

The Vigil

September 2008

A Communication Of The International Christian Community Churches



WHEN I WAS HUNGRY, YOU FED ME . . .

- Rev. Carlene Wood, Presiding Minister

As we watch the economy continue to sink into depression, we worry about and pray over all of those who are unable to adequately feed themselves and their families. Daily, I talk with working people who aren't making ends meet and with people who are desperately searching for work. Quite regularly, I talk with churches and individuals who are trying to meet the food needs of others. This month, I thought I would share with you what I've learned about some of our ICCC churches and the ways in which they are being Christ's hand extended to the hungry.

♥ Christ's Church of the hungry in several ways. Re-I noticed a food pantry with anyone in need. They also have to the Women's Resource Cen-They offer food assistance to uncommon for families to come of their reputation for being within the Hickory community.



Foothills, Hickory NC reaches cently when I visited with them, items that could be taken by a food pantry for contributions ter and the AIDS foundation. the general public, and it is not knocking at their door because such a giving congregation

♥ New Day CCC in Greer SC participates in Angel Food Ministries, not as a distribution site, but as a help to other congregations that are distribution sites. They often purchase boxes for those in need. In addition, they continue the southern tradition of "pounding" - when a need is made known to them, they have a pounding during

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A Word From The Editor

- Rev. Philip Maniscalco, Good Shepherd ICCC Pastor, Atlanta, GA

Summer is almost gone. You feel something different about the coming days. Labor Day is here. It is the last major holiday of the summer season. Vacation is just pictures tossed in a basket or a book left on a shelf. All the plans we had for summer: taking time for rest and relaxation, catching up on reading, spending more time with our spouse, exploring new possibilities, has come and gone. Many of the plans will be left to another summer. The sun rises and sets and now it is a new day.

September is the traditional beginning of church membership drives. It is time to get excited about who and what we are as a church. New Ads are created. Flyers are made. Special services are planned. Membership classes are created. Outreach has begun. Each church has its own special gifts. We know little about each other. Some churches located near each other may have developed a special relationship. Many of us find ourselves scattered about and

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CONFERENCE PARKING ? NO PROBLEM !

There have been several changes to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Atlanta. They have worked very hard to improve the property and make it more comfortable for guests. One thing will scare you when you get there. It is the parking lot! But have no fear, even though there is now paid parking, ICCC guests will continue to have FREE parking. Your room key is your way in and out. Atlanta residents and people who do not stay at the Crowne Plaza will need to let the Governing Board know they are not over-night guests. We will have stickers for you so that you can park free. Remember, if you do not notify us, we cannot help.

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When I Was Hungry, You Fed Me . . .

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which members bring food to fill the need. Poundings often occurred in American churches when there was a need and others brought "a pound of this and a pound of that" to provide staples for a hungry family.

♥ Christ First, Gainesville GA reaches into the hungry community in several ways. They are a distribution site for Angel Food Ministries, which offers families a way in which to purchase affordable food. They have an emergency food pantry at the church from which they supplement AFM boxes and provide emergency food to others. They are looking forward to expanding this ministry in the fall when they apply for access to state-funded food for families with children through the SNAP program. Because of the church's location across the street from a day labor pool, Christ First is able to provide breakfast to men and women seeking day labor. At their previous location they offered cooked meals to a men's half-way house and to local shut-ins.

♥ Holy Trinity ICCC in Montgomery, AL financially supports the food bank at Montgomery AIDS Outreach. Their monthly support of \$100 goes quite a long way to help feed persons with Aids and others.

♥ New Creation ICCC in Fletcher, NC provides a monthly financial contribution to Loving Food Resources, a local food pantry that serves the HIV+ community. The church is a distribution site for LFR boxes for individuals in South Buncombe and Henderson Counties. This fall, New Creation will begin a food pantry for church friends and members, as the need has grown tremendously due to rising prices, lay-offs and financial problems caused by illness and injury. Many people at New Creation grew quite a bit of their own food this summer, and a sharing basket remained in the church entrance for gardeners to share their abundance with those who needed food. This was especially welcomed during squash and tomato harvesting times because we all know how prolific those plants can be!!!

I suspect that this is not a complete list of what ICCC'ers are doing to feed the hungry. It makes me very proud to be in ministry with such carrying congregations and individuals. Christ calls us to offer food and drink, shelter and companionship, grace and compassion to the world around us. The need continues to grow, and we continue to step up to the plate (pun intended!). This is our spiritual work as we make known Christ's love for all, but especially for those in need. Thank you for being the hands and

A Word From The Editor

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alone. This will change as we continue to grow and as we become more familiar with each other. Working on denominational committees and boards will help us to do that.

Convocation is close at hand. Convocation is providing a way to help us know about each other. Each church is to bring a table screen with information about who you are as a church. Since we are all planning outreach this will be a great tool to use in the fall and at convocation 2008. Use this to tell the story of your church. Where you started and where you will be going. Tell your story by including your favorite church characters. Tell us of your victories and your disappointments. Use pictures to illustrate your stories. People who visit your church want to hear your story. It is in the story that their interest in you will grow and it will be a way for them to enter into conversation with you.

At Convocation your fellow churches want to know about you, too. You have had experiences that they may want to explore. Your successes and your disappointments may help them with their present experience. We are the experts for each other. This is what being a part of a denomination is all about. We support each other. We share our experiences. We support others in their struggles and rejoice with them in victory.

As Rev. Wood has stated, we are not alone in our journey. We journey together. Start now on your storyboard. Share with us your life in the city in which you were planted. Tell your story and learn the story of the churches around you. There is much to share.



Who Do You Say I Am ?

Convocation 2008

Crowne Plaza, Atlanta, Ga.

November 7-9, 2008

Featuring Mr. Jimmy Creech, Keynote Speaker



The Canaan Band, a new and exciting Christian music experience



The Voices of the Convocation Choir



Workshops including the new and exciting Faith in America, METLIFE

and their own GBLT presentation and many more to please you,

keep you informed and help you grow.



The Friday night GATHERING with lots and lots of food



Worship services Friday, Saturday and Sunday



**Don't be left out in the cold...experience the warmth of ICCC and the
overwhelming, incredible love of Jesus Christ**



GOD'S CHOSEN ONES MINISTRY

begins new worship in North Atlanta

Rev. Mena Johnson
is excited to announce the formation of
GOD'S CHOSEN ONES MINISTRY
meeting on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m.
at the Unitarian Church,
470 Candler Park Drive, NE
Atlanta, GA 30307.

This congregation is one of two churches planted by
Good Shepherd ICCC, Atlanta GA,
after their founding pastor, Rev. Jay Neely, retired.

For more information, please call (404) 454-1261.
God's Chosen Ones Ministry covets your prayers as they
embark upon this grand adventure with the Holy Spirit!

WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sometimes we do not realize how we can make a difference in our world and how connected we really are. Our Keynote Speaker for Convocation 2008, Mr. Jimmy Creech, served on the North Carolina Council of Churches from 1991 – 1996. During that time, the Council decided to study MCC for the possibility of accepting a LGBT denomination. So they “studied” Rev. Christine Oscar, who, at that time, pastored St. Mary's in Greensboro, NC.

Much to the joy of everyone, the Gulf Lower Atlantic District was accepted into the North Carolina Council of Churches and Rev. Oscar was the first openly gay person to serve on the Executive Committee. It was at this time that Rev. Oscar and Jimmy Creech became friends and worked together on workshops teaching other denominations how to be open and affirming.

The North Carolina Council of Churches was the first Church Council in the United States to accept a GBLT denomination. In November, we have the honor of having Mr. Creech, an individual who took a stand for what was right and honorable, and in our denomination we have the distinction of having Rev. Oscar, a person who made a difference for all of us.

When He (Jesus) noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, He told them this parable: “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this man your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 14:7-11



News From New Day Greer, SC

Child Haven will benefit from our missions project this month. We have collected school supplies to be distributed among the children who have a need. The collection includes book bags, crayons, pencils, notebooks and scissors among other items.

An Emmaus study group met at our church on August 16. New Day provided a meal and it was a very productive and beneficial time for those able to attend.

We also continue to participate with Angel Food, a national effort to provide low cost food items. Our church provides an Angel Food box one time a month for a deserving constituent and we are able to order boxes for ourselves and others we know all at a great price.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Social event Saturday, Sept 6: mini golf and cook out.
Sept. 20-21: Our Homecoming Weekend

Get Out Of The Boat Good Shepherd, Atlanta, GA

By Rev. Maniscalco

When crossing troubled waters boats are good. Well maybe not. Good Shepherd is stepping out from its old location into a new world. We have terminated our lease at the YWCA and have signed a lease for a new worship space. It is a good location and gives us an opportunity to move our mission forward. This will be our first step in a three-year plan. We are stepping out in faith. Many have suggested we wait another year but that is what we have heard each and every year since our founding. If this is what God wants we will move. So pray for us as we seek to start again. I want to thank all the churches for showing us the way. We have noted your good example and courage. It has encouraged all of us to move forward. When you are in Atlanta, I hope that you will join us in worship on Sundays at 11 a.m. at our new location at 619 Boulevard (the corner of Boulevard and North Ave.).

Emerging worship service at New Creation focuses on Arts and Community Service as worship...



New Creation ICCC Church welcomes diversity in participants

- ⇒ A new thing begins on Sunday, August 31 at 6 p.m. A new kind of church service known as "Emerging Worship" is added to New Creation's weekly schedule of spiritual worship and service opportunities available to the Western North Carolina community. People of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds are encouraged to come and share this spiritual expression and learning experience.
- ⇒ Emerging Worship is a movement which focuses on varying worship styles according to the needs of the community involved. Worship includes all of the senses...sight, movement, touch, taste, smell, and hearing. It includes conversational teaching, praise gatherings, experiential prayer, music and visual arts. Each week is somewhat different from the last. There is no established order of worship or formula.
- ⇒ Community service activities during the week connect the Sunday evening worshipping community with the larger world.

Several months ago, the Holy Spirit spoke to Anita and Jeanne Riley. . . "What about those for whom traditional Sunday morning worship doesn't work?"

Their love of art and music led them to study the Emerging Worship movement and to consider how to reach individuals who have no experience with traditional Sunday morning worship or who don't feel moved by such. Their passion grew, and **Mosaics** was born. It will include a very eclectic worship experience on Sunday evenings combined with weekly community service. Heartfelt service is an outcome of authentic worship, which connects us not only to God but to all of God's creation.

New Creation ICCC is excited about their opportunity to expand worship and share Christ with new people in new ways!



CONVOCAATION REGISTRATION FORM

November 7 – 9, 2008

Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport
1325 Virginia, Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30344
Vc: 404-768-6660 Fax: 404-766-6121
Email: cpatlantaairport@ichotelsgroup.com

Please Print Clearly

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone() _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Names of Children and their ages (under 12 free of charge, but must be registered for lunch)

Child _____ Age _____ Child _____ Age _____

Child _____ Age _____ Child _____ Age _____

Registration Fee: \$45.00 per person (children under 12 free)
Registration must be received by October 30th to include free lunch.

Amount enclosed: _____
(You may use one check for multiple registrations. Please mail all registrations together with check.)

Names of Registrants included in payment: _____

Hotel reservations must be made directly to the hotel. **Do Not Use the 1-866 number.** The discount will not apply. The room fee for the Crowne Plaza is \$85 a night. You must mention ICCC convocation to receive the group rate. The hotel number is: 404-768-6660. **Reservations need to be made by October 15th in order to receive the group rate.**

MAKE CHECK/MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO ICCC AND MAIL WITH COMPLETED FORM TO:

**ICCC – CONVOCAATION
PO BOX 178**



International Christian Community Churches



Interest Form

1. Helping Ministry at Convocation

I Would Be Willing To Help With: (please check)

Welcome/Registration _____

ASL Signer _____

Memento Sales _____

2. Special Music/Artistry at Worship Services

I am interested in sharing through:

Special Music: Singing _____

Other: (please indicate what) _____

Please indicate choice of selection and who we can contact to check talent.

Any special music should fit with the theme

Who Do You Say I Am?

Name _____

Contact information: Phone: () _____ Email: _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM WITH COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO:

ICCC Convocation
PO Box 178
Greer, SC 29652

Phone: 828-505-4306 Email: intlccc@charter.net



The Vigil

September 2008

Governing Board

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Asst. Presiding Minister: Ms. Sharon Lindenbaum
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Deadline: 25th of the month

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