

threads

biweekly weavings of the community at Madison Park Church of God – March 2, 2010



Pastor's Column: A Little Q & A

by Jim Lyon, Senior Pastor

Okay, it's question and answer time. Some questions are out-of-the-blue (quite literally, as in

"Pastor, I was just thinking about the color blue and wondered if it had any theological meaning in the Scriptures..."), some are triggered by current events ("Jim, what do you think about climate change?"), and some are born in conversations with others ("In our small group last week, we talked about why the choir doesn't wear robes. Why don't they?"), and so on. All questions are welcome; thanks for asking.

Here are a few questions that have surfaced lately – with some answers, too.

Q: We've missed you at the School Board meetings in recent weeks, Jim. Have you lost interest in our public schools? After focusing so much attention on the Board, can you now just walk away?

A: It's true that I have not attended School Board

meetings regularly in recent months. I began attending them without fail in June, 2008. The last time I attempted to address the Board in a public meeting was in May, 2009. The last Board meeting I attended was in November, 2009.

I have concluded that attending School Board meetings is not productive, for any cause or for informational purposes. Little debate takes place in public, the rules of engagement effectively prohibit constructive give and take with "patrons" (that's what the Board calls those of us in the audience), questions posed from the floor rarely receive answers or follow-up – the whole present Board-meeting-in-public process is a sad and perpetual failure.

It does not have to be so. The Board could engage the public, governing our public schools in a way that would promote understanding and investment. But, the last two years of active participation have persuaded me that this outcome can only be achieved by electing new Board members.

continued on page 4



Overrun With Fun!

Zumba – to move fast and have fun – and that's exactly what happens when

women gather in Crossroads Auditorium to enjoy fitness and fellowship.

Zumba has created not only excitement about achieving long term physical benefits but an opportunity to invite family and friends into the facilities of MPC and open the door into children, youth and worship involvement.

Instructors, Natalie Farmer and Hillary Novak, sisters by birth and friends by choice, say they are, "passionate about women helping women," and have created an atmosphere of caring about one another. Free child care is provided. The 20-30 children enjoy the facilities of MPC and the fun with each other.

From the very first week about 70-80 women per class have attended, ranging in age from 10 to 80. Crossroads Auditorium is filled with high energy as they move to a combination of fast and slow rhythms that tone and strengthen the body through

aerobic fitness routines, creating an exciting workout that is great for the mind, body and soul!

MPC-goers have used this as an opportunity to invite family and friends to attend. Johnna Barnard, Director of Resource Development at Dove Harbor, has invited several women and comments, "It is an easy, fun, and excellent exercise and a less intimidating way to bring friends into the atmosphere of the church." She shares, "One family came to



Hillary Novak (left) and Natalie Farmer (right) bring Zumba to MPC

continued on page 4



Proceeds benefit ministries in Haiti

Purchase a drink or treat at Holy Grounds and a portion of the proceeds will benefit ongoing missions work in Haiti.

Come early or linger after the worship service to enjoy conversation and refreshments at Holy Grounds coffee bar. Visit MadisonParkChurch.org to view the full menu.

Open Sundays, 8:30am-11:30am
MasterCard, Visa and Discover accepted.

Sunday Services

9:00am and 10:45am
Worship in the Main Auditorium
The worship times in the Main Auditorium include the "Voices of Praise" choir, a blended set of traditional and contemporary music, prayer, and teaching from God's Word from Pastor Jim Lyon.

10:45am
Worship in Crossroads Auditorium
Crossroads Worship is open to people of all ages and features an eclectic, reflective and intimate worship experience, led by John Tibbs. Teaching from Pastor Jim Lyon is provided via video feed from the Main Auditorium.

Classes are offered for all ages at 9:00am and 10:45am. Visit the Information Center for a complete listing of all electives or visit MadisonParkChurch.org, Ministries page.

Easter Eggstravaganza!

Saturday, April 3, 1:00-4:00pm at Madison Park Church

Children in Fifth Grade and under are invited to a fun-packed Easter Eggstravaganza. Activities include an Easter egg hunt, face painting, clowns, crafts, inflatables and a photo with the Easter Bunny. See Easter Egg Hunt schedule below:

- 1:30pm: Age 2 and under
- 2:00pm: Ages 3 and 4
- 2:30pm: Ages 5 and Kindergarten
- 3:00pm: Grades 1 and 2
- 3:30pm: Grades 3, 4 and 5

For more information, contact Paula Spear, Children's Ministries Pastor.

Experience the Story

Palm Sunday Services — March 28

9:00am and 10:45am in the Main Auditorium

10:45am in Crossroads Auditorium

Sing hosannas and experience the ancient liturgy of Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphal entry through the Gate Beautiful into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday Service — April 1

6:00pm in The Commons

Experience a Passover seder meal similar to the one that was celebrated by Jesus and the disciples the night before his crucifixion and follow in his example of servanthood.

- Cost: Adults-\$6, Children and college Students (with ID)-\$4 (maximum of \$22 per family).
- Ticket on sale: Sunday, March 14.
- Outlets: Table in The Commons, during service times; Church Office, 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday – Friday.

Good Friday Service — April 2

Come and Go, 4:00pm to 9:00pm at Madison Park Church

Experience the passion of Christ through a moving and inspiring, multi-sensory experience, appropriate for all ages. The self-guided journey provides an intimate look at Christ's early life and ministry followed by a contemplative journey through the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, Pilate's condemnation, Christ's agonizing walk down the Via Dolorosa, to His suffering on the cross on Golgotha.

Easter Sunday Services — April 4

9:00am and 10:45am in the Main and Crossroads Auditoriums

Choose from four service options, each celebrating Christ's resurrection.

- Services in the Main Auditorium include a blend of traditional and contemporary music led by Pastor Steve Williamson, uplifting music from the "Voices of Praise" Choir, a live orchestra, and an inspiring message from Pastor Jim Lyon.
- Crossroads Worship, led by John Tibbs and a worship band, offers a powerful worship experience presented with multi-media and a distinctively modern edge. Pastor Jim Lyon will speak via live feed from the Main Auditorium.
- The nursery and Children's Center will be open for kids birth through kindergarten age. Children in 1st grade and above are invited to worship with their families.

News You Can Use

Adult Ministries:

Support The Troops: Sunday, March 7 at the table in The Commons. Register troops, families and volunteer at the Madison Park Troop Support Team display in The Commons. Volunteers are needed to pray, write letters and help with care packages. For more information, contact Jean Covalt at (765) 643-2278.

Reasons to Believe: Sundays at 10:45am, through March 28 in Room 179. This eight week series revolves around basic questions and responses from the Bible about what it means to believe in Jesus Christ, and living out the Christian faith. J.J. and Scott Wilson, Instructors.

Cream Filled Chocolate Eggs for Sale: MPC Students are selling chocolate covered cream filled eggs in five flavors: peanut butter, cherry, cookies and cream, mint and coconut. The handmade, 3/4 pound eggs cost \$6.00. Each egg is hand-dipped in milk chocolate and packaged in a beautiful, pastel box complete with decorative grass. All proceeds benefit the Student Ministries trips. Orders may be placed with any MPC junior high or high school student. Eggs will be available for purchase in The Commons on Sunday, March 14. Contact: Gretchen Olson or Eric Reeder, Youth Ministries Pastors, at the Church Office.

Zumba Fitness Classes: Tuesday and Thursdays at 5:30pm, and Saturdays at 9:00am in Crossroads Auditorium. Each class is one hour. Cost: \$5 per class. Free childcare! Learn more at www.zumba.com. Instructors: Natalie Farmer and Hillary Novak.

Volunteer Appreciation: Saturday, April 10 in The Commons. Enjoy dessert, fellowship and Lyrics and Laughs, produced by C.J. Phillips and Jill O'Malia. Contact, Marti Freeman, Volunteer Coordinator.

Singles Ministries

Singles Dinner and A Movie: Saturday, March 20 at 6:00pm in Crossroads Auditorium. Enjoy fellowship, pizza and a movie. The cost is \$5.00 per person. For more information contact, Sarah Trick, Director of Adult Discipleship and Education.

Senior Adult Ministries

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth): Thursday, March 18 at Noon in Crossroads Auditorium. All

Lighthouse Café

Enjoy a freshly prepared meal and mini-salad bar in The Commons: Wednesdays from 5:00pm until 6:30pm, just before our evening programs. Cost: Adults-\$6, Children and college Students (with ID)-\$4 (maximum of \$22 per family).

March 3: Roast Pork Loin & Dressing
Kids Option: Hot Dogs with Mac and Cheese

March 10: Coq au Vin (Chicken breast in cream sauce)
Kids Option: Chicken Fingers and Fries

senior adults are invited to enjoy this time of food and fellowship. Guest speaker will be Chris Smith, recently returned missionary from KIST in Kenya, Africa. Bring a dish to share. *Contact: Esther Crnkovich at (765) 649-3323.*

Children's Ministries

For more information contact, Paula Spear, Children's Ministries Pastor.

Pre-teen Fun Night: Friday, March 5, 6:00pm-10:00pm in Crossroads Auditorium. A fun night of pizza, bowling and ice cream, for preteens in grades four and five. Cost is \$10 per person. Invite a friend! Registration forms are available in the Children's Center, Room 192. *For more information, contact Kyle DeHaven at (317) 258-2003 or Paula Spear, Children's Ministries Pastor.*

Nosey Parent Sunday: March 7 at 9:00am and 10:45am. Come with your kids to their elementary grade classrooms. Experience with them as they grow in wisdom, faith and friendship.

Family Times Virtue Packets: Designed to give families a simple way to help kids grow in faith and character. This wonderful resource provides you with the biblical tools to reinforce what your children are learning on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. March's virtue is Honesty. Virtue packs are available in the Children's Center.

Student Ministries

For more information, contact Gretchen Olson, Junior High Ministries Pastor or Eric Reeder, Senior High Ministries Pastor.

Impact (Junior High)

- **Junior High Believe Conference:** April 16-18 in Anderson. A weekend retreat for all Junior High Students.

Ignite (Senior High)

- **The Cards You've Been Dealt** series, Wednesdays at 6:30pm in Crossroads Auditorium.
- **Spread The Word Offerings:** Goal is to raise \$5,000 for the renovation of the Church of God Youth Center cafe in Chelyabinsk, Russia.

Opportunities to Serve

To find a place to volunteer contact Marti Freeman at the Church Office or mfreeman@madisonparkchurch.org.

Telephone Touch Team: Seeking to build more personal communication and strengthen MPC relationships, a Telephone Touch Team is being formed to make

Connect, Grow, Serve

Looking for a place to Connect, Grow and Serve?

Check out the *Ministries Guide* at the Information Center or visit the Ministries page online at MadisonParkChurch.org.

quarterly telephone calls. Each volunteer will call about twenty MPC-goers, sharing information from Pastor Jim Lyon or one of the Pastoral Staff. This new ministry will begin in February. *Contact Marti Freeman, Volunteer Coordinator.*

MPC Landscape Informational Meeting:

Thursday, March 4 at 6:30pm at Madison Park Church. Help create an inviting first impression to the community and visitors. All persons interested in beautifying the MPC grounds and flower beds are invited to attend. *Contact: Rick Sprague at (765) 649-4114.*

Volunteers Needed to Make Chocolate Eggs:

Friday, March 12. Volunteers are needed to mix, mold, dip, box, set up, clean up and enjoy the fellowship. Students and parents are encouraged to sign up in Crossroads Auditorium for various weekend time slots. *Contact: Marti Freeman, Volunteer Coordinator.*

Donations Needed for Easter Eggstravaganza:

Filled plastic Easter Eggs are needed for MPC's Annual Easter Eggstravaganza. Please bring plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy, coins, stickers, or tattoos.

Donations may be dropped off in the Children's Center through March 31. *Contact: Paula Spear, Children's Ministries Pastor.*

Volunteers Needed for Easter Eggstravaganza:

Saturday, April 3. Volunteers are needed to make this outreach event a success! Positions include greeting, registration, helping with crafts, activities and the Easter Egg hunt. *Contact: Marti Freeman, Volunteer Coordinator.*

Annual Bazaar/Auction/Rummage Sale:

Saturday, May 15. Save items stored in your closet or garage for this annual event. Tax deductible donations will be collected at 2604 N. Scatterfield Road, Saturdays beginning April 10 through May 8, 9:00am-3:00pm. *Contact: Marti Freeman, Volunteer Coordinator.*

Front Door Ministries: A warm smile and friendly conversation welcome worshipers to MPC weekly. People are needed to serve on a Front Door Ministries Team in the areas of valet, usher, greeter, or in the Hospitality Room. *For more information, contact Shelly Stottlemeyer, Director of Front Door Ministries.*

Quarterly Team Meetings: Wednesdays, 6:00-6:30pm in the Hospitality Room.

- March 3 – Shuttle/Valet
- March 10 – Information/Hospitality Room
- March 24 – Holy Grounds

Family News

To submit a threads announcement regarding a birth or death, please contact Debbie McCafferty in Pastoral Care.

Congratulations to:

Matt and Tonya Dilts, who welcomed a daughter, Allison Grace, on February 23.

Linda Drennon, who welcomed a granddaughter, Nadia Belle Drennon, on February 15. Proud parents are John and Hope; great-grandparents are Jack and Margaret Tomlinson.

In Sympathy with:

Don Jackson and family at the loss of his sister, Helen Graig on February 21.

Debbie Harp and family at the loss of her uncle, Eugene Rollo on February 15.

Don Taylor and family at the loss of his brother, Ron on February 13.

Janice and Tom Flory and families at the loss of her daughter-in-law and his sister-in-law, Sue Flory on February 15.

Celebrating the dedication of:

Krosley Riggs, daughter of Ross and Natasha, dedicated on February 14.

Rejoicing in baptism with:

Krosley Riggs, daughter of Ross and Cindy Purky and Sarah Christian, both baptized on February 14.

Good to Know

Need Prayer? Prayer is a vital aspect of Madison Park Church's ministry to families, friends and community. Prayer requests may be shared with MPC's pastoral staff online 24 hours a day. Visit MadisonParkChurch.org and click on the "Need Prayer?" tab at the top of the page and complete the Prayer Request form. In the event of an emergency, call the Church Office at (765) 642-2000.

continued on page 4



Wednesday, March 17 at 6:00pm
in the Hospitality Room

Explore Madison Park provides the essential information you need to know before calling Madison Park Church your church home. The class answers questions such as who we are, what we believe, and our church membership process in a relaxed, fun, and interactive format. You'll meet others who are on the same journey as you and begin the process of getting connected. This class is offered on the third Wednesday of each month. Find details or sign-up in the Hospitality Room or online at MadisonParkChurch.org. *Contact: Shelly Stottlemeyer, Director of Front Door Ministries.*

A Little Q & A

Continued from page 1

Four of the seven seats will be on the ballot May 4, 2010. Consequently, I have redirected my time and energy to the Committee for Anderson's Future (CAF), a diverse collection of community leaders who share this in common: Anderson's schools (ACS) holds the keys to Madison County's future; the School Board holds the keys to ACS; it is time to place those keys into new hands. You can learn more by visiting the CAF website: www.andersonsfuture.com.

I want to believe the incumbent Board members are well-intentioned; I know they have made many sacrifices in their role. Still, it's time to put some new drivers behind the wheel. I believe I have a responsibility to remain engaged and to speak up for change.

Q: Is it true that popular author and radio talk show host Stephen Arterburn will preach at Madison Park throughout May?

A: Yes. And, we're very excited about it, too. Steve has long been a friend of the ministry at Madison Park. In conversations following our shared platform at the CBH Retreat at the Cove (last October), Steve and I have arranged for him to speak for five Sundays in May, each week exploring themes from his best-selling (and Biblically-grounded) book, *Healing Is a Choice*. Drawing from illustrations in the ministry of Jesus, Steve will help you wrestle with "ten decisions that can transform your life — and the ten lies that can prevent you from making them." Steve founded New Life Ministries (the nation's largest faith-based broadcast,

counseling, and treatment ministry) and Women of Faith (attended by over 3,000,000 women). He has appeared on Oprah, CNN, Good Morning America, in the New York Times, USA Today, and US News & World Report — always representing the healing Gospel of Jesus Christ, a voice for biblical values in a culture often detoured. He is one of the most engaging and insightful speakers you will ever hear. This is an outstanding opportunity for all of us to invite friends, business associates, family, and neighbors who otherwise would not consider coming to church.

It all starts Sunday, May 2 and runs through Sunday, May 30. Watch for new small group opportunities and curriculum to coincide with the series, too. And, yes, I'll be here, also — in the front row.

Q: Will we continue the new Holy Week events in 2010 that we introduced in 2009?

A: Absolutely. We were overwhelmed with the positive response to last year's Holy Week line-up — and, yes, you will see it again (polished, expanded, and improved) this spring. Palm Sunday falls on March 28; Easter is April 4.

In between, circle these dates now: Maundy Thursday (complete with a delicious *Passover Seder Meal*, as Jesus and His disciples would have enjoyed at the Last Supper), Good Friday (with the *Journey to the Cross*, walking in the steps of Jesus from the Last Supper to Golgotha — an unforgettable, incredibly moving experience), and Easter Saturday (with the amazing *Eggstravaganza* for children — not to be missed). On Easter Sunday morning,

included. Contact: Esther and Bob Crnkovich at (765) 649-3323.

Anderson Area Christian Men's Lenten

Breakfast Series: Saturdays from 8:00am to 9:30am at various locations: Men, of all ages, are invited to attend the breakfast series celebrating God's grace through fellowship, music, and inspirational Christian speakers. A free-will offering will be taken.

- March 6: South Meridian Church of God, 2402 Meridian Street, Anderson.
- March 13: St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1115 Pearl Street, Anderson. This service is highly recommended for children.
- March 20: St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 1512 N. Madison Avenue, Anderson.
- March 27: Elwood First United Methodist Church, 901 North 16th Street, Elwood. This is an open service, women are invited.

Anderson University Chorale in Concert:

Sunday, March 21 at 6:00pm at Park Place Church of God in Anderson. In its 64th season, the 45-voice Anderson University Chorale under the direction of conductor, Richard Sowers, has received national and international recognition for their many and varied performances. *More at anderson.edu.*

Employment Opportunity — Lapel Trinity United Methodist Church: Church Administrative Assistant to the Pastor.

Overrun With Fun

Continued from page 1

church the next Sunday and has not missed a Sunday since and the kids have become involved in the children and youth ministries." Several other families have visited MPC worship as a direct result of being introduced through this unique health and fitness program.

The class is offered Tuesday and Thursdays at 5:30pm and Saturdays at 9:00am. Each one hour class burns between 700-900 calories. Ten percent of the \$5.00 fee benefits various causes, such as Haiti relief.

Natalie and Hillary deeply feel that, "It's an opportunity for women to achieve health and fitness, an open door for women to feel comfortable and loved and families to feel welcome and involved at MPC." One MPC fitness seeker said, "I've been here from the beginning and didn't want to miss a minute — it's overrun with fun."

we'll be ready to celebrate the Resurrection with two services in the Crossroads Auditorium and two in the Main Auditorium, both rooms at 9:00am and 10:45am.

My page doth run short; my Q & A column must close for now. But, again, thanks for asking. See you Sunday.

Person must possess Christian values and a strong moral character with organizational skills and ability to multi-task. Thirty hours per week. Send resume and cover letter to Trinity United Methodist Church, 7th and Walnut, Lapel, IN 46051-0606.

Contact Us

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 2479 • Anderson, IN 46018

MADISON PARK WORSHIP SITE

6607 Providence Dr. • Anderson, IN 46013

SCATTERFIELD CENTER

2604 N. Scatterfield Rd. • Anderson, IN 46012
(765) 648-2080

CHURCH OFFICES

2200 Madison Square • Anderson, IN 46011
24-hour line: (765) 642-2000 • Fax: (765) 643-0976
Hours: M - F / 8:30am to 4:30pm

www.MadisonParkChurch.org

Good To Know

Continued from page 3

Two Part-Time Positions in Children's

Ministry: MPC's Early Childhood Coordinator and Elementary Coordinator are open in Children's Ministries. Submit resume and letter of interest to Pastor Paula Spear, Madison Park Church of God, P.O. Box 2479, Anderson, IN 46018.

800 @ 10 Initiative: The 800 @ 10 stewardship initiative is designed to support MPC's core ministries while retiring its debt. Eight-hundred refers to the number of giving units, or households, who give to MPC regularly or at a certain threshold. The initiative encourages every giving unit to give an additional \$10 a week until July 2012, when the balloon mortgage payment is due. This would provide an additional \$1,000,000 to keep MPC's core ministries healthy and growing while preparing for the payment. Support the 800 @ 10 initiative by giving during a worship service or give now at MadisonParkChurch.org. A small amount (\$10) received by large group (800) can make a huge difference for the good.

Worship Services Available on CD or

Cassette: Recordings of the 9:00am and 10:45am Sunday Worship Services in the Main Auditorium are available on CD or cassette. Orders may be placed at the Information Center for \$3.00; shipping is

