to insure that any teen who wants to attend is able to do so.

However, the costs for food, electricity, camp rental, agape needs and other incidentals generally total around **\$5500 per weekend**. This means that we rely upon the community—that's you and me!—to make the donations necessary to keep this precious ministry alive.

Last year, we weren't sure the fall weekends would happen, because the funds simply weren't there. But, thanks to your generous contributions, 108 people were able to experience a Banquet or an Awakening in October and November!

God is good! All the time!

Of course, this not-for-profit ministry will continue only as long as we continue to contribute our time, energy and money.

Consider giving in one of these creative ways:

- Give to commemorate a birthday or anniversary.
- Hold a fund-raising activity at your church.
- Make a monthly donation, just as you might to any other mission group.

To date, over **1300 households** are members of the Indiana Dunes Great Banquet Community. Imagine what God can do with a contribution from each one! Take a moment to thank Him for what has already been accomplished on the holy ground of Camp Lawrence...and for what will be accomplished in the days to come.

What is *Kairos* ?

Kairos is a Christian, lay-led, ecumenical prison ministry. Men and women volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to incarcerated individuals and their families.

Kairos Outside provides spiritual healing to families of the incarcerated, who often feel that they, too, are "doing time." Spouses, parents, significant others and relatives of prisoners meet with teams of *Kairos* volunteers to share their faith and to gain strength from Christian community.

While these ministries are separate from the Great Banquet, the weekends offer experiences similar to Banquet weekends.

For information on *Kairos*, contact Dean Larson at (219) 689-1388 or by email at drlarson@jorsm.com.

For *Kairos Outside*, contact Gail Larson at (219) 670-7835 or by email at glvargas@jorsm.com.

Check out our website at www.idgb.net.

Great Banquet Fall Team Members

The Banquet teams have been meeting, and preparations for the Fall weekends are well underway. Please continue to lift up each team member in prayer, as well as the guests who have accepted or are considering the Lord's invitation.

Great Banquet #49 Men's Team

Lay Director: Bruce Roth

Assistant Lay Directors: Ken Koch & Tom Lazar

Speakers: Gary Germann, Tony Watkins, Harry Karabel, Tim Reyna, Mike Brickner, Mark Robison & Brian Harding

Table Leaders: Mike Zimmer, Jim McAgy, Craig Johnson, John Plug, Jim

Vadas, Dan Zeigner & Pat Goodpaster
Music Team: John Shields & Jonathan Parker

Kitchen Team: Bill Markve, Mike Williams, Fred Eltzen, Glenn Rhodes & Jim Doane

Dining Room: Ed Wilmoth

Agape Team: Tom Stewart, Dennis Halfacre, Clinton Wiggins, Mark Rose, Craig DeMass & John Kastak

Spiritual Team: Mike Becker, David Smook & Gene Carpenter

Great Banquet #50 Women's Team

Lay Director: Jan Carpenter

Assistant Lay Directors: Jessica Finch & Mary Pawlicki

Speakers: Kathryn Midkiff, Alice Yacullo, Natalie Liesse, Marilyn Mussman, Karen Keene, Becky Springsteen & Lori Hanaway
Table Leaders: Tracy Leach, Carol Cornwell, Nora Reyna, Ce Ce McAgy, Lita Jones, Linda Planer & Mary Lou DiCostanzo

Music Team: Betsy Zimmer & Linda Long

Kitchen Team: Amy Gardine, Betsy Kastak, Deana Lecy, Brenda Petersen, Kelly Rhodes & Deb Devine

Dining Room: Julie Sannito & Lolly Dogan

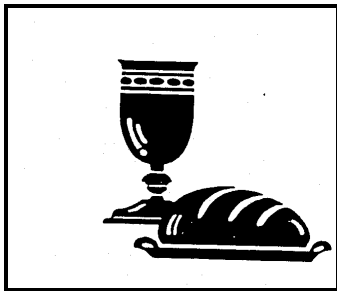
Agape Team: Leisa Greene, Marilyn Cook, Linda Mavronicles, Kathy Jeanor, Diane Leonard & Kelly Dolliver
Spiritual Team: Nancy Becker, Carol Nordstrom & Joan Hepler

Have you started working on your agape gifts and letters?
Write a note...make a banner...create table or bed agape.
Remember how you were touched by these small gifts of love!

Indiana Dunes Great Banquet Community

c/o First Presbyterian Church
3401 North Valparaiso Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Phone: 219-464-4985



Come, for all is now ready.
Luke 14:17

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

The History of the De Colores Brasses

During Banquet #8, around nine years ago, my wife, Nancy, was head of Agape. At the end of the weekend, she and her team were worn out from walking back and forth over the hill all night long to do their work.

The question came to me: What could we do to change this? I suggested buying a golf cart, not only to do Agape, but also to carry anyone who would have a hard time walking up and down the hill.

The Banquet community purchased a used golf cart for \$2500. It worked out very well, but could only carry one passenger at a time. We needed to put on a roof extension, and add a second seat. But no extra funds were available, so how were we to raise the approximately \$1500 needed?

I had collected horse brasses over

the years on trips to Great Britain. Brasses are flat, usually circular ornaments, originally attached to a horse's harness as decoration. I wondered whether we might be able to make and sell De Colores brasses, which people could display in their homes. I talked with Karen Grant, an artist who is a member of the Banquet community, and showed her some of my pieces. She designed the De Colores brass.

Doug Schard, from the Lowell Methodist Church, was a patternmaker who made the patterns for the mold. I donated the brass. A friend had a small foundry in his backyard in the country. There, we poured and cleaned 100 brasses, which we then sold to members of the Banquet community. Profits from these sales, along with donations, were enough to purchase the roof and the seat.

Over the years, we have made approximately 300 more brasses. With profits,

we have purchased new batteries and a cover for the golf cart.

This year, we poured 50 new brasses to help raise money for cart maintenance. Thirty are now available for sale at \$10 each. They will be available on the book tables during this fall's Banquets. However, if you are interested in owning one of these beautiful pieces and in helping to keep the golf cart functioning, you can call me at 464-9801, or Tom Grant at 696-8463. Thanks for your support. And De Colores!

Gordon Baxter
IDGB #5, Table of John

