

Did you know?

- * The chaplaincy needs robes for the baptismal services? There were 61 baptisms in June and some robes had to be used more than once. Please consider sewing a robe or organizing a sewing group at your church to increase the number of robes available to the chaplaincy. Contact Chaplain Sievers for more information.
- * Chaplain Sievers has served at the jail for 10 years.
- * 53 volunteers put in 6,500 hours at the jail each year.

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

- * We need \$600 to purchase material needed to make baptism garments.
- * Paperback dictionaries, and books with a little color in them.
- * Bibles (\$354 donation purchases 200 Bibles.)
- * Conduances
- * Volunteers
- * Thank you to the Ft. Wayne Medical Society for printing the hand out material for the substance abuse classes.

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 Tuesday and Thursday evenings. If any church would like to participate, call Chaplain Dick Sievers ahead of time at (260) 449-7215 for information.

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

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ACJC

ACJC wishes to say
"THANK YOU"
to these churches for their
financial support

Throughout this news letter 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
Carroll Community Worship Center
Cedar Creek Church of Christ
Christian Praise & Fellowship Church
Colony Heights Church of Christ
Covenant United Methodist Church
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church
First Assembly of God Christian Center
First Wayne Street United Methodist Church
Harvester Missionary Church
Heartland Community Church
Huntersville United Methodist Church
Life Bridge Church
Markle Church of Christ
Memorial Baptist Church
North Highlands Church of Christ
Oakdale Temple C.O.G.I.C.
Skyline Community Church
Somerset At Albion United Methodist Church
True Love Baptist Church
Sutton Christian Church
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Evangelist Center Church
Hope United Methodist Church
Plymouth Congregational Church

Thank You

ACJC 2007 Board of Directors

John Alexander
David Clendenen
Charles Hatten
Kenneth Jackson
David Knuth
Michael Latham
A. Wyatt Mullinax
Phil Miller
Jonathan Ray
Thomas Szymczak
Per Guldbeck
Guy Willis
Mark Witmer

Prayers & Petitions

- * 199 inmates were baptized in 2006. Pray for them and their spiritual growth
- * 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 new Sheriff Kenneth C. Fries, and our new jail commander Chuck Hart

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 you may have for making this newsletter a good servant.

Mailing Address:
Allen County Jail Chaplaincy
417 S. Calhoun Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 449-7215

Writer: Kayleen Reusser
Graphic Design/Production:
By His Design, Inc. Jerry Thomas

+ New Horizons

Allen County Jail Chaplaincy Newsletter
Volume 1 – Issue 4 – Fall 2007

Churches Plan Battle at Golf Outing



A battle to find the best church, or rather the best golfers at each church, will take place at the next ACJC golf outing fundraiser at Cherry Hill Golf Course, 615 Wheelock Road, Fort Wayne, on September 20, 2007.

According to golf outing organizer and long-time ACJC Board Member Mark Witmer, the ACJC golf fundraiser, which began in 2000, will be more intense this year. "Players from each team will be paired with players from another church team for competition," he says. "Prizes will be awarded to the two lowest ball scores for 18 holes."

Witmer is excited about the new format. "We believe it will stir up a greater level of interest as it is no longer your typical scramble, but a true golf competition."

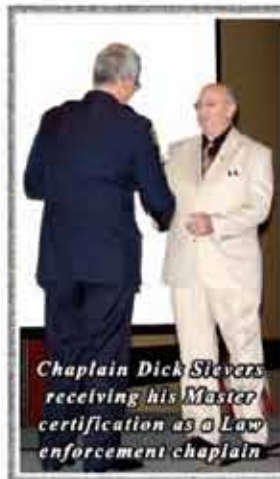
The event will start at noon. Refreshments will be provided during play; dinner and an awards banquet follow. A traveling "Chaplain's Cup" will be awarded to the winning team.

The team entry fee is \$400 per team; hole sponsors are \$200 per hole. Entry deadline is September 13, 2007.



Profits from the outing benefit the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy, Inc. The Allen County Jail Chaplaincy, Inc. is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit religious organization. For more information about getting registered, contact Chaplain Sievers at (260) 449-7215.

Chaplain Dick & Cheryleen Sievers



Chaplain Dick Sievers receiving his Master certification as a Law enforcement chaplain

Chaplain Dick Sievers received his master certification as a Law enforcement chaplain on June 28, 2007. According to Sievers, this degree required many hours of classroom study, 10 years of experience, and a completed thesis on an approved topic. "This education will help me to better minister to the officers of the Sheriff's department," says Sievers.

Chaplain Dick Sievers with his wife Cheryleen at this year's ACJC fundraising banquet.



Enclosed Envelope



The Allen County Jail Chaplaincy is experiencing lots of exciting, new growth on several fronts and would appreciate your support to help us continue to serve and comfort others. Please use the enclosed, self-addressed envelope to send your tax-deductible contribution to the: **Allen County Jail Chaplaincy**, 417 South Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

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.



John Kevin Williams

The Story Behind John Williams

John Kevin Williams grew up in Ft. Wayne, but dropped out of high school to join the Marines in the 1970's. He was honorably discharged a short time later, due to a birth defect. Williams returned to Ft. Wayne, married, and became a father.

Williams says he wanted to be a good family man, but instead, he got involved with alcohol and drugs. "I thought they would make me a man," he says. For the next decade, Williams' life was a series of arrests for possession of drugs. "My life was off-track," he says. "I was trying to fit in with the wrong crowd."

Williams' father had taken him to church when he was growing up, but Williams stayed away from church attendance. When Williams' life spiraled down, he talked to Allen County Jail Chaplain Elisha Harris. The two had known each other while growing up and Williams respected Harris.

Williams knew Harris had been in jail and feared his friend would never recover. But when Williams was jailed in the Allen County jail and he saw Harris working as a chaplain, he was encouraged but confused about what had brought Harris out of his destructive lifestyle.

Harris told Williams God has a plan and purpose for each life. "He told me God didn't want me to be in jail," says Williams. "He said God loved me and wanted to build a new life for me."

Williams knew he had a problem and needed help. Williams decided he wanted what Harris had. "If God could do it for him, He could do it for me," says Williams.

Williams committed his life to Christ in 1992, but backslid. In 2003, Williams started attending Oak Ridge Church of God in Christ. Harris kept in touch with Williams and encouraged him to attend a 12-step program.

When Williams was again arrested for possession of drugs, he realized he couldn't continue living life as he had been. "I needed to get away for some personal time with God," he says. So Williams turned himself in to the police and was sent to Lakeside Correctional Center at Michigan City in July 2006. He immediately got involved with the incarcerated Christians there.

Before Williams was released from Lakeside on September 29, 2006, he made a vow. "I thought about why I was there. I realized it was a lust for money and fame. When I couldn't get them, I sold drugs and robbed to get what I wanted. I made up my mind and heart that when I went home, I would go home for the Lord."

Today Williams is out of jail and keeps in touch with Chaplain Harris. "He's a big inspiration to me." Williams attends Oak Ridge Church of God in Christ. He prayed for God to show him what to do. He was told by a lady at church that he should join the choir. Williams was never a singer, but he's willing to go where God leads. "I've learned to be content with what God has for me," he says.

ACJC 2007 Fundraiser Banquet

Mike Cunegin, director of the Criminal Justice Institute in Indianapolis and former Fort Wayne county councilman and police officer, was this year's keynote speaker for the May 8th event. Cunegin thanked the audience for their support of the ACJC. He became acquainted with the ministry when he lived in Fort Wayne. "I believe in this ministry," he said. "I saw it work when I lived in Fort Wayne and I know it is still helping the community here now."

Rev. Bill Campbell of Life Bridge Church opened the evening with prayer.

Chaplain Dick Sievers shared these interesting statistics with the group: 17,000 arrests were made in Allen County in 2006; 5,000 requests for help came from inmates, including receiving clean undergarments, reading material, family contacts, and Bibles; and 199 inmates were baptized in the Allen County Jail in 2006.

Chaplain Elisha Harris explained he and Chaplain Sievers schedule Bible studies, chapel services, offer counseling on each block, share death notifications, make hospital visits, and provide suicide counseling.

Deb Schell, ACJC Substance Abuse Counselor, reported that during the 13 years she has conducted classes at the jail more than 750 people have gone through her program.

Former Allen County Jail inmate, Lee Essex, gave his very moving testimony of how the ACJC had helped him turn his life around, and Tomra Cardin was honored as Volunteer of the Year.

Approximately 288 people attended the program which generated \$11,972 for the ACJC, as well as \$2,730 in pledges.

ACJC Board Member

David Knuth became an ACJC Board Member in fall 2006.

He became acquainted with the work of the jail chaplaincy through fellow board member Mark Witmer. Knuth is part owner of Lighthouse Wealth Management Group, which specializes in retirement planning.

He has been involved in leadership for 25 years at Blackhawk Ministries and says he has a mission towards evangelism. "I want to plant seeds of hope in people's lives. That's what I see happening with the ACJC. We're meeting people at the lowest part of their lives and sharing that life is not all over."

Knuth has been married to his wife Marilyn for 25 years. They have two daughters: Katelyn, a junior at University of St Francis, and Kelsey, a freshman at Blackhawk Christian High School.



David Knuth



Carl Underwood

Spotlight on Volunteers

Carl Underwood has been a volunteer for the ACJC since 1985. Underwood says he got started as a jail chaplain because he had a hunger to share the Word of God with other people. "I taught 5-6 grades at Sunday school. My pastor liked my teaching and preaching. He asked me if I ever thought of going into the jail to teach. He knew the head chaplain, Doyle Staton, and thought he could use some help."

Underwood says he also had listened to the radio preaching of Dr. Lester Sumrall and how he went into prisons to help people. "I had a burden to go to the jail to unfold the knowledge God had imparted to me concerning the importance of being born again and to learn to walk in victory upon receiving Christ," he says.

Underwood leads a weekly Bible study on Cell Block 6A with 45-60 men. He also helps with chapel services. "When I preach, I tell them the greatest gift they will receive is eternal life," he says. "I stress that because man must know he was born for a purpose."

Underwood works full time for BAE Systems, a factory in Fort Wayne that manufactures aircraft engines. He has worked there for 37 years.

He attends Life Bridge Church with his wife, Pat. Underwood has four grown children and four grandchildren. His hobbies include walking and bike riding.

Supporting Church

Keith Koteskey has been the senior minister at Avalon Missionary Church since 2005. He says the church has supported the ACJC financially for the past year. Dave Clendenen, an ACJC Board member, serves in a leadership role at the church that averages 470 people in attendance per Sunday.

Besides financial giving, the church also supports the ministry by having its worship team lead music during ACJC spring banquets.

Although Koteskey has not been to the jail himself, he's pleased to have his church be part of the jail ministry. "We see an opportunity here to reach out to those in prison," he says. "We want to be supportive and reach beyond the walls of our church."



**Avalon Missionary Church, 1500 Lower Huntington Rd
Fort Wayne, IN 46819
(260) 747-1531 www.avalonfw.com**

Allen County Jail Chaplaincy Mission Statement: The purpose and mission of the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy is to bring comfort, encouragement, and hope by ministering the redemptive love of God to jail inmates and, where appropriate, to jail staff. The Chaplaincy is under-girded by Christ's teachings concerning the dignity and worth of each individual, regardless of the severity of any wrongful behavior by that individual. In ministering to the religious and spiritual needs of the jail community, the Chaplain provides the inmate population with religious and personal counseling, coordinates worship services within the facility, and assists inmates in matters related to personal growth. The Chaplaincy serves as an extension of the Church and helps the Church minister to the inmates by providing access to authorized pastors to meet with their parishioners and to conduct worship and educational programs within the facility. The Chaplain also administers access for authorized leaders of other faith traditions. The goals of this ministry are to challenge inmates to be reconciled with God and to prepare them to live productive lives.