



GO

A ROYAL INVITATION

By Abby DuBois

Hello Friends! My husband, Mark, and I and our four daughters are new members of WFC, and I would like to extend to you a **Royal Invitation to enter the Great Story:**

Come you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world." Matt.25:34

Did you know that we were designed by our Creator to be His children; that we have *royal* calling on our lives? When we place our faith in Christ the King, we become members of the Kingdom! We belong to a King who is able to make mountains sing, trees sing for joy, rivers clap, and stones cry out. He chooses us and gives us life! In Him, we find our purpose:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

Our purpose in the Kingdom is to declare the praises of our King! I've known the purpose of my life for many years, but when I received the gift of our first sweet baby girl, this calling took on an entirely more relevant meaning to me. I realized I had many areas of darkness in my heart where there was not room for praise because I had not allowed God to heal those broken places. I was face-to-face with a great challenge. How could I pass on this inheritance to my children if I did not have redemption over these dark places? I soon discovered that holding

Simply Christmas Giving

This has been an amazing year of ministry. It has been a year of next steps. We have taken the next steps in transitioning leadership, making the Family Center a resource for families to raise up children who are growing in Christ, our faith journey as we've learned together on Sunday mornings, and in solidifying our vision to Gather, Grow and Go.

We will have another year of next steps, another year of the journey toward the vision God has given us to build his kingdom. I have heard it said that nothing moves with out leadership, money, and prayer. One of the next steps we are facing is the squeeze of the transition and the new building. There is always a financial squeeze and a leadership challenge when you do either of these.



onto the wounds was far more burdensome than repenting, facing the pain, and allowing the Spirit to consume the darkness with fresh light. I had to acknowledge that I would be a hindrance to my children if I did not do this.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

I am often graciously humbled by how the Lord teaches me through the young children I have the privilege of serving at home and church. Letting the Children come to Jesus is something we refer to in Children's Ministry. **It is not something we "do" on Sunday mornings. Children's Ministry is our calling, our purpose, our legacy for Christ, our offering, our blessing, our taste of the delight that our Father takes in us, our investment of the overflowing life we have in King Jesus!** If we are living and breathing on this earth, we are impacting the Kingdom in one way or another. We must own position in the Great Story; our acceptance of the Royal Invitation!

May we seek where the Spirit is leading us specifically to impact generations and make His Kingdom known on earth. In the mighty name of King Jesus Christ, AMEN!

"The Lord has established his throne in heaven and his kingdom rules over all." Psalm 103:19

My challenge for you is **A Simply Christmas Offering.** Please pray about this throughout the month. We have never asked for a year-end gift at WFC. If you were already planning a year-end gift, please accept this as a **THANK YOU** for your gift. If you are thinking about this for the first time, I invite you to help our church take next steps.

Our goal is to raise \$56,000 through A Simply Christmas Offering. The offering will be used for Missions – 40%; General Fund – 40%; Benevolent fund – 10%; and Special projects – 10% such as Hope 85 clinic and sound and lighting equipment.

Included is a self-addressed envelope to use if you choose to give. I hope and pray that you will join us as we take next steps in building the future of Wabash Friends Church.

In Christ,
Alex


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WINTER 2011 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



We often find Christmas anything but simple. Our lives in December are full - full of busyness and demands. It becomes for us the craziest time of the year. We rarely feel "peace to men on whom his favor rests." Beginning December 11, we be looking at the simplicity of the first Christmas: Simple Love – Jesus was fully human; Simple Hope – Jesus was fully God; Simple Peace – Shalom is how things are meant to be.

On one hand, these are simple truths, but on the other, they are difficult to embrace in our broken, chaotic and

complex world. As we rest in the simple gift of Jesus Christ, we are compelled to give as He gave.

Along with **Simply Christmas**, we will focus on community. December will be a month for all three services to be together during the Sunday School hour.

December 4 - Children's Christmas Program

December 11 - Christmas Cantata

December 18 - Celebrate Christmas in the Family Center

We will have our traditional Christmas Eve service at 7pm, led by Ministry & Oversight.

And on Christmas Day we will gather for one service at 10:30am to celebrate as the angels did the morning they visited the shepherds.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2

Merry Christmas!
Alex



GATHER

Connectors' Ministry Has Huge Impact

By Sandy Davis

In June 2010, the Connectors' Ministry Team was formed from those who regularly attend services to *intentionally* greet our guests in the three worship services on Sunday mornings. The purpose of the Team is to connect new attenders to our church family.

Since last August, the Connectors have hosted eleven New Attender Fellowships. These Fellowships are in a host home and include a few other Connectors, some pastoral team members and invited new attenders. We share a meal, laughter, and stories of our journey to Wabash Friends. In short, we purposely connect with each other and help guide the newcomers into the faith community.

When someone new to the church has expressed a keen interest in becoming a regular attender, they are invited to a Fellowship. *As of October 2011, there have been 62 adults with their 48 children who have attended a Fellowship and have become regular attenders!*



In addition to these, there are others who were unable to attend a Fellowship who have continued to attend Wabash Friends because they feel connected through the formal invitation and warm welcome they have received from the Connectors' Ministry Team.

Mark & Abby DuBois came to the very first Fellowship we had and have now become active on the Connectors' Ministry Team and as members of the church. What a blessing it is to see the how the journey from being a new attender to being a significant part of our faith community can increase our spiritual impact on the church and Wabash area.

In short, the ministry of the New Attender Fellowships led by the Connectors' Ministry Team has helped us retain a large number of our new attenders in the past year. We are so thankful for this ministry. If you would like to be a part of this team, please contact Alex, Rich or Sandy.



GROW

MARRIAGE RETREAT REFLECTIONS

By Gary L. Fisher

I look forward to Marriage Retreat each year as it is a time of having fun together and being with other couples who are like-minded. There is always an abundance of spontaneous humor, and it is wonderful to see others laughing and having a good time. It is great to be able to relax among loved ones and friends, knowing that we are in a "safe" place. Through the work of Jesus, we enjoy the spirit of community and Christian love. It helps to strengthen our relationships with our spouses, each other, and God. We are all there for the same purpose: to learn, grow, and become all that we can be as individuals, spouses, and children of God.

There is always a balance of learning, free time, games and activities. I can say personally that I have never been disappointed in the quality, quantity or diversity of the Marriage Retreat. It just gets better and better and I learn something of substance each year.

We discover and/or are reminded that there are no perfect



marriages. Blending two individuals into oneness will always have its challenges and is something that requires daily effort. At the retreat, we are given tools (practical information) to help strengthen our marriages and enjoy the blessedness of marriage as God intended.

Sunday morning we end with a special service when people have the opportunity to share. It is so awesome that I can't explain it. You just have to be there. I've been encouraged by those who choose to share.

The Marriage Retreat a highlight of my year; I cannot think of a reason not to attend. It has proven to be beneficial for Susan and me and next to God, my marriage has the greatest value and importance. It is worth the investment to safeguard it. We hope to see you there!



Youth Nooz

by Brad Wright

This is the time of year when everyone is anticipating Holiday music on the radio, first snow fall, first Colts victory (this year), Christmas break from school, and the arrival of the new youth Pastor. Wabash Friends has been fortunate enough to have a group of Adult volunteers leading the Sunday night youth program for the last several months. These Adults are teaching, leading and playing games, providing snacks, leading small groups, providing worship and just simply loving the Youth of Wabash Friends. Some of

the groups have been involved in Operation Christmas Child and going to the Life Center to help organize and donate baby items. Others have gone to Mickey D's to hang out and eat. And all of them are praying for and encouraging our youth in their walk with Christ! When you see one of the following adults please tell them THANKS. Carrie Haycraft, Eric and Janet Fleck, Chris and Raquel Goff, Cheryl Stouffer, Jesse Height, Ty Combs, and Nate Young.

Here is a calendar for the remainder of the year:
No ROOTS on November 27th (Turkey Weekend)
December 4th 6:30-8:00 p.m.
December 11th 6:30-8:00 p.m.
December 18th 6:30-8:00 p.m.
No ROOTS on December 25th (Merry Christmas)

The Sunday night theme for December is "Tis the Season"

Hope, Peace and Love!

Editor's note: Also please thank Brad Wright for serving as our interim youth pastor during this time of transition!

Mirrors of God's Glory

Plans are underway for a newly envisioned Women's retreat which will be held on Saturday, March 10, from 8:30 am to 12 noon. Mirror's of God's Glory will be a morning retreat.

The retreat chairperson, Karen Newhouse, has organized a committee of women who share her vision to enhance the Women's Ministries at WFC.

"We desire to develop a Women's Ministry program that will help women identify and cultivate the plans God has for them in their lives which will strengthen the church and their service to the Lord."

"I believe that many women in our church desire to know one another more intimately. That includes being able to comfortably call on each other's strengths and gifts in times of personal need as well as service to the church." said Karen.

Women's Morning Retreat will hopefully serve as a catalyst for growing relationships and the development of women's Triads - groups of three who meet on a regular basis for Bible reading, prayer and encouragement.

"The retreat is a new beginning for a Women's Ministries at WFC. The committee is excited about the spiritual uplifting

activities being planned. We encourage women to take time away from their busy lives to attend. In fact, we're trying to break down all barriers to coming. That includes developing a children's program that will take place at the same time as the retreat and having no admission cost," said Karen.

The retreat is open to all women. The event will include special speakers, activities, a bake sale, and refreshments. In addition to a children's program, free nursery and toddler care will be provided.

The committee consists of Debbie Balsbaugh, Chris Benson, Luann Craft, Sandy Davis, Patty DeVore, Bonnie Fleming, Carrie Haycraft, Tammy Howard, Brenda Landis, Mary Jo McClelland, Beth Perkins, and Joy Winch. Additional volunteers have offered to help the day of the event, but more are needed including fathers of children.

Please contact Karen Newhouse at 563-4872 or knewhouse@cinergymetro.net if you would like to help be a part of this exciting new ministry to women.