

INDIANA SOUTH WESLEYAN



November 2006



Dr. Mark S. F. Eckart
DIST. SUPERINTENDENT

November Schedule

- 5 A.M. Bloomington Central
Installation
P.M. Shelbyville Westside
- 12 A.M. Columbus Bethel
P.M. Edinburgh
- 19 A.M. Forest Hills
Afternoon – Homecoming
- 26 A.M. Poplar Grove
P.M. Church Visit

December Schedule

- 1 Pastor's Annual Christmas
Dinner at Orleans Family Life
Center
- 3 A.M. Brazil
P.M. Gnow Bone
- 10 A.M. Rising Sun
P.M. Wilmington Hills
- 11 DBA Christmas Dinner
- 17 A.M. Connersville
P.M. Church Visit
- 25 Christmas Day

Thanksgiving Blessings

by Rev. Marvin L. Hughes

As the fall season surrounds us in beautiful Southern Indiana, I ask myself the question, "For what am I most thankful?" Then I realize – where do I begin to express all of my thanks to the Lord for the rich and wonderful blessings in my life? In a world where loneliness and despair fill lives, the Lord has filled my life with meaningful relationships – with Himself and with others.

First, I thank God for the faith He has given me that has led me to my relationship with Him. As the apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy in II Timothy 1:5 of, "the genuine faith in your grandmother, Lois and your mother, Eunice, and am persuaded is in you also." It was my grandmother and mother that gave that light of faith for my early journey of faith. I was taken to Sunday school and church where my faith deepened under my Sunday school teachers' teaching and my pastors' preaching. Years at Bible College under godly professors and daily chapel services challenged and broadened my faith. My faith has continued to grow as I have seen God at work in the lives of committed believers, and as I, too, have committed myself to daily, early morning Bible study and prayer.

Second, my heart is filled to overflowing with thankfulness as I think of my family – both my Christian family and my immediate family by birth and marriage. They are an ever broadening

and growing blessing. Recently I was thinking about those in the Christian family who are close and I could call on in the time of need. As thought was given to this, the list grew and grew – what a blessing to have Christian family. Then I thought of my wife, children, grandchildren, sons-in-law and family by marriage that love the same Savior and with whom I plan to spend eternity. I am thankful for all these. As the Apostle Paul said in Phil. 1:3, "I thank God upon every remembrance of you." Bill Gaither expressed this thought simply but well when he wrote, "I'm So Glad I'm a Part of the Family of God."

Finally, for friends I am deeply grateful. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loves at all times." Potential friends are all around us if we show ourselves willing to be friendly. A Russian couple and their little son live near our home, and recently the father came to our door to borrow my truck. When he returned it a few hours later, he expressed that if I needed help, I should please call him. He handed me his business card with his phone number on it. His offer was genuine and their friendship important. A few days ago we had lunch with college friends of over fifty years ago. It was special to be able to spend time with those who have walked the walk of faith with us for so many years.

Continued on next page

Yet my closest friend is Jesus. I'm glad He is a friend to sinners, as Matt. 11:19 states, for I was a sinner and needed His redemption. As Joseph Scriven wrote, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." For faith, for family and for friends, I express a heart full of thanks at this season of the year.

NOTE: As many of you know, Rev. Hughes served as D.S. for eight years here in the Indiana South Wesleyan District. He has been a friend and mentor to me. He and Sis. Hughes have been very kind and helpful to the Eckart family. Deb and I are thankful for them and how God continues to use them effectively pastoring the Fort Branch Wesleyan Church.



GOOD NEWS FROM CONNERSVILLE!

Since we have arrived at our church in Connersville, IN, God has greatly helped us. Among many things, the church has turned the gas back on, fixed the church air conditioner, fixed several leaks in the church roof, put a new roof on the rear church entrance way, painted most of the outside of the church and painted about 1/3 of the church basement. We have done door to door calling, held special services, started paying the church budget for the first time in years, and we send 10% of all church income to missionaries. We are paying all our bills on time, and we have gotten rid of mold. We have also increased in size; new people have started coming; two new families have gotten saved. Praise the Lord!

Pastor Glendon Stroud

You are invited to attend their upcoming revival:
Connersville Grandview Wesleyan Church
December 3-10, 2006 - 7:00 PM nightly
Evangelist: Rev. Walter Bradshaw
Singers: Walter and Sharon Bradshaw

PASTOR'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

All Pastors, Associates, Youth and Retired Pastors and their spouse or guest are invited to attend the Pastor's Annual Christmas Dinner. It will be held **Friday, December 1 at 6:30 P.M.** at the **Orleans Family Life Center**. We will have a catered meal, music, entertainment and a great time of fellowship. Cost, including drink and gratuity, will be \$5 per adult and \$3 for children 10 and under. Someone has donated \$100.00 to be given away as a door prize. Looking forward to seeing you.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the **Marshall Lee Campbell** family. He was the father of **Rev. Don Campbell** who is the pastor at our Whitehall Church.

Our condolences go out to the family of **Dr. Virgil A. Mitchell**, General Superintendent Emeritus of The Wesleyan Church, who went to his heavenly reward Saturday morning, October 21. In 1963, Dr. Mitchell was elected General Superintendent in the former Wesleyan Methodist Church. In 1968, he was elected General Superintendent in The Wesleyan Church, serving from 1968 to 1984. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Mary Luck Parks Mitchell.

Do You Need A Year-End Tax Break?

If so, please remember all G.L.A.D. donations are tax deductible. Please mail donations to:

Rev. Gordon Tilley
 2450 I Street, Bedford, IN 47421

Ministerial Classes 2007

Expository Preaching
February 3rd and 24th

Professor:

Dr. Mark Eckart
At the Paoli Wesleyan Church

BIRTHDAY OFFERING FOR JESUS

The DBA has approved taking a **birthday offering for Jesus**. This money will be used to plant new churches and help bring health to some of our current churches that are struggling to grow. Please take an offering on Sunday, December 10th and send it to the District Treasurer marked accordingly. Thank you!

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SELF-DENIAL OFFERING 2006

Global Partners has a vision to equip leaders of the international Wesleyan Church with advanced theological education. These leaders do not have the financial means to obtain post-graduate degrees without our support.

The Training of Overseas Leaders (TOOL) scholarship program provides for educational, living, and travel expenses for these leaders and their families as they complete masters and doctoral level programs. To date, Global Partners has provided several hundred international leaders with TOOL scholarships; many have gone on to become national leaders of The Wesleyan Church in their home countries.

The Self-Denial Offering has traditionally been collected each November; however, it is adaptable to fit the needs and calendar of each Wesleyan Church. Your gift to Self-Denial 2006 will enhance the ministry of the international Wesleyan Church. With your help, Global Partners will again provide scholarships to more than 25 leaders representing more than

12 countries. To learn more about the Global Partners Self-Denial Offering, please visit www.self-denial.org. You can mail your offering to Global Partners, P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

SUPER SATURDAY

When I received word that **Rev. Richard Meeks** and his presentation of “**Refocusing the Church**” was to be the materials presented at the “**Super Saturday**” training event for Pastors and laypeople of the District on **Saturday, April 28, 2007**, I was elated. I went through the “Refocusing the Church” seminar last year at our Wesleyan Church Headquarters.

This is information every church will want to send a large delegation to. The information that Rev. Richard Meeks will present will apply to any size church. It is not something difficult to understand or to implement.

I believe every church wants to be renewed, revived, and see souls added to the Kingdom. This is not a program. It is information that is down to earth, practical and easy to understand, and if taken seriously, will change you and your church.

Pastors, if you and your leaders do not attend this seminar given by your district, and so inexpensive, you and your church will be the loser.

Rev. Bob England, Asst. D.S.



Above are the pastors' wives that met at Henryville, IN, for their annual fall gathering. It was a time they enjoyed while sharing together about how God is working throughout the district.

The inauguration & installation ceremony of **Dr. Henry L. Smith** was held on Friday, October 6th on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University. Dr. Smith is only the 8th President in the University's 86-year history. We are very grateful that Dr. Smith has been selected to this new assignment and believe that God is going to use him and his wife in a great way to advance HIS kingdom through I.W.U.



Pictured above is **Rev. and Mrs. Stilwell** standing in front of the newly renovated church at Otwell. Also pictured is the fellowship center. Rev. Stilwell did an outstanding job of overseeing the renovations of both the church and the fellowship center and both are debt free! Congratulations on a job well done.



CHURCH GROWTH REPORT

Church	Pastor	Sept SS '06	Sept. SS '05	Variation	% Gain	AM	PM	Wk Day
Austin	K. Wingham	17	12	5	42%	19	14	11
Bedford	G. Tilley	27	20	7	35%	35	25	18
Bicknell 1st	M. Reed	51	52	1	0%	58	37	46
Birdseye	D. Murphy	18	11	7	64%	14	14	0
Bloomfield Mt. Calvary	F. Collings	nr		0	0%			
Bloomfield Mt. Zion	M. Moore	nr		0	0%			
Bloomfield Southside	C. Thomas	nr		0	0%			
Bloomington Central	M. Linville	37	43	6	0%	44	28	17
Bloomington Shepherd	A. Hendershot	14	13	1	8%	17	11	9
Blue River	A. Marshall	23	24	1	0%	31	13	0
Boonville	E. Ames	32	26	6	23%	58	52	30
Brazil Jackson	TBS	24	27	3	0%	26	16	9
Carthage New Life	H. Weaver	0	8	0	0%	13	0	0
Clear Fork	C. Uebel	nr		0	0%			
Columbus Bethel	B. Carpenter	nr		0	0%			
Columbus Central	B. Miller	nr		0	0%			
Columbus Flintwood	W. Jones	54	55	1	0%	78	52	72
Columbus Ohio Street	J. Vandervort	33	44	11	0%	53	28	18
Concord	T. Whitham	35	29	6	21%	37	18	14
Connersville Grandview	G. Stroud	11	10	1	10%	16	0	0
Corydon New Hope	T. Bye	nr		0	0%			
E. Enterprise	R. Albring	nr		0	0%			
Edinburgh	L. Biddle	nr		0	0%			
English	P. Jones	43	55	12	0%	57	44	52
Evansville Forest Hills	M. Stoelting	134	143	9	0%	232	86	175
Evansville North Park	S. Boardman	77	45	32	71%	95	31	58
Evansville Trinity	TBS	26	45	19	0%	40	13	0
Fort Branch	M. Hughes	25	27	2	0%	34	13	53
Franklin	D. Neal	39	28	11	39%	52	36	34
French Lick Springs Val.	J. Moffatt	55	63	8	0%	133	58	46
Gnaw Bone	G. Armstrong	17	18	1	0%	21	15	14
Greenfield	J. Anderson	25	20	5	25%	37	17	15
Greensburg	D. Preston	nr		0	0%			
Greenwood	J. Hughes	0	0	0	0%	86	0	0
Holton	W. Vandervort	19	23	4	0%	22	6	8
Hope First	E. Boston	nr		0	0%			
Lawrenceburg	M. Kessen	nr		0	0%			
Lewisville Trinity	C. Stroud	nr		0	0%			
Lewis Creek	D. Gates	10	15	5	0%	21	0	14
Loogootee Mt. Zion	J. Simmons	19	18	1	6%	37	12	11
Madison Calvary	M. Mahoney	44	33	11	33%	68	39	34
Marengo	S. Lock	54	52	2	4%	97	47	55
Martinsville	K. Kearby	nr		0	0%			
Martinsville Bethel	J. Irvin	8	8	0	0%	8	0	6
Mecca New Life	C. Todd	nr		0	0%			
Medora	C. Morgan	32	37	5	0%	31	16	14
Milan	L. Brown	21	23	2	0%	29	15	6

Church	Pastor	Sept SS '06	Sept SS '05	Variation	% Gain	AM	PM	Wk Day
Mitchell	S. Jones	78	115	37	0%	188	98	127
Mooresville New Life	M. Linville	19	20	1	0%	45	24	18
Morgantown	J. Irvin	0	0	0	0%	0	9	0
New Albany Spring Ave.	N. Watters	24	17	7	41%	34	0	0
North Vernon	J. Terry	61	60	1	2%	86	45	22
Orleans	H. Carr	39	42	3	0%	50	28	16
Otwell	R. Stilwell	nr		0	0%			
Paoli	L. Manship	nr		0	0%			
Petersburg	L. Lamar	12	9	3	33%	12	0	0
Poplar Grove	J. Downs	17	15	2	13%	24	18	12
Prairie Creek	T. Fennell	nr		0	0%			
Princeton	D. Reed	31	34	3	0%	35	23	28
Rising Sun	J. Kelley	10	8	2	25%	11	0	6
Rodney	M. Miller	12	19	7	0%	15	25	10
Rushville	H. Baker	nr		0	0%			
Salem	S. Caniff	15	12	3	25%	20	18	9
Sandford	C. Hedden	8	10	2	0%	7	5	3
Scottsburg	P. Mills	7	12	5	0%	7	6	9
Seelyville	F. Burk, Jr.	nr		0	0%			
Seymour	I. Holt	24	28	4	0%	31	25	28
Shelburn	B. Noel	16	12	4	33%	16	0	0
Shelbyville Grace	J. Travis	53	61	8	0%	60	35	9
Shelbyville Westside	J. Farnsley	22	19	3	15%	25	21	15
Simpson Chapel	R. Brown	nr		0	0%			
Somerville	D. Brandon	46	42	4	10%	49	48	17
Spearsville	B. Bray	nr		0	0%			
Spencer	J. Knight	9	6	3	50%	10	0	0
Sullivan	G. Larimer	39	36	3	8%	45	42	41
Sylvania	B. England	47	55	8	0%	99	49	65
Terre Haute Faith	D. Gormong	142	151	9	0%	238	143	242
Terre Haute Hulman	D. Willis	nr		0	0%			
Terre Haute North	V. Reed	nr		0	0%			
Trafalgar	C. Hilton	7	4	3	75%	7	3	3
Valeene	D. Manship	10	21	11	0%	63	22	72
Versailles	D. Jewell	25	24	1	4%	26	12	12
Walker Chapel	R. Hendershot	21	18	3	17%	47	0	10
Washington Main St.	P. Kessen	0	0	0	0%	54	24	23
Washington Vincennes	J. Gilley	33	31	2	6%	34	29	21
Wesley Chapel	W. Wickard	36	38	2	0%	54	32	25
Westport	E. Wakefield	65	79	14	0%	77	53	25
West Terre Haute 6th	R. Weeks	20	27	7	0%	24	0	6
West Terre Haute 8th	P. Shelton	80	78	2	3%	69	52	38
Wheatland	K. Mitchell	11	13	2	0%	13	15	13
Whitehall	D. Campbell	18	19	1	0%	20	14	13
Wilmington Hills	D. Meriwether	19	0	0	0%	20	19	13
TOTALS		2100	2162	62	0%	3214	1693	1790

*NR-No Report

Top Ten Churches for Numerical Gain for September 2006

Church	Pastor	Gain	Church	Pastor	Gain
Evansville N. Park	(Rev. Steve Boardman)	32	New Albany Sp. Ave.	(Rev. Nathan Watters)	7
Franklin	(Rev. Don Neal)	11	Boonville	(Rev. Ed Ames)	6
Madison Calvary	(Rev. Monty Mahoney)	11	Concord	(Rev. Troy Whitham)	6
Bedford	(Rev. Gordon Tilley)	7	Austin	(Rev. Keith Wingham)	5
Birdseye	(Rev. Delbert Murphy)	7	Greenfield	(Rev. John Anderson)	5

Top Ten Percentage Gain for Sept. 2006

Church	Pastor	Percentage Gain
Trafalgar	(Rev. Carl Hilton)	75%
Evansville North Park	(Rev. Steve Boardman)	71%
Birdseye	(Rev. Delbert Murphy)	64%
Spencer	(Rev. Jim Knight)	50%
Austin	(Rev. Keith Wingham)	42%
New Albany Spring Ave.	(Rev. Nathan Watters)	41%
Franklin	(Rev. Don Neal)	39%
Bedford	(Rev. Gordon Tilley)	35%
Madison Calvary	(Rev. Monty Mahoney)	33%
Petersburg	(Rev. Lloyd Lamar)	33%

