

26 Billboards and Counting!

So far, 26 billboards have been sponsored by individuals and groups within our church! Each billboard will proclaim **Who Stole Jesus?** and invite viewers to a web-based discussion. Our goal is to highlight the gap between the Jesus of the Gospels and how he's often presented by institutional Christianity. *See the insert for details.*

The billboards will go up the week of September 19 in the Indianapolis metro area and run for 28 days. **Today is the deadline** for sponsoring a first-round billboard, although additional billboards can be added over time as sponsorships come in. If you would like to sponsor a billboard, fill out today's insert. (If you don't have your donation with you today, just write-in the date of your intended donation on the sponsor form.)

We will also make use of **yard signs, t-shirts, and bumper magnets.** These items will be available beginning Sunday September 25, a few days after the billboards go up. Yard signs and bumper stickers are free. T-shirts will cost about \$10 each. **Today is the deadline for ordering those items, too.**

Let's prepare the way for this powerful outreach by lifting lots of prayers. Pray for those who've been turned off by institutional Christianity, that they will take another look at Jesus. And pray for the dialogue that these billboards will spark in congregations around Indianapolis and beyond.

Another Way To Participate

We are assembling a crew to help with several tasks. We will **fold and staple yard signs** one evening the week of September 19. We will also need volunteers to **hand out yard signs, bumper stickers, and t-shirts** on September 25 and October 2. If you'd like to help, please fill out the form.

I can serve on the team that prepares and hands out yard signs and other items.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return this form in the offering or in the basket at the info kiosk.

Children's Check-In: All preschoolers to fifth graders will take part in adult worship today and will be dismissed before the sermon for *Blast Off Worship* in Room 1. There is no check-in on Blast Off Sundays, the first Sunday of each month.

Oasis News

The **African American Oasis** recently celebrated *six years* of growing spiritually, and building friendships. Now we're shaking up our schedule a bit: starting September 8, we'll meet **every other Thursday at 6:30 pm** in Room 4. All are welcome to attend — you don't have to be African-American or a member of the church. So come out on Thursday and learn together with us.

Fellowship Galactica has a schedule change for this month: we'll meet on the *third* and *fifth* Fridays. On September 16 we'll watch the movie *Serenity*, the culmination of the series *Firefly*. We'll watch another movie (to be determined) on September 30 and begin a **brand new series** in October. Fellowship Galactica meets at David Wene and David Squire's home. Contact David Wene for info: DavidWene@hotmail.com.

The **Couples' Oasis** returns from their summer break on September 21! They now meet on the *first, third, and fifth* Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the church, and use the "going deeper" format to discuss each week's sermon.

The Couple's Oasis helps couples connect and share experiences, both good and bad, to learn from them and support each other.

See the flyer at the info kiosk for details about all Oasis groups.

Fall Family Retreat!

Brown County is THE place to be in the fall and that is where families with children will be headed for our first fall retreat!

The **Brown County Inn** will host our parents and children October 14 – 15, Friday 4:00 pm to Saturday 4:00 pm. This retreat is more than just a great getaway from everyday life; it is also a chance for parents to **connect with other parents** and **gather the tools necessary to be the spiritual leaders** their children need them to be. Children and parents will enjoy the Inn's amenities, including the pool, a game room, miniature golf, horseshoes, and more! The cost for each room is \$125 + tax, and meals will be served in the Inn's restaurant. For more info or to reserve your spot complete the form below. **All reservations must be made TODAY, September 4.**

We're interested in the Family Retreat.

Names _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return this form in the offering or in the basket at the info kiosk.

Order of Service • September 4, 2011

Worship Theme: Understanding the Bible Better

Key Verse: Live by the Spirit, I say. . . . If you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. *Galatians 5:16, 18*

Our Approach To God

Prelude: *Let the Church Rise*

Praise Songs and Prayer: *Glory, Glory, Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Grateful*

Connection Opportunities

God's Word To Us

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:18 – 3:9

Anthem: *When I Call on Jesus*, Sonja Hendrickson

Sermon: *What the Bible Is — and Isn't*, by Jeff Miner

Offering our Gifts and Resources: *Here I Am To Worship*

Our Communion With God

Silent Confession

General Confession: God, sometimes I have misunderstood, and even misapplied, the Bible, using it in ways you never intended. Forgive me. Help me to understand and share your Word in ways that give light and life. May I never use the Letter to kill the Spirit. Amen.

Consecration of the Elements

Proclamation of our Faith: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ is here now, and Christ will come again. Alleluia!

Distribution of the Elements

If this is your first time with us: you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You're also welcome to just observe, if you prefer. You can take Communion alone, or with friends or family members.

Ushers will release the rows and direct you to a server. The server will offer you the wafer dipped in juice with a short prayer. After receiving the elements, please return to your seat by the side aisle. If you would like to receive communion but are unable to come forward, please notify an usher.

After all are Served the Elements

Rise and sing *Let There Be Peace on Earth*.

Benediction

Postlude

Deacons will be at the front of the sanctuary after service for any who wish to pray.

Webcast Reminder: The morning services are recorded for our webcast, and crowd shots are included. To improve the quality of those shots, we'd like to fill the center section of seating. *If you don't want to be on camera, just sit in the back half of the east section (near the media booth).*

Notes

Decision Form: *If you feel moved to respond in a tangible way.*

- I am making a decision to become a follower of Jesus, or I want to rededicate myself to that decision.
- I have questions about spiritual things and would like to talk to someone.
- Other: _____

One of our pastoral staff would be happy to make an appointment to talk with you about your spiritual life and what steps might come next — *but only if you wish.*

- I would like to schedule a time to talk.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Place this form in the basket at the info kiosk.

About this Calendar

Events are open to all – the only exceptions are *SoulShift* classes, which require advance registration.

For more info, inquire at the info kiosk, see any staff member or ministry team leader, or contact the office at info@LifeJourneyChurch.cc.

Sunday, September 4

- 9:30 am **Early Worship Service.**
11:00 am **Morning Worship Service.**
11:30 am **The Bridge 2.0** (junior high / middle school), Room 7.
Youth are released from the sanctuary before the sermon.

Monday, September 5

- 7:30 pm **AA Meeting**, Room 2.

Tuesday, September 6

- 7:00 pm **Board of Trustees**, Room 4.
7:00 pm **Clergy Training Board**, Room 6.
7:00 pm **Jesus Seekers Oasis** meets at the home of Roger Brown.
Info: See Chuck Levi or call Roger at (317) 446-5604.
7:00 pm **[going deeper] Tuesday Evening Oasis**, Room 2. Info: Jim Rednour at (765) 388-0256.

Wednesday, September 7

- 6:30 pm **Children's Choir**, sanctuary.
6:30 pm **[going deeper] Family Oasis**, Room 2. Info: Melody Merida, mmerida@lifejourneychurch.cc or (317) 722-0000 x 102.

Thursday, September 8

- 6:30 pm **African American Oasis**, Room 4. Info: Tina Johnson-McCrackin at (317) 496-6557.
7:00 pm **[going deeper] Close Encounters of the Heart Oasis**, Room 1. Info: Larry Heavilon, larryheavilon@hotmail.com or (317) 523-4543.
7:00 pm **Discipleship 101 SoulShift Class**, Room 6.
7:00 pm **[going deeper] L3: Love Looks Like Oasis**, Room 2.
Info: Tommy Chittenden at tommychittenden@gmail.com or (317) 966-0284.

Friday, September 9

- 9:00 am **[going deeper] Friday Morning Oasis**, Room 4. Info: Melissa Bruce, (317) 294-5225 or mmbruce59@hotmail.com.
3:00 pm **Music Ministry carpools to King's Island for Pride Day.**
See page four for info.
4:00 pm **Young Adults carpool to King's Island for Pride Day.** See page four for info.
7:30 pm **Women's AA Meeting**, Room 2.

Saturday, September 10

- 10:30 am **Praise Team Practice**, sanctuary.
11:00 am **Animal Ministry volunteers at the Indianapolis Humane Society.** Info: Robin Herman at robin@luckydogretreat.com.
4:00 pm **Praise Team Practice**, sanctuary.

Coming Soon

- Sept 11 **Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace and Unity** at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. See page four for info.
Sept 13 **Square Dance Intro/Open House.** See page four for info.
Oct 14-15 **Fall Family Retreat.** Mark your calendar today! See the article on page one.

Last Week's Numbers

Early Service Attendance	148
Morning Service Attendance	200
Other Events Attendance	100
General Offering	\$7,255
General Offering: Three Month Average	\$9,349
General Offering Average <i>Goal</i>	\$9,554


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a congregation of the
Metropolitan Community Churches

Jeff Miner, Pastor

Melody Merida, Minister of
Congregational Life

Mark Brown, Minister of
Worship Arts

Vivian Wyatt, Minister of Care
and Business Administration

David Zier, Minister of
Outreach and Development

David Squire,
Communications Director

Interfaith Prayer Vigil on 9/11

On September 11, LifeJourney Church will participate in an interfaith **Prayer Vigil for Peace and Unity** coordinated by St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

Twelve different faith traditions and congregations will provide prayers in a style fitting their tradition to remember the 10th anniversary of 9/11. You're welcome to attend any part of the Vigil.

If you would like to be part of the LifeJourney group from 8:00 to 9:00 am, please fill out the form below.

Participants:

7:00 – 8:00 am	Orthodox Christian Community of Central IN
8:00 – 9:00 am	LifeJourney Church
9:00 – 10:00 am	Baha'i Faith
10:00 – 11:00 am	Congregation Beth-El Zedeck
11:00 am – noon	St. Luke's Labyrinth Ministry
Noon – 1:00 pm	Muslim Community
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Quaker Community
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Progressive Spiritualist Church
3:00 – 3:30 pm	The Hindu Temple of Central Indiana
3:30 – 4:00 pm	The Sai Center of Indianapolis
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Indiana Buddhist Center
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Miami Nation of Indians of the State of Indiana

I'd like to be part of our group at the Prayer Vigil.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return this form in the offering or in the basket at the info kiosk.

Kings Island Pride Night

Two groups are going to Kings Island on **this Friday** for Pride Night: the **Music Ministry** and the **Young Adults**. Both groups will carpool from the church. The cost is \$36.

If you'd like to go with the **Music Ministry**, give your payment to Mark Brown no later than September 5. **If you are considering joining the music ministry or are already in the music ministry, please join us.** We'll leave the church at **3:00 pm**, and return around midnight. Contact Mark with questions: (317) 722-0000 x 104 or mbrown@lifejourneychurch.cc.

If you'd like to go with the **Young Adults (18-35)**, payment should be given to Melody Merida. The Young Adults will leave the church at **4:00 pm**, and return around midnight. Questions: (317) 722-0000 x 102 or mmerida@lifejourneychurch.cc.

I plan to attend Pride Night with:

Music Ministry Young Adults

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return this form in the offering or in the basket at the info kiosk.

Square Dance Lessons!

Join us on **Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 pm** for an intro to square dancing, including an easy beginner's lesson. You're welcome to come just to observe, if you don't want to dance.

Modern western square dancing is *rhythm set to music* using country western, show tunes, Broadway, and pop music. It's not clogging nor is it the "Virginia Reel" you may have learned in school. It's moderately aerobic, a great way to meet friends, and a lot of fun. Our instructor has 30 years of square dance calling and teaching experience.

For more info, email rjohnson1506@comcast.net or call (317) 881-9223.

Deacon of the Month: Randy King

Did you know that our Deacon Randy King has a Betty Boop museum in his home? If you were to visit, you would see that his bathroom showcases "the greatest actress in animation." It seems that Randy is a great fan of Betty and has all of her movies as well.

Randy is a widower with two children and "the most awesome grandson, Elliot." He has two Greyhounds, a miniature Pincher, and three birds. He has fostered Greyhounds and managed

to keep only three of the fifty-five that passed through his care.

When you see him, stop and say hello. He has lots to talk about and is always willing to lend a listening ear.



CREDO Confirmation for Teens

Confirmation is not the beginning or the end of the faith journey — it's about making disciples!

Confirmation gives teens a familiarity with what Christians believe, value, and do; but **instruction** is only one aspect of the program. In addition to learning about their faith, confirmands will also **experience** their faith and gain a sense of how to live as a disciple of Christ in a covenant relationship with the church.

They will do this by attending and participating in weekly Sunday worship, by working alongside other Christians in service of God and neighbor, by participating in Christian education, and by being engaged in the ministries of the church.

Confirmation begins **Tuesday, September 13** and is open to all youth ages 12 to 17. The course will run through March, 2012 in six-week segments. Classes will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. For more info please complete the form below.

We're interested in Confirmation for Teens.

Names _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return this form in the offering or in the basket at the info kiosk.



Sponsor a billboard for \$584.

Yes, I will sponsor a 28-day billboard that reaches 8,000 to 20,000 people each day with a message inviting them to take another look at the real Jesus!

- My check for \$584 is attached, or
 My check for \$584 will be delivered no later than August 31.

- **Please do not reduce your regular giving to sponsor a billboard** — or our existing ministries will be at risk. The billboard campaign is for gifts above our regular giving.
- Make sure the memo line of your check is clearly marked “billboard.”
- Groups of people are welcome to sponsor a billboard together. In that case, just bundle your checks and make sure they are marked “billboard.”
- When your billboard goes up, we will send you the exact location, so you can drive by and lift prayers for those who see it! The campaign will begin in mid-September.

Other ways to participate

I will put yard signs along roadways and at key intersections near my home.
How many? 10 20 30 Other:

I will put a magnetic *Who Stole Jesus?* bumper sticker on my vehicle. *I want:* 1 2 Other:

I anticipate purchasing a *Who Stole Jesus?* t-shirt for \$15. *How many and what size?*

Adult sizes S M L XL
 2XL 3XL 4XL

Youth sizes XSmall Small Large

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*Return this form in the offering
or in the basket at the info kiosk.*

Together we will share a powerful message of hope about the real Jesus!

Who stole Jesus?

This text will appear at www.LifeJourneyChurch.cc/whostolejesus.

There is a huge gap between how Jesus is described in the Bible and how he's often presented in many churches.

It's almost as if the real Jesus (generous and loving) has been kidnapped, and a false Jesus (mean and judgmental) has been trotted out in his place.

Consider the evidence:

- **The real Jesus taught that his followers should take a flexible approach, doing what love requires in any situation** (Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 3:1-6). Many churches today teach that rules are more important than love.
- **The real Jesus defended sinners from attack** (John 8:1-11). Many churches today lead the charge against them.
- **The real Jesus empowered women spiritually** (Luke 8:1-4; John 20:11-18). Many churches today teach that only men are worthy of spiritual leadership.
- **The real Jesus encouraged simple living** (Luke 12:13-34). Many churches today celebrate flashy materialism.
- **The real Jesus celebrated diversity in God's creation, including gay and transgender people** (Matthew 8:5-13; Matthew 19:1-12). Many churches today call diversity an abomination. (To read more, click here. *Link to The Children Are Free.*)
- **The real Jesus boldly crossed racial and ethnic boundaries** (John 4:1-30; Luke 10:25-37). Many churches today are segregated by race and ethnicity.
- **The real Jesus drank wine; creating wine was his first miracle** (John 2:1-11). Many churches today prohibit drinking altogether.
- **The real Jesus celebrated life and loved having a good time** (Matthew 11:16-19). Many churches today give the impression that fun is dangerous.

The list could go on and on, but you get the idea. **There's a huge gap between the real Jesus and the Jesus often presented by institutional Christianity.**

At LifeJourney Church, we're under no illusion that we've got it all figured out. But we are genuinely concerned and want to spark an honest dialogue.

Here are some options for action:

- **Share your thoughts online at: www.LifeJourneyChurch.cc/whostolejesus.** Invite others into the dialogue by sharing that link on Facebook or via email.
- **Spark a dialogue in your church** by asking questions about the gap described above.
- **Learn more about the real Jesus.** Every Sunday this fall, sermons at LifeJourney Church will contrast the Jesus of the Bible with the fake Jesus often presented by institutional Christianity. Join us in our search for the authentic Jesus. [*Worship times and map, and webcast link.*]
- **Keep the billboards coming!** Each billboard costs \$584. If you would like to sponsor a billboard, go to [*billboard donate link*].

Together we can reclaim Jesus for ordinary people!