



The Messenger

Garfield Park United Church of Christ Indianapolis

June/July 2010

Summer happenings at GPUCC

Vacation Bible Summer

Just like last year, VBS will be one evening every week instead of just five days one week. June 1 was the Kids' Club-style registration event with outdoor games to increase visibility and remind people that we're starting, but the real

From Pastor Mark

VBS program started Tuesday, June 8. We are using Group's curriculum Rome: Paul and the Underground Church. Concepts from the New Testament book of Romans are translated into children's worlds with lots of emphasis on dramas and skits.

One distinctive of this year's approach is that it is more family-centered. As in the past, we're permitting parents to drop off their kids, but rather than that, we're encouraging parents to stay and participate. Similar to the way parents go through the different stations with their children at the Jelly Bean Walk (Easter Saturday outreach), this program is structured to include parents.

VBS will take place Tuesday evenings this summer from 6:00 to 8:30. The bounce house will be up by 6:00, and we will go inside for the rest of the program around 6:30. Feel free to bring friends.

Walk to Church

My family walks or bikes to church every Sunday except for winter and rainy days. This summer, I'm finally implementing a plan I've had for years. Business cards and DVDs will be distributed along the route my family takes to church. We will encourage people to walk with us. We will probably reuse the tagline from a different campaign we had a few years ago: "Just a Walk in the Park." Pray that God prepares hearts

(Continued inside)



Walk to Church

A financial update entering the summer slump

Well, 2010 has started with many blessings. Our new worship schedule that allows us to worship together, focusing on the Word through different styles of worship all together in the 10:30 service. We have given \$2,500 to others through so far this year through our mission efforts including gifts to Merom, Haiti, Scholarships and through the Pastor's Benevolence (Helping Hand Fund). We also saw the departure of Pastor Tom and Susan with a celebration of their ministry at the end of February.

Financially, we have done well through May, and our gifts have exceeded our needs. This year's budget includes full

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**OUR PURPOSE: By faithful lives in Jesus' community
We strive to lead everyone to know and love God**



For Kids!

FROSTY FRESH GRAPE POPS

Jesus is our vine, and we are to be his fruitful branches. Have "bunches" of fun making this refreshing grape snack.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 4½ cups seedless grapes (red, green or black)
- Food processor
- Plastic spatula
- Strainer
- Mixing bowl
- Whisk
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Food coloring (red, green or blue; optional)
- 5 oz. paper cups
- Aluminum foil
- Popsicle or craft sticks
- Another 2 cups grapes, halved (optional)



What you do:

1. Blend grapes in a food processor until smooth.
2. With a plastic spatula, press mixture through a strainer into a mixing bowl. Discard skins and skim foam off the top.
3. Whisk sugar into juice until dissolved. Add a few drops of food coloring, if desired.
4. Fill cups with juice, spooning most of the foam off the top. (If using additional grapes, put ¼-cup halved grapes into each cup.)
5. Cover each cup with foil and insert a wooden stick into the center of the foil.
6. Place cups in freezer.
7. To remove pops, take off foil and tear away cup. Enjoy!

Variation: To make layered juice pops, make two batches of mix from different-colored grapes. Fill cups half full with one color, cover and then insert the stick and freeze. Then fill with the remaining color and freeze again.

Teens have Fish Fry, Cedar Point trip

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Fish Fry on Friday, June 25 and Saturday, June 26.

Looking ahead to July - we plan to have lunch together and head to the Indianapolis Zoo, on the 11th, more details on price etc. to come.

Teen's Team for Christ



We will wrap up July with lunch and Youth Fellowship right after church on July 25 and make our last minute plans for the up coming Cedar Point trip planned for Aug, 2-4.

If we are missing you - than you will be missing us - don't let that happen, join us!

Love Don Young

p.s. Every 60 seconds you spend angry, upset, or mad, is a full minute of happiness you'll never get back.

Charlie Kemp at Young at Heart

Join Young at Heart on July 12 when Charlie Kemp will entertain us with some great stories.

Young at Heart Bring a friend, place setting, and well-filled dish and share a pleasant afternoon with us.

We have some wonderful programs, lunch and lots of friendly friends new and old. After a short business meeting (about 15 minutes) at noon, we play bingo.

Up next will be a Beef & Boards trip in August. Watch for more information.

Pastor Mark continued ...

so people join us. To increase visibility, I will invite some of you to walk too. The first Sunday we do this, I don't expect many neighbors to join in; they will probably peak out their windows in their pajamas to see if we're really serious. But the second Sunday, hopefully they'll actually come along. The business cards will specifically indicate what time we plan to walk by each house. We won't be knocking on any doors; the DVD and business card will be distributed in advance.

The Fish Fry

As always, we need volunteers and helpers during Fish Fry weekend. Thursday, June 24 we will set up starting at 6:00 pm. Then we need workers Friday and Saturday, as well as takedown people for Saturday evening.

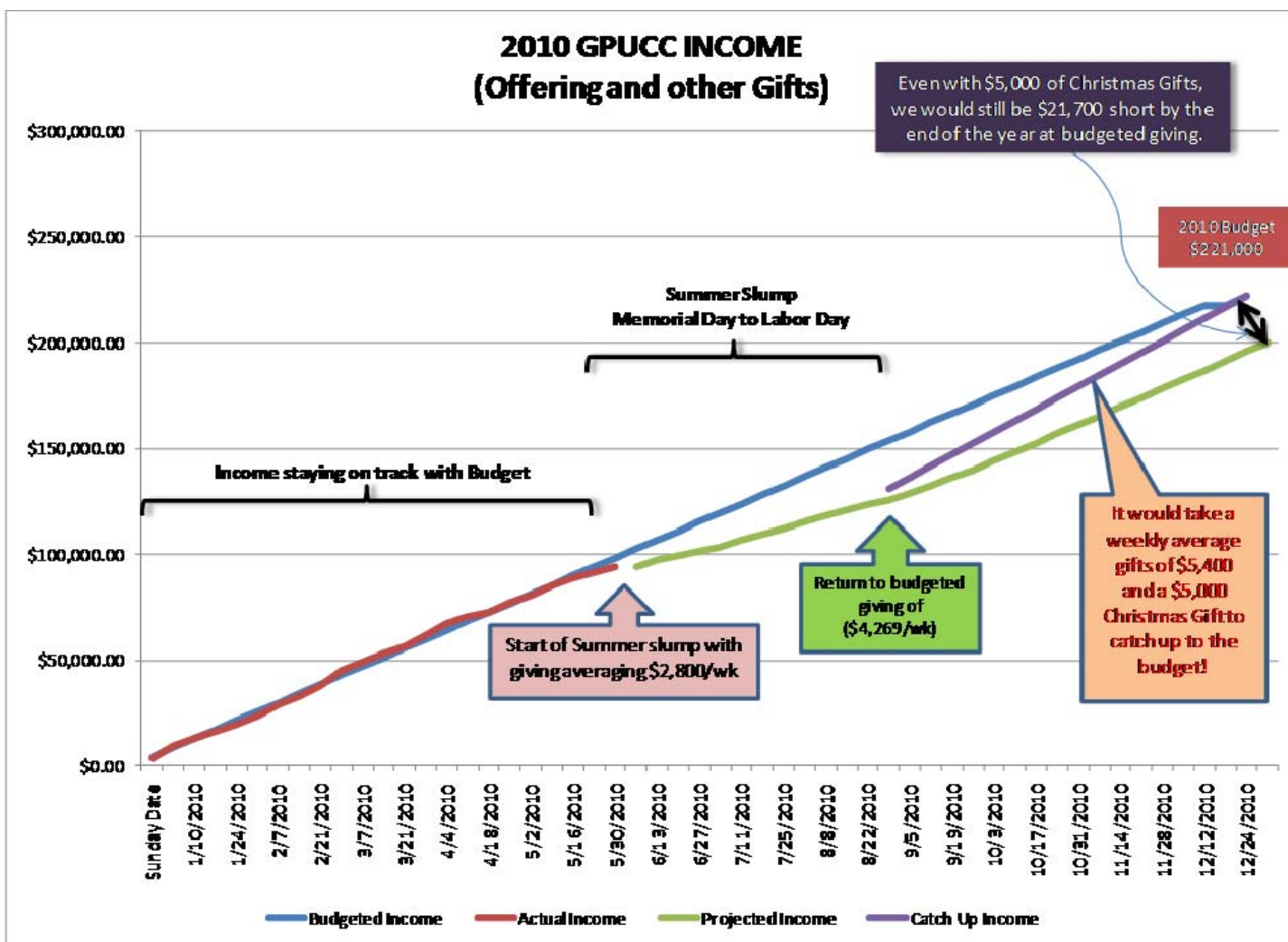
-Pastor Mark

THOUGHTS: Outward as well as inward morality helps to for the idea of a true Christian freedom. - Meister Eckhart

A financial update continued...

funding for Pastor Mark as well as our mortgage payment.

Unfortunately, we are entering the time of year that I call the “Summer Slump.” Hopefully a picture is worth a thousand words.



The blue line is our budget for 2010 that we prepared last year and submitted to the congregation at the annual meeting in November. The red line show actual income, year to date. As we move into June, we all get busy with summer activities and sometimes we don't get to church every week. Historically, our income drops during that period. I have shown that drop by the green line through the summer and you can see how we fall well below our budget. Usually, after Labor Day, both attendance and offering returns to normal, but as you can see, we never catch up; hence we tend to have a shortfall at the end of the year. It takes over \$1,000 more a week from Labor Day to the end of the year to make up for the gap caused by the summer slump as you can see by the purple line.

So, if your summer activities keep you from church, please don't forget that our opportunity to do the Lord's work, as well as obligation to support our paid staff continue. Please help us by making sure your offering and tithes get to us on a timely basis throughout the summer.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

— David Johnson, Financial Secretary

THE WORD: Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
— 1 John 4:8 (NIV)

Is bankruptcy ever OK for a Christian

With many people still struggling to find work, bankruptcy filings continue to grow. More than 500,000 people have filed so far this year, according to the National Bankruptcy Research Center. That's up 17 percent from last year at this time.

While bankruptcy's stigma has weakened in recent years, it is still an especially troubling topic for many Christians.

Financially Speaking

What about the biblical admonition that “The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously” (Psalm 37:21)? Does that make a person who has filed for bankruptcy, or who is considering filing, a “wicked” person? No. While bankruptcy should be viewed as an absolute last resort, it is a viable option—even for a follower of Christ.

Three Important Questions

Consider the following questions to help determine whether bankruptcy may be appropriate for you.

Is there no other choice? The Bible teaches that we have a responsibility to provide for our families: “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8). This includes cases where family is just you. If you have prayed for God's help with your finances, pared your budget down to the absolute essentials, sought help from family and friends, and negotiated with your creditors in good faith, only to have them play hardball by garnishing your wages or by suing you, making it impossible for you to take care of your family's needs, bankruptcy may be necessary.

Have you taken responsibility for your debts? You may have gone through some difficult circumstances that led to your debts—a divorce, the death of a spouse, medical problems, an extended time of unemployment. Still, chances are you can identify something you could have done to avoid the problems you now face, or at least to make them less severe. This isn't about adding insult to injury. It's about owning up to your part in the problem. What could you have done differently?

Have you taken steps to avoid debt problems in the future? If you weren't using a budget to manage your spending prior to getting into debt, you absolutely need to be using one now. If any of your debts are credit card debts, you need to commit to not using your cards, at least for the foreseeable future. You also need an accountability partner that you meet with on a monthly basis to review your finances. I would never counsel someone to file for bankruptcy without these steps in place.

Bankruptcy Alone Won't Solve Your Problems

If you haven't made any significant changes in how you manage money, filing for bankruptcy may turn out to be nothing more than a short-term solution. All too often, that's exactly what happens. According to the Consumer Bankruptcy Project, a Harvard University-based research group that has studied bankruptcy for twenty years, only half of all bankruptcy filers said their financial situation had improved a year after filing. As described in a Smart Money article, for 35 percent, their financial situation remained the same, and 15 percent said their situation had actually gotten worse.

Don't Ruin a Relationship

There is one type of creditor whom you should make every effort to repay: friends or family members who have loaned you money. By law, you are required to list all of your liabilities when you file for bankruptcy, so individual creditors may receive at least partial repayment through the formal bankruptcy process. However, it's unlikely that they would end up receiving the full amount that you owe, so you should repay whatever portion of the loan they do not recover, even if that means paying a small amount each month over a long period of time. Otherwise, your relationship with the person is likely to suffer.

Accepting God's Forgiveness

Even if you realize that bankruptcy is your only option, you may still feel hesitant. Perhaps you feel embarrassed or

Continued next page...

THOUGHTS: Virtue is doing good to mankind in obedience to the will of God, and for the sake of everlasting happiness. - William Paley

America the Beautiful

Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929) wrote, edited and taught English in her native Massachusetts. Occasionally, she wrote hymns, too.

On a trip to Colorado, Bates was greatly impressed by amber waves of grain, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. She believed that God had definitely shed his grace all across this land. A visit to the summit of Pikes Peak inspired Bates to write her most famous poem -hymn, "America the Beautiful."



Bates also realized that patriotism was an important part of America. She was grateful for heroes "who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life."

She wanted all Americans to realize how God had shed his grace on them and had crowned what was good "with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

Bates embodied the spirit of thankfulness to God for all she had experienced and been given.

Bankruptcy continued...

guilty. If so, may I remind you that Scripture contains numerous examples where God forgave people of far worse behavior than taking on more debt than they could handle. For instance, Jesus forgave prostitutes (Luke 7:36-50), extortionists (Matthew 9:9-13), thieves (Luke 23:26-43), adulterers (John 8:1-11), and murderers (Acts 9).

Many biblical money management teachers say that Christians who file for bankruptcy should still pay back what is owed, even if it takes the rest of their lives. For a long time, that's what I believed. However, during the process of writing Money Strategies for Tough Times, that teaching just didn't sit right with me. As I thought about it and sought God's guidance, what kept coming to mind was the fact that Jesus didn't say to those he forgave, "Go now, leave your life of sin, and show up every Saturday to sweep the temple for the next twenty years." He gave them a fresh start. Likewise bankruptcy offers a fresh start for those who need one most, have owned up to their role in their financial problems, and have taken steps to avoid trouble in the future.

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Congregation notes

Secretary Dana Seitz to retire

Our secretary Dana Seitz has announced her retirement after 25 years. Congratulations Dana!



We are grateful for her faithful service, and we want to immediately notify our membership that we will be looking for a part time secretary.

Oodles of Soup Supper - This fall again!

Remember last year when we had such a good turnout at the Soup Supper? We are going to try it again this year, hoping for an even better response. Proceeds will again go for current church expenses.



The supper will be Saturday, October 16

Watch for more information in the coming months.

Do you have someone to thank? A note, event or sentiment you'd like to share with the congregation?

Let me know by emailing me at lweidenbener@yahoo.com or putting a note in The Messenger mailbox by the choir room.

Beyond July

Upcoming events



Check Your Calendar

- Rummage sale, Friday-Saturday, Aug. 26-27
- Oodles of Soup Supper, Saturday, Oct. 16
- All-Church McCormick's Creek Retreat, Sept. 24-26

THOUGHTS: A father's words are like a thermostat that sets the temperature in the house.

- Paul Lewis



...FOR A WHIRLWIND OF FUN!
IMAGINE EXPLORING THE ANCIENT CITY OF ROME
BEFORE IT WAS ANCIENT

- PLAY BIBLE-TIMES GAMES
- EAT TRADITIONAL TREATS (RAT KABOB, ANYONE?)
- MAKE AUTHENTIC PROJECTS.
- MEET THE APOSTLE PAUL AND HIS FRIENDS IN THE SECRET UNDERGROUND CHURCH

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS JUNE 1ST
ON TUESDAYS FROM 6PM-8:30PM
ALL SUMMER LONG FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

THE WORD: Like a city whose walls are broken down
is a man who lacks self control. — Proverbs 25:28 (NIV)

The Church as a beehive

This modern symbol represents the church and its many, varied “workers.” A multitude of people, each with different tasks and gifts, works to build up the body of Christ. Often, nine bees are pictured near the hive to represent the nine fruits of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23).



Thanks for your patience this month as you’ve waited for the June edition of *The Messenger*.

This is a combined June/July issue. You should receive your next issue in late July or early August. Email me at lweidenbener@yahoo.com if you have something you’d like added to the next issue.

Thanks, Lesley

June Birthdays!

Anniversaries!

July Birthdays!

Anniversaries!

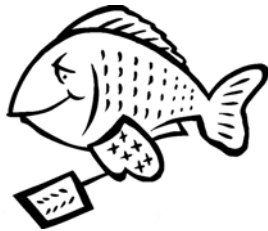
“Our Christian experience must agree with the Bible. We will be taught by the Bible and fed by the Bible. But we do not believe in Christ because He is in the Bible: We believe in the Bible because Christ is in us.”

—Claxton Monro

THOUGHTS: If you limit your actions in life to things that nobody can possibly find fault with, you will not do much. - Lewis Carroll

Fish Fry

June 25-26



We'll need lots of volunteers!

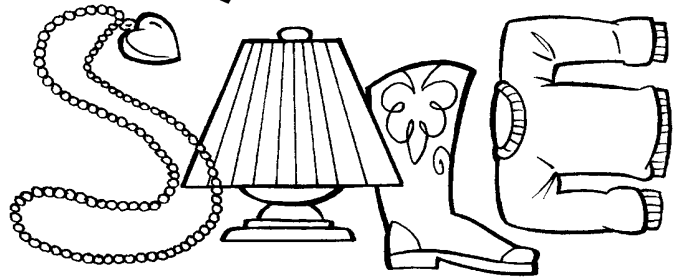
Come eat, come serve, come socialize. This is a huge event and needs many hands.

See Terry Miller to help
or call the church.

Friday 11 am - 8 pm
Saturday 11 am - 6 pm

There's music Friday evening
plus a white elephant sale and
fellowship both days.

RUMMAGE



Friday, Aug. 27 & Saturday, Aug. 28
9 a.m. - until the stuff is gone

Planned by the church ladies!

All items accepted (household items, clothing, especially children, etc.). Items can be stored, beginning Aug. 2 in the front room of the office building south of the church. Someone is usually there weekdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If not, see someone who has a key or call

Joyce Jones
or Bonnie Hueber

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Sunday Worship Services

8:15 a.m. Early Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Morning Mission for kids
10:30 a.m. Worship

Church office hours 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mon-Fri

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