



# NEW Horizons

Allen County Jail Chaplaincy Newsletter

Volume 7 - Issue 1 - Spring 2011

## Banquet Offers Testimonies, Fellowship

A musical worship service, delicious full-course meal, and testimonies about the power of God to change people's lives will be the focus of the ACJC fundraiser on May 10, 2011.

The banquet will be held at Ceruti's Banquet and Catering Services, located at 6601 Innovation Blvd. on Fort Wayne's north side. Doors open at 6:00 pm; meal begins at 6:30 pm.

During the evening, uplifting musical entertainment will be provided by a local church group. Former inmates of the Allen County jail will give testimonies of how they have been helped by members of the ACJC.

A Jail Chaplain Volunteer of the Year award will be presented following the meal. An offering to provide vital financial support to the chaplaincy will conclude the event.

According to Chaplain Dick Sievers, the fundraiser serves as the main means of providing financial support to the only ministry in Allen County that seeks to meet the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of 700 inmates and staff at the Allen County Jail. "The chaplaincy relies on financial contributions of concerned individuals to provide funds to continue to show the love of Jesus Christ to people who have made wrong choices in life," said Sievers. He is assisted in the jail chaplaincy work by Chaplain Elisha Harris and 50 volunteer jail chaplains.

These statistics represent the work done at the ACJC in 2010:

- \* Bibles distributed to inmates: 2,700
- \* Bible Studies conducted: 482
- \* Baptisms of inmates in the jail: 236
- \* Attendees at chapel services: 9,000
- \* Attendance at Life Skills Class: 734

Churches and individuals are encouraged to fill a table with guests for this unique opportunity to learn about God's love reaching through steel doors of the Allen County Jail to penetrate and change hardened hearts.

Tickets for the evening are \$25.00 and may be reserved through Chaplain Sievers' office. Call 449.7215 for more information.



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.



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.



## Jail Staff Profile

Marietha Henry of Fort Wayne has been an officer at the Allen County Jail since 2007. Her interest in law enforcement began while living in Missouri in the 1990s and working at a sheriff's department. Henry noticed several young people were always in trouble with the law. Wanting to make a difference in people's lives, Henry moved to Indiana and eventually accepted a position at the Allen County Jail.

As a jail officer on the female block, Henry's job is to provide safety and security for the inmates. "I ensure the jail staff meets the inmates' medical needs," she said. "I also escort the inmates to GED classes and monitor the behavior of inmates."

Henry sees her job as that of a missionary. "I think God has placed me in this position not just to work, but to encourage people," she said. "I talk with the inmates, pray with them and let them know that God is with them, no matter what. I don't look at them as though they made a mistake but rather, that this too shall pass. The volunteer jail chaplains help in this goal with their powerful ministry. They do a great job."

In May 2011 Henry will graduate from Ivy Tech with an Associate of Arts degree in Human Services with a concentration in substance abuse counseling. She may continue her education at Indiana Wesleyan University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in addictions counseling. Her goal is to counsel adolescents.

Henry is a member of Gomez Temple Church in Fort Wayne where she serves as missionary president and cooks breakfasts for church members on Sunday morning. She has three children and seven grandchildren.



Marietha Henry

## Board Member Profile

Denny Williamson of Fort Wayne became a member of the ACJC Board of Directors in February 2011. His involvement came as a result of friendships with ACJC Board member Bob Werling and Jail Chaplain Dick Sievers. "The three of us have attended Rotary meetings together for several years," said Williamson. "I know them and know that what they're doing is honest. When they asked me to join, I didn't hesitate."

Williamson is a member of Grace Point Nazarene Church in Fort Wayne. He has served as the church's treasurer and as a member of the finance committee and church board. Williamson owns Underwriters Inc. in Fort Wayne, which specializes in working with not-for-profit groups. He is a newly elected member of the alumni association of Olivet Nazarene University, his alma mater.

Although this is Williamson's first experience working with the incarcerated, he is excited about the opportunity. "I'm a layman in this particular area of ministry, but my career has been spent working with churches and various ministries," he said. "I believe I can offer some guidance and leadership to the chaplaincy organization."

Williamson and his wife Elaine have two children. His hobbies include golf and travel.



Marietha Henry

## Inmate Profile

Angela Johnson of Fort Wayne has been in and out of jail much of her life, yet she thanks God for her incarcerations. Born in Los Angeles, California, she moved to Indiana with her common-law husband in the 1990s. "We thought it would be a better place to raise our children than on the West Coast with the riots," she said. She had grown up going to church in Louisiana with her grandparents and wanted to provide those surroundings for her six children. Unfortunately, Johnson was also trying to quit her habit of using illegal drugs.

In Indiana Johnson's troubles seemed to escalate, rather than improve. In 1998 she was jailed in Allen County for forgery. While incarcerated, Johnson attended Debra Schell's substance abuse class. "It was a place to get away from the block," she said. "It was also a haven and a place where someone listened and didn't judge."

Johnson completed Schell's courses, earning a prize of a Recovery Bible which she then read. Schell's classes proved invaluable to Johnson. "They dealt with sexual abuse, domestic violence, and parenting," she said. Johnson also attended chaplain services and asked the chaplains to pray for her often, which they did.

After Johnson was released, chaplaincy staff helped her find a place to live.

In 2007 she landed back in jail on charges of aiding and abetting a mail fraud. According to Johnson, she needed medical supplies and food for herself and her paralyzed son who she had daily care for.

From July 2009 through October 2009 Johnson was incarcerated at four Midwestern federal prisons.

At each location Johnson attended chapel services and read her Bible. "I had gotten off track with God because of drugs and the influence of other people," she said. "That won't happen again."

Since her release in October 2009, Johnson has made many changes in her life to stay out of jail and become closer to God. She attends Narcotics Anonymous meetings and has found friends that encourage her to stay away from drugs.

Pastor Sievers said I was like Jonah in the belly of the whale," said Johnson. "God told Jonah to do things but he disobeyed and was nearly destroyed. If I continue to do my will, I will fall, but if I do what God wants me to do, my thinking patterns will change into something positive. I give God glory for resurrecting me."

Angela Johnson has been clean from drugs since February 4, 2009, her longest stretch. Today, she looks at her experiences of being incarcerated as affirming. "It was a good place to start over," she said. "With time to think about where my life has been, I wanted to overcome those thorns and turn to God."

## Baptisms

During 2010 the Allen County Jail chaplaincy staff performed 236 baptisms at the jail's chapel. "This is a joy for me as I watch the faces of those being baptized," said Chaplain Sievers. "As they are paired with Christ and raised in the power of the resurrected Christ, He empowers them to live differently. We serve a powerful God who is able to change any life surrendered to Him."

## Jail Chaplaincy Volunteer Retreat 2011

Due to Chaplain Sievers' hand surgery during the past winter, the Jail Chaplain Volunteer Retreat was cancelled in 2011.

## Chaplaincy Offers Church Services at Work Release

Besides ministering to inmates and jail staff at the Allen County Jail, the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy also directs chapel services at the Allen County Work Release at 12103 Lima Road in Fort Wayne. Chapel services at the Allen County Work Release began November 2010. Two volunteer chaplains -- Victor Franks and Ernest B. Greene Jr. -- oversee the Work Release services conducted on Sunday nights.

Greene is an Ordained elder at First Redeemed by the Blood Church in New Haven. He has volunteered at the jail since 2004 when he began by helping Chaplain Elisha Harris with church services. Today, besides assuming responsibility for the work release chapel services, Greene and Franks lead a Bible Study class at the jail on Monday nights. For several years Greene and Franks worked together on the same cell block, but now they work on different blocks.

When Greene and Franks conduct church services on their own, they take turns presenting sermons to inmates who attend. "I like to teach with an open forum," Greene said. "I tell them if they have a question any time during this presentation, they can ask. I like to get people involved. I believe if people are involved, they learn better," he added.

Why is he interested in working at the Allen County jail? "When I talk with the inmates, I tell them what God can do for them, even if they fall off the wagon," said Greene. "There is salvation only in the name of Jesus Christ."

Greene is looking for more volunteers to conduct chapel services at the work release. "Those who want to help are welcome but must be cleared for security several days prior to the service through Chaplain Sievers or Chaplain Harris," he said. "I hope more people who love to serve the Lord will realize that a relationship with God is important." People wanting more information about volunteering at the Allen County work release chapel services may contact Ernest Greene Jr. at 260.433.6577 or the jail chaplaincy office at 260.449.7215.



Victor Franks & Ernest Green Jr.

## Supporting Church Profile

Harvester Avenue Missionary Church has supported the ACJC ministry since 2003, according to church member Jerry Hetrick. "We, as a congregation, support home and foreign missions," said Hetrick. "Following a presentation about the jail chaplaincy by Chaplain Dick Sievers at our church, we were so impressed with the work being done there that we included the work of the jail chaplaincy within our church budget and have continued to do so ever since."

Hetrick says Harvester Avenue Missionary Church continues to support the ACJC because doing so reflects Christ's mission on earth. "We see it as a way to reach people for Christ," said Hetrick. "As I go into the blocks, I see a tremendous need for the people there to know Christ and receive his word. During a time of incarceration, people can find hope."

Hetrick, who leads a weekly Bible Study with Harvester Avenue Missionary Church member Randy Branstrator, sees lives changing as a result of the chaplaincy program. "The inmates tell us they study the Bible on their own because they're intrigued by the power of the Word. The male inmates tell us they appreciate that a person would take time to hand out books, do Bible Studies and lead chapel services. It's like planting seeds when we go in there. A person may hear the gospel 20 times, then one time it may make an impact and soak in. Our job as a church is to be faithful to Christ's mission and we're trying to do that."

Harvester Avenue Missionary Church  
 Pastor: David Binkley  
 3331 Harvester Ave Fort Wayne, IN 46803-3824  
 Phone: (260)424-5533  
 Email: church\_office@harvestermissionary.org  
 Website: <http://www.harvestermissionary.org>

L to R

Randy  
Branstrator

Pastor  
Dave Binkley

Jerry Hetrick



## Jail Caroling 2010

Approximately 120 volunteers arrived at the Allen County Jail on December 18, 2010, to carol to inmates. The activity, which has become a holiday tradition at the jail for more than a decade, was organized by Chaplains Sievers and Harris. While caroling to the jail's 700+ inmates, carolers shared apples donated by Imani Baptist Temple, peanuts from Grace Gathering and cookies from various local Mennonite churches and other groups. "All of the inmates in the jail that day were touched by the love of Christ and the volunteers that attended," said Chaplain Sievers.

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 undergirded 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.

# ACJC

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

## 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.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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## Did you know?

1 Of cases concluded in federal district court since 1989, drug cases have increased at the greatest rate? The estimated number of arrests for drug abuse violations for adults has been increasing, while the number of juveniles stabilized.

2 An estimated 11.7 million persons, representing 5% of all persons age 16 or older in the United States, experienced at least one type of identity theft in a 2-year period?

3 In 2009, 52 inmates were executed: 24 in Texas; 6 in Alabama; 5 in Ohio; 3 each in Georgia, Oklahoma, and Virginia; 2 each in Florida, South Carolina, and Tennessee; and 1 each in Indiana and Missouri? 51 executions were by lethal injection; 1 by electrocution.

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

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

## 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!

## 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.

- Anchor Community Church of the Brethren in Christ
- 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
- Canaan 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
- Cuba Memorial Church
- Evangelist Center
- Evangelical Lutheran St. John Church
- Faith Based Mentoring Ministries
- Fellowship Missionary Church
- First Assembly of God
- First Baptist Church
- First Christian Church
- First Memorial Church
- First Missionary Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First Wayne Street United Methodist Church
- Fort Wayne Urban League
- Friendship Baptist Church
- Getsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Gone Fishing Ministries
- 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
- Hometown United Methodist Church
- Imani Baptist Temple
- Indiana Conference of United Methodist Churches
- Joy Fellowship Church
- Jubilee House Ministries
- King's Daughters and Sons
- Life Bridge Church
- LifeWay Wesleyan Church
- Living Word of God Ministries
- Love Church
- Markle Church of Christ
- Memorial Baptist Church
- Monson Chapel United Methodist Church
- Morning Star Class Markle Church of Christ
- Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church
- New Haven United Methodist Church Women
- 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
- Saturn Christian Church
- Saint Charles Catholic Church
- Saint Michael Ev. Lutheran Church
- Saint Nicolas Orthodox Church
- Saint Vincent DePaul Catholic Church
- Sheriff's Chaplaincy Conference
- Sunrise at Aboite United Methodist Church
- St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Tabernacle Baptist Church
- The Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County The Chapel
- The Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
- The River Christian Church
- The Way to Recovery
- Three Rivers Wesleyan Church
- True Love Baptist Church
- Westview Alliance Church
- Woodview Church of God
- Zanesville Church of God
- Businesses
- ABZ Realty
- AG Edwards- Tim Gibson
- Airheat Comfort Systems
- Allen County Drug & Alcohol Consortium
- American Sealant Inc.
- Baden, gage, Schroeder
- Beckman Lawson LLP
- Best Roofing Co.
- By His Design, Inc.
- Commercial Filter Service
- Custom Poly Packaging
- Fort Wayne Medical Society
- General Credit Union
- Gray & Friend LLP
- John Heath & Son Inc.
- Kalsen Midwest Inc.-Carl Kalsen
- M.J. Farms-Mick Lomont
- Physical Medicine Consultants LLC-DR. David Stensland
- Sheppard Insurance Agency
- Southside Optimist Club
- The Way of Recovery
- The Semper Amicae Circle of the Kings daughters and sons Foundations
- Brotherhood Mutual Foundation
- Lutheran Foundation
- Tipman Foundation
- Charles Tipman Foundation
- Mary Cross Tipman Foundation
- Drug & Alcohol Consortium
- Waterfield Foundation

Thank You

## ACJC 2011 Board of Directors

- President Robert Wearley
- Vice Pres. Thomas Szymczak
- Sec. Treas. John Alexander
- David Clendenen
- Glenn Emley
- Rev. Kenneth Jackson
- David Knuth
- Denise Porter-Ross
- Sister Mary Clare Smith
- Denny Williamson
- Rev. Guy Willis

## Prayers & Petitions

- \* 231 inmates were baptized in 2009. 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 Sheriff Kenneth C. Fries, and our jail commander Chuck Hart

**Allen County Jail Chaplaincy Newsletter** 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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