



# The Vigil

A Communication Of The International Christian Community Churches



## A Message From The Presiding Minister

- Rev. Carlene Wood

### IT IS TIME FOR A DENOMINATIONAL FOCUS ON MISSIONS...

International Christian Commu-  
years in its growth and we need  
and different ways. Last month  
and the many ways that they  
people who do not have enough  
many other ministries as well,  
congregations are involved in  
tives of Christ. Still, something



I believe that there needs to be a  
national level. One of the rea-  
ger group is to allow us to ac-  
tual church might not be able to  
of passion for service in our churches, and by coming together we can share and nurture that  
passion, and we can follow the example that Christ has set for us. The need is extraordinary  
and there is no shortage of opportunities for ICCC to serve.

nity Churches is now several  
to look beyond ourselves in new  
I wrote about ICCC churches  
were meeting the needs of the  
food to sustain them. There are  
and there is no doubt that our  
their communities as representa-  
has been gnawing at me lately...

focus on missions at the denomi-  
sons we join together in this lar-  
compleh things that an individ-  
do on its own. There is a wealth

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Words From The Editor - An Editorial

- Rev. Philip Maniscalco

The world we live in does not seem to be secure. Greed has brought the USA closer to de-  
cline than ever before. Our parents survived the Great Depression. Only time will tell if we  
will be so lucky. What do we know about the depression? How will we react to mass unem-  
ployment and the loss of money and banks? How will those of us who have retired react to  
the loss of our savings placed in stocks and bonds? How will we use the collections to help  
others? Will we chose between our members' needs or the rent for the church? These are real  
questions that will come before us. No easy choices! We are all in the same boat and the  
storm is swirling around us.

We have little time to prepare. Can we provide food banks when the stores are empty, or  
clothing, or job training when there are no jobs? How will we handle depression and stress

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Our Lord Jesus

**No  
Other  
Name**

—

**No  
Other  
Way**

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## A Message From The Presiding Minister

*(Continued from page 1)*

It is important that those with a passion for missions connect with one another. Imagine what a powerful group this would be if one or two from each church with this passion were to get together to begin this dialogue! It is my hope that this will happen at Convocation, but I think that some pre-convocation connection would be helpful.

So, if you are a person with a passion for missions (domestic or otherwise) and would like to be part of this seed group that will determine our first mission adventure, please send an email to the ICCC email ([intlccc@charter.net](mailto:intlccc@charter.net)) and let me know of your interest. I will begin the connection by putting folks in touch with one another in order to make it easier to connect at Convocation.

I am grateful to the ICCC Governing Board for supporting this effort...there was a resounding, unanimous "yes!" when we discussed this. God is calling us in new directions, and I know that there are many of you who are willing to follow that call! Convocation will be a great time to begin this part of our journey together.

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## Words From The Editor - An Editorial

*(Continued from page 1)*

both for our congregations and ourselves? Most ICCC ministers survive on the salary of jobs we have outside of our pastorates. What choices will we be called to make?

Jesus says, "Never fear for I am with you." Because we are a people of faith we have a great advantage. We believe. We Christians will pick up our cross and journey forth. No matter what we suffer Jesus will not give us a burden we cannot carry. We as a people know that greed has affected all of our lives. We want things greater than our needs. We worship the fatted calf glittering in the sunlight. We are so blinded by our own wants that we have not seen the poor that have been in plain sight all along. With our rose colored glasses we see the shopping mall as our temple. Commercials have become our new dogma. Gotta have it! Gotta get it. We must have the latest electronic gizmo. Text message requires no interpersonal relationship. The world is given to us on TV without asking us to question what we are seeing. News no longer informs but entertains.

There will be a lot of preaching from the Old Testament in the next few months. An angry God is going to punish us. Angry fingers will point into the congregations and blame them for a world that has forgotten to care. All will be judged and threatened with punishment. But church leadership should not exclude ourselves as churches create comfort stadiums with big screen TV's and swimming pools. They create churches where people choose a church because of its amenities and programs rather than instruction into changing ones' life from consumer and exclusivity into servant and inclusivity. It's sad to think about, but blame must be assigned. Why? Every day we can experience change of heart. Jesus has not withdrawn his love. Even though he was human he did nothing to the disciple that betrayed him. Look how many times Peter disappointed him and yet he made Peter the head of the church. We have the opportunity to take off the rose colored glasses and look at the real world. We can look away from the Golden Calf and see what Christ sees. It is not as hard as we think. We have Jesus as our example. We have the love of God our Creator and we believe that the Spirit of God dwells within each of us. Remember God gives us choices. God does not choose for us.

I know that all of us are praying that God will somehow intervene in this financial mess. After all, Christ did drive the money lenders out of the temple. Above our own concerns we must prepare to help those that will be hurt by this example of corporate greed. I hope all of us will plan some time to prepare ourselves and our churches. By our example others may find courage.

Are we, the ministers of our churches, prepared to meet the crisis that looms before us?



# Canaan Band

IN CONCERT AT CONVOCATION 2008

Four years ago, Mel Wilkinson, David Lee and James Blanchard knew they had something special. The three strangers combined their vocal talents at a fundraiser and changed the course of their musical careers. Now the three have added the talents of Amy Black and Tami Gordon to fill out the sound of Canaan Band, which just recently put the finishing touches on its second album, *Shine*, due out in September. The Christian band is made up of three lesbians and two gay men. They rehearse at Christ the Cornerstone Church in Pinellas Park "The Land of Canaan is the Promised Land, and the reason the original Children of Israel didn't make it to Canaan was because they lost their vision, their dreams," says Wilkinson, who by day is a contractor at TECO Energy's human resources department. "I thought Canaan Band was the perfect name for our group because we want to share that God's love is for all of us, and we all are trying to get to that Promised Land."

The five members of Canaan Band are getting used to the varied reactions from churches, individuals and members of the GLBT community when they announce their Christian message along with their sexuality. But the band's outreach has opened doors and some minds. The group performs in venues as diverse as the band members themselves, from GLBT Pride events to mainstream Christian churches. "I get so tired of hearing gay people say that they can't come hear us perform in a church because they'll burst into flames," Lee says. "Give us a chance. Listen to the message and enjoy the music. We're not out to change any-one-only God can do that."



Tami James Mel Amy Dave

full-time musician says. The Gulfport resident had been part of the all-female group Karmic Tattoo before Canaan Band approached her about playing with them. "They told me they were a Christian rock band, and I told them, 'Good for you,' and went on my way," laughs Gordon, who considers herself spiritual but not religious. "But when I did finally listen to them, I heard 'Shine,' and it sealed the deal. I'm not a crier, but that song moved me to tears." Gordon then convinced Karmic Tattoo band mate Black—a network analyst—to bring her percussion skills to the table. "I was hesitant at first because I had done the church band thing before," Black says. "I grew up in a Methodist church, and 20 years ago, you just didn't play the drums in church. I'd maybe play twice a year: a patriotic piece on the Fourth of July and the timpani at Christmastime for Handel's *Messiah*."

When the quintet collaborated for the first time, the chemistry seemed to light up the room, the band mates agree. So far there has been a lot of interest in the upcoming release of *Shine*, Wilkinson says, and the new sound for the band is suitable for the radio, she believes. "Face it, you turn on any of the Christian radio stations and you're not hearing Southern Gospel anymore," Wilkinson says. "It's progressive, contemporary music, and that's exactly what we're doing. It just so happens we're a gay Christian band."

Canaan Band's musical style is more contemporary than Southern Gospel, Wilkinson indicates, and it instills

a message of acceptance, God's love and community. The 11 tracks on *Shine* have a different sound and feel than those on the group's first album, *Serious*. "There's a lot more collective writing, and our vocal bonds are tighter and stronger now," Blanchard says. "Shine came more natural to us than the first one, and we sat down together, talked and birthed each song and our ideas." That has made an incredible difference in the group's sophomore album, says Lee, who works as a financial analyst during the day. "It's a totally different sound for us, and adding a new guitarist and drummer has really brought us to the next level," Lee says.

The album's title track is what lured Gordon into the band, the

band mates agree. So far there has been a lot of interest in the upcoming release of *Shine*, Wilkinson says, and the new sound for the band is suitable for the radio, she believes. "Face it, you turn on any of the Christian radio stations and you're not hearing Southern Gospel anymore," Wilkinson says. "It's progressive, contemporary music, and that's exactly what we're doing. It just so happens we're a gay Christian band."



## HAPPENINGS IN HICKORY

Christ's Church of the Foothills has been busy having fun, building community and spreading the Good News. The church had a BINGO NIGHT in September, starting with a pot luck dinner and ending with lots and lots of Bingo games. October will be busy for us as we will have a FALL FESTIVAL and will spend a busy Saturday grilling and selling hot dogs and hamburgers at Wal-mart in Conover, NC.

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## Dear Fellow Churches of ICCC:

On behalf of myself, Chris Cobb, and New Hope International Christian Community Church, I would like to invite everyone to share in a denomination-wide cookbook endeavor. Our church has been compiling recipes for a few weeks to create a cookbook, but I felt this would be best suited for every church to take part in. We will have a book suited for any family with sections on appetizers, entrees, soups & stews, salads, breads, deserts, and even a section on preserves.

Anyone that would like to contribute recipes can send them to my email at [john\\_christopher\\_cobb@yahoo.com](mailto:john_christopher_cobb@yahoo.com). The deadline for recipe submissions will be Monday, November 24, 2008. If there are any questions that you may have contact me by email or by phone at:

John C. Cobb  
1616B Victory Street  
Remerton, GA 31601  
229-848-6636

## News From New Day Greer, SC

Hello again! Our September social event proved to be a great success. We shared and laughed and learned a lot about each other. Pastor Steve and Tim were the "hosts with the most" and treated us royally with a cook out at their home.



Of course, Rev. Carlene Wood inspired and challenged us with her message at our annual homecoming on September 21. We had record attendance and enjoyed an outdoor cookout complete with ribs and burgers. Thanks to our hospitality committee, the meal and fellowship were superb. The flower decorations were gorgeous. We are very proud of our little church and what we accomplish.



Upcoming events include preparation for convocation and collecting items for the Children's Haven to be delivered at the first of December. They will distribute the items as needed.



# WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

## CONVOCATION 2008

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2008

Crowne Plaza Hotel – Atlanta, GA

BIG, BOLD AND BOUNTIFUL!

FEATURING EXCITING WORKSHOPS

FABULOUS MUSIC

EXTRAORDINARY WORSHIP SERVICES

GREAT FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Hotel Reservations **MUST** be made before **Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Call 404-768-6660**

*Remember to say this is for the ICCA Convocation  
in order to obtain the Group Rate*

**DO NOT DELAY - CALL TODAY**

The cut-off day is almost here - do not miss out  
on an incredible experience and joy beyond measure!



# The Vigil

October 2008

## **Governing Board**

Presiding Minister: Rev. Carlene Wood  
Asst. Presiding Minister: Ms. Sharon Lindenbaum  
Clerk of the Board: Vacant  
Treasurer: Rev. Steve Garrett; Vigil Liaison  
At-Large: Vacant  
At-Large: Rev. David Strong  
At-Large: Rev. Linda Simonds; Web Liaison

## **Emmaus Institute**

Director: Rev. Linda Veltheim

## **Board Of Ministry**

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Mr. Alan Hathcock

## **Vigil Editor:**

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**Deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month**

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