

# Indiana Dunes Great Banquet & Awakening Community Newsletter

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR



DeColores Indiana Dunes Great Banquet Community! I hope your summer has been a Great Blessing to you and I pray that the second half will be even better with something very special for you to celebrate. Jean & I are planning to get away a few days the end of July and visit my sister in Portland. We haven't seen

her for several years and it is always so good to spend time with people we love, enjoying those relationships we have with people we completely trust. I believe our relationship with our Heavenly Father is very much the same, one of Great Love, Joy, and Trust.

To all Community Members, but especially our recent weekend guests, have you been able to find a church home and reunion group to help continue to nourish and grow your relationship with our Lord? During all of our "Fourth Days" we must live in the world, but we do not belong to the world. This causes us pain, anxiety, and stress as we seek and practice a relationship with our Father. Our relationship with the Body of Christ, especially within a reunion group, gives us the unconditional love and encouragement we need to accept the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and live a Life of Grace and Christian Action! If you have not, seek and you will find both, a Church Home and Reunion Group, that will show you the presence of our Father as you do Good Works to Glorify Him.

This fall's weekends will be upon us before you know it so put them on your calendar now; #81, September 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, and #82, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Our Lord has selected Dave Mangel and Sheya Bennett as our Lay Directors for these weekends so keep them in your prayers as they continue to form their Teams and prepare for the Guests our Lord sends to them. Plan to serve during the weekends whether He places you on a Team or just as a member of our wonderful Community. Your presence throughout the weekends at meals, candlelights, and closings will be a Blessing to all who attend, but especially our guests. It's not too late to sponsor a guest so if the Lord has placed someone in your mind and heart, pray for guidance and Bless someone with an invitation to experience a very special weekend full of the Love and Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Hope to see you this fall! DeColores – Rick Oliver



Issue 24, Summer 2014

### Upcoming Events:

- **Aug 7-10 & 14-17— Highgate Banquet Community, Jamaica (see back page for details)**
- **September 25-28, 2014—Men's Banquet #81**
- **October 2-5, 2014— Women's Banquet #82**
- **October 11—BOD Mtg and 4th Day Gathering, Location TBA**
- **November 7-9, 2014 — Awakening #24**

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**Ashlee Oliver,**  
Editor  
**Kristin Mahle,**  
Secretary

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



***Sin is the refusal to grow.*** This definition, credited to Gregory of Nyssa (fourth century), has been bouncing around in my mind recently.

All created life is in a continual process of growth and change. Why? Because the central purpose of each living thing is to produce new life. All of its resources, all of its actions and processes, are designed by God to be directed towards that aim of procreation.

So how does this relate to the Christian life, and to Gregory's definition?

I've long been drawn to Paul's admonition in his letter to the Romans: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind" (12:2). Transformation. A **radical change** in nature, in character, in habits. In who we are.

Jesus does not intend for his followers to be comfortable, to reach a certain level of intimacy with him and then sit back and say, "Okay. I'm good." In fact, just about the time we start to feel that way, God is very likely to respond, "You think so, huh? Not done yet!" And a new challenge, a new growth opportunity comes our way.

Sometimes it comes in the form of something wonderful. A new relationship with someone seeking God. An invitation to participate in a ministry new to us. A reading that opens up new understanding of God's Word. Even if these opportunities take us outside our comfort zone, we're able to see God's leading. We look forward to a positive outcome.

Sometimes, though, the new opportunity is anything but wonderful. Often, it involves loss—of a job, a loved one, a home. Our expectations for our marriage, or our children. We're in shock, wounded, wondering why in the world God has allowed this to happen. We can't see how this pain can be redeemed. But—if we're open to the work of the Holy Spirit, and if we can surrender our need to control the outcome—we come out the other side of the experience stronger, more faithful, more aware than ever of what God is accomplishing in our lives.

And that, friends, is spiritual growth. Growth that leads to transformation.

Think back to where you were in your walk with God ten years ago, or five, or one. Chances are you're no longer the person you used to be. Chances are you can point to a specific experience—good or bad—that required you to grow, that renewed your understanding and commitment to God, that transformed your life.

Is God calling you to new growth? Are you embracing it (though perhaps with trepidation)? Or are you refusing it, preferring to stay where you are in your walk with Christ? Consider Gregory's definition of sin. You may want to re-think taking that next step on the path of transformation.

De Colores—

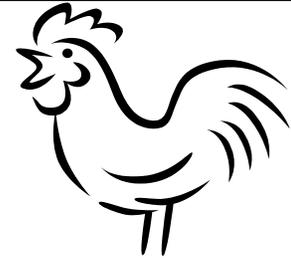
Lou Ann Karabel

Assistant Community Spiritual Director

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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## Men's Spring Banquet #79

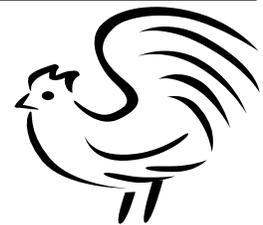


Lay Director – Dan Ball

Billy Atherton, Mark Baker, Greg Baldwin, Judah Ball, Josh Briggs, Aaron Coen, Jim Dashiell, Les Davis, Eric Heinrichs, Paul Hoffman, Roy Hulse, Jason Kissinger, Amara Kpandeyenge, Chris Oman, Dameon Pinkins, Ben Porter, John Rittel, Sam Savich, Paul Schulz, Zane Stasak, David Steele, Tom Stoller, Corey Summa, Rob VanDam, Wes Vinson, Troy Wallace, John Wardecki, Nick Weaver, Max Willis

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## Women's Spring Banquet #80



Lay Director – Sue Goodpaster

Rebeccah Andrews, Renita Ashford, Sara Atterberry, Rachel Banek, Eva Black, Marcie Briggs, Mary Cardaras, Marci Carlson, Sandy Chermak, Julia Ciupek-Reed, Valerie Clark-Neal, Deb Dashiell, Diann Decker, Jenny Doty-Hunley, Sandra Ericksen, Kathy Evans, Karen Galia, Diann Hagerty, Tamara Hall, Judy Jessen, Danielle Kain, Tina Kissinger, Mary Kneifel, Susan Lackey, Tricia Loper, Jenny Massner, Amy Morris, Sharon Morris, Carisa Oman, Roxanne Ratkovich, Alicia Richmond, Sharon Sanders, Greta Schrader, Trisha Schramer, Allyson Shipley, Pat Shirley, Elesha Sosa, Crystal Thompson, Kathi Tilling, Vicki Valentine

# Thank you to our **TEAM MEMBERS!**

## Men's Spring Banquet #79

**Lay Director:** Dan Ball

**Assistant Lay Directors:** Ken Crews and Todd Laczynski

**Table Leaders:** Dave Gallardo, Bruce Roth, Fred Carpenter, Randy Wilgus, Dion Arndt, Troy Manago, Doug Hollar, Corlin Stein, Darren Newberry

**Speakers:** Cory McCammon, Steve Smith, Harry Karabel, Ron Izynski, Dave Corrigan, Shane Stillman, Hubert Hausoul

**Music Team:** Kyle Treble and Steve Aardema

**Kitchen Team:** Pete Anderson, Hans Scheller, Britt Shipley, Kurt O'Conner, James Vadas

**Table Decs:** Adam Puskac and Matt Puskac

**Agape:** Justin Savich, Dave Mangel, Justin Kissinger, Brian Gerstenberger, John Pio

**Spiritual Team:** Jack Walter, Bob Jennings, Mark Killmer, Brian Harding

**Alpha & Omega:** Pete Goodpaster, Todd Marsh, Ryan Groceman, Brian Otto, Steve Pazanin

**Floater:** Brian Otto

## Women's Spring Banquet #80:

**Lay Director:** Sue Goodpaster

**Assistant Lay Directors:** Nancy Pachin and Sharon Morris

**Table Leaders:** Patty Morgart, Tracy Goodpaster, Theresa Jennings, Vicki Salyer, Catherine Harvey, Germaine Smith, Jamie Tancos, Maria Ison, Jennifer Puskac

**Speakers:** Norma Ozelie, LaTonja Ellis, Lisa Pavlopoulos, Sue DeGard, Deana Stolpe, Ashlee Oliver, Lolly Dogan

**Music Team:** Cara Germann, Val Spaulding, Susan Treble

**Kitchen Team:** Monica Ball, Stephanie Anderson, Toy Strick, Gina Gabe, Suzette Arndt, Melody Carpenter

**Table Decs:** Lori Hanaway, Rhea Vadas, Jenny Bender

**Agape:** Sheya Bennett, Kristie Palomo, Veronica Hill, Beth Villarreal, Traci Tollar, Carolyn Dykhuizen

**Spiritual Team:** Nancy Walter, Gretchen Siedler-Gibbs, Lou Ann Karabel, Sandy Mangel

**Alpha & Omega:** Jennifr LaFevre, Chris Kern, Debbie Bouche, Michelle Corrigan, Kimmy Dawson

## A Story About Grace Here on Earth

I left work early so I could have some uninterrupted study time right before the final in my Youth Issues class. When I got to class, everybody was doing their last minute studying. The teacher came in and said he would review with us for just a little bit before the test. We went through the review, most of it right on the study guide, but there were some things he was reviewing that I had never heard of. When questioned about it, he said that they were in the book and we were responsible for everything in the book. We couldn't really argue with that.

Finally it was time to take the test.

"Leave them face down on the desk until everyone has one and I'll tell you to start," our professor instructed.

When we turned them over, every answer on the test was filled in! The bottom of the last page said the following:

"This is the end of the Final Exam. All the answers on your test are correct. You will receive an 'A' on the final exam. The reason you passed the test is because the creator of the test took it for you. All the work you did in preparation for this test did not help you get the A. You have just experienced...grAce."

He then went around the room and asked each student individually, "What is your grade? Do you deserve the grade you are receiving? How much did all your studying for this exam help you achieve your final grade?"

Now I am not a crier by any stretch of the imagination, but I had to fight back tears when answering those questions and thinking about how the Creator has passed the test for me.

Discussion afterward went like this: "I have tried to teach you all semester that you are a recipient of grace. I've tried to communicate to you that you need to demonstrate this gift as you work with young people.

Don't hammer them; they are not the enemy. Help them, for they will carry on your ministry if it is full of GRACE!"

Talking about how some of us had probably studied hours and some just a few minutes, but had all received the same grade, he pointed to a story Jesus told in Matthew 20. The owner of a vineyard hired people to work in his field and agreed to pay them a certain amount. Several different times during the day, he hired more workers. When it was time to pay them, they all received the same amount. When the ones who had been hired first thing in the morning began complaining, the boss said, "Should you be angry because I am kind?" (Matthew 20:15).

The teacher said he had never done this kind of final before and probably would never do it again, but because of the content of many of our class discussions, he felt like we needed to experience grace.

Have you thanked your Creator today because of the grace you have experienced?

-Author Unknown

## Indiana Dunes Great Banquet

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www.idgb.net

### IDEAS?

### SUGGESTIONS?

If you have a suggestion or an idea for the next IDGB newsletter, please contact the website administrator under IDEAS at www.idgb.net.

## IDGB Board of Directors

**Community Lay Director** – Rick Oliver  
**Asst Community Lay Director** – Lolly Dogan  
**Community Spiritual Director** – Tim Reyna  
**Asst Community Spiritual Director**—Lou Ann Karabel  
**Community Awakening Lay Dir.** – Harry Karabel  
**Asst Awakening Lay Director** – Sue Goodpastor  
**Treasurer** – Susan Williams  
**Secretary** – Kristin Mahle  
**Communications Coordinator**—Dan Ball  
**Reservations Coordinator** – Alice & Jack Wisely  
**Community Agape Communication Coordinator**—David Noble  
**Community Agape Team Coordinator:** Lisa Pavlopoulos  
**Community Kitchen Coordinator** – Pam Hay  
**4<sup>th</sup> Day Coordinator** – Lori Hanaway  
**Weekend Coordinator**—Pete Goodpastor

## FALL 2014 BANQUET DIRECTORS



IDGB #81  
Dave  
Mangel



IDGB #82  
Sheya  
Bennett

Please see an agape request below from our sister community in Jamaica. Contact Amoy directly at the email provided for more information.



*The Highgate Great Banquet Community, Jamaica is having upcoming banquets on August 7-10 (males) and August 14-17 (females), hence, we are requesting Agape letters and prayers during this period. Also if your banquet community is able to assist with any other agape items (table agape, bed agape etc) we would be grateful.*

*"One Love",  
Amoy Russell  
Agape Coordinator  
Highgate Great Banquet Community, Jamaica  
russell7amoy@yahoo.com*