

## ACJC wishes to say "THANK YOU" to these churches, businesses, and foundations for their financial support

Throughout this newsletter you've read about lives being changed and servants being put to work for Jesus Christ. The work being done inside the walls of the Allen County Jail is possible because of the prayers and financial support of the churches listed below. If you see your church in the list, give your pastor a big Amen. If you don't see it listed, please ask your pastor or outreach committee to consider helping us financially. No gift is too small. We have a video and brochure that you can use to help us get the message out to the community. God Bless each of you for helping us bring Jesus Christ into the lives of the men and women in the Allen County Jail.

Avalon Missionary Church  
Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren  
Bethel United Methodist Church  
Blackhawk Baptist Church  
Broadway Christian Church  
Brookside Church  
Calvary Chapel  
Calvary United Methodist Church  
Caravan Baptist Church  
Cedar Creek Church of Christ  
Christ Temple Apostolic Church  
Christian Praise Fellowship Church  
Colony Heights Church of Christ  
Covenant United Methodist Church  
Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church  
Evangelist Center  
Evangelical Lutheran St. John Church  
Fellowship Missionary Church  
First Assembly of God  
First Baptist Church  
First Christian Church  
First Missionary Church

First Presbyterian Church  
First Wayne Street United Methodist Church  
Fort Wayne Urban League  
Friendship Baptist Church  
Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Grace Christian Church  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Grace Gathering  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Grow Ministries  
Harvester Missionary Church  
Heartland Church of Fort Wayne  
Hope United Methodist Church  
Huntertown United Methodist Church  
Joy Fellowship Church  
Jubilee House Ministries  
Life Bridge Church  
Lifeway Wesleyan Church  
Living Word of God Ministries  
Love Church  
Markle Church of Christ  
Memorial Baptist Church  
Morning Star Class Markle Church of Christ

Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church  
New Hope Worship Center  
Northeast Christian Church  
Oakridge Temple Church  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Promise Lutheran Church  
Queen of Angels Catholic Church  
Salem Christian Church  
Saint Charles Catholic Church  
Saint Vincent DePaul Catholic Church  
Sonnise at Abolite United Methodist Church  
The Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County  
The Chapel  
The Good Shepherd United Methodist Church  
The River Christian Church  
True Love Baptist Church  
Westview Alliance Church  
Woodview Church of God  
Zanesville Church of God  
Businesses  
ABZ Realty

AG Edwards-Tim Gibson  
American Sealant Inc.  
Backer, Gage, Schroeder  
Beckman Lawson LLP  
Best Roofing Co.  
By His Design, Inc.  
Custom Poly Packaging  
Fort Wayne Medical Society  
General Credit Union  
Gray & Friend LLP  
Kalsen Midwest Inc.-Carl Kalsen  
M.J. Farms-Mick Lomont  
Physical Medicine Consultants LLC  
DR. David Stensland  
Sheddard Insurance Agency  
Foundations  
Brotherhood Mutual Foundation  
Lutheran Foundation  
Tippanan Foundation  
Charles Tippanan Foundation  
Mary Cross Tippanan Foundation  
Drug & Alcohol Consortium

**Allen County Jail Chaplaincy**  
417 S. Calhoun Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Permit No. 1026

Several items are on our Wish List. If you can help, please call Chaplain Dick Sievers at (260) 449-7215

\* Paperback dictionaries, and paper back books with very little color in them. \* Bibles (\$354 donation purchases 200 Bibles.) \* Concordances \* Volunteers \* Underwear for both men and women

### ACJC 2009 Board of Directors

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### Bible underwriters wanted!

We need individuals or churches to underwrite the purchase of Bibles. Each year, we give approximately 1,200 Bibles to inmates. Through the American Bible Society, we can buy one Bible and get one FREE! That means we can buy two Bibles for \$3.50. The Bibles we purchase also meet the security requirements enforced by the jail. With shipping included, \$354 buys 200 Bibles. If you or your church are interested in helping, please contact Chaplain Dick Sievers at (260) 449-7215. Thank you!

### Do you want to help with chapel services?

Chapel services are held on Monday through Thursday evenings. If any church would like to participate, call Chaplain Dick Sievers ahead of time at (260) 449-7215 for information.

### Did you know?

The annual golf outing has been cancelled in 2009!

Michael Cunegin, superintendent of Chain o'Lakes Correctional Institution, is the newest ACJC board member?

You can help the chaplaincy by donating good used Christian paperbacks!

### Allen County Jail Chaplaincy News

is published two times per year as a communication vehicle for those who care about and support the ministry. Please feel free to submit suggestions for making this newsletter a good servant.

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## Prayers & Petitions

\* 114 inmates have been baptized so far this year. Pray for them and for those who will be baptized yet in 2009  
\* Pray for those making decisions to accept Christ as Savior and Lord  
\* Pray for Cell Group Leaders (Bible study volunteers)  
\* Pray for the officers and our ministry to them  
\* Pray for financial support of the ministry  
\* Pray for more churches to financially support ACJC  
\* Pray for our Sheriff Kenneth C. Fries, and our jail commander Chuck Hart



Long Time Faithfulness

Allen County Jail Chaplaincy Newsletter  
Volume 5 - Issue 2 - Fall 2009

Enclosed Envelope



### Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church

According to Rev. James Evans, pastor of the Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church, his church's support of the jail chaplaincy reflects the example set by the original founders of the Methodist church in the 1800s.

"The famed preacher John Wesley formed a Holy Club that became the Methodist Church," says Evans. "One activity they did regularly was to visit those in prison."

When Evans arrived as pastor of the Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church in 2004, he says the church's regular monthly financial support of the jail chaplaincy was already in place.

"I don't know exactly how long the church has supported the ACJC, but I'm the type of guy who believes 'what ain't broke doesn't need fixin'." In other words, Evans says neither he nor the congregation has plans to change the support. "We believe the incarcerated are in violation of the law, but they are also deserving of God's grace," says Evans.

He adds that the Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church, which averages 110 people in attendance, will celebrate its centennial in October 2009. "The Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church was started by a lady 100 years ago who believed children who lived across the river northeast of what was then downtown Fort Wayne needed Sunday School," says Evans.

The church has been in the same location at the intersection of Tennessee and Crescent Avenues for the past century. Evans says the congregation has had several opportunities to change locations over the years. Why did they stay?

"The people who attend Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church want to encourage a Christian influence in the neighborhood," says Evans. "We intend to stay until the Second Coming."

Rev. James M. Evans, Jr  
Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church  
1232 Crescent Ave  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805  
(260) 424-4509



Video Tape Available!



A video tape is available which explains the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy ministry. If your church would like to show the video to members of your congregation, please call Chaplain Dick Sievers at 449-7215. The Chaplaincy can also send a representative to your church to help present the video and answer questions about the ministry.



### A Gift Idea for the Holidays

With the holidays approaching you might be wondering what to buy for the special person in your life. Consider making a contribution to the ACJC in that person's honor. The daughter of ACJC board member, Bob Wearley, recently made such a gift for his birthday at his request. "Some of us don't need anything," says Wearley. "A gift to the chaplaincy program is a good way to share the love of Jesus with those in need."

If you are interested in finding out more about creating a donation in honor or memory of someone, contact Chaplain Sievers at 449-7215.



*Tracey Barr*

Tracey Barr learned about the jail chaplaincy a year ago through Substance Abuse Counselor Deb Schell.

Barr is a full-time, recently-ordained pastor at Grace Gathering, a non-denominational church with 700 members in New Haven. "We are a community of house churches that meets corporately in large gatherings," she says. The church has been in its current facility for three years and changed its name from Grace Fellowship to Grace Gathering during the move.

Upon being ordained, she chose to expand her work for God and pursue jail chaplaincy opportunities. "I had known Chaplain Dick Sievers for a long time and when Deb Schell told me what she did, I thought it was intriguing," she says.

After praying about it, Barr was approved as a jail chaplain in January 2009. Since then, she has spent one afternoon each week helping Schell in the substance abuse classes. "It is a humbling experience to help people in this way," she says. "I appreciate the opportunity to serve."

After getting to know several of the incarcerated individuals, Barr is now interested in helping women during post-release – the time when they have gotten out of jail and are looking for places to stay and ways of re-establishing themselves in the community. "I would like to disciple women, pray with them, let them know they are loved, in spite of their situation," she says.

Outside of the jail Barr volunteers at Harborside Care and Rehab in New Haven. "They don't have a chaplain there so I help the homebound with shopping needs," she says.

At her church Barr also manages a café that offers a donation-based breakfast on Sunday mornings for approximately 150 church attendees. "I love cooking for people," she says. "Everybody likes to eat."

Tracey and her husband Kenny have three children and two grandchildren.

*Tracey Barr**Frances Woodson Brown*

Frances Woodson Brown grew up in Fort Wayne in a Christian home, but when she was nine years old, her parents divorced. Her father, whom she loved, left home never to return. Brown felt abandoned.

As a teen, Brown exhibited destructive behavior that resulted in her being sent to a girl's school for five years. She also gave birth to three babies who were raised by Brown's mother. By associating with drug dealers, Brown became hooked on coke and heroine.

During this time, Brown was angry with her father and God. "I felt betrayed and rejected," she says. "Everything that was good had been stripped from me. I was angry at God for letting it happen."

Brown carried that anger for years. Yet, she also remembered Bible teaching she had heard as a child. "I felt the hand of God on my life to preach, but I ran from it," she says.

Brown served jail time for offenses ranging from drug possession to prostitution.

"Each time I prayed for God to take me out of jail," she says. "When he did, I always returned to the same problems because I had not dealt with the issues. I was suicidal and spiritually bankrupt. I needed God to intervene."

The jail chaplains prayed with Brown. "Those prayer warriors always believed in me," she says. "They never judged me but loved me in spite of everything."

Brown asked God for deliverance from her addictions – smoking, drugs, and the desire to be on the street. When He healed her, Brown knew God would direct her life. In prison she started a Bible Study. By the time she was released, the group had grown to 20 women.

The congregation at Christ Temple Apostolic Church in Fort Wayne supported Brown with prayers and formed a support group for people with addictions. Brown joined the group and found a mentor to help her deal with her problems.

Brown has now been clean of drugs for nearly three years. Feeling a need to get a new start, she moved to Indianapolis. There she has found a place to live and a church to attend. She

has a good relationship with her children and family.

Though it was a rough journey, Frances Woodson Brown is thankful for her life and the way God helped her. "I felt God would heal me in every way," she says, "and He did."

*Frances Woodson Brown***Spotlight on Volunteers***John Alexander*

John Alexander has been an active member of the ACJC since the chaplaincy's origin in 1998.

He originally became involved because of his association with prison fellowship ministries and friendship with fellow prison volunteer and ACJC board member, Ken Jackson.

When the jail chaplaincy was first started under the direction of Sheriff Joe Squadrino, Alexander was part of the exploratory committee set up to establish interest in the chaplaincy.

Since then, Alexander has served in every leadership position on the ACJC board, including the current president; Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. As president, Alexander oversees the board meetings held every other month, directs the chaplains and substance abuse teacher and raises funds for the program. He has also conducted church services held in the jail.

In addition to his dedication to the ACJC, Alexander is a volunteer on the Board of Drug and Alcohol consortium of Northeast Indiana, Fort Wayne Rotary Club, Service Corps of Retired Executives, and Gideons International, Sons of the American Revolution where he serves as chaplain, Elks, and Masonic orders.

Alexander owns ABZ Realty and is chairman of the board for American Sealants, Inc.

With all of his other clubs and organizations demanding his time and attention, what keeps Alexander involved with the chaplaincy? "I feel a civic responsibility to help incarcerated people see they can lead productive lives when they are released," he says.

Alexander attends Brookside Community Church with his wife Thelma. They have several children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

*John Alexander**Time on your Hands?***Become an ACJC Volunteer**

If you find yourself with a few hours each week with nothing to fill them and you desire to make your time count, consider volunteering with the chaplaincy program.

Many types of volunteers are needed for the chaplaincy to function, according to Chaplain Sievers. "Volunteers can get to know the jail and its procedures by pushing the book cart through the cell blocks with an assortment of reading material," he says. Most volunteers start their chaplaincy training with the book cart.

Those who feel led to conduct Bible Studies are paired with another person to serve as a team. The Substance Abuse class led by Deborah Schell needs volunteers who can do administrative office duties. There may also be opportunities to conduct one-on-one sharing with individuals in these classes.

Volunteers for the Life Skills classes provide information, based on a written curriculum, about how to get a job, how to fill out a job application, budgeting, and balancing a checkbook.

Entire congregations may get involved with the chaplaincy. "Church groups can help conduct the church services we hold eight times each week," adds Sievers.

Each chaplaincy volunteer must submit to a background check and be approved by the jail captain or commander.

Those interested in learning more about being a chaplaincy volunteer should notify Chaplain Sievers at 449-7215.