

United Church of God Indianapolis • United Church of God Fort Wayne

## Members attend marriage enrichment classes

By Debbie Zimmerman

Eighteen couples from the Indianapolis and Fort Wayne congregations are currently participating in a series of marriage enrichment classes in their local areas.

Using the *Empowering Couples* book written by David H. and Amy K. Olson, Darris McNeely, pastor of both congregations, is working with the couples and helping them “turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones.”

Topics covered during the four monthly sessions have included communication, conflict resolution, role relationships, managing finances; personal, couple and family goals, and more.

We asked two couples what “nugget of wisdom” from the classes they think they will remember and be exercising in five years.

Newlyweds David and Mandie Cobb of Indy and 11-year married couple Lori and Karl Hermann replied.

David Cobb responded, “I think that the one thing I will remember most in five years is the importance of communication in all areas of marriage. I also really liked the approach to potential difficulties as “improvement opportunities,” and the understanding that they are things all married couples face.

“Handling them well will make your relationship stronger in the end. I’m sure that I will also remember the discussion on goals and how much they can enrich you personally and as a couple.”

David’s wife Mandie answered, “One aspect of the marriage classes I will remember in five years is the way it helped David and me, as a newly married couple, to learn how crucial communication is for health and happiness.”

Fort Wayne attendee Lori Hermann replied, “I think the

thing I’ll remember and use would be their problem-solving process. We actually had to do this as “homework” and it caused us to get into an argument but...we came out of it with some things we each had to do to correct a problem.”

Her husband Karl must be thinking the same thing, because he replied, “One thing that I’m sure that I’ll remember is the fact that when attempting to work through the “10-Step Model for Resolving Conflict” we actually created new conflict...unresolved, non-flexible, ‘not gonna’ do it, ‘not gonna’ see it from your side, ‘my mind is closed’ conflict.

“The exercise turned out to be fairly unproductive due to the stubborn nature of the individuals involved, i.e., both of us! We finally agreed to disagree on a couple items and I acquiesced on something I would try to do.



**NINE INDY COUPLES ATTEND CLASSES**—Pictured from left are Darris and Debbie McNeely, Ryan and Stephanie McNeely, Carl and Grace Rothenbacher, Peter and Schellela Holmes, Rick and Debbie Zimmerman, Brian and Diana White, Richard and Kris Swanson, David and Mandie Cobb, and Les and Debra Booth. [Photo by Les Booth]

“Another serious item that I hope to exercise is the use of “I” statements when in a discussion, rather than accusatory “you should,” “you always/never,” etc. I really should try to focus on this and catch myself when in a discussion or disagreement.

“It is far more productive to express my feelings, needs, and thoughts rather than accusing the other party of not attending to those feelings, needs, or thoughts.

“It would also not put the other person on the defensive

in the course of the discussion.

They may be more receptive to keeping the lines of communication open, rather than shutting down.”

Thanks to these two couples for sharing some of the insights they’ve gained from participating in the marriage enrichment classes.

The classes have provided wonderful information and have helped couples focus on their strengths, overcome their weaknesses, and grow as a couple.

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## A night to be remembered in Indianapolis

By Katherine Rowland

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Fifty-six Indianapolis UCG members shared an elegant Night to Be Much Observed at the Indianapolis UCG church hall on Monday evening, April 5.

The Night to Be Much Observed is celebrated by members the evening before the First Day of Unleavened Bread. Members join together in each others’ homes or at a restaurant for an evening of

food and fellowship.

This year, the Indianapolis group’s dinner was catered by the Country Cooker Family Restaurant owned by Steve and Joan Price of the Indianapolis congregation.

Dinner included char-broiled filet of beef and chicken in Chardonnay cream sauce, and was accompanied by scalloped potatoes, maple-glazed carrots, green beans, and salad.

As final touches to the menu, several of the ladies had made unleavened bread and crackers, as well as supplying a bountiful table of delectable desserts!

A highlight of the evening was a special musical presentation sung by a quintet; Peter, Schellela, and Schellese Holmes and Chris and Katherine Rowland performed nine pieces of music. The musical selections reinforced the Passover theme, ranging from the solemnity of “The Lord’s Prayer” to the joyful “Great and Wonderful.”

All present seemed to appreciate the opportunity to join with brethren to enjoy the food, music, and fellowship of a very special Night to Be Much Observed.



## May I have this dance?

By *Debbie Zimmerman*  
PLAINFIELD, Ind.—Indy's third annual semi-formal dinner dance, always held on the Saturday night during the Days of Unleavened Bread, was a well-attended success again this year.

Held at Primo's in Plainfield, Ind., on Saturday, April 10, the dinner and dance has become a tradition in Indianapolis.

This year, more than

100 teens and adults from Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Cincinnati and several other church areas joined together to enjoy a delicious dinner followed by 3½ hours of dancing.

Mark Winner, pastor of the Louisville and Henderson, Ky., UCG congregations, once again served as the DJ.

We look forward to having all of you join us again next year!

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**CONGRATULATIONS 2004 GRADS!**—**Leigh Carlson**, left, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Butler University. She majored in English and minored in Spanish. Leigh will be attending Ambassador Bible Center in January 2005. **Donald Matherly**, center, graduated from Brownsburg High School in May. He hopes to attend Ivy Tech to study architecture. **Michelle Matherly**, right, also graduated from Brownsburg High School. This fall she will attend Ivy Tech to study nursing. Other graduates not shown are college graduates **Nicole Crane** and **Daniel Sutherland**, and high school graduate **Teralyn Trisler**. [Photo by Laura Scott]

## St. Denis family says farewell to Ft. Wayne

By *Janet Borton*

Gates and Roberta St. Denis with their daughters Patricia, Nicole and Rachelle, moved to Fort Wayne from southern California about one year ago.

Gates had accepted a job at Indiana Technical Institute to work on a government contract.

With only two weeks prior notice, Gates' job ended in April because the federal

government withdrew the project's funding for several years. The St. Denis family had to quickly pack up and return to California to seek employment.

We all enjoyed getting to know the entire family during the year they attended Sabbath services with us in Fort Wayne.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them.



**ST. DENIS FAMILY**—From left are Nicole, Roberta, Rachelle, Patricia and Gates St. Denis.

## 250 observe Feast of Pentecost in Indianapolis

By *Phyllis Minton*

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Four UCG congregations met at Indianapolis Sunday, May 30, to enjoy a very inspiring Feast of Pentecost.

Brethren from Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Lafayette celebrated Pentecost at the Sheraton Hotel at Keystone Crossing and enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch provided by the hotel between services.

Indianapolis/Fort Wayne pastor Darris McNeely gave the morning sermon entitled "Proceeding On," based on the epic journey of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The afternoon sermon was given by guest speaker

Peter Eddington, UCG Media Services Director, visiting from the church's home office in Cincinnati. His message was "The Book of Acts and the Work of the Early Church."

The Indianapolis bass ensemble performed two pieces for the offertory music, *Hal' luyah* and *Helvelnu Shalom Alelchem*.

The Indianapolis choir, directed by Peter Holmes,

performed *Onward Ye Peoples* and *Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken*.

The messages were inspiring and visiting with brethren we do not often see was most enjoyable.



# Portraits of two longtime members reveal poise, grace

By Rebecca Brady

Several newsletters ago, we published our first installment of "Meet the Members."

It was so well received that we've decided to feature two more members in this newsletter. With this installment, we'd like to give you a closer look into the lives of two longtime Church of God members, Clementine Benford and Margaret Dick.

## Clementine Benford

There is a special member of our local church family, easily described as a beautifully sweet person. She is demure, dainty and graceful by nature.

Clementine Benford is



CLEMENTINE BENFORD

always poised with a gentle and delicate temperament, and awards her smiles freely to everyone around her.

Clementine was born in Wyatt, Missouri. She is the middle of seven children—four brothers and two sisters. Clementine does not like to reveal her birth date or her age. I can only say she looks decades younger than she is. Clementine graduated from Lincoln High in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1964, Clementine started listening to the Worldwide Church of God radio broadcast and subscribed to *The Plain Truth* magazine. She was baptized in 1969 in Indianapolis.

In past years, Clementine enjoyed making Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy dolls for coworkers as well as doing other crafts. Today her real joy is cooking and reading cookbooks.

The only indulgence she allows herself is collecting cookbooks. Often Clementine will take various recipes and make them better by combining or changing them.

Besides reading cookbooks, Clementine also enjoys reading classic literature. During the summer, she likes to plant flowers and maybe even a vegetable garden. Clementine also works doing general cleaning.

Although Clementine is soft-spoken and quiet, the warmth of her presence is always noticed. Not only is she a long-time member of God's family but also a dearly cherished member as well.

## Margaret Dick

When my youngest child was born, we were gifted with a perfectly crocheted baby blanket. As I unwrapped the tissue paper, my eyes dazzled at the beautiful colors and soft folds.

As I held the blanket up, it was apparent with the absence of flaws and with the excellent design that only an expert could have made this. I could not imagine the price of such a gift! Who could have been so generous? I was even more amazed to learn it was the talent of a dear friend and fellow member, Margaret Dick.

Although I had known Margaret for many years as the mother of a childhood friend, I never really knew she possessed such a talent!

Margaret can not only be considered an artist of crochet, but a true expert. Ten years ago she sold her first pattern to Grass Roots Publishers and it was published in *Quick and Easy Crochet*.

She has also sold a number of other original crochet patterns to House of White Birches, a local book and magazine publisher. Someday she would like to sell her pieces in gift shops.

Margaret was first introduced to the Church of God through her parents. In 1961,

her father listened to Mr. Armstrong on the radio while her mother subscribed to *The Plain Truth*. She attended



MARGARET DICK

occasionally for several years and was baptized in February of 1989. She was anxious to partake of the Passover.

Some members may not know that Margaret is a twen-

ty-one-year survivor of breast cancer. Even though she had young children at home during her battle with cancer, Margaret stayed positive and faithful; she overcame the disease. Margaret likes to give credit to the love and help of her family. Those who know her, however, know that love and help also pours out from Margaret to her family.

Margaret always speaks with pride about her 23 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is very happy when her seven grown children are able to live near her.

Margaret has always been a good listener, with words of encouragement to share. Her quiet manner of service is appreciated and adored by her church family.

Would you like to contribute to this newsletter?  
Just e-mail a note to [Laura\\_Scott@DRGnetwork.com](mailto:Laura_Scott@DRGnetwork.com).

## United in marriage: Zachary Moss and Melody Haley exchange vows

By Laura Scott

It was difficult to keep a dry eye during the beautiful, May 22, 2004, evening wedding ceremony uniting Melody Haley and Zachary Moss as husband and wife.

Melody is the daughter of Stephen and Delores Haley of Marengo, Ind. Zack is the son of Scott and Peggy Moss of Bluffton, Ind.

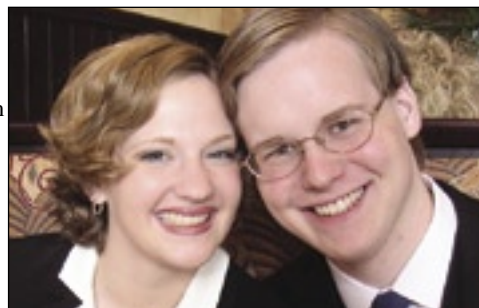
United in marriage by Mark Winner, pastor of the Louisville, Ky., congregation, Zack and Melody were surrounded by many family members and friends from across the country.

Bridesmaids were Jessica Frisz (maid of honor), Karen Sutherland, Holly Haley and Mandie Haley.

Groomsmen were Mitchell Moss (best man),

Kevin Myers, Andy Lausted and Dan Lausted. The flower girl was Sophie Meier and the ring bearer was Brian Scott.

Zack and Melody met



ZACHARY AND MELODY MOSS

at UCG's Ambassador Bible Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, where they were both students in 2003. Both are undergraduates at the University of Evansville where Melody is studying human resources development and Zack is studying pre-dentistry.

The happy couple attends in the Henderson, Ky., UCG congregation.

This issue's installment of "Meet the Members" focuses on two talented, yet quiet, widows

# Growing up in the church a real blessing for teen

By Tiffany Zimmerman

I know what it is like to grow up in the church because my family has been actively involved since I was born.

Sabbath services, youth camps and other church activities have been a big part of my life. I have studied and searched for answers to my burning questions about God and life.

I have planted the seeds of lasting friendships within the church despite age, race or gender. But do not think I have not struggled, that I have not questioned, that I have not doubted, or that I have not sinned.

At 16, I have come to the mature conclusion that I am immature and will be for a while. I realize that not truly fitting in at school and missing out on those Friday night activities is not really missing out at all because I am not missing out on God.

I realize experience in trials makes me mature, not experiences in life. James 1: 2-4 reads, *“Consider it a pure joy...when you face trials in many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature.”*

Making the volleyball team or making a reputation

for myself would never make me mature. One scripture that speaks to me personally is I Tim. 4:12, *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”*

I am not trying to lead you to believe that I do not struggle with growing up in the church. It’s hard to say no to my friends when they are going out together on Friday night and it’s hard to hear them talk about the fun they had the next Monday.

It’s hard to miss the homecoming game every year and it’s hard not having anyone who can relate with you when you are a week behind in schoolwork because of the Feast or other Holy Days. But God knows what you and I struggle with and He does not belittle that.

God does not ask me to do, or to attempt, things I am not capable of. And never, even for a moment has God let me struggle beyond my capacity. I have been tested; that is true for all of us; but I have never been forgotten.

I know that there is a reward greater than I can ever imagine. And that reward, if I continue to follow God, is for me. *“Rejoice and be glad...”* quotes Jesus in Matt. 5:12,



TIFFANY ZIMMERMAN

*“because great is your reward in heaven...”*

Prayer and knowing God will never forsake me is the only thing that has saved me from the world. I know God has something better in mind for me. I know that when the entire world seems against me, God is for me.

He has never forsaken me. He died for me. He is fighting for me. These are precious gifts I will cherish all my life.

Growing up in the church, in God’s way of life has not been easy. I know that my entire life I will struggle. I will struggle with myself, with the world, with Satan and with other people and with trials that are out of my control.

**BLESSED**—Tiffany Zimmerman, age 16, writes that her life growing up in the Church of God has been both a challenge and a delight. Her family has attended for three generations, all in the Indianapolis area. The oldest of three children, she has one brother and one sister.

I will struggle with letting go and I will struggle with holding on, but I will never struggle with loving God or with knowing God loves me.

Proverbs 18:10 assures me, *“The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are safe.”* God will be there when I call on Him.

I am blessed with amazing parents, a loving brother, and a sister who is my best friend. I am blessed with amazing teachers and ministers, and with a congregation of adults who support, correct and encourage me.

But most importantly, I am blessed with growing up in the Church of God and with a God who loves me.

**“I know that when the entire world seems against me, God is for me.”**

## Camp “UcanDo” to be Indy’s first pre-teen day camp

By Diana White

Hey, kids! Mark your calendars for July 6-8, 2004!

These are the dates for UCG Indianapolis’ first annual pre-teen day camp. Camp “UcanDo” will be held at the Indianapolis church hall in Greenwood, Ind.

This exciting day camp is for kids ages 4-11 and will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.

This year’s camp theme is, *“With God’s help, I can make a difference.”*

The camp staff’s mission is to give the kids an oppor-

tunity to learn Bible-based values, interact with teens and adults, and have fun in a safe, God-centered atmosphere.

We want to show them how they can bring God into all their life situations. We want the kids to learn that when they do this, they can make a difference in their church, families, schools and lives.

Each day will be filled with friends, activities and fun to emphasize this theme. The kids will be involved in interactive, Bible-based life application classes, outdoor

and indoor games, crafts and more.

Lunch and two snacks will be provided. We will also host a family barbecue on July 8.

Another goal for this youth camp is to have our teens involved in the success of the day-camp. Serving is one of the best forms of learning.

There is great joy in being a part of a service where God is the emphasis and His values taught through every action and activity.

Giving our teens an

opportunity to be involved with our younger kids through teaching and interaction is a way for them to:

- strengthen their Godly values through their own actions,
- build closer relationships with the adults who are also serving and
- build a stronger church family.

We are looking forward to hosting Indy’s first youth camp and hope you are too. Look for an update in our next issue of *United Family News*.

# “Keep your eye on the ball” wins essay contest

The following essay was written by seventh-grader Ryan McClure. Ryan attends the Indianapolis UCG congregation with his parents, Malcolm and Cathy, and siblings Jonathan and Rebecca.

After seeing a play on Jackie Robinson at Indiana Repertory Theatre with his class, Ryan entered a writing contest about the meaning of the play.

In one of the scenes, Jackie had just made an error. The fans were screaming angrily at him—screaming obscenities and racial slurs. Jackie stood quietly still.

After a moment, shortstop Pee Wee Reese walked out to Jackie Robinson and put his arm around Jackie's shoulder—silently saying, “He's on our team—take him on, you take me on too.”

Finally, the crowd went silent. One man's courage to stand up for his friend made all the difference.

Ryan found this scene very moving. He loves to write, and he wrote an essay for a contest they were having with the theme, “If you were faced with prejudice, what would you do?”

Ryan won the contest and a \$100 prize, and his school won \$350 for their theater department. Congratulations, Ryan, and thanks for sharing your essay with us!

## Keep Your Eye on the Ball

By Ryan McClure

“Keep your eye on the ball!” I can still hear my coach saying that over and over again in my head.

That sage advice is essential, not just in baseball, but in all of life. No one knew that better than baseball legend Jackie Robinson—the man who broke the color barrier in baseball.

Jackie Robinson had to keep his eye on the ball outside of the baseball diamond as well. He knew the tragedy that a loss of focus could mean for himself and the millions of people who looked on him as a role model.

It has been decades since Robinson faced those challenges, and still many of the

barriers he faced are present in our society.

There is a silent tragedy happening today in almost every classroom, in every school in America. It has nothing to do with drugs, smoking, alcohol, or violence, but it can be just as debilitating.



RYAN MCCLURE

It often goes unnoticed by teachers, principals and even parents. Yet, it is a silent poison drifting through school hallways like the elusive smoke of a smoldering fire. What is this tragedy?

Ask the boy who was the last one picked for the dodgeball team in gym, or the girl who cannot get a date for the school dance because she is overweight.

Ask the boy who enjoys working on computers, but has been called ‘weirdo’ or ‘geek,’ or the girl who has been shunned by the cheerleading squad and the most popular girl's party because she is not as attractive or doesn't dress in the latest styles.

Ask the boy who is Jewish or the girl who wears a bonnet and a dress because she is Mennonite.

They can tell you, as can I, what it feels like to be discriminated against. We all have faced prejudice at one time in our lives, though most of us don't face it every single day as Jackie Robinson did.

Jackie Robinson is famous for his strength of character as much as for his ability to play baseball. He was able to keep his eye on the goals he set for himself, and even a screaming crowd of angry fans could not force him to look away.

He knew that integrity gives a person inner strength. I agree with Jackie Robinson. It takes far more strength to walk away when someone has hurt you than it does to give in to the anger.

The ultimate strength is forgiveness. If you look on the other person with genuine love and concern, you will be able to treat them the way you want to be treated.

If you have that genuine concern, you will look on your tormentors with pity for they have not yet learned the lesson of inner peace. As my grandfather used to say, “Don't get into a stinking contest with a skunk. It's far better to walk away.”

Physical strength cannot begin to compare with mental strength. When faced with prejudice, it takes mental strength to keep your eyes focused on the goals you have set for yourself.

To stand against the prejudiced, the criticizers, and the evil of the world,

you must do three things. First, you must first develop the integrity to do the right thing regardless of the consequences.

You must know what is right and wrong. You must know it is right to treat others the way you want to be treated. You must know it is noble to forgive. You must know that accepting who you are gives you an inner peace that others cannot touch.

Second, you must surround yourself with people who believe in you, who encourage you, and who you can lean on in times of need.

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold and wings of silver” the Proverb says. Knowing who to turn to when you are down and discouraged can be essential in staying focused. Jackie Robinson knew that, as did Pee Wee Reese.

Finally, you must always review your goals, changing them if necessary. For if you see the big picture, if you keep your eye on the ball, not even a stadium full of angry screaming spectators can keep you from your goals—and a single classmate can't even come close.

Years from now they won't remember who was picked last in dodgeball, who was invited to a party, or what you wore, but integrity is long remembered and well respected.

Keep your eye on the ball.

“There is a silent tragedy happening today in almost every classroom, in every school in America.”

## An open Sabbath invitation

Would you like to join us for Sabbath services? We welcome visitors to both the Fort Wayne and Indianapolis services any time.

UCG Fort Wayne meets every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Perry Hill Elementary School, 13121 Coldwater Road, Fort Wayne.

UCG Indianapolis services are Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at 850 North Bluff

Road, Greenwood, Ind.

Maps to services are on our Web sites, listed on the front page of this publication.

If you'd like to talk with a minister, you can call our pastor, Darris McNeely. His number is (317) 882-2455.

Fort Wayne-area residents can call either Mr. McNeely or our local elder, Bob Borton, at (260) 693-9608.

We hope to see you!

# Meet the Indianapolis board of directors

By Tim Allwine

The Indianapolis congregation of the United Church of God established a local church board in May of 1995.

The board oversees the fiduciary elements and day-to-day operations of the local congregation. It does not have the authority to make decisions on doctrinal or spiritual matters.

The Indianapolis board is comprised of 12 members. The pastor of the congregation, Darris McNeely, is a permanent member. The other 11 members are chosen by the congregation and serve for three years.

Those terms of service can be renewed, and the terms are staggered so that only three or four members' terms expire each year. Regular board meetings take place every couple of months and are open to all members. The pastor can convene the board in between regular meetings if a more immediate decision is required on an issue.

## Freda Carlson

Mrs. Carlson is the secretary of the board and has been a board member since its inception in 1995.

Prior to being a board member, she was on the committee that drafted the bylaws for the local congregation.

As the secretary, she takes

forms as well as proposed amendments to the bylaws.

Mrs. Carlson, along with her husband, Brian, attended a Worldwide Church of God evangelistic campaign in the fall of 1973. They began attending Sabbath services together in January of the next year and have been attending ever since.

She is employed by the Monroe-Gregg School District in Monrovia. Currently she is the media assistant for Monrovia Elementary and the recording secretary for the Monroe-Gregg board of school trustees.

She sees great value in the board's ability to "allow members an opportunity to be active participants in promoting Church unity as well as practicing fiscal management."

Being on the board has taught her the value of consensus as she sees people of different backgrounds come together and work together.

## David Cobb

Mr. Cobb, 25, is the youngest member of the local board.

His parents were married in the Church, and he has attended the Church all his life and is very thankful to God for the opportunity to have been raised in His truth.

He is in the second year of his

board is that it allows the opportunity to be a "good and faithful servant" and "practical experience at being a good steward of the blessings God provides."

Being on the board has helped him to better understand the effort that goes into making a local congregation thrive. It has also taught him much about working with others and within a group to reach a common goal.

## Marge Dostal

Mrs. Dostal, 67, like Freda Carlson, has been a member of the board since its inception. She is currently the treasurer for the board. She is responsible for keeping track of tithe monies submitted to the local congregation and for disbursing those monies as instructed by the board.

Mrs. Dostal has been a member of the Church for 42 years and is employed as a legal secretary. She sees the great value in the board in its ability to develop leadership. As she says, "It is quite a responsibility to use God's money."

## Bonnie Harrell

Mrs. Harrell, 63, has also been a member of the board since its inception.

She began attending Church with her husband in November 1964 and was baptized in February 1965. She

(in Peru for example) or in helping our youth here in the local area, which are, as she says, "the future of the Church."

She tremendously enjoys the part she is able to play in that work as a member of the board.

## Doug Loveall

Mr. Loveall, 63, has been on the board for six years. A church member for 34 years, he is an ordained local church elder.

He is now part of a three-generation Indianapolis congregation family, as his daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter also attend in Indianapolis. He is employed as a purchasing manager.

He sees the development and growth of the members of the local congregation as the most valuable aspect of the board's existence. He has, himself, learned a great deal as a board member about collaborating with others to accomplish worthwhile activities and projects.

## Andy McClain

Mr. McClain, 34, like Mr. Cobb, has spent his entire life in God's Church. He was baptized in 1989 and has been a member of the board now for four years. He is employed in inside sales and customer service.

The board oversees the fiduciary elements and day-to-day operations of the local congregation.



Freda Carlson



David Cobb



Marge Dostal



Bonnie Harrell



Doug Loveall



Andy McClain

minutes in the board meetings and distributes those minutes to the board members, distributes agendas for upcoming meetings, maintains the congregation membership list and Church files, updates the bylaws as needed, and types, distributes, and tabulates board nomination and ballot

first term on the board.

Mr. Cobb very much enjoys the sense of ownership and participation in the local congregation that comes from being on the board and the feeling that he can contribute to the success of the Church in its mission.

The great value of the

works as a house cleaner for four families, one of whom she has been with for 34 years.

Mrs. Harrell sees a lot of value in the ability of the board to help others within the church, whether it be in other congregations in less fortunate areas of the world

Mr. McClain echoed the sentiments of a number of the other members of the board in why he believes the local board is such a valuable part of the local congregation.

He especially values the ability to quickly respond to unexpected needs, whether those needs might arise local-

ly or in another part of the globe. He also highly values the development within the local membership of leadership and decision making skills that come from being members of the board.

Mr. McClain also feels that he has learned a lot personally about the amount of energy and effort required to help a congregation function.

**Darris McNeely**

As our pastor, Darris McNeely holds a permanent seat on the UCG Indianapolis board. He also pastors UCG Fort Wayne.

After growing up in Cape Girardeau, Mo., he attended Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif., graduating with a bachelor's degree in theology in 1973. Upon graduation he married the former Debbie Detwiler and immediately took up their first field pastorate.

Over the past 30 years he has served churches in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and for the most recent 20+ years, in Indiana.

Mr. McNeely also serves as managing editor of the bimonthly *World News & Prophecy* magazine, and writes for *The Good News* magazine, both published by UCG.

He also is a guest instructor for the Cincinnati-based Ambassador Bible Center, chairman of the UCG Prophecy Task Force, and is

began attending with his wife in 1972 and was baptized in 1992. He has been a board member for three years.

Mr. Mincy consistently stays and serves to the very end of Sabbath services each week, making sure everything is properly cleaned up and put away after services.

He sees his selection to the board by the local congregation as a serious responsibility and has learned even more deeply the constant need to be good stewards of God's tithes.

**Carl Rothenbacher**

Mr. Rothenbacher, 33, is a software developer and consultant. He has been in the Church nearly all his life, as his parents started attending when he was very young.

He is the most recent new addition to the board, having served now for just one year.

Being on the board has given Mr. Rothenbacher real insight into what it takes to keep a congregation running, and it is not just those on the board that keep it running.

"There are so many people, both on and off the board, all contributing in some way for the benefit of the congregation. Everyone has a part to play (or two or three!)." He has enjoyed the part he has been able to play in that over the last year on the board.

**Rick Shabi**

Mr. Shabi, 50, is the chair-

man of the Church and the board, and works with the pastor to ensure the unity in purpose and direction of the board.

Mr. Shabi first began attending the Church when he was 10 years old with his parents, was baptized in 1983, and is now an ordained local church elder. He is the president and owner of a health-care management consulting firm.

When asked what he enjoys most about being a board member, he answered that he enjoys the "camaraderie with other board members at the meetings, the attitude of consensus and unity, and the opportunity to use knowledge and skills acquired outside of the Church in helping the local congregation conduct its business."

Mr. Shabi feels that being on the board over the last eight years has illustrated to him that when people work together in a spirit of service, much good can be accomplished and much growth can occur for all the members.

He believes that the most valuable aspect of the board's existence is the opportunity it gives local members to learn how to be "wise stewards" of that which God has provided to His Church.

**Mark Vincen**

Mr. Vincen, 45, is an electrical engineer and has been attending Church now for 23 years. He has been on the

board for five years.

Mr. Vincen enjoys the sense of camaraderie on the board, discussing issues with other people who also have God's Holy Spirit. He also enjoys the opportunity he has to play a part in decisions that will help the church (locally, nationally, and internation-

**Rick Zimmerman**

ally) and its members to grow and develop. Like others, he expressed the value of the board in helping all of us to grow as we are faced with more responsibility than we have ever had in the past.

Mr. Zimmerman, 37, is the vice-chairman of the board and is currently in his second term on the board. The job of vice-chairman is essentially to fulfill the chairman's responsibilities if the chairman is unavailable.

Mr. Zimmerman, like Mr. Shabi, began attending Church as a child with his parents, although it was about the age of four in Mr. Zimmerman's case. He is employed in technology sales. He very much enjoys the opportunity to see how the monies God provides the Church are used to do God's Work and to see how much goes on behind the scenes. His time on the board has taught him the value of consulting with peers in making decisions.

The most valuable aspects of the board, as Mr. Zimmerman sees it, are to give local members a true feeling of ownership in the Work of God and the ability of a local board to make more personal and practical decisions on behalf of the local congregation and its members.

For nine years the local board in Indianapolis has been faithfully serving the people of God.



Darris McNeely



Ron Mincy



Carl Rothenbacher



Rick Shabi



Mark Vincen



Rick Zimmerman

a presenter on the nationally viewed *Good News* television program.

The McNeelys and their two grown and married sons, Chris and Ryan, all make their homes in Indianapolis.

**Ron Mincy**

Mr. Mincy, 68 and retired,

man of the local Indianapolis board and has been on the board since 1996.

As chairman, he sets the board meetings and agendas, runs the meetings while ensuring that the congregation's bylaws and rules of order are followed, keeps the focus on the mission of

board for five years.

Mr. Vincen enjoys the sense of camaraderie on the board, discussing issues with other people who also have God's Holy Spirit. He also enjoys the opportunity he has to play a part in decisions that will help the church (locally, nationally, and internation-

For nine years, the local board in Indianapolis has been faithfully serving the people of God. The board is a diverse group, coming from varied age groups, professions, and backgrounds, yet selected and brought together by the congregation as a unified body in service to God.

# UCG Fort Wayne holds annual meeting

By Lori Hermann

The United Church of God Fort Wayne congregation held its annual general membership meeting on May 29, 2004, after church services.

This annual meeting is held to summarize to the congregation the church's and board's activities during the past year, and to review the financial statement.

Pastor Darris McNeely asked local elder Bob Borton to open the meeting with prayer, then he gave opening statements.

McNeely summarized why the UCG Fort Wayne church is set up as a separate corporation from our parent church organization, the United Church of God, an International Association.

He cited Acts 6 as a model of how our church functions. The New Testament apostles were not afraid to share their apostolic authority and directed the church to set up a council of seven to handle everyday matters, including finances.

McNeely feels that having its own board is teaching the congregation Godly stewardship in our preparations to be kings and priests in the Kingdom of God, and that our congregation grows in spirit due to the amount

of trust required to operate this way.

Board chairman Scott Moss then gave a slide show of the history of the UCG Fort Wayne from its inception in 1995 to the present.

He named several of the programs the congregation currently supports through periodic donations and participates in, including:

- The Hope Center of Berne, Ind.
- The Fort Wayne YWCA Women's Shelter
- Local sermon tape mailings to the *Good News* subscriber list in our area
- Local broadcast on cable access television of the *Tomorrow's World* program
- Quarterly publication of the *United Family Newsletter*.

We do this all locally to try to give a face to our congregation to anyone who is being called by God and to fulfill the church's mission of preaching the gospel.

Moss then reviewed another important activity of the local board and building committee, which was to continue to look for an alternate location in which to have our weekly services.

He turned over the floor to building committee member Mike Wolfe to discuss the cost of new construction.



**FISCAL PRESENTATION**—Treasurer Craig Scott outlines the Fort Wayne congregation's financial picture at the May 29 annual meeting. [Photo by Scott Moss]

Wolfe had gotten a building estimate for how much an "ideal" building would cost. The estimate came in about \$85/square foot for a 6,000-square-foot building complete with paved parking. The cost of land was not included.

Craig Scott, treasurer, distributed a five-year financial history statement that included the first ten months of this fiscal year's numbers. He then took numerous questions from the congregation on his report.

Scott then turned the meeting over to Joel Borton, congregation relocation committee member, who reviewed

what he and Lori Hermann had done over the past year in searching for buildings to buy or lease.

He stated that properties they had reviewed were not ideally suited to the congregation's needs or finances and that they will be continuing the search.

After a few closing comments by chairman Moss, the meeting adjourned.

*Share your thoughts about this newsletter—e-mail [Laura\\_Scott@DRG\\_network.com](mailto:Laura_Scott@DRG_network.com).*

Having a local board is teaching Godly stewardship in our preparation to be in the Kingdom of God.

## Hunter Swanson named school's "Most Valuable Citizen"

By Sharon Swanson

In Susan Mendenhall's 2003-04 first grade class at Sunnyside Elementary School in Lawrence Township, one student stood out from the rest.

Mrs. Mendenhall chose Hunter Swanson as her classes' "Most Valuable Citizen."

In nominating Hunter, she wrote, "'Doing the right thing' is a daily occurrence for Hunter. With a quiet, kind and gentle spirit he embodies truth and trust.

"He is always attentive and respectful and his work

and behavior reflects his personal best. Never has he voiced an unkind word to another student or adult.

"As a good Sunnyside citizen he is always picking up someone else's paper from the restroom floor. He has been a joy to have in class this year and he has worked hard to help make our classroom have a kind and caring environment.

"He has grown so much this year both in confidence and in his academic skills. He is so ready to be in second grade!"



**HUNTER SWANSON**

The Sunnyside Dad's Club Committee took the class winners and narrowed the field to one winner per grade level. Of 142 first grad-

ers, seven of whom were class winners, Hunter was the Dad's Club choice for the first grade Most Valuable Citizen.

Along with the winners from the other grade levels, Hunter received a Citizenship Award Nominee certificate and a \$75 gift card to Toys R Us at an awards ceremony at Sunnyside Elementary on Tuesday, May 25, 2004.

Lawrence mayor, Deborah Cantwell, presented Hunter with his award.

Hunter attends the Indianapolis congregation with his parents, Will and Sharon, and his sister, Haven.

Hunter, thanks for being such a wonderful light and example of God's way of life!