

March 13, 2009

Lindenwood welcomes new Interim Associate Minister



Lindenwood welcomes Rev. Johnny Wray to Lindenwood to serve as our minister of Stewardship through mid-June. Johnny is well-known in the Disciples of Christ as our remarkable leader of Week of Compassion. He has lead our churches into local, national, and global care of our neighbors.

Johnny's primary responsibility is to lead our mission and stewardship focus as well as timely and inspiring messages in worship. Pastoral Care is part of his ministerial passion and we will see him involved in hospital visits and member care. Johnny's experience in missions and the timing of his arrival will be of special benefit to our new COAT (Community Outreach Advisory Team) that is assessing Lindenwood's outreach ministries.

Johnny is typically present Sunday through Tuesdays. Stop by and introduce yourself to our newest minister.



This was a trip Johnny made to Darfur, Sudan in the fall of 2007 to visit the work WOC\Disciples were\are supporting to assist the hundreds of thousands of Darfuri refugees. Johnny is speaking with Matthew Mpitapita. Matthew is from Malawi and is a field director for Action by Churches Together (ACT). ACT is an international network of churches and church relief agencies, including WOC\Disciples, and is providing water and sanitation, health and nutrition, education, emergency relief, pastoral care, and agricultural services to hundreds of thousands people affected by the violence in Darfur.

Johnny W. Wray

Place of Birth: West Point, Mississippi

Date of Birth: March 17, 1951

Undergraduate Education: Millsaps College, Jackson, MS
B.A. Political Science

Seminary Education: Lexington Theological Seminary,
M.Div. Social Ethics

Congregations Served:

- First Christian Church, Paris, TN 1986-1992
- First Christian Church, Oak Ridge, TN 1978-1986
- Waddy Christian Church, Waddy, KY 1975-1978
- Cooper Road Christian Church, Jackson, MS 1969-1975

Week of Compassion Office
Director since October 1992

Responsibilities: Renew relationships between WOC and Disciples congregations, Represent WOC at Church World

Service, Action by Churches Together, Interchurch Medical Assistance, Foods Resource Bank, One Great Hour of Sharing and other ecumenical partners, Oversee day to day operations of WOC, Pastoral visits to disaster sites, projects, program and partners

WOC Related Travel: Afghanistan, Bosnia, Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Macedonia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, North Korea, Pakistan, Rwanda, Serbia, Sudan (Darfur) Switzerland, Thailand, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Previous Denominational Activities:

General Board and Administrative Committee; General Nominating Committee; Chi Rho Camp Director; Committee on Ministry, and Embrace the Future Major Gifts Director for Christian Church in TN

Avocations: Small farm in MS, reading, gardening, horse-back riding, biking and other outdoor activities

Family: Wife, Deborrah; Children, Matthew, Carl and T.K; Dog, Julep



MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5B



Dear Lindenwood Family,

Do you feel like that little kitten in the above picture? Are you tired of hanging on? Tired of all the myriad of changes that the past months have brought? Tired of living in a question mark? As an interim minister, I have observed that when significant difficulties arise in a congregation – for exam-

ple, a minister leaves, the church changes locations, some natural disaster brings damage and loss – church members often step up and, with great determination, do whatever it takes to keep the church going. There is a great intensity of energy and effort—but it can only be maintained for so long before folks start getting tired and worn out. Usually about this time, folks begin to realize that the “old” is really gone and changes are inevitable. Yet, the “new” hasn’t arrived, so it feels very much like living in a “disconnect,” a limbo land of uncertainty. Coping with these feelings during times of transition requires additional energy and effort and we start to tire out and feel a bit overwhelmed.

The best way to deal with this weariness is not to fight it but to accept it. If you’re feeling weary and worn out, please know that it’s OK to feel that way. Even Jesus got worn out with ministry and had to withdraw to a deserted place for prayer and solitude. If we don’t honor our weariness it often gets expressed in unhealthy ways –

in anger or resentment that leads to words or actions that we might regret. Sometimes it’s necessary to take a step back—be intentional about getting the rest that our bodies, minds and souls need. Taking care of ourselves is part of the faithful endurance that is so important during transition times.

Paul reminded the Christians in Rome that there was much to be gained by faithful endurance during times of suffering: “Endurance produces character, and character produces hope.” This speaks to me of the importance of the process that we are going through. We’re not just in a “holding pattern” – we are being formed by God into a community of hope. Even when we are faced with difficult situations and decisions, even when we’re tired and exasperated, God is working in us and through us, forming in us hearts full of divine love and hope that will never disappoint.

So, Friends, do whatever it takes to faithfully endure – rest, find moments of solitude, work hard, laugh a lot, cry, read Scripture, sing, pray—and together we’ll get through the going through with God’s help and hope. May God bless us all as we faithfully endure in the name of

Christ Jesus, our Lord,

Judith Reese

Dear Friends:

The many changes that we have experienced at Lindenwood over the last months have been challenging for all of us, but as the ‘senior staff member’ (OH, how that expression hurts!), I have found myself reflecting quite often on the church, where we were, where we are, and where I think we are going.

I came to Lindenwood as part-time organist in 1972. I quickly learned what a busy, vital place of ministry Lindenwood was, and it was only a few months later that I joined the church.

Five years later, I had graduated from college and was offered the position as the church’s first full-time Organist-Choirmaster. The ‘music program’ at that time was a 28 voice Chancel Choir, of whom nine were paid soloists. I accepted the position with the hopes that I could build a true multi-faceted, nationally recognized, professional quality program and then move on in 2-3 years. Well, as you know, those couple of years have somehow become over 30, and I can honestly say that I have never felt more blessed, fulfilled, creative and spiritually challenged and fed than I do at this moment!

Yes, these months have been filled with new, ‘uncharted paths’ for this church –there has not been a pulpit committee for over 35 years - BUT there is also a

spirit, a renewed purpose, an energy and quest for excellence that I have not ever experienced in my 35 years here. I am convinced that this church is on the verge of a true renaissance, and I am excited beyond what I can express as to what I know is in our very near future.

Obviously, in my 35 year career here, every moment has not been ‘perfect’, and, at some ‘more challenging times’ I have seriously considered job offers from other churches, both in Memphis and in other parts of the country. As serious and ‘right’ as some of these offers seemed, there was always a question that arose that caused me to realize that I did not need to move, at least right then. I now have no doubt as to why ‘a question’ always arose: I am meant to be here NOW, and I am so grateful that YOU are here, too, as we share this exciting, historic chapter in the history of Lindenwood Church.

I encourage you to join me in thinking through your spiritual journey, especially as you have lived it at Lindenwood, and then also join me in dreaming of the ministry that is bubbling and churning and will soon explode at the corner of Union Avenue and East Parkway!



Gary Beard

KIDZ XPRESS



We had over 45 kids and adults enjoy Children' s church Sunday, February 22. Sam Hurst and Jenny Montague did a great job in making the Bible story of Jacobs ladder a fun and meaningful experience for the children as well as adults. Several parents came to pick their children up early but stayed to see and enjoy watching their children participate in Children' s Church.



Spring Luncheon and Easter Egg Hunt

Please plan to attend the church-wide Spring Luncheon and Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 5. Lunch will be served in Stauffer Hall after the Sanctuary Service with the Easter Egg Hunt to begin at 1:00pm. We will also have crafts, door prizes, and the Easter Bunny! Please make reservations for lunch by calling the church office at 458-8506 or by emailing to church@lindenwood.net. Contact Eva Dye at 757-0127 or evadye@yahoo.com if you would like to hide Easter eggs on Sunday morning! If your child is planning to participate, please bring 12 empty plastic Easter eggs on the day of the hunt!

Lindenwood Life Saver League Sports "Observations From a Mother"

Spring is here. Baseball fans gather in warmer climates to watch their teams during spring training. Basketball fans dream of their team making it to the Final Four and football fans are still talking of last season's highlights and their hopes for next season.

And at the Lindenwood Life Center pre-school children are getting their first exposure to the world of team sports. David Johnson, "Coach David" has been teaching pre-school children the fundamentals of basketball, baseball and soccer for almost 15 years. Woven in those lessons are lessons about life, being a good friend and being a good "sport" no matter what you play.

We know because we have a 15 year old son who started his sports career under Coach David's loving eye. And we have a 3 year old son who for the last four weeks has woken up everyday asking if he gets to "pwactice" with Coach David today. When we tell him just a few more days, he resigns himself to working on his game at home. He knows without us telling him that "Coach David" is special and to be part of his Life Saver team is major league. In between our two sons, we have had two daughters participate in the Life Saver League. We could make a quilt that would cover the state with our Life Saver League t-shirts. The three oldest children regardless of their level of interest in the particular sport loved being a part of Coach David's team. Our youngest can't wait for the first official day of practice and the chance to participate in something that transcends sports.

The Weirich family has been fortunate to know Coach David. The Lindenwood family is blessed to call him their own. If you have a pre-school age child or know someone who does and you want a heart-warming way to spend Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 -6:30, give Coach David a call or e-mail him at david.johnson@lindenwood.net.

Amy Weirich
Lindenwood Child Care Center Parent



LIFE IN FAMILIES

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Tony & Chrissy White on the birth of their son, Henry Gann White born February 18.

SYMPATHY TO:

Ann McGuire in the recent death of her brother.
Jeff Brittain in the recent death of his grandfather,
Robert Waite, of Lincoln, AR.

Pastor's Class 2009

Beginning April 8, we will be offering a Pastor's Class for children in Grades 3-6. This class will meet on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. The children will make their confession of faith on May 17 and be baptized May 24 or 31. If you would like to sign your child up contact Cindy Franklin at 458-8506 or cindy.franklin@lindenwood.net.

Deacon and Elders - Duties and Expectations

Nominations are now being accepted for Deacons, Life Deacons, Elders, and Life Elders for the 2009-2010 church year. Below are the duties and expectations of Deacons and Elders. Nomination forms are available in the literature racks and need to be turned into the Church Office (Chairman of the Elders Box) by April 12.

DEACON - Duties & Expectations

The duties of a Deacon, according to the Constitution of Lindenwood Christian Church, are:

- Promote and pray for the growth and welfare of the church;
- Manage all programs of the church;
- Attend worship services faithfully (unless my job requires otherwise, or illness keeps me away);
- Prepare and distribute the sacraments of the Lord's Supper when assigned; (i.e., including maintaining the pew racks in the chapel and sanctuary; set up and take down the worship area for WOW when assigned);
- Support the church's financial needs as means allow, including pledges to Annual Stewardship and Capital Campaigns

Note: to be considered for nomination you must have paid at least 50% of your pledge by the time the Nominating Committee considers nominations in the spring of each year, or have called Alan Dunn to discuss your situation;

- Active involvement in a ministry;
- Participate in a spiritual growth group, such as a small group;
- Perform other duties as they arise; i.e., be enthusiastic and positive and be willing to serve wherever needed – and not wait to be asked to do so;
- Conduct your life in a manner deserving of the title; and
- Promote goodwill and Christian unity within the church family.

It is recommended that, if I haven't already, I complete

Classes 101-401.

ELDER - Duties and Expectations

The duties of an Elder, according to the Constitution of Lindenwood Christian Church, are:

- Promote and pray for the growth and welfare of the church;
- Provide spiritual leadership, in ways such as teaching Sunday School, leading a spiritual growth group, or leading a Bible study;
- Attend worship services faithfully (unless my job requires otherwise, or illness keeps me away);
- Preside in service of the Lord's Supper (i.e., pray at the Communion Table and serve Homebound Communion);
- Support the church's financial needs as means allow, including pledges to Annual Stewardship and Capital Campaigns;

Note: to be considered for nomination you must have paid at least 50% of your pledge by the time the Nominating Committee considers nominations in the Spring of each year, or have called Alan Dunn to discuss your situation);

- Actively involved in a ministry;
- Perform other duties as they arise; (i.e, be enthusiastic and positive and be willing to serve wherever needed – and not wait to be asked to do so);
- Conduct my life in a manner deserving of the title;
- Promote goodwill and Christian unity within the church family. (i.e., as an Elder, I understand that I am expected to be a "reconciler" in the church, when needed, and to share the faith (evangelism) with others). It is recommended that, if I haven't already, I complete Classes 101-401, plan to attend Elders Meetings on Sunday mornings (to pray for the services) and monthly Breakfast Meetings (unless my job requires otherwise, or illness keeps me away).

Bits of Memphis

Photography by Amie Vanderford
www.amie.org

Now Showing in Bell Conference Room - I photograph to document and process what I see, and to find beauty and positive attributes in what is right in front of me. My work reflects Memphis culture in all its glory, while also showing beauty in the mundane, whether it is through vivid colors or the way light and shadow affect a subject. I chose this particular collection of Memphis photographs because I want people to see things in my photographs that they've never noticed before and inspire them to think about the wonderful qualities of our fair city. Memphis often has a bad reputation to both those who live here and those who don't, but if I can change even one person's mind about negatively stereotyping our city, and also inspire them to work towards positively changing the problems we do face as a city, I will consider my work to be a success.

GO GREEN

If you would like to receive

"Life@Lindenwood"

through email,
sign up at

www.Lindenwood.info
or call the Church
Office at 458-8506.

A CORNER FOR PRAYER

Some Thoughts on Prayer



It is a well known fact that Prayer Changes Things! Any person who spends time with God in prayer will not remain the same person. One cannot consistently and sincerely pray without becoming a better person.

If you spend time in God's presence, opening yourself to God's will and God's direction you will inevitably become more like God wants you to be. You will become more Christ-like in your attitudes and actions. You will find the will and the strength to forgive. You will have courage to face the future unafraid. You will experience agape love that will empower you to go the second and third miles in doing for others.

I have a confession to make. I have known all my life about the importance of prayer. I know, for instance, that my grandparents and my parents prayed for me. I heard about prayer, read about prayer, listened to sermons or Sunday school lessons on prayer. However, I did not become serious and intentional about spending time actually praying until I began to face crises: sicknesses or difficult decisions. Then I knew the importance of spending time with God in prayer. Soon I began to feel a measure of guilt going to God primarily in times of need, so I began to thank God, and praise God. The more I did so the richer my prayer time became. It was filled with joy. I looked forward to time, just being with God, standing or sitting in His presence. Silence and solitude became very important to me.

When I reached the point in my prayer life that just being aware of God's presence was more important than my constantly verbalizing petitions and praises I knew I had reached a plateau and I longed to move on to the mountain tops in my relationship with God. I haven't gotten there yet. I may never reach that pinnacle but I want to spend my life trying. Will you join me? I pray you will.

Do I Make A Difference?

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Today, many are struggling, looking for hope, peace, happiness. Come, look at Lindenwood. The hungry are fed; children hear of Jesus and are on their journey toward an engaging relationship with God. Each week individuals, families, friends come to this corner in Memphis to seek knowledge, care, strength in faith.

Are you a teacher, small group leader, ministry or mission leader? You make a difference! Every part of Lindenwood fits intricately together to serve God and bring care, growth, and love to God's children.

Our Elders join in prayer every Sunday morning to pray for you, the church, that you will be strengthened, blessed, and renewed. Ask someone who has been in the hospital and received a card from an Elder letting them know they were prayed for today. Look on the faces of our children in Kidz Xpress as they gain greater understanding of God. Giving of ourselves makes exponentially greater differences in others.

March Birthdays

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|---|--|
| 3/1 - Corrie Herington | 3/13 - Katlyn Gouge |
| 3/3 - Roberta Schwarz, Monica Wagoner, Shirley Ostrander, Kate Floyd, Lydia Burks | 3/14 - Irma Scruggs |
| 3/4 - Brooke Wells, Paula Polite, Crystal Vinson | 3/15 - Lynda Tate |
| 3/5 - Jody Long | 3/17 - Brian Adams, John C. Kenny, Don Cox, Essie Allen |
| 3/6 - Felicia Tillman | 3/20 - Becky Gatewood |
| 3/7 - Rhiannon Halleron, Chuck Dille | 3/21 - Paul Johnson, Jordan Leard, Mallery Duncan, April Mallory |
| 3/8 - Evelyn Sprott, Jeanette Hettinger | 3/22 - Bailey Archey, Wanda Thornton |
| 3/9 - Tom Scott, Tammy Snyder, Haley Andre, Mike Clark | 3/23 - Bonnie Cameron |
| 3/10 - Faith Joyner, Bill Hough | 3/24 - Brenda Falcinelli, Brenda Evans |
| 3/11 - Norma Hopkins, Grace Crisman, Helen Ross, Jim Chaltas, Dave Ratzlaff | 3/25 - Ed King, Erika Keaveney |
| 3/12 - Brad Walden, Briana Moore, Stephen Farnsworth, Robert Palmer, Sara Adams | 3/26 - Anna Hough, Kelly Hogan, Molly Browne |
| | 3/27 - Kate Korzekwa |
| | 3/28 - Charles Seahorn |
| | 3/30 - Alisa King, Diane Bauman, Dennis Elrod, Anne McCollum |

A Word of Thanks

Thank you to each of you who baked cookies for Kairos, the men's prison ministry. Thank you also, Dot & Harold for taking the cookies to Heartsong for me on Monday.

Cleolyn Young

AGAPE CLASS

Please join Jerry Stauffer as he leads the Agape class on a spiritual journey through Romans on Sundays from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in Rm 202. If you're looking for fellowship as you expand your theological knowledge or need a safe place to discuss some of the more difficult concepts of Christianity (Omniscience, the Holy Trinity, predestination) then the Agape Class could be the Biblical resource you're looking for.



LIVES & MINISTRIES WE HONOR AND REMEMBER

REMEMBERING Life Quest Fund

Bill McKnight.....Teresa Ward
 Catherine W. Templeton.....Teresa Ward
 Mission and Ministries
 In Memory of Leroy & Martha Steen.....Cecelia Bell

HONORING Benevolent

Ken Harlan & Mary Beth Sclater.....John & Jean Kenny
 Music Fund
 Gary Beard & Chris Nemec.....Jim & Joy Coleman
 George Estok & Dare Pugh.....Carolyn Eggleston,
 Clifford Hardt, Frank & Lil Jones, Betsy Kelly, Sam &
 Kathy Price

DONATIONS

Benevolent.....Marian Cocke
 Minister of Music Discretionary.....Peggy Bishop,
 George Estok, Dare Pugh
 Mission & Ministries.....Jack & Dottie Blake
 Pantry.....Stephen Swords
 Sam Sal.....Bill & Anna Hough



Music at Lindenwood

presents

“And the Winner Is...”
 The Music of Broadway
 with

The Gary Beard Chorale, Orchestra and Soloists
Sunday afternoon, March 29 at 4:00

The Sanctuary

Music from Tony-Award winning shows.

Admission donation is \$12. For tickets, call the
 Music Office – 458-1652 – or order online:

www.acteva.com/go/winner

Connect with Your Board

It is important that our Board members hear from church leaders and members. You may contact the Board by writing to: Board of Directors, Lindenwood Christian Church, 2400 Union Avenue, Memphis TN 38112 or drop your letter in the Board’s mailbox located in the church copier workroom. Additionally you may e-mail the Board of Directors at BoardMail@Lindenwood.info.

Worship @

Lindenwood

8:30 a.m. Chapel

9:30 a.m. W.O.W.

in Stauffer Hall

11:00 Sanctuary

Service

2nd & 4th Wednesday

Healing Service

6:00 p.m. - Chapel

