

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

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2013'S Mission Opportunity is Coming to Us!

We as an entirety will be collecting suggested items for both **SECOM** and **We Care Inc.** throughout the 2013 Annual Conference in Grand Rapids.

SECOM (South End Community Outreach Ministries), located in Grand Rapids, MI is an independent charitable organization serving Kent County by providing emergency assistance, offering opportunities for individual growth and development, and supporting the families in our community.

SECOM offers a variety of programs designed to teach life skills including programs in better personal health, raising a child, family support, relationship building and early childhood learning.

SECOM's vision is a community where the basic needs of all people are met with compassion and respect. As a faith based organization, they value:

- All persons, as unique creations of God, are deserving of their compassion and respect
- We are called by God to care for those in need
- The hungry should be fed
- Strengthening families improve the lives of children and those who care for them
- Their staff and volunteers will be competent and caring
- They will manage our resources in a fiscally and responsible way to fulfill our mission

Although SECOM originated in 1971 as a shared ministry of four United Methodist churches and continues to maintain close ties with local United Methodist congregations, SECOM is a faith-based but nondenominational agency. They appreciate support from many different denominations and other non-religious organizations.

Current needs include: Personal care items such as: soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. Basically, items not covered by food stamps. Food is always needed (canned and packaged items). Though sample sizes are accepted full size containers are more useful.

We Care In the Name of Christ is an ecumenical ministry that is supported by 40 partner churches representing 21 denominations. Those churches sponsor 39 pantries and service ministries offering an extremely wide variety of services for families within our service area who are suffering financially. We Care is in the middle of its 34th year of outreach ministry and, for the last 7 or 8 years has met over 35,000 individual needs annually providing approximately \$2,000,000 worth of services to neighbors in need. Currently, three of our 39 ministries are Personal Care Pantries. These pantries are essential to the health and well-being of our families who are seeking help and they provide both personal hygiene and cleaning products. During 2012, our three Personal Care Pantries provided product packages to 2,050 families (7,520 individuals). These pantries run short on stock two or three times each year because costs of these products are expensive to donate and, quite often, donors just don't think about the fact that these items are essential to maintaining a healthy family. "Any support through donations of hygiene and/or cleaning products that the folks of International Council of Community Churches will be truly appreciated and well used. Blessings in your ministry and in working together to further God's kingdom and His church universal and thanks in advance for your generosity and sharing." - Denise Lewis, We Care board member

The item list: Soap/body wash, Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste/Toothbrush, Powder, Lotion, Razors, Q-Tips, Laundry Soap and Bleach Though sample sizes are accepted full size containers are more useful.

Of course monetary donations are welcome, providing both organizations the opportunity to purchase items needed most. Gift cards from stores such as Walmart, Sam's Club, Costco, etc, all near the Crowne Plaza Hotel, would also be a great idea. There will be a table in the main ballroom where worship is held for any donations, or you can give them to DeAnn before, during or after the conference. A representative from both groups will be present at the conference banquet to accept these gifts.

2013 Workshop in Grand Rapids

Dr. Wanda Taylor-Smith has led various Bible studies and seminars with such topics as commitment, prayer, health care issues, and retirement; however her passion is the issues and concerns surrounding women, particularly women who are married to preachers/pastors. She is a member of New Mission Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati, where her husband, Beeson Divinity School professor, Dr. Robert Smith, Jr., formerly served as pastor. She was the founder and former president of the church's Preachers'/Pastors' Wives Ministry. She currently serves



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President's Message

Rev. Dr. Bruce N. Merton

WARNING: This has been a hard column to write. It contains material and thoughts that some may find offensive. However, I believe the issues must be faced openly and honestly so we can thrive or we should, with intentional thought and grace choose to die.

It was 12:45 in the afternoon on Monday, March 12, and I had just been seated at Applebee's restaurant. I had my iced tea in front of me and was awaiting the arrival of my lunch. As I waited, I was reading "Unchristian; What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity...and Why It Matters" by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons. It is a disturbing, sobering "call to arms" for those of us who care about the future of the church. In very large measure the younger generations of the 'Busters' and 'Mosaics' see Christians as 'Unchristian' because 'they say one thing and do something else.'

At 1 PM, the server rounds the corner with my sandwich and salad in hand. As she places the food before me my phone gives the 'BING' which tells me I have just received another in a steady stream of emails. Turns out it is an email that I have received via 'CC.' It is from DeAnn, the I.C.C.C. Office Administrator, and the first sentence reads, "Currently there is \$1330 in the general fund account. I have two bills coming due...the winter board meeting of \$2900 and our D&O insurance of \$1271, not to mention payroll at the end of the week."

My heart sinks, my spirit is depressed and the sandwich and salad quickly lose their appeal. Here it is! Another message that reminds me how far we really have to go before we can truly live up the name we have chosen for our organization. The email states the facts. It also implicitly points out that while we can label ourselves a 'council of community churches' we really do not think and act as individual churches and centers with our shared, common good as a first priority.

(This may well be the point where you have decided to cease reading because the 'Pres' has over stepped 'proper boundaries' and 'gone to meddling'.)

I hope you will continue to read and I hope you will respond to what is written. I welcome the dialogue!

According to my dictionary, essential in defining the words 'council,' 'community,' and 'churches' is the phrase 'called together'. The reality is that we are not acting as churches and centers 'called together.' We are struggling in a mighty way because of an attitude and spirit that wraps itself



around "what's in it for my church (or me)?" The sense of being "called together" as a 'Council' has been, in many cases, lost. The self centered, quid pro quo, question has, at the very best, only tertiary relevance to the Christian lifestyle and the 'Council'.

The church I am a member of provides year end giving statements. At the bottom of it is an I.R.S. required statement: "Other than 'intangible religious benefits,' no goods or services have been received by the donor." Your donations and mine do not count as real 'gifts' to the mission and operation of our church **IF** we receive tangible goods and services in exchange for them. In other words, I cannot measure my charitable giving on the basis of tangible return on investment.

In my travels around the country I very frequently hear from lay people who are making significant and regular gifts to the Council: "I am giving because I see the Council as a real extension of my faith. I believe in it! I am participating in mission by giving." They also admit: "I really cannot get my pastor to move our church forward in giving to the I.C.C.C."

Sadly, I hear from many ministers and pastors, "I can't justify our church giving to the Council because we get nothing in return." Many pastors and ministers, the ones who really drive the church's giving or not giving to the Council, are demanding a positive answer to the self centered, quid pro quo, question while many of our laity are already modeling in significant ways the reality that the Christ centered lifestyle is rooted firmly in giving without the anticipation of tangible return. **(I think it is called, 'agape'.)**

The historical purpose and vision of the Council is rooted in seeking, in the midst of great diversity, the unity of all people under the lordship of Jesus, the Christ. It is a vision and purpose that I and the church I serve passionately believe in and give toward. We do it because it is a vision and purpose that eclipses our abilities as individuals or as a single church to fulfill it by ourselves.

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Dealing With Violence

by Don Ashmall
Council Minister



It's what we don't want to think about: our children, our parents or grandparents, our brothers and sisters, any and all potential victims of deranged, criminal violence. And it's close by. Even those of us who once pretended to ourselves that criminal violence was a far-away phenomenon must now admit that tortured and deranged individuals may be living in our own neighborhoods. Even now they may be plotting revenge against real and imagined grievances, preparing to share their pain by inflicting pain and death on others.

For many of our sisters and brothers that reality is nothing new. Some have been facing it for a very long time. In many urban areas in the U.S. the sound of gunfire is heard daily and hospital emergency rooms are as familiar with the trauma inflicted by guns, knives and blunt instruments as any military aid station ever was. In case anyone thinks this is solely an American phenomenon, we heard within the last month of an anti-Christian riot in Pakistan that damaged or destroyed three hundred homes. The cause was a rumor that someone from the attacked community had insulted the sensibilities of a person of another faith. Crazy is not confined to any one nation or any one neighborhood.

Your Council's Board of Trustees spoke out about the issue at their 2013 winter meeting. In the words of the board:

Criminal violence is a scourge affecting urban areas across the United States, endangering all of our citizens and especially our children. We give thanks to God for the creative efforts generated within our own member churches and ministry centers, and within the larger faith community, seeking to address this tragic situation through cooperative action.

We urge the servant leaders of our own churches and ministry centers, businesses, civic and community service organizations and government, and to all who are in positions of influence and authority to participate in practical efforts to reduce violence as a first step in building that which the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called "the beloved community." We pledge our own participation in these proactive efforts by prayer and by action.

(For those who may not be aware of the board's role in speaking to issues: the board speaks for the board and to the Council's member churches and centers. The board cannot, will not and does not impose its will on any church or center, for in the Council the churches and centers direct the board and not the other way 'round. The board speaks in order to bring an issue to the churches for their consideration.)

"Proactive efforts" to reduce violence are as varied as the imaginations of servant-leaders in countless cities and towns. Every day, local churches and centers answer Jesus' call to minister to "the least of these" by sharing food and clothing, by mentoring youth and adults as they learn new skills, by helping others to navigate their way through procedural mazes established by agencies that are meant to help, and by offering quiet counseling that empowers individual souls and brings hope in the place of despair. Contrary to the scoffing of skeptics, these are not impractical or irrelevant efforts. For those whose lives would otherwise be left in rage-producing darkness, these ministries light candles that pierce through the dimness and lead many into the presence of a new dawn. To every individual who helps in these ministries in any way: we thank God for you!

But there is need for more: more initiatives, more follow-through, more people to serve. If you and your church or center are not presently and actively pursuing a ministry that is meant to inspire hope in those with whom you are ministering: now is the best time to start!

We began our pilgrimage as Christians by confronting the violence of the cross. But we know that beyond the crucifixion is the promise and power of resurrection. What better season than that of Easter to consider anew how each of us may work toward "the beloved community" and all its fruits?

May your Eastertide be blessed.

2013 Workshop cont'd from page 1

there as part of the Education/Scholarship Fund Ministry and is the Dean of Education for the Ohio Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows, Inc.

"Joy for the Journey" is the title Dr. Taylor-Smith has given her workshop. As women attempt to live a Christian life, they are often burdened by issues of life that steal their joy. This session will discuss some of those issues and ways to respond so that their life can reflect the joy of Jesus.

REVIEWS



Dr. Robert M. Puckett

THE LAST WEEK: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem; Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, Harper One, 2006, Paperback, 238 pages

This book has been part of my Lenten devotional reading this year and I heartily recommend it to be part of yours. THE LAST WEEK is written by two of the most respected and helpful biblical scholars of our time. Marcus J. Borg grew up Lutheran and taught for many years at Oregon State University. John Dominic Crossan became a Catholic monk and priest. Together they have been members of the Jesus Seminar and both are passionate about the meaning of Jesus for Christian life today. The burning question they ask of Scripture is "What does then have to do with now?" (p. XI)

Conservative Evangelicals (Fundamentalists) claim to have a high regard for the Bible but few have read it as carefully as Borg and Crossan do. Their study of Mark's account of the Last Week of Jesus's life in Jerusalem examines every word of every text in Mark's description of it. They do so in the light of the context in which the author of Mark lived and wrote. Attempts to understand the last week apart from that context often leads to a misunderstanding of the story in Mark's time or ours.

Their purpose is to show why "those who live for nonviolent justice die all too often from violent injustice. They focus in this book on "what Jesus was passionate about" as a way of understanding why his life ended in the passion of Good Friday" (p. VIII)

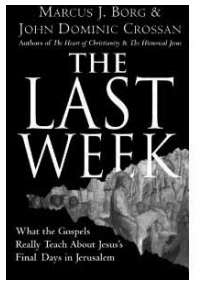
Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday riding on a humble donkey as the prince of peace. But on the other side of the city, "Pilate's procession embodied the power, glory and violence of the empire that ruled the world. Jesus's procession embodied an alternative

vision, the kingdom of God. This contrast-between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Caesar--is central not only to the gospel of Mark, but to the story of Jesus and early Christianity." (pp. 4-5)

Borg and Crossan demonstrate throughout this book how the confrontation between these two kingdoms continue and escalate throughout the eight days of the week of passion that ends in the execution of Jesus by the domination system in power in Jesus's world. It was his passion for the kingdom of God that got him killed. They also make it clear that Christianity's struggle for Justice in opposition of the domination systems that continue to trample on the poor remains the good news of the gospel in our time.

"Jesus's triumphal entry was actually an anti-imperial, anti-triumphal one, a deliberate lampoon of the conquering emperor entering the city on horseback through gates opened in abject submission." (P. 32)

These two authors conclude that "Holy Week and the journey are about an alternative procession and an alternative journey....That procession leads to a capital city, an imperial center, and a place of collaboration between religion and violence. Now as then, the alternative journey is the path of personal transformation that leads to journeying with the risen Jesus. They challenge readers to consider two important questions: "Which journey are we on? Which procession are we in?" (P. 216)



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THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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Editors.....DeAnn Chatlosh/Don Ashmall

Circulation.....DeAnn Chatlosh

Book Reviews.....Robert M. Puckett

Telephone: 815/464-5690

Fax: 815/464-5692

E-MAIL: ICC60423@SBCGLOBAL.NET • WWW.ICCCUSA.COM

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to :

ICCC, 21116 WASHINGTON PARKWAY, FRANKFORT, IL 60423-3112.

I.C.C.C. Empowerment Opportunities at the Annual Conference

Annual Conference is the leading annual event of the International Council of Community Churches. Much thought, work and prayer makes this event possible; we are grateful for the dedication of so many in making this gathering possible.

You can help make this year's Annual Conference a success by your material gift. Please consider the opportunities below. Your generosity will be recognized as you direct.

- Keynote Speaker's addresses to the Conference will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 2500
- Review of ICCC History, Purpose and Mission event will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 200
- Conference Choir (rehearsals and participation in worship) will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 300
- Prayer Room (all week) will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 1500
- Prayer Room (one day, you choose) will be empowered by your gift of... \$ 500
- Any general workshop (you choose, or we can select for you) will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 500
- Clergy continuing education event will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 3,000
- Bible Study will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 2500
- Geographical Meetings will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 150
- Worship led by our youth will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 500
- All Conference Welcome Luncheon will be empowered by your gift of... \$ 1200
- Koinonia Luncheon will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 500
- Mission Luncheon will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 500
- Prayer Breakfast will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 500
- All-Conference Banquet will be empowered by your gift of..... \$ 1500

- Your generous empowerment gift will be recognized in appropriate ways during the Annual Conference and in a subsequent issue of The Christian Community.
- **Gifts for this purpose will be included in the annual total of your gifts recognized and honored by the ICCC at year end.**
- Empowerment gifts are not exclusive. Others may wish to empower the same conference event.
- If you have any question or concerns please phone Council Minister Don Ashmall 207-479-6499.

Conference Updates

TAX EXEMPTION STATUS

Is your church or center paying for your conference attendance? Is that church or center tax-exempt? If so, the Crowne Plaza in Grand Rapids will apply your church's tax exemption status to your hotel bill if you present a copy of your church's tax exempt letter. Payment must be made with that church's check or credit card.

OUTREACH AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ICCC clergy and Board of Trustees members are invited to gather with pastors and other clerics from nearby non-member churches at a reception. As we're arriving for 2013's Annual Conference, this meet-and-greet event will be an opportunity for fellowship, interpretation of the community church movement, and an introduction to Annual Conference and its opportunities. Watch the ICCC Facebook page for this event, and indicate if you will be attending. Or RSVP to the Council House. Phone: 815-464-5690. Email: ICC60423@sbcglobal.net.

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2013

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

2400 Forest Hill SE • Grand Rapids, MI 49546-8258

GOT WHEELS?

The youth of the ICCC are getting ready to reflect the light of Jesus Christ in Grand Rapids, Michigan! Our slate of activities will include guest speakers, mission trips, and of course, growing in our love for our Savior. So far we will be reflecting Jesus' light through our service at Kids' Food Basket. This organization provides sack suppers for those in need. The suppers are delivered each day to parks around Grand Rapids. Kids' Food Basket is only one organization, of many, with which we hope to share the light.

In order for the youth to serve at different mission sites, we need your help with transportation. If you are planning to drive a bus or van to Grand Rapids, would you consider "loaning" us your vehicle for travel to mission sites? Most of these sites are within 15 miles from our hotel. If you are willing to help with transportation, please email Rev. Kerri Sandusky at ksandusky@churchatlitchfieldpark.org or call 623-935-3411. We welcome your help!

I.C.C.C. Empower Events

Please complete a separate form
for each Annual Conference event you wish to empower

I/we wish to empower the following event at the 2013 Annual Conference of the International Council of Community Churches. I/we understand that others may wish to participate in underwriting the same event. I/we understand that those whose gifts empower the various Annual Conference events will be recognized in an appropriate manner at the Conference and in the ICCC's Christian Community news publication.

+++ +++ +++

Event: _____

Amount: \$ _____

___ Payable by check made payable to ICCC; **or**

___ Payable by credit card – phone me at this number for credit card info:

Phone # with area code: _____

Best time of day to call: _____

+++ +++ +++

My/our gift may be recognized as follows: _____

Please PRINT YOUR GIFT INFORMATION.

Especially if your gift is "in honor" or "in memory" please be sure to double-check your spelling!

Your gift will be recognized EXACTLY as you indicate above.

- **Deadline for empowerment gifts for the 2013 Annual Conference is June 1, 2013.**
- **Gifts must be received at Council House by close of business that date.**
- **Sorry, no exceptions to deadline.**
- **Your empowerment gift will be included in your report of tax deductible 2013 gifts to the ICCC and will be given appropriate year-end recognition.**
- **Plan to empower the 2013 Annual Conference by your early gift!**

Volunteers Needed!

I'M LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Hours for Registration are:

- Saturday 7/20* **3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. (Come on, you night owls!!)
- Sunday 7/21* **7:30 p.m. - 9:30 a.m.** (Early Birds... you know who you are!)
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Book Table:

- Monday 7/22* **10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday 7/23* **12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
- Wednesday 7/24* **12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.**



I'll also need some helping hands to collect luncheon tickets and hand out offering envelopes. Please contact me(DeAnn) at the Council office to schedule a time. Thank you!!

Looking Ahead; A Program Idea

TURKEY HUNTING TIME IN TELLICO



November is turkey hunting time at the Community Church in Tellico Village. A turkey call rings out in the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. The chief turkey hunter, "Dead Eye Puckett," appears in the chancel on the first Sunday of the month and each Sunday up to Thanksgiving in his hunting outfit with his famous turkey hunting dog, Pepe (a nine pound toy poodle) to invite members of the congregation to purchase \$25 turkey hunting licenses. Our congregation generously supports this program every year. Some get one license and others get more. The money raised is used to buy turkeys and all the trimmings for Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in our area. This year we raised \$16,000 which is given to two volunteer ministries supported by the church. Over 1000 families enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner because we cared enough to make a difference. Incidentally that famous turkey hunting dog is well behaved when he goes to church. He calmly helps make the pitch for the hunt then sits quietly through the rest of the service. Last year he fell asleep during Marty's sermon, but this year he stayed awake when Rhonda Blevins and Tim Meadows preached!

WCF Update

Thanks is all I can say for all the hard work done last conference in North Carolina. Our shoe box ministry last year was off the charts.

A request for a crochet class will be held at conference on Monday, July 22. The materials you will need are knitting needles, US 8, 5 mm, starbella yarn, crochet hooks, and 2(#5) cylinders. You will have a curly scarf. Thank you for the suggestion. If you are interested contact Julia Powe, (jpowe70@hotmail.com)

This is an election year! If you are interested in any position contact Rev. Cay Randall-May (caypraynow@aol.com).

We are asking you to select a young woman or young man 18-35 to represent this year as the lights in your local congregation. Send name to Rev. Julia Powe to the above email.

Thanks for all you do. Eloise M. Crenshaw, WCF President

Sharing Joys:

- **People's Community Church**, Berea, OH will celebrate their 40th anniversary on April 20th with a dinner themed "Helping Outside Our Walls" - a tribute to their commitment to their community. The scripture text is Romans 12:13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
- Michigan's Spring Area Meeting will be held May 18th, at **Faith Christian Community Church** where **Rev. Ken Taylor** is the pastor. For information, call 313-934-4933 or contact the Council Office.
- Ohio's Spring Area Meeting will be held on April 27th at **Second Community Church** where **Rev. Dr. Charlene Watkins** is the pastor. For information, call 614-279-8853 or contact the Council Office.
- The following churches/centers have joined the ICCC since the Annual Conference in July: **Sacred Hearted Independent Catholic Church**, Windsor Locks, CT, **The Old Catholic Church in the United Kingdom**, Straffordshire, UK, **ABBA Church of Renewed Faith**, Chicago, IL, **St. Sebastian's Inclusive Church**, Hampshire, UK, **End-Time Ministries for Divine Solutions**, Monrovia, Liberia, and **Unity Community Church**, Muscle Shoals, AL. More informa-

tion about these new members can be found on our website under membership. Welcome!

Our prayers are with:



- The family of **Jo Finney** and the **Antioch Community Church** (Kansas City, MO) congregation, where Jo was an Elder and Chair of the Church Council. She died Feb. 8th, just a few days after serving Holy Communion to the folk in the Saturday Worship service. "She was a person with strong Christian commitment and lived her life as a giving Christian person." - **Harry Foockle**, Senior Pastor.
- **Jeanette Rothberg** and her family with the passing of Jeanette's husband Joe on January 3rd from heart failure. Jeannette is a member of **Roser Memorial Community Church** where **Gary Batey** is the pastor.
- **Mellow Smith** and family with the passing of her sister, Elizabeth, on January 25th. Service was held at **Metropolitan Community Church**, Birmingham, AL where **Harold Salter** is the pastor.
- **Julia Powe** and family with the passing of Julia's brother, Minister Melton Powe, Sr., on December 24th, 2012. Service was held on Jan. 5th at Greater New Antioch Baptist Church in Alabama.

Ministries To and With "The Least of These"

Available from the Resources section of the ICCC website is a one-page flyer designed for use by your church or center. 'Side two' of the flyer is complete with a description of the Council. 'Side one' of the flyer is yours to design. Include photos of your ministries of outreach and caring and a description of your church or center's compassion for those whom Jesus called "the least of these." Use the flyer as a worship bulletin insert, a tip-in promotional piece in your community's newspaper, on your website, or in a community-wide or congregational mailing.

President's Message cont'd from page 1

We need each other!

We need those in ministerial leadership to lead the churches and centers they have been called to serve in the embodiment of what our founders believed in and what Jesus died for.

We need the many faithfully giving individuals to continue their giving. We also need you to become vocal advocates before your pastors, boards and budget committees. Now is the time to 'put your mouth where your money is!'

We need each other because the cause of Christ and the vision of the I.C.C.C. has always been, and will always be, bigger than any one of us alone and all of us together!

We need each church, center and individual to share their resources of time, talent and treasure with the firm belief that the call of Christ is realized and experienced in the 'intangible religious benefits' of being the International Council of Community Churches. In our being together, all for one and one for all, the tangible takes shape and form as the kingdom of God comes on earth as it is in heaven.

The sealed stone was a 'Sisyphus reminder'. But, the Easter story words, 'They saw that the stone was rolled away.' is the announcement that our lives are not meaningless or absurd. Life does have meaning in the present, in death and life's impact has eternal possibility."

I was thinking to myself, "Now, this will preach!"

Roy continued, "The big problem I see with most of the people who treat Easter as a miracle and not a story is this: 'They are more into living the Sisyphus experience than the miracle they call Easter!'"

Seeking a Senior Pastor

"I am come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly." - St. John 10:10

People's Community Church is a Singing, Praying, Tithing, Serving and Loving congregation, seeking a spiritual and energetic pastor. People's Community Church was organized in 1954 and is a charter member of the International Council of Community Churches. In response to God's call and through the Power of the Holy Spirit, it is the mission of People's Community Church to be a Community of Faith through which the Kingdom of God might be revealed. The Pastoral Search Committee request your resume along with a video, CD or recording of a recent sermon.

The candidate must be an ordained minister, a graduate of a university and an accredited theological seminary with a divinity degree or its equivalence.

He/she must also have actively pastored for at least three years in a congregation that is recognized by the International Council of Community Churches. Must have the love of the gospel; demonstrating qualities of strong leadership in the areas of preaching, teaching, administration, community relations and be able to relate to all generations of the congregation. He/she must demonstrate the ability to stimulate positive church growth in the inter-city area of Detroit.

Interested candidates may submit requested documents to the attention of the Search Committee for Pastoral Leadership, People's Community Church, 8601 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202 - Carolyn Ford, Chairperson. Initial interest may also communicate via email at personaltouch_22@att.net.

Seeking a Music Director

The Church at Litchfield Park is seeking a Director of Music to oversee the music program of a growing and dynamic interdenominational community church in Litchfield Park, AZ. The director will be responsible for directing the 30+ member Chancel Choir and the Contemporary Music Team as well as working with the directors of the bell choir and children's choirs. Interested applicants should have experience in directing both a traditional worship choir and leading contemporary/blended worship. The position is ¾ time and compensation will be based on experience. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and list of references electronically to info@churchatlitchfieldpark.org.

Seeking a Pastor

If you believe you have the leadership experience, tools and skills needed to assist and encourage an active member supported and governed church-community, then your initial correspondence will inspire us to get to know you. The successful candidate must be ordained and have a master's degree or equivalent from an accredited theological seminary.

For more information about our church please consult our website, www.greendalepeopleschurch.org. Candidates may forward their resume and introduction letter along with a transcript, video or recording of a recent sermon to: office@greendalepeopleschurch.org or mail to Search Committee, c/o Greendale People's Church, 25 Francis St., Worcester, MA 01606.