

January 1, 2010

# Lindenwood's New Associate Minister For Youth and Families



By Lela Garlington

After interviewing a half-dozen candidates over four and half months, the associate search committee unanimously recommended hiring Indiana native Rev. Tyler Thompson.

Tyler, 28, joins Lindenwood as a full-time associate minister overseeing the church's youth and family ministries.

Over a series of telephone interviews and personal visits to Lindenwood, Tyler said he was drawn to the deep compassion he felt at Lindenwood.

"During my first visit, I witnessed the love within the congregation. While helping with the Angel Food Ministries during my second visit, I started seeing that love permeates outside the walls of Lindenwood," he said. "Lindenwood lives out my motto in ministries which is Micah 6:8 – to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Tyler explained, "It felt like home. There was this gut feeling that this is where I needed to be." Plus, he said, "I was raised to love and respect diversity. I needed to be in a place where there's diversity and a great deal of it."

Several search committee members say they were impressed with his outgoing personality, his self-confidence and his commitment to the youth. "I like his openness, his willingness to listen and his comfort and ease in interacting with people and in particular the way he connects with young people," said search committee member Lisa Moore. "I see him as being a life-long learner, and I think he encourages others to be seekers and learners which will be a great gift to Lindenwood."

Committee member David Seahorn added, "He's definitely a Disciple's minister. He's the type to say, 'Let's look for the common ground.' I like the fact that he is a thinker and intellectual." In addition, Seahorn said Tyler "will be the one to say, if I need to be at the hospital in the middle of the night, I'll go. I'm available."

Before the ten-member committee voted on Tyler, several youth church members were a part of the interview process. Their feedback proved instrumental in the committee's decision.

Although Dr. Ron Buck has the authority to hire associate ministers without the help of a search committee, he wanted the membership to be involved in the process. "By calling Tyler through the search process, he's not my associate minister; he's the congregation's associate minister," Ron said. "All the qualifications and characteristics that we had intended for this particular minister to have, Tyler has. I think it is a perfect fit."

Tyler was recently ordained by his home First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Vincennes, Indiana where he is a fourth-generation member.

He graduated in December with a Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. He earned an undergraduate degree in general studies from Texas Christian University.

For the past two and half years, Tyler has worked as the youth coordinator for the First United Methodist church in Vincennes where he planned, organized and led weekly youth group activities.

Prior to that, he spent a summer as a hospice chaplain in Ft. Worth, Texas and also served as an associate minister at Geist Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis. While at TCU, he was one of 50 nominated for its Outstanding Leadership award among the school's 8,500 students.

The most important part of his job will be getting to know the youth and the church's members.

His philosophy, he said, is simple: "The idea is that people want to know how much you care before they care how much you know. Some people think of youth ministry as a production; the more kids we have then the better off we are. I take a different approach. We are not called to produce numbers. We are called to discipleship and spiritual growth. It is a relationship model and a Biblical model."

Regarding Lindenwood's youth program, Tyler said, "I think the sky is the limit."

## The lighter side of Tyler

- Owns a shelter dog named Faith, an English Pointer mix
- Loves to sing, play guitar, golfs, jogs, bikes and lifts weights
- A Colts fan and a fan of anyone that plays the Yankees
- Loves sporting events and concerts



# MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER



Although it was a very busy weekend (Elders' Retreat, regular services, Maturity 201, Angel Food, Nemec & Kenny in concert), my mind kept wandering and I would find myself wondering how the week was going for the Rev. Tyler Thompson, our new Associate Minister of Youth and Family. I spoke with him by phone a couple of times on Friday. He is quite busy preparing for his move to Memphis and, I would imagine, he is quite excited about getting started in his new ministry. I know that I was excited seven months ago as I was preparing to move to Memphis and start sharing ministry with this wonderful congregation. It is hard to believe that seven months have passed, but in some ways it seems that I have been here forever. Part of the reason for that is simply that Cathie and I feel at home here already. My prayer is that six or seven months from now, Tyler will be able to say the same thing.

So, how can you, the members of Lindenwood, make sure that Tyler gets off to a fantastic start? First of all, pray for him. We Disciples usually like to do practical things, and those things can be wonderful. But begin with prayer. Pray for Tyler's transition, for spiritual guidance, and for congregational support. Pray that he will find the right balance between work and rest, between occupation and recreation. Pray that he eases into the routine here at Lindenwood. Alan Dunn likes to say that "Lindenwood stops for no one." He is probably right (he usually is). But that doesn't mean that its members and staff should never stop. Pray that Tyler is able to find a healthy balance between caring for our needs as a congregation and caring for his own needs as a minister and spiritual leader.

Pray for our youth group as they get to know Tyler. They are expected to put a lot of trust in him and support the activities that he envisions. Pray for Mary Beth and for Angie, and for all our wonderful youth sponsors and volunteers, as they share their vision for and experiences of the youth ministry at Lindenwood with Tyler.

In addition to prayers, give Tyler encouragement and give him some space. It will take a while for him to get to know you. After all, I am still in that process. So tell him your name often. Take some of his time, but not all of it, on Sunday mornings as he tries to meet people from the various worship services and Sunday School classes. Sometimes a friendly handshake, welcoming smile, and quick hello is all that is needed to brighten the day.

I hope that you share my excitement in welcoming Tyler to Lindenwood Christian Church. Our search committee performed well and it is my belief that they found the right person for the job. By the time you see this, many of you will have already met our newest staff minister. For those of you who haven't, just let me tell you that you are in for a treat.

Lenten Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Dunn".

## 2010 Pastor's Class

Our 2010 Pastor's Class began on Wednesday, February 24. Two sections of the course will be held – one on Wednesday evenings for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and one on Sunday mornings for those 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up. This year we are using the standard curriculum for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) entitled "Preparing the Way for Baptism and Membership." The pastor's class should do just that: it should prepare students to receive the gracious gift of baptism and to begin a new part of their journey as members of the congregation and the universal church. The course will examine faith, repentance, baptism, forgiveness, communion, and the Holy Spirit, among other topics. Elders and class members will form mentor/mentee relationships that should extend beyond the six weeks of the course. Pray regularly for our pastor's class members, teachers, and mentors. Thank you.



# Good Friday

April 2, 2010 - 5:30pm  
"Service of the Cross

The Seven Last Words of Christ"

Our guest Clergy...



The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher  
Church of the Holy Communion

G. Scott Morris, M.D., M. Div  
Church Health Center and  
St. John's United Methodist Church



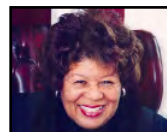
Msgr. Valentine N. Handwerker  
The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

The Rev. Dr. Stephen R. Montgomery  
Idlewild Presbyterian Church



Rev. Martha B. Wagley  
Pastor Emerita, Memphis First  
United Methodist Church

Dr. Cozette R. Garrett  
Program Director, Sustaining Pastoral  
Excellence, Memphis Theological Seminar



Mayor A C Wharton, Jr.

## Upcoming Membership Classes

Learn about Disciples, membership at Lindenwood, and maturing as a Christian. These classes will get you on your way to a deeper relationship with God and the mission and ministries of Lindenwood. Each class provides essential information, training, discovery of your personal gifts, and connection with ministries in the church. Check our web site [www.lindenwoodcc.com](http://www.lindenwoodcc.com) for details about each class.

Class dates are:

- March 14 – Class 301 – Ministry – Discover your gifts and talents and learn how to enhance your own personal ministry and the ministries of the church.
- March 21 – Class 101 – Membership – Learn about Disciples and what it means to be a member at Lindenwood
- April 11 – Class 401 – Mission – Live out your spiritual gift! Evangelism, Community Service, plug into the life of your church!

## Holy Week @Lindenwood

March 28 - Palm Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt  
April 1, 6 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service  
April 2, 5:30 p.m. - Good Friday

April 4 - Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service - 6:30 p.m.  
8:30 Chapel Worship  
9:30 W.O.W. Worship  
11:00 Sanctuary Worship

## Easter Eggs and BBQ! A Great Combination

At this year's Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, not only will you find lots of eggs but also lots of barbeque! We will be treated to a barbeque and hot dog lunch prepared by the "Jack of All Swine" BBQ team comprised of Lindenwood members! Please join us for lunch (at no cost) at noon on Palm Sunday, March 28 and stay for the Easter Egg Hunt at 1:00pm. If you would like to help with lunch preparations or hide eggs, please contact Eva Dye ([evadye@yahoo.com](mailto:evadye@yahoo.com), 757-0127).



**Thank you Sharron!** Sharron Johnson was recognized during the Sanctuary worship, February 7 for her love and dedication to the children of Lindenwood.

# Welcome new members



Jared Haney



Regina & Jimmy Jordan

Please welcome the following to our Lindenwood family:

Jared Haney comes to us by confession of faith. He works at St. Jude in marketing.

Regina Jordan comes to us by transfer. Regina is the wife of Lindenwood member Jimmy Jordan.

## LIFE IN FAMILIES

### CONGRATULATIONS

Gary Collins who was recognized for the volunteer who logged the most volunteered hours at the Memphis Botanical Gardens. This was from 636 volunteers.

Melissa and Pepe Salazar on the birth of their son Andrew Joseph Salazar, February 17.

### SYMPATHY

Steve Farnsworth in the recent death of his brother, Michael Farnsworth.

### THANK YOU

Dear Members of Lindenwood,  
Thank you, thank you, thank you for the very lovely donation. We are so pleased you have been so supportive of the Door of Hope. Your congregation has helped us in so many ways, on the board (Jerry Stauffer and David Brown), providing meals (Gina Dancer), with construction issues (Joe Williams), volunteers (Erika) and others. Again many thanks.

June Avyrt  
Door of Hope.

Thank you to everyone who baked cookies for Lindenwood's contribution to Kairos, the men's prison ministry.

Cleolyn Young

## Neighborhood Garden

Get your work gloves and work boots ready! The Outreach Ministry team is putting final plans on an action plan for the Neighborhood Garden project Lindenwood is undertaking this spring with MIFA. We need a host of volunteers to clear brush and debris, build raised beds, move mulch and topsoil, and get the site ready for MIFA's Estival Place neighborhood residents to grow their own fresh vegetables. Our first work days are scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 9 a.m.; Tuesday, March 16, 10 a.m.; and Saturday, March 20, 9 a.m. If you have a day or two (or more) you can help or would like more details, email: johnny.wray@lindenwood.net or sign up on the tear-off sheet during worship.



## Haiti kits delivered

The Outreach Ministry Team would like to thank the many Lindenwood members and friends for the superb response to the special Haiti earthquake appeal from Week of Compassion and Church World Service hygiene and baby kits. Graceland, Central, Decatur Trinity, Bethany, Collierville and First Christian in Tupelo, MS joined Lindenwood to provide 640 hygiene kits and 59 baby kits (valued at more than \$8000). Mike Lee from Graceland and Johnny Wray delivered the kits to the CWS warehouse near Little Rock, AR on February 16.



## A CORNER FOR PRAYER

By W. Harold Goodwin

At the Elder's breakfasts, we have been encouraged to discipline ourselves in daily prayer life. If we begin each day with scripture and prayer, we will grow stronger spiritually.

If, on the other hand, our prayer life is irregular and undisciplined we will experience very little growth spiritually, and we will be ill prepared to lead our congregation. It is my hope, along with Dr. Buck, that every leader and every member will take their prayer life seriously. Let's all accept the challenge to do so.



## Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, March 10  
Dinner @ 5:30 p.m.  
Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

Please make reservations for dinner by signing the tear-off section of the bulletin, calling the church office or online at [www.lindenwoodcc.com](http://www.lindenwoodcc.com).

## Journey to Bethany Retreat - April 16, 17, 18

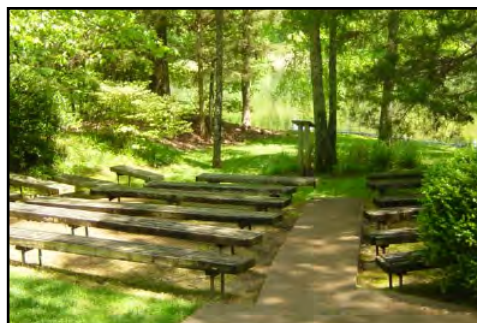


For thirteen years now Lindenwood has offered this forty-hour retreat for members and friends of our congregation. It has been an opportunity for adults to spend time in retreat, focusing their minds and hearts on some aspect of spiritual growth.

Themes for the weekend have included: "Wisdom Through Prayer", "Keeping A Sabbath", "Becoming A Whole Person in Jesus Christ", and "Deepening Our Faith." The theme for 2010 is "Benefiting From Daily Bible Study". On Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> Dr. Ron Buck will share three talks on this theme. Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. retreat participants will have a snack supper in the dining hall, then move to the conference room for our "New Best Friend" - getting to know each other exercise, special music and an old fashioned sing-along.

Saturday at 7:30 a.m. we will be in the chapel (hopefully the lakeside chapel) for morning devotions led by Rev. Harold Goodwin. From there, we will move to the dining hall for breakfast then to the conference room for the first two messages by Dr. Buck. Small groups at tables will take notes and discuss the talks.

Following lunch at 12 noon, we will return to the conference room for the third talk and table discussions. The remainder of the afternoon will include a nature walk, free time for fishing, volley ball, frisbee golf, tennis, horseshoes or just sitting and meditating or visiting while in rocking chairs on the porch and patio.



Saturday evening following dinner at 6 p.m. we will once again gather in the conference room to share by table groups what we learned from the three talks. After that and another brief sing-along, we will go to the lakeside chapel for a beautiful candlelight communion service, a quiet evening, and bed time.



Sunday morning devotions led by Rev. Goodwin will conclude by our going in silence to the dining hall for brunch. During the meal we will listen to instrumental music in silence reflecting on what the overall weekend has meant to us.

Register now to attend. Accommodations in the cottages are \$90.00 for the weekend and \$45.00 for Saturday only. Other, more luxurious accommodations are available this year. Call Judith Harris or Dot Goodwin at 767-2386/229-9033 or 324-3079/299-4181.

## LIVES & MINISTRIES WE HONOR AND REMEMBER

### REMEMBERING

#### Mission & Ministry

John Beard.....Jeanne Allen

### HONORING

#### LifeQuest

Harold Goodwin.....Paul & Carol Lawler

Kyle Creson.....Elaine Coppock

#### Minister of Music Discretionary

Virginia Wester.....Ed Hanna

Chris Nemece.....Ed Hanna

Gary Beard.....Ed Hanna

Ken Cummins.....Ed Hanna

### DONATIONS

Kole's Club.....Grace Copeland,  
Alan & Kim Douglas, Monica &  
David Skipper

LifeQuest.....Larry Kidd, David &  
Ann McCabe

Pantry Fund.....Jody & Kathie Gouge, Michael Johnson, Christy Leard, Walter White Open Door SamSal.....Jack & Dottie Blake, Larry Kidd, David & Ann McCabe WOW Media.....Neil & Roberta Schwarz  
Music Fund.....Jesse Johnson

### Worship @ Lindenwood

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

9:30 a.m. W.O.W. Worship  
in Stauffer Hall

11:00 Sanctuary Service

[www.lindenwoodcc.com](http://www.lindenwoodcc.com)

Office - 458-8506

Music - 458-1652

Child Care - 458-8687

Life Center - 327-5433

LifeQuest - 458-9966

## John Bennett and Noah



John Bennett Nutt portrayed Jonah during February, in and out of the boat.

