

Do you want to help with chapel services?

Chapel services are held on Monday through Thursday evenings. If any church would like to participate, call Chaplain Dick Sievers ahead of time at (260) 449-7215 for information.

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Enclosed
Envelope



The Allen County Jail Chaplaincy is experiencing lots of exciting, new growth on several fronts and would appreciate your support to help us continue to serve and comfort others. Please use the enclosed, self-addressed envelope to send your tax-deductible contribution to the **Allen County Jail Chaplaincy**, 417 South Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

Video
Tape
Available!



A video tape is available which explains the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy ministry. If your church would like to show the video to members of your congregation, please call **Chaplain Dick Sievers** at 449-7215. The Chaplaincy can also send a representative to your church to help present the video and answer questions about the ministry.

CHARITY GOLF OUTING

Charity Golf Outing Designates ACJC as Recipient of Funds

On July 3, 2014, members of First Assembly of God hosted a charity golf outing at Autumn Ridge Golf Club. This year funds raised by golfers were designated for the ACJC.

Matt Stewart, a long-time member of the church, was in charge of the outing. "Church leadership wanted to choose a group from our community that assisted families and was in need of financial support. We thought the Pastors Masters golf outing would be great outlet for us to give to the jail chaplaincy." The church board chooses the designated ministry each year. This is the eighth year for the Pastors Masters event.

Approximately 20 teams of 4 golfers each participated in the outing. Not every golfer attended the church. The winning team was headed by Alan New of Lighthouse Wealth Management Group in Fort Wayne.



Photo L-R

Rob Adams

Children's Ministry Pastor Berry Joris

John Priskorn

Mark Wolf

Did you know?

Two hundred inmates have been baptized at the Allen County Jail during the first half of 2014?

Over 2,500 individuals have attended chapel services conducted by the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy? Pray chaplains will convey the love and discernment of Jesus as they work with the incarcerated.

Every year in December the Allen County Jail is opened to allow men and women to gather in the cell blocks to sing Christmas carols to the inmates. Please come and share.

Several Items are on our Wish List. If you can help, please call Chaplain Dick Sievers at (260) 449-7215

- * Paperback dictionaries, and paper back books with very little color in them.
- * Bibles (\$354 donation purchases 200 Bibles.)
- * Some large print Bibles, and some Spanish Bibles as well
- * Concordances
- * Volunteers
- * Underwear for both men and women

Bible underwriters wanted!

We need individuals or churches to underwrite the purchase of Bibles. Each year, we give approximately 1,200 Bibles to inmates. Through the American Bible Society, we can buy one Bible and get one FREE! That means we can buy two Bibles for \$3.50 The Bibles we purchase also meet the security requirements enforced by the jail. With shipping included, \$354 buys 200 Bibles. If you or your church are interested in helping, please contact Chaplain Dick Sievers at (260) 449-7215. Thank you!

ACJC wishes to say "THANK YOU" to these churches, businesses, and foundations for their financial support

Throughout this newsletter you've read about lives being changed and servants being put to work for Jesus Christ. The work being done inside the walls of the Allen County Jail is possible because of the prayers and financial support of the churches listed below. If you see your church in the list, give your pastor a big Amen. If you don't see it listed, please ask your pastor or outreach committee to consider helping us financially. No gift is too small.

We have a video and brochure that you can use to help us get the message out to the community. God Bless each of you for helping us bring Jesus Christ into the lives of the men and women in the Allen County Jail.

A special THANK YOU to Mrs. Rev. Kenneth Jackson for purchasing Bibles for ACJC in His memory

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| Churches | LifeWay Wesleyan Church |
| * Anchor Community Church of the Brethren in Christ | * Living Word of God Ministries |
| * Bethel United Methodist Church | * Markle Church of Christ |
| * Blackhawk Baptist Church | * Morning Star Class Markle Church of Christ |
| * Broadway Christian Church | * Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church |
| * Brookside Church | * Northeast Christian Church |
| * Calvary United Methodist Church | * North Highlands Church of Christ |
| * Canaan Baptist Church | * Oakridge Temple Church |
| * Cedar Creek Church of Christ | * Prince of Peace Lutheran Church |
| * Christ Temple Apostolic Church | * Promise Lutheran Church |
| * Christian Praise Fellowship Church | * Queen of Angels Catholic Church |
| * Colony Heights Church of Christ | * Satum Christian Church |
| * Community Christian Church | * Saint Charles Catholic Church |
| * Covenant United Methodist Church | * Saint Vincent DePaul Catholic Church |
| * Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church | * Sonrise at Aboite United Methodist Church |
| * Cuba Mennonite Church | * Satum Christian Church |
| * Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend | * St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church |
| * Elkhart Calvary UMC | * Tabernacle Baptist Church |
| * Emmanuel Community Church | * The Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County |
| * Emmanuel Lutheran Church | * The Chapel |
| * Evangelical Lutheran St. John Church | * The Good Shepherd United Methodist Church |
| * Faith Based Mentoring Ministries | * True Love Baptist Church |
| * Fellowship Baptist Church | * WestView Alliance Church |
| * Fellowship Missionary Church | * Woodview Church of God |
| * First Assembly of God | * Zanesville Church of God |
| * First Baptist Church | * Businesses |
| * First Christian Church | * ABZ Realty |
| * First Mennonite Church | * Allen County Drug & Alcohol Consortium |
| * First Missionary Church | * American Sealant Inc. |
| * First Presbyterian Church | * Beckman Lawson LLP |
| * First Wayne Street United Methodist Church | * Best Roofing |
| * Friendship Baptist Church | * By His Design, Inc. |
| * Getsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church | * Commercial Filter Service |
| * Good Shepherd UM Church | * Gray & Friend LLP |
| * Gone Fishing Ministries | * John Heath & Son Inc. |
| * Grace Christian Church | * M.J. Farms- Mick Lomont |
| * Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church | * Physical Medicine Consultants LLC- DR. David Stensland |
| * Grace Gathering | * Southside Optimist Club |
| * Grace Presbyterian Church | * Stoppenhagen CPA |
| * Harvester Missionary Church | * The Semper Amicae Circle of the kings daughters and sons |
| * Heartland Church of Fort Wayne | * Underwriters Inc. |
| * Imani Baptist Temple | * WBCL Radio |
| * Indiana Conference of United Methodist Churches | * YWCA |
| * Jubilee House Ministries | * Foundations |
| * Keefer Creek Baptist Church | * Brotherhood Mutual Foundation |
| * Kings Chapel Assembly of the Apostolic | * Lutheran Foundation |
| * King's Daughters and Sons | * Mary Cross Tippman Foundation |
| * Life Bridge Church | * Drug & Alcohol Consortium |

Thank You

ACJC 2014 Board of Directors

- John Alexander
- Rev. Jesse Beasley
- Larry Stoppenhagen
- David Clendenen
- Timothy Dettmer
- Glenn Emley
- David Knuth
- Roger Macke
- Brent Johnson
- Thomas Szymczak
- Bob Wearley
- Elvis Netterville
- Everleina Wattley
- Michael Ziegler

Prayers & Petitions

- * Many inmates were baptized so far in 2013. Pray for them and their spiritual growth
- * Pray for those making decisions to accept Christ as Savior and Lord
- * Pray for Cell Group Leaders (Bible study volunteers)
- * Pray for the officers and our ministry to them
- * Pray for financial support of the ministry
- * Pray for more churches to financially support ACJC
- * Pray for our Sheriff Kenneth C. Fries, and our jail commander Chuck Hart

Allen County Jail Chaplaincy Newsletter is published two times per year as a communication vehicle for those who care about and support the ministry. Please feel free to submit suggestions for making this newsletter a good servant.
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TWO NEW ALLEN COUNTY JAIL CHAPLAINCY BOARD MEMBER



Michael Ziegler

"When someone goes astray, he can try to turn around but he can't do it without the Lord," said Michael Ziegler. He is a newly-elected Allen County Jail Chaplaincy board member as of May 2014. Board President Bob Wearley recruited Ziegler. The two attend Promise Ministries Church in Fort Wayne where Ziegler leads a men's ministry and volunteers on the church board of directors.

As Senior Plant Accountant at

Franklin Electric in Fort Wayne, Ziegler believes he can offer financial assistance to the chaplaincy program. "I've been a member of the ACJC finance committee since fall 2013 and will continue to work with Larry Stoppenhagen on budgeting and reports," he said.

Although working at a full-time job and church responsibilities keep him busy, Ziegler is glad to be involved with the jail chaplaincy. "I think it is a good ministry," he said. "I hope to encourage others to get involved and help with the Lord's work."

SUPPORTING CHURCH

"If there is a ministry in town doing something that most of the rest of us can't do, we think we ought to make it a part of our mission outreach," said Pastor Rick Fletcher of Lifeway Wesleyan Church. He is referring to his congregation's long-standing decision to provide financial support to the ACJC.

A native of Clearwater, FL, Fletcher enrolled at Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) in Marion, IN, to earn a business marketing degree. Afterward, Fletcher felt led by God to return to college to earn a degree in ministry.

He did so while attending the church (At that time it was called Moeller Road Wesleyan Church; the congregation changed its name in 2003). Fletcher also worked with the youth at the church during this time.

Upon graduating in 1994, he was hired by the church as assistant pastor and four years later, as senior pastor. He is married to Debbie.

Fletcher became acquainted with Chaplain Sievers in the late 1990s when Sievers spoke at the church about the jail ministry.

Since that time, the church has chosen to financially support the ACJC. "The jail chaplaincy is like



Pastor Rick & Debbie Fletcher

Samaria for our church, which Jesus referred to when he talked about going into parts of the world to tell people about His love," he said. "We are missions-oriented and we give a large percent of our titles to missions at home and abroad." Fletcher added that individuals from the congregation have donated Bibles.

He has been to the jail to visit incarcerated relatives and friends of the congregation. "The Bible mentions the need for Christians to visit prisoners and show them compassion," he said. "We feel by helping the jail chaplaincy, we're following the biblical mandate." Lifeway Wesleyan Church - 260-749-9758 - <http://lefwewaychurch.com>

DAMIEN GUY



Damien Guy

After committing a violent crime in 2011, Damien Guy, a Harding High School graduate, was sent to the Allen County Jail to await sentencing. While there, he met Chaplain Elisha Harris.

As Harris talked with him about staying focused on doing what was right and giving his life to the Lord, Guy noticed a difference in his thoughts and attitudes. "Usually when a person is in jail, he wants to do right because he's sorry for what

But the more I talked with Chaplain Harris, he helped me see that when I sincerely seek God, He will transform my life."

The talks encouraged Guy and he decided to follow the Bible's teachings because nothing else had worked.

It was not long before Guy could sense an improvement in his life. "I kept praying and after a while I could hear God's voice instead of my own," he said. "I compared my life with the truth of His message from the Bible Chaplain Harris gave me."

Guy's favorite Bible verse is Luke 9:62: 'Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'

"That means to me that no matter how much I messed up in life, I cannot keep looking back. If I'm plowing and sowing seed, I can't look back and walk forward. I can't keep getting depressed. I've been forgiven in Jesus' eyes and He wants me to go forward."

Guy was later sent to Westville Prison to fulfill his sentence. While there, he enrolled in Bible Study classes. He was released in May 2014.

Back in Fort Wayne, Guy is committed to living for God. "My life now is peaceful," he said. "I'm no longer in bondage to drugs and alcohol and myself. I've left my self-destructive behavior behind. All the glory goes to God. Chaplain Harris helped but he was a vessel. I have the truth to fall back on through God's word and I'm fine."

Guy attends Oak Ridge Church of God where Chaplain Harris attends.

WIN ROOD

Win Rood, Executive Vice President of Fort Wayne Medical Society, has been a financial contributor to the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy for five years. He became acquainted with the program years ago while raising five foster children with his wife Sarah. "Providing financial help to the jail chaplaincy is one way I feel I can pay back some of the help I've received from the group over the years," he said. "Our foster kids are now adults, but when they were younger, some experienced situations that required intervention with law enforcement. Pastor Sievers worked with my kids then and still does today. I appreciate that and choose to support what they're doing today."

The Roods attend The Chapel. Rood, who is also president of the Allen County Police Merit Board, is encouraged to help the chaplaincy's financial needs for other reasons.

"The chaplaincy group is not supported by tax dollars so its only funds come from people or groups like me who care about reaching out to people who need to hear the message of Jesus Christ," he said.

He sees the chaplaincy as a resource for inmates to hear the Christian message. "It's good to know the incarcerated have pastors available to call on and talk with, should they feel the need to do to. The volunteers who conduct Bible Studies and help with the dozens of baptisms each year also provide a message of hope."

"Providing financial contributions is a way for me to say thank you," he said.



Win Rood

VOLUNTEER: Melanie Myers

1. When did you join the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy?

I applied to the chaplaincy in September 2011 but did not actually begin visiting the cellblocks until June or July of 2012.

2. Why did you join?
For many years, I have had the desire to connect with incarcerated people because I have compassion for underdogs on many fronts, especially the ones who are pretty much forgotten by society due to the choices they have made. I considered writing letters to prisoners but wanted to do more than this to connect. After joining Saint Joseph United Methodist Church, I learned that a member there, Brad Foster, teaches life skills classes at the jail. He got me the application paperwork and after taking the necessary steps, I was accepted into this family who serves Christ in such special ways. I am so proud to be a member of my church because our mission is to sow, grow and go. We focus on doing God's work outside the walls of our church which is what Jesus

asked us all of us to do!
2. What is your goal each time you visit the jail?
To listen. Being heard is so important to the women. Understanding what each one needs guides me.

3. How often do you visit the jail?
Almost every Sunday afternoon. Celebrating the Sabbath by serving God in this way is very important to me. On the rare occasions when I do not visit the cellblocks, I miss the women and they show such concern the next Sunday ("Were you sick?" "We were worried about you!")

4. What are your duties? If assigned to a certain cell block, please list.

After signing in, getting my ID badge and chatting with the consignment officers, I head to the chaplain's office where I get a book cart and fill it with books. After calling P, Q and Z blocks, I head up to them. When I roll the cart into each block, many women flock to it. As they are searching for reading materials, I sit down at a table and ask women who come by if they have prayer requests. As they talk, I write them down in my loose leaf binder. If no woman approaches (which is rare,) I walk around, asking for their prayer requests.

Many women share their stories and these guide me to give them handouts. One is from The Upper Room and explains prayer breathing. Another is a quote from Mother Teresa which focuses on blaming others. There are also lists of employers who hire felons and alternative housing locations.

After returning the book cart to the chaplain's office, I go home and email all the prayer requests to people at my church who lift the women up in prayer during the week.

5. Do you work alone?
Yes, I work alone and prefer this so that my focus can be 100% on the women and what they need.

6. What is/was your professional career?
I retired from teaching in 2008 after 26 years, mostly in high schools with a few middle school years. I worked at PBS39 from 2008 until 2013 and have been working at Wild Birds Unlimited since.

7. What is your favorite Bible Verse and how does it help you as a jail chaplain?
Philippians 4:13...For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

This verse is one I use to encourage many of the women who seem to feel at a loss. I am so thankful that God leads me each week to encourage and build hope.

What would you say to someone who is thinking about becoming a jail chaplain to encourage them? Doing God's work is always a privilege. Serving Him inside the jail is not for everyone, but if you feel

called to be His hands and feet, you will be richly rewarded. The women are so appreciative and through my gratitude, I remind them that it is not about me but about God working through me. When I tell them God can work through them, too, this spreads hope to many who are not used to someone caring about them.



Melanie Myers

Allen County Jail Chaplaincy Mission Statement: The purpose and mission of the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy is to bring comfort, encouragement, and hope by ministering the redemptive love of God to jail inmates and, where appropriate, to jail staff. The Chaplaincy is under-girded by Christ's teachings concerning the dignity and worth of each individual, regardless of the severity of any wrongful behavior by that individual. In ministering to the religious and spiritual needs of the jail community, the Chaplain provides the inmate population with religious and personal counseling, coordinates worship services within the facility, and assists inmates in matters related to personal growth. The Chaplaincy serves as an extension of the Church and helps the Church minister to the inmates by providing access to authorized pastors to meet with their parishioners and to conduct worship and educational programs within the facility. The Chaplain also administers access for authorized leaders of other faith traditions. The goals of this ministry are to challenge inmates to be reconciled with God and to prepare them to live productive lives.