

Advent Conspiracy

con•spir•a•cy:
the act of scheming together to take action in harmony toward a common end

By Shannon Caughey
Senior Pastor

We're inviting you to take part in a conspiracy this Advent season.

The intent of Advent is to encourage us to celebrate Christ's birth—the arrival of the Son of the Most High, Immanuel, the King whose kingdom will never end. Instead, this season has become dominated by the materialism of our culture, not to mention the stress that goes with shopping, spending, and chaotic holiday schedules. The story of the Savior's arrival is about promise, hope, and revolutionary love...but this truth is being overshadowed and overwhelmed by consumer-driven messages.

What if we refused to give in to these messages? What if we plotted to resist the pull of materialism and schemed to not allow stress to characterize this season? What if we conspired together to pursue the true meaning of Advent? Christmas might just become a world-changing event again.

This is the idea behind "Advent Conspiracy," the series we are doing this Advent season. The Advent Conspiracy concept originated with a

handful of churches in 2006. Now more and more churches across the nation and even around the world are joining this movement (www.adventconspiracy.org).

Advent Conspiracy is built upon four themes:

- *Worship fully*—We need a renewed passion to worship Jesus fully—a conspiracy against the world's idols of this season.
- *Spend less*—If we conspired together to spend a little less on material gifts this Christmas, what might Jesus do with these freed-up resources that we now offer to him?
- *Give more*—Resist the demands that consume all our time during the Christmas season. Instead, follow Jesus' lead and give more toward building loving relationships.
- *Love all*—Jesus came to love people in all places and all situations. Following Christ undermines the world's "me first" mentality.

During the Advent Conspiracy series, we'll emphasize two practical ways to live out these themes. Our global emphasis will be our partnership with our Rafiki village in Malawi, which has a powerful ministry to vulnerable children, including some orphaned because of AIDS. Locally, we'll encourage each other to give time to building relationships

and serving those in need around us.

We're inviting you to take part in a conspiracy this Advent season. Join us as we scheme together and take action to truly celebrate Christ's birth and what it means—both for our lives and for our world. Christmas can become a world-changing event again.



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EVANGELISM CORNER

Advent Conspiracy Experiment

By Allen Wakabayashi

Associate Pastor

“Generosity happens when a person is living from a condition of abundance or when a person is moved by the needs of others.”

That’s what author James Bryan Smith says about generosity in “The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows,” (2009, InterVarsity Press). If I have 500 apples, it will be easy for me to give away dozens. Or if I see a child who is sad and poor, I would gladly give him an apple, even if I only have one.

What about God’s love? What will motivate us to share God’s love with a lost and hurting world? It is when

we experience the abundance of God’s love in our own lives and when we recognize the need for God’s love in the people around us. This Advent Season, as we jump into the “Advent Conspiracy,” let me invite you to do something:

Every morning, ask God to –

- 1) help you see and experience His love for you and...
- 2) help you see and recognize who are the people that need God’s love in your life (whether they are people that are nearby – like the neighbor next door – or people that are far away – like kids in Rafiki Village).

You may want to attach these prayers to a daily routine like brushing your teeth or having your morning cup of coffee to remind you to pray. Or use a calendar and just

put a little “X” in each day after you’ve prayed.

And then make sure to be on the look out to see how God answers your prayer! You may want to get into a daily habit at night to think back on your day, take note of how God’s shown His love for you, and give thanks. Or pull out that journal and use it as a tool to record how God answers your prayers!

In addition, try doing this with others. Maybe invite your Small Group to join you in this experiment. Or grab a friend to share in the journey. Meet up regularly for coffee to share stories.

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.” Psalm 67:1-2.

TREASURER’S UPDATE FOR OCTOBER 2009

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>		
Giving	\$ 63,862	\$58,166	\$ 5,696	Opening Reserve	\$126,988
Expenses	\$ 58,050	\$58,166	\$ 116	Change	\$ 5,812
Excess (Short)	\$ 5,812		\$ 5,812	Reserve Remaining	\$132,800

REFLECTIONS FROM WORSHIP

Just Worship

By Steve Jaeger

Associate Pastor

I write this as I'm preparing for a sermon in our Advent worship series. Notes and thoughts have been percolating in my head for weeks, and the brew isn't quite done yet. And even though you'll have heard the message by the time you read this, I hope you'll be part of some *ex post facto* sermon prep for the next minute or two. Because I need your help. You see, as I've been studying and praying, this has become one of the most uncomfortable sermons I've had to prepare.

Here's the deal. We've just wrapped up a semester focused on "becoming an influencing church," a church that is always "moving out" from our walls with an others-centered focus. We've been challenged to make "sinners and tax collectors" our friends and regular companions. We've been confronted with our elder brother hearts that judge outsiders and try to put God in our debt. We've been dared to feed the 5,000 with our own five loaves and two fish. We've been called out of our trees so Jesus can transform our wee little hearts into geysers of generosity. And we've even taken it to the streets with a Thanksgiving "service" for the homeless. It's been a pretty high-impact semester.

Now, of course, the challenge is for us to continue living this way. But what better time of year to encourage us to keep "moving out" than Advent and Christmas? God himself moved out of heaven and into our neighborhood. We who claim to know and follow him must do the same!

But here's what is making me so uncomfortable. I want *that* to be my celebration of Advent. I want to celebrate the Incarnation by incarnating Christ to those around me. But my Advent reality includes taunts and temptations to skip "moving out" and stay put. Sure, some of those messages press in from the outside. Our culture can certainly promote consumerism and materialism. But honestly, what else should I expect from a culture that isn't centered on Jesus? No, what is uncomfortable is that *I know Jesus*, yet I still detect those messages from within my own heart. They're crafty and indirect. They would never be so obtuse as to suggest, "Hey, forget the poor, go get a Jaguar." Instead, they lull me into a false sense of satisfaction that drowns God's love for the world in egg nog.

The prophet Micah wrote to people who were engorged with self-satisfaction. He prophesied during a time when Israel's interaction with the outside world was relatively peaceful. The result was prosperity that let the proverbial rich get richer with the poor getting poorer. And all the while, they claimed to worship and serve Yahweh. But Micah delivers the scathing indictment, echoed by others before and after him: you claim to worship me, but you don't know me. If you did, your lives would demonstrate it with justice for the oppressed. I don't want just "worship"—I want *just* worship. "What does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?" (Mic. 6:8).

That is what my heart desires at Advent: to show and tell the world that God broke into history to wage justice on sin, to demonstrate his mercy and to act out true humility. I want that. But in my egg nog-induced stu-

por I can find that, like Paul, "I do not do what I want to do" (Rom. 7:15).

But I've read the end of Romans 7, and it's there that I've found an answer to this gnawing discomfort. When I see how I fail to live out the Advent message fully, I need not be mired in guilt over my half-baked worship. Nor do I need to feel disqualified to call others to just worship. Because, "wretched man that I am, who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" The living presence of Jesus in my life is the answer to my self-satisfaction and the power that *will* push me out into the world to do the justice God requires.

Micah tells me the same. He prefaces his denunciation with a review of Yahweh's redeeming acts, telling the people to "remember...that you may know the saving acts of the LORD" (Mic. 6:3-5). Worship—just worship—starts with remembering and resting in what God has done for us. Worshiping the God of justice begins with acknowledging that the ultimate responsibility and authority to do justice rest with him. Yes, we work out that justice, but in the same way that we work out any other part of our salvation: by abiding in Christ, watching for where God is already at work, and moving there to let him work through us.

The call to just worship at Advent is clear and compelling. But it's fundamentally a call to a deeper knowledge of the God who put flesh on justice, mercy and humility. Know God more deeply this Advent, and as you know him, act like him.

Thanks for listening. You just helped write a sermon you've already heard.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

TCBC Kids are influencing our community

During November Discipleland (K-3) learned about cooperation: working together to do more than you can do alone. *We have a God who can take something which looks undoable and allows us to cooperate with Him and others to make it doable.* They learned about Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem as an example: "It had taken fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard the news and all the surrounding nations saw it, our enemies totally lost their nerve. They knew that God was behind this work" (Nehemiah 6:15, *The Message*). To help the kids learn how exciting it is to be a part of something undoable that God made doable, the kids were challenged to do simple tasks in order to 'earn groceries' to help stock the new food pantry at Greater Holy Temple, a church in north Urbana. The Champions (4-5th grade) joined them in this project. At last look, the pile of groceries was definitely growing on the Discipleland stage. Thanks to their sacrifice hungry children will have something to eat on their dinner tables.

"Soft, Sweet Hay"

The children of Discover Zone (PreK) are already beginning to learn the words to this simple Christmas song so they can sing it during the worship service on Dec. 20th. While they are so cute in their lamb and angel costumes when they sing, this song is a simple way to teach them the unusual circumstances of Jesus' birth – 'funny little place for a baby to stay'. Even at this early age, this age group is capable of understanding that Jesus loves everyone and he wants us to love him and love others. In Discover Zone, important Biblical truths are taught every Sunday morning in order to help lay a foundation for a growing and thriving faith.

Children's Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

You can help influence the faith of a child by serving in the one of the Children's Ministry classrooms on Sunday morning. The recent commissioning of Karen Hertz has left a hole in the Explorer classroom during second service. Karen was the lead teacher of the 2 & 3 year olds and will be greatly missed. Also two first service Explorer volunteers will be studying abroad next semester so they will not be returning after the Christmas break. Two and three year olds are capable of learning simple Bible verses and understanding simple Bible truths from the stories. They begin to learn to pray out loud in a group at snack time. This is a fun and busy classroom where little ones learn about God's love through the loving care of the volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about serving in this classroom or with other age groups, please contact Kay Miller by using the contact form on the website or calling the church office.

More Opportunities in Children's Ministry

Wee Ones volunteers – The nursery roster is growing. If you enjoy cuddling babies, you'll enjoy serving in this ministry.

Substitute volunteers in every classroom are especially needed during the holidays as our college student volunteers go home for break.

Substitute small group leaders for Discipleland (K-3) – minimal prep, lots of fun!

Even if you are not interested in serving in the classroom, your support and prayers for this ministry are always appreciated. Just as the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem looked "undoable" to the Israelites, the ministry to children is 'undoable' without God's help. With God's help, spiritual truths and foundations for faith can be sown and developed through the teaching of Bible stories and truths in the classroom. Your prayers for God's blessing on this work are priceless.

Kay Miller, Minister of Christian Education.



Building His Kingdom One Life at a Time

"...In whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

Ephesians 2:21-22



TCBC MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

Each month the Missions Committee will choose four TCBC missionaries to feature in the newsletter; three serving in cross-cultural ministry and one in campus ministry.

Scott Carson Serving with Evangelism Explosion in Chicago & Fiji



While presenting XEE at the Catalyst Conference in Atlanta, Chuck Swindoll shared 10 ministry lessons from his 50 years of experience. He opened with this unshakable quote: “when God wants to do an impossible task, he takes an impossible person and crushes him.” Even as I write this, I’m not sure what to think. If this quote is right, coupled with his 10 lessons from ministry, then these serve as finger posts along the journey pointing us in the right direction (check out the link on scottcarson.org to see all 10 lessons).

Looking back, I’d say the crushing started immediately and occurred often. When we first embarked on this adventure together, I thought that in six months I’d have all the support secured and shortly after be working out of the office in sunny Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Like lesson 9 states: “God’s way is better than my way. God is going to have His way.”

Moving home after college was a humbling experience. To me, moving home after college meant failure. To add to that, I had no real desire to ever step foot back into the high school I graduated from. Needless to say, the two years I spent substitute teaching at that exact high school only added to the feelings of failure and brokenness. All part of Swindoll’s sixth lesson he shared with us.

After two years and what looked like more at home, I was invited to move up to the Chicago-land area to be disciplined by Darrell Farney. The learning curve did not get any less steep, as I lived and worked out of a basement that was graciously loaned to me. It’s been an unregrettable season of learning from a man who’s devoted his life to pursuing God’s call.

Some days it’s tempting to believe that we haven’t made any progress over the last 4 years. Then I catch glimpses of how God has been transforming lives through our ministry and sit in awe of what God is allowing us to be a part of.

My season in the Chicago-land area is coming to a close as I prepare to move to Fort Lauderdale, FL shortly after Christmas. Please continue to join me in praying for wisdom as we start a new season in our ministry, and pray that our ministry would continue to bear fruit that remains.

I am grateful for your prayers, encouragement and support.

Terry and Donna Jeanne Schneider Serving with WorldVenture in Austria Currently on furlough in Wheaton

We would appreciate your prayers for us as we travel, visit with lots of friends and visit churches during their missions conferences. It is our prayer that we might be able to serve and encourage those we see. May the Lord bless this time in the States with all those we love here!

We will be on the road from October 6 through November 10. We are planning to visit five churches in that time.

Please pray for Jessica who will stay in Wheaton for school and for John and Julia who will be doing school as we travel!



Thank you for your prayers for our refugee friend who was staying with us. She was forced to go to a neighboring country, which was very frightening for her. We have not had direct contact with her since we flew in June, so we have prayed all the more, as we hear from others how she is doing. Please join us as we continue to pray that she will be allowed a new home somewhere where she will be able to worship her Lord in freedom and safety. We are awed by her commitment in the face of severe persecution.

Yes, we are now grandparents! We love it and are so thankful we got to see Joe, Katie and Jonathan soon after he was born on June 30th.

Please pray that the Lord would renew our strength and prepare us to return to Austria. Pray that our studies would go well and for special times with family, friends and churches. Pray that the Lord would help VCS resolve its current legal issues and for the Oasis ministry as it continues to share the Gospel. Pray too that the Lord would put on the hearts of more and more people in Austria to help the refugees.

TCBC MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH CONT. FROM P. 5



Gertrude Gammon
Retired missionary to South Africa
Currently ministering to seniors in Iowa

"Thus saith the Lord...my salvation shall be forever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished" (Isaiah 50:51). How we thank the Lord He helped Maxine to receive His salvation in a Cedar Rapids nursing home. She took an enrollment form to send in for a Bible correspondence course. "Thank you for coming!" she said smiling so. We thank the Lord for what He has done for us.

The lady coming from Texas did not have her book finished yet, so we did not have the book signing in Marion's Parable Christian Stores.

Please pray the Lord will guide:

- 1) In moving in quickly in Peoria (arriving November 2).
- 2) In which nursing homes to start visiting ladies in. There are 19 nursing homes in Peoria. I only visit in 6 nursing homes in Iowa, and I will be close to my brother and sisters!

Our Cedar Rapids Community College had a student from the Xhosa tribe in South Africa. She had been searching for Christians to fellowship with for eight weeks. "I am very pleased to speak to you," she said, and asked for my phone number. She came to the Lord at Port Elizabeth College in South Africa. She was happy to know of a faithful church in St. Louis where she was going, and to know about the Zulu Concordance for when she gets back to Africa.

In August the Lord helped to cut and fold tracts at a nursing home and edit and add other possible verses for a new tract the Christian administrator was writing. It is a joy to take two ladies from this home to church.

Kendra Dolk Serving with Campus Crusade for Christ



Wish you could have been here...

...at **Virginia Beach Summer Project** (May 25-July 11)

- when students wept during a learning exercise at the reality that many around the world have no way of hearing about Jesus and some committed to reach the unreached.
- when Alexis, a 9 month-old young believer sat in my room right before the staff were to leave and exclaimed, "I'm a completely different person than 5 weeks ago!" I thought, *Can you imagine what God will do in her life in the next 5 weeks after the staff leave and turn over the project to her and the other 74 18-22 year old students!*
- when I asked a middle-schooler and high-schooler what they thought happened after they died, and they responded, "I was just thinking about that question this week and it scared me that I didn't know the answer!" We walked them through the gospel and they both trusted their lives to Christ right there on the boardwalk.

...at our **National Staff Conference** (July 20-30) at Colorado State University with 6,000 other staff worshipping the Lord together and being encouraged through good teaching and stories of God at work all around the world and in every sector of life.

...during our **Fall Getaway** (September 25-27) with 258 students, including 85 freshmen and 13 international students! God moved mightily through our keynote speaker and Grace Seminary professor Matt Harmon.

These stories are just the tip of the iceberg! Thank you, thank you, thank you for allowing me to be here full time to operationally resource our team, expanding our capacity to reach more and more students for Christ! We are currently launching a movement at Eastern and doing the groundwork to hopefully launch a Campus Crusade movement at Southern Illinois University as well. May He continue to increase our capacity and get all the glory!

YOUTH MINISTRY



2nd annual Parent & Student Euchre Tournament

Saturday, Dec. 5, 4-9 p.m.
\$5 per team

First Prize- Tickets to a choice of sporting events up to a \$120 value based on availability (Cubs, White Sox, Cardinals, Blackhawks, etc).

December 13th: Youth Christmas Party

During normal small group time, 6-8:30

White elephant exchange! Start thinking about gifts!

Note about white elephant gifts: You can buy them, but don't spend more than \$15. You can get them from home, but no garbage please.



Jan 15-18 Youth Ski Trip

Cost around \$150. Look out for more details.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Karalee Grace was born to Erika & Neil Nelson on Nov. 2. She weighed 7 lbs, 12 oz and was 20 inches long.
- Mark Bradley was born to Katie & Brad Niemerg on Nov. 19. He weighed 6 lbs, 11 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Contact the church office at 344-0641 to place an item in the "Did you know" section of the newsletter.

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone at TCBC for the lovely flowers, cards and the continuing prayers and support.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 says: "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstance for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I give thanks everyday that God is with me through this challenging time and that he brought me to TCBC.

Joyce Smith

To our TCBC family,

Thank you for the plant in celebration of Karalee's birth. Thank you, also, to everyone who has volunteered to bring us meals. We are so appreciative.

Neil and Erika Nelson

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

December Worship Service Schedule

12/06 9:00 & 10:45 AM CF Classes & Worship Services

12/13 9:00 & 10:45 AM CF Classes & Worship Services

12/20 9:00 AM CF Classes/10:45 AM Worship Service

12/24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

12/27 10:45 AM Worship Service/No CF classes today.

This morning's worship will be a family friendly time that will allow children to remain in the service with their parents. The nursery, tiny tots, and explorer rooms will be open.

TCBC at empty tomb

Give something a little different this holiday season -- give three hours to serve those in need. Join other TCBC worshippers as we go to empty tomb, inc (301 N. Fourth Street, Champaign) on **Saturday, Dec. 5**. We will meet at empty tomb a little before 9 a.m. to pray and then split up to do clothing work, home maintenance, or furniture delivery. PLEASE call or email Sandy Lu & Fred Newport to let us know if you are coming. It helps in planning jobs if we know how many people to expect. Also, if you need a ride -- let us know and we'll work on that too! We always leave empty tomb uplifted -- from sharing with other Christians as we work, or from the work itself done "Free in Jesus' name."

"Night of the Father's Love"

Christmas Celebration

Come and Worship the Christ Child with us!

Sunday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." (John 1:1 - 5)

Salvation is created for all mankind as the Creator Himself became flesh and dwelt among us!

"Night of the Father's Love" will not only be celebrating the birth of the Christ Child, but will be focusing on what that means in the heart of each individual. Nearly 80 musicians and others from TCBC - the Adult

Choir, Children's Choir, and Orchestra, narrators and tech personnel - will raise their voices to challenge each of us. What will we DO with this "Jesus"? As we kneel at the manger as the shepherds did that holy night, will we receive Him as King of our lives? SOMEDAY...someday, our hearts will be asking, "What will HE do with ME?" The light shines in the darkness, calling each of us!

We invite you to join us for this evening of worship and to bring the person for whom you have been praying in our "Pray4:1" focus this fall, as well as others who both love the Lord and those who may yet be walking in 'darkness'! Come and worship, then enjoy a time of fellowship following the program! Childcare will be available for infants through preschoolers.

Dinners for Six

Develop relationships with others from TCBC during a potluck dinner every two months by signing up for "Dinners for Six." Each gathering is a chance to enjoy a meal with a different group of six. To join in, sign up by December 6 online under the "Dinners for Six" announcement, or on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

Second Sunday Prayer & Fellowship

Dec. 13 will be our next Second Sunday event. Starting at 5 p.m., we'll share a dinner together in the Fellowship Hall. **Families**—Please bring a favorite main dish. **Individuals**—Please bring a side dish or dessert. **Students**—You are our guests—just come to eat! After the meal, at 6 p.m., we will gather in the sanctuary for an hour of prayer. Children's Ministry classrooms will open at 5:50 p.m. with age-appropriate activities for infant through grade school children.

C-U Christian Women's Connection

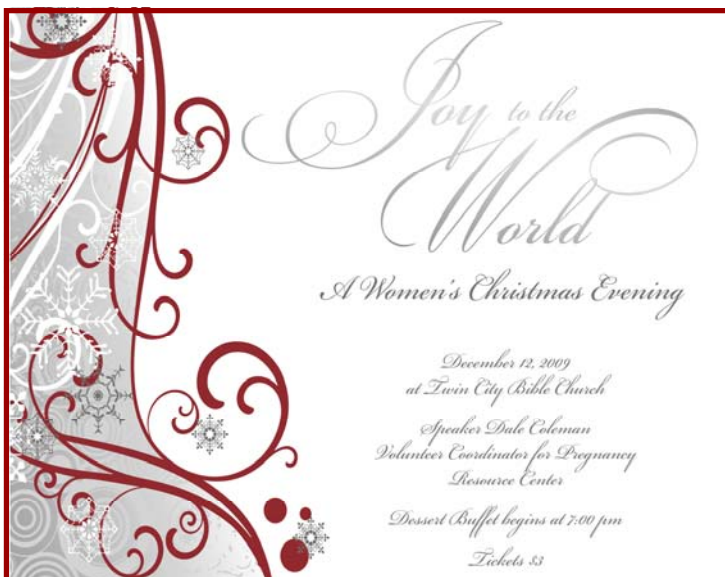
The next C-U Christian Women's Connection lunch will take place **Tuesday, Dec. 15** at the Round Barn Conference Center in Champaign. The guest speaker will be Linda Mullican of Marion, speaking on "New Hope for Life." The cost is \$12 inclusive and reservations should be made by Dec. 11 by calling #356-3186.

JOY Group December Potluck

Join the Caugheys for our December JOY Group Potluck on **Saturday, December 19th**. We will celebrate the Christmas season together for a noon meal at Shannon and Cathy's house. Please bring a sidedish or salad; the main dish and Christmas cookies will be provided.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING? (CONT.)

Remember to get your tickets for...



Gifts for Pregnancy Resource Center!

There will be a tree in the foyer with nametags containing gift ideas for kids served by the Pregnancy Resource Center. Take a nametag and shop for that child with the intent of spending \$30 for each child (you can purchase 1 gift or multiple gifts with that amount). Return wrapped gifts with attached nametag to the TCBC foyer by Sunday, Dec. 20 The Pregnancy Resource Center will distribute the gifts in time for Christmas!

Ignite

Ignite is a gathering for those who are passionate about evangelism and/or would like to grow in their passion for evangelism. The next meeting is from 6-7 p.m. on **Sunday, Dec. 20** in the sanctuary.

Visual Arts Ministry

Do you have creative gifts and are looking for a way to use them in corporate worship? The Visual Arts ministry is looking for some fresh inspiration for using the visual arts to enhance worship in the sanctuary. Please let Pastor Steve know of your interest and he'll help you connect.

Join the Choir

Students and Community Members - Do you enjoy worshipping the Lord in song? God gave us the gift of music to be shared and declared. We would love to see more students involved in the choir, as well as community members! Join us each Wednesday evening beginning in mid-January from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the

Sanctuary as we prepare our music for the worship services. We especially could use some women's voices!

The William Miller Scholarship Fund



Music professor William Miller (father of Bruce Miller and Nancy Jamison) had a desire to help and teach musicians to develop the gifts God had given them. This desire continues through a fund that was set up in his name as a memorial. Scholarship money is available to musicians for education, music camps, private study, instrument upgrade, or special projects. There is no age preference. Scholarship awards will depend on the need and how much is in the fund. Applications are available at the Ministry Opportunity boards in the foyer.

Gifts for Rafiki Village Children

This Advent season, TCBC is putting together their own version of Operation Christmas Child for our Rafiki village in Mzuzu, Malawi! We'll collect needed items for the children in our village and work together as a church to further build relationships with these beautiful children. More details to come during Advent!

Justice Institute

After a semester of studying ways that the body of Christ can "move out" into our community, do you wonder what our community's specific needs are? What can we do? Who can we help? Who needs to see the tangible evidence of Jesus' love for them? We want to influence Champaign-Urbana with the Gospel but how should we best do that? On Sunday evenings beginning in mid-January 2010, TCBC will be sponsoring a 5-6 week Justice Institute to address injustices occurring here in our community. There will be a series of seminars hosted by godly men and women addressing local justice issues and the role of the body of Christ. Along with the Sunday-evening seminars, there will be multiple opportunities for those who attend to participate in "labs" -- to get out in the community and serve in ways directly related to these areas of injustice. Registration closes Jan. 13, 2010. Please register to attend and plan to bring friends; the Institute is open to students, community members, parachurch organizations, and other churches! More information to come.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="margin: 0;">December 2009</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)</p>						
		<p>1 Pray for the Shepherding Council as they meet tonight. May the Holy Spirit guide their intercession for His sheep (that’s us!).</p>	<p>2 Pray for the International Women’s Connection. Pray that He would soften hearts & open minds to the message of salvation.</p>	<p>3 Pray for His guidance as we seek to wisely use what He has given us. Pray for the Business Administration committee.</p>	<p>4 As youth & parents have fun together playing Euchre tomorrow night, may God knit our families together in love & understanding</p>	<p>5 Pray for the choirs & orchestra as they prepare the Christmas concert: "Night of the Father's Love" for December 6th.</p>
<p>6 Let us set this time apart, putting the Lord Jesus above all, to redeem opportunities, to prepare hearts to receive the coming King.</p>	<p>7 Pray for opportunities for our missionaries to share the Gospel message as they reach out to others during the holidays.</p>	<p>8 May the Lord be present at the Ministry Board meeting tonight. Pray especially for new leaders to be empowered for the work.</p>	<p>9 May we worship our God in spirit & in truth. Pray for the Worship Committee as they meet today to seek His will.</p>	<p>10 Pray for willing volunteers to staff the children’s classrooms over the holiday break. Praise God for Kay Miller’s leadership.</p>	<p>11 As Finals Week begins at the University & Parkland, may our students be salt & light to those around them.</p>	<p>12 At the Women’s Christmas Evening tonight may the speaker tell of (& guests receive) the joy of God’s gift of salvation.</p>
<p>13 Pray that children attending Christian Education classes will understand the true meaning of Christmas.</p>	<p>14 Pray for the Social Action Committee to grow both in number & in the understanding of how He desires us to live out our faith.</p>	<p>15 Pray for those women who meet Tuesday mornings to study the Bible. Ask Him to speak to us through His word.</p>	<p>16 Pray for clear minds, good recall, health, stamina, & the right perspective for our students taking finals.</p>	<p>17 Ask God to provide wisdom & sensitivity to Missions committee members interceding for our missionaries throughout the world.</p>	<p>18 Pray for safety in travel as students return home & families reunite to celebrate Christmas.</p>	<p>19 As Christmas approaches, may we overcome the hype & frenzy and experience the wonder & joy of God’s miraculous gift.</p>
<p>20 Pray for God to ignite a passion for evangelism in all of us. Pray for the “IGNITE” group meeting tonight to be led by Him.</p>	<p>21 Thank the Lord for Janet Watkins & the Children’s Choir. May we continue to be blessed by the joy their music brings.</p>	<p>22 May the Holy Spirit anoint the Adult Christian Formation teachers & bless their teaching, giving fruit for their labors.</p>	<p>23 Pray for our missionaries & their families over the holiday season. Ask the Holy Spirit to comfort those who are alone.</p>	<p>24 As you anticipate the celebration of Jesus’ birth, reflect on His purpose in entering His creation. Pray for revival in our own hearts.</p>	<p>25 <i>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish...Praise Him!</i></p>	<p>26 Have you told someone about the precious gift God gave you? Pray for someone who has not yet accepted THE GIFT.</p>
<p>27 Thank the Lord for our pastors & staff. Praise Him that he has been faithful to us to provide godly & visionary leadership.</p>	<p>28 Pray for our brothers & sisters in Christ who face persecution for their faith. May God give them courage, strength & souls saved.</p>	<p>29 May God edify & unify TCBC through our fellowship gatherings in 2010. Pray for the team creativity in leading & organizing these times.</p>	<p>30 Pray for those charged with planning the future & “strategic plan” for TCBC. May we follow our Lord wherever He leads.</p>	<p>31 “Behold, I am coming soon.” Blessed <i>are</i> those... whom the Lord shall find watching when he comes... “Even so, come Lord Jesus!”</p>		

December Birthdays

Ron Angerer	12/01	Randy Bolen	12/10
Thomas Hayes	12/01	Sarah Day	12/11
Erika Nelson	12/01	Kaylin Dietrich	12/13
Rachel Rosset	12/01	Danny Dig	12/16
Sofiya Asher	12/02	James Krehbiel	12/16
Samantha Lewis	12/02	Diego Carrillo	12/17
Ruth Marino	12/02	Katie Hubbard	12/17
Bette Anderson	12/03	Kyra Althaus	12/18
Kathryn Powell	12/03	Jon Bryan	12/19
David Sides	12/03	Sofia Carrillo	12/20
Chloe Sparkman	12/03	Shelly Stearns	12/21
Brian Hart	12/04	Lesley Purnell	12/22
Tim Mininger	12/04	Anderson Smith	12/22
Carrie Thies	12/04	Lori Carrel	12/23
Lillian Tira	12/05	Diane Wakabayashi	12/24
Gabe Walder	12/05	Andrew Asher	12/25
Tyler Carrel	12/06	Kathy Brown	12/27
Shirley Doney	12/06	Andrew Mininger	12/28
David Risinger	12/06	Tito Carrillo	12/29
Pam Bloom	12/07	Rebecca DelVillano	12/29
Karley Klopping	12/09	Travis Loeschen	12/29
Zachary Lawton	12/09	Evelyn Koch	12/30
Micah Stearns	12/09	Amy Offner	12/31
Janet Watkins	12/09		

December Anniversaries

Jon & Thu Dietrich	12/02
Andy & Mimi Edwards	12/16
Norman & Katie Hubbard	12/17
Doug & Kim Mills	12/17
Thomas & Joyce Powell	12/17
Jeremy & Lara Canales	12/18
Travis & Elisa Knapp	12/20
Alan & Ann Lawton	12/22
Paul & Ruth Smith	12/24
Paul & Margaret McNamara	12/27
Tim & Kathi Rowell	12/29



**806 West Michigan
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