

THE FORECASTER

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER FROM

ANDERSON, INDIANA



CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 10-17, 2023



THE BLOG SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

"THE BALCONY BIRD" by Rick Vale

I was reading, enjoying the night on the little balcony outside our ship cabin this week. The balcony light, like the light of a back porch at home, lit up the space...and I was enjoying the night. The moon was bright and reflected on the ocean waves, steady but calm. Across from me were the Florida Keys. Their lights were twinkling in the dark; winking at us as we slowly cruised by. *Key West was the last light I saw, and I silently remembered Jimmy Buffet who had just passed that day.*

As I was reading, I realized there was a little sound playing in the background; a sound that didn't belong with the sounds of the waves and the distant music of the ship. **It was the intermittent quiet chirp of a small bird.** I looked around and sure enough there, perched in the upper corner of girders over me, was a small white-breasted black bird. He was the size of a finch. He was getting my attention, chirping one "peep" at a time, looking directly at me. He hopped down to the chair across the balcony from me, and I put my book down and watched him for a moment.

Then he started hopping in place, turning, looking, faster and faster, turning his head and body, looking all around him. *I realized he was getting agitated.* He ruffled his feathers a couple of times as he was trying to make up his mind about flying. Then he did. He fluttered closer to me, and looked intently. He chirped again. Maybe it was my own

imagination, but I got the clear idea he was trying to get my attention about something. *Suddenly he swooped up and started flying in a panicked manner, back and forth from one side wall to the other. I was afraid he would hit the wall.* He stopped and "hovered" right at the opening out to the sea, but would not fly out. He continued to panic, I could see, as he didn't think he could fight the breeze caused by our movement, and he continued to fly back and forth over me. I tried to calm him as best I could, *not knowing anything about birds*, hushing him till he stopped and perched, once again, on the chair across from me.

I watched him. I suddenly saw him as a small and helpless child, wanting to escape, panicking because he thought he couldn't, *and seeking help from the only other living being he could find.*

My mind starting spinning. I remembered a time when my youngest suddenly thought he was abandoned (*he didn't see me right there*) and panicked like this little bird, until I called his name. He then ran to me and held on as if he hadn't seen me in years. My mind quickly moved from there to a time, in my mind, when I also felt emotionally trapped, in a small place that was very dark - and from where I didn't think I could escape...I could see myself flying back and forth, panicking as well, looking for an escape, wanting to be free, fearful of what lay beyond.

All of this led to a simple and ridiculous prayer for a 65-year-old man to pray. *I prayed for this bird.* I knew it would weigh me down like an anchor if I didn't do it. I wasn't sure if my little "Balcony Bird's" survival instincts were better than mine, but I assumed if he tried to fly off the balcony, he really wouldn't be battered by the slight wind but would instead be free. I also knew that he was afraid. **So I prayed for him.** *His panic had become my child's panic. It had become my panic. I decided there was nothing I could do but let it go by giving it to the "other closest living being I could find."*

The next voice I heard in my mind was the One that said, *"Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not (continued on next page)"*

(continued from page one) one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent..." and the music in my head began to play, "...His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me..."

And I knew: both my little Balcony Bird and I would be safe and loved.

"It's the light", said the voice, "turn off the light and he will sleep. By morning, he will have found a place. He will conquer his fear and will be fine...rest assured."

I closed my book. I figuratively "dropped my own burden stone in the water", slowly opened the balcony door, went inside, and shut off the light. Before I went to bed, I opened the drapes enough to see him sleeping, huddled in a corner. The next day he was gone.

The experience moved me enough to write it down. It moved me enough to remember that even a 65-year-old man can be haunted by the memory of being scared and trapped...and also still have feelings for something small, helpless, and dependent...just as we all are small and helpless, in the face of the universe. But the "closest living being" to us is the KING of the Universe. He even cares for poor little birds. How much more does He care for us?

My Balcony Bird reminded me of His profound love and care; the kind I receive, and the kind I should reflect. **I have honored my Balcony Bird, along with the time and place of our meeting, by naming him..."Jimmy".**

PRAYERS

Prayers for OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Cindy Allison	Barbara Jones
Mike Allison	Jack Kyhnell
Joan Allison	Sheila Love
Jamie Armstrong	Don Lynch
Don Bancroft	Thom & Teresa McDonnell
Bobbie Beaty	Donna McFadden
Jim Benefiel	Nancy Melton
Vera Benefiel	Connie Millikan
Kathleen Cookman	Jerry & Nancy Pitcock
Marsha Dunkin	Andrea Presser
JoAnne Hadlow	John Robinson
Elva Mae Hamilton	Carole Strock
Emerson Harper	LaBella Wallace
Bill & Susan Herbig	David Whicker
Jack Hiatt	Kathleen Wile
Sally Hudson	

Prayers for OUR FRIENDS

All affected by the fires in Hawaii
All affected by Hurricane Idalia
Greg Blackwell | Req. by Phyllis Dodd
Josie Condon | Req. by Judy Wood
Roger Creason | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
Debbie | Req. by Karl & Sara Keller
Ronnie Douglas, Jr. | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
Renee Dunham | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
Gabriel | Req. by Joan Allison
John Gilson | Req. by Becky Atkinson
Jama Jameson | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
JD | Anonymous Request
Araia Mullins Jones | Req. by Connie Millikan
Scott Keller | Req. by Karl & Sara Keller
Joe Kinsey | Req. by Margaret Combs
Marc Knorek | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
Nanciann Kobler | Req. by Kevin & TR Weston
The Lee Family | Req. by Steve & Linda Horn
Maci | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
Madi & Marli | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
Marsha McCool | Req. by Charlie & Lynn High
Bud Miles | Req. by John & Diana Huntoon
Karen Correll Miller | Req. by Charlie & Lynn High
Ann Newbold | Req. by Christie Huff
Remmington Pardini | Req. by Phyllis Dodd
Kyle Parks | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
Brenda Rector | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
Steve Rector | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
Jeff Riggins | Req. by Joe & Susan McDuffee
John Robinson II | Req. by John & Luanna Robinson
Drew St. Claire | Req. by Billie St. Claire
Dempsey Sturgill | Req. by Christie Huff
Donny W. | Req. by Steve & Linda Horn
Kay Winter | Req. by Pastor Rick & Soroptimist Sisters

CHURCH FAMILY BIRTHDAYS

Cindy Pugsley...Sept. 1 • Jim Benefiel...Sept. 6
Charlie High...Sept. 6 • Norma Newcomer...Sept. 14
Beverly Foy...Sept. 24 • Nancy Melton...Sept. 26
John Schieve...Sept. 26 • Nancy Kalisz...Sept. 30

MISSION AND OUTREACH

FROM CCC's "MISSION & OUTREACH" TEAM
Once again, this coming year, Central will partner with our neighbors down the street, First United Methodist Church, to pack "Buddy Bags" for students this year. These bags, of snacks and special "extras" for Anderson students, are packed by volunteers from both congregations and you are invited to be a part of it all. **Contact PAM MULLEN and/or CINDY SILVEY if you can help. Packing begins Monday, September 11th!**

THIS WEEK

EVENTS generated from the Church Calendar
on the CCC Website

"NCE" = "Non Church Event"

"OS" = Off Site Event

SUNDAY • September 10th

8:30am: Choir Rehearsal

10:00am: Worship

11:20am: Fellowship Time

7:00pm: NA (NCE)

MONDAY • September 11th

Noon: Disciples Women

6:00pm: CCC Elders

6:30pm: MAINSTAGE Rehearsal (NCE)

TUESDAY • September 12th

The Church Office is Open.

9:00am: Women's Bible Study

6:30pm: MAINSTAGE Rehearsal (NCE)

WEDNESDAY • September 13th

6:00pm: Handbell Rehearsal

6:30pm: MAINSTAGE Rehearsal (NCE)

7:00pm: Admin. Board Mtg

THURSDAY • September 14th

6:30pm: MAINSTAGE Rehearsal (NCE)

8:00pm: NA (NCE)

FRIDAY • September 15th

Noon: NA (NCE)

6:30pm: MAINSTAGE Rehearsal (NCE)

SATURDAY • September 16th

11:00am: Ted McDuffee Memorial

SUNDAY • September 17th

8:30am: Choir Rehearsal

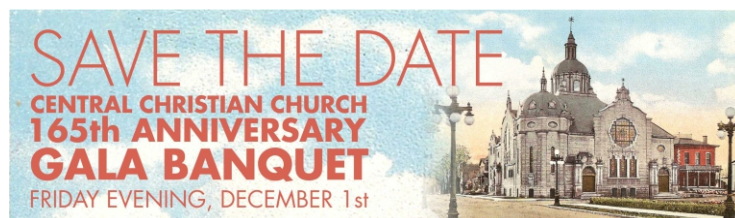
10:00am: Worship

11:30am: Fellowship Time

7:00pm: NA (NCE)



Pastor Rick begins a new SERMON SERIES on "THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) on FIRST SUNDAY. You can catch the sermons on the corner of 10th and Jackson in Anderson, at 10:00am, or on YouTube by getting on YOUTUBE on your computer or iPHONE and typing in: CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH - ANDERSON for our YouTube Channel.



This year, 2023, CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH celebrates her 165th Anniversary. It was on December 1, 1858 that the congregation of "FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH" (as it was known at the time) was chartered in "Andersontown" (as the TOWN was known at the time).

We will celebrate on our Anniversary, December 1, 2023, with a gala dinner at THE ANDERSON COUNTRY CLUB.

Save the date, it will be a ticketed event, but we want everyone to be able to attend who wants to attend...more details will follow!



MEMORIAL and CELEBRATION of LIFE

Ted Ransome McDUFFEE
December 6, 1933
August 22, 2023

Saturday SEPT. 16, 2023 at 11:00am
Family Calling at 10:00am

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
923 Jackson Street ■ Anderson, IN 46016
www.central-christian-church.com





THE ALLEY THEATRE COMPANY
CELEBRATE OUR 10th ANNIVERSARY SEASON!

SCAN HERE for your \$12 TICKETS for any and all shows

Shows listed: THE ODD COUPLE (Nov), A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Dec), ARSENIC & OLD LACE (Jan), DRIVING MISS DAISY (Feb), FALL RIVER (Mar), RED, WHITE & TUNA (Jul), A COMEDY OF ERRORS (Aug).

Tickets are on sale, now, for every show in the 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON of THE ALLEY THEATRE: a part of Central Christian Church, and housed in the JAKE HOOVER THEATRE downstairs, on the alley off Jackson Street.

This year's line up includes some classics and favorites - from the Neil Simon comedy, "THE ODD COUPLE" (which was the very first show we performed in the theatre) to Rick Vale's adaptation of "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" (6 performances this year), the classic dark comedy, "ARSENIC & OLD LACE" (directed by our own Kevin Weston), the intimate, comic, and moving, "DRIVING MISS DAISY", and a world premiere to celebrate our 10th Anniversary: "FALL RIVER" - an original dark musical based on the trial of Lizzie Borden in 1892. That performance will be in the ANDERSON MUSEUM OF ART.

Two "extra" summer shows (not a part of the regular season) include the third in the "TUNA" series: "RED, WHITE, AND TUNA" which will be over the Independence Day weekend....and then the short, Shakespeare classic, "A COMEDY OF ERRORS".

Please join us for one or all! Tickets are \$12 per seat, per show, and can be purchased on the theatre website: www.thealleytheatre.com. If you have any trouble purchasing tickets online, simply call and leave a message (with your name and phone number, please) at 765.643.0701.

As is the case with every season, all income from ticket sales are donated to the Central Christian Church general fund.



ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday
September 13th
 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
 All Board Members and Committee Chairs are encouraged to attend.



WE NOW HAVE OUR OWN YouTube CHANNEL!
central CHRISTIAN CHURCH
YouTube
 Simply go to YouTube.com and type in the search bar: Central Christian Church - Anderson, Indiana



Central's LUNCH BUNCH will meet **Thursday, September 28th at noon.** See Lynn & Charlie High for details...WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE in the Fellowship Hall!

WAYS to GIVE at CENTRAL

			
MAIL	TEXT	ONLINE	SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING BASKET
Central Christian Church 923 Jackson Street Anderson, IN 46016	765.326.4370 \$ Amount	central-christian-church.com (Click the GIVING Button)	(Cash or Check)

www.central-christian-church.com
 old enough to appreciate stained-glass | new enough to appreciate the internet

Changed CIRCUMSTANCES don't change lives
 Changed LIVES change circumstances
JESUS CHANGES LIVES