



# MERIDIAN *Messenger*

A monthly newsletter for the Meridian Street United Methodist Church family

August, 2017

[meridianstreet.org](http://meridianstreet.org)

## Changing Seasons

There is a part of me that is in denial. Even though Nancy has headed back to Nora Elementary School (she is the librarian there), and the busses are out on the streets, I refuse to believe that summer is really over. It's August, for gosh sakes --- how can summer be over?

I hope none of you are in that same predicament, but my guess is you are. Summer seems shorter and shorter to me. So forgive me if I talk about the fall, but I really have no choice.

One of the signs of the changing of the seasons at Meridian Street is the changing of officers and members of the various ministry teams. To everyone who's term has just come to an end I want to say Thank You! And to each of you who will be serving, I pray that you will be committed to helping Meridian Street reach our potential through the ministry team in which you serve. It is your wisdom and passion to reach people with the love of Jesus that makes all the difference. Whether pouring over a budget or figuring out how to make sure the church is clean may seem mundane, without committed disciples giving of themselves our church would not be the place that it is. Again, Thank you!

August is going to be a busy month. We will be welcoming Bethany Scott, our new Director of Family Ministries and Neighborhood Outreach. Bethany will be introduced during worship services on August 6. On August 20, we will celebrate our new Welcome Center as a part of MyMeridian. Along with dedicating the new welcome center we will have a ministry fair taking place in the center. We will not have lunch on the 20th, but we will have a continental breakfast. More information about this celebration is in the Messenger.

As your summer comes to an end, I hope that you will remember your family at Meridian Street and we can look forward to sharing time with you. We gather together each week so that we can be nearer to our God and nearer to each other.

Peace,  
Steve



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## MyMeridian Open House – August 20

We are planning our annual MyMeridian party on Sunday, August 20 and hope you can come! For the past several years, we have held MyMeridian in September, as a kind of kick-off to fall and the beginning of school year and a time when the church calendar begins to fill with all of the varied activities. With schools starting back earlier and earlier, this year we're holding a MyMeridian Open House in the Welcome Center in August.



The Open House begins at 9:30 a.m. Enjoy a continental breakfast as you stroll through the Welcome Center. You'll have a chance to visit with representatives to learn about the various missions we support, volunteer opportunities, outreach ministries, and other small groups to see how you can get involved. We'll hold one worship service at 10:30 a.m. where we'll dedicate and celebrate our beautiful new welcome center. Mark your calendar today and plan to attend!

## Needlework Group



Each month a group of ladies gets together to knit, crochet or do other needle crafts and enjoy each other's company. There is a lot of laughter heard from these get-togethers but a lot of good work is completed too. They make prayer shawls and lap blankets that are delivered by the pastors to our members who are ill. Last winter they made hats, mittens, and scarves and delivered them to Fletcher Place for the children of that community. And they sent comfort dolls with the mission team in Bolivia to be distributed to the children. Join them in the Welcome Center at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. An evening meeting could be added if there is interest. In addition, the Indianapolis Knitting Guild will be moving their monthly meetings to Meridian Street and

they would love for you to join them. For more information on either of these groups, contact Cyrena Gilman 317.297.4666.

## Celebrate Butler!

The weekend of September 16 – 17 is the date for our first Celebrate Butler event. The weekend is designed to build community both with the Butler Students and the neighborhood and within our own church family. Butler's first home football game is that Saturday at 6:30 p.m. against Taylor. We'll have tickets to the game available for members as well as tailgating and games at the Butler Bowl. Look for details in the coming weeks



On Sunday, September 17, we'll worship at our normal times, but will include a prayer for the Butler community and we'll celebrate our Bulldogs! Following worship, we'll have lunch available for purchase at food trucks, the ever popular Cake Walk, enjoy the Butler Band on the front lawn, plus a few other surprises. Go Dawgs!!

## Dinner with the Conger's

Pastor Steve and Nancy invite you to join them as they begin monthly dinners at their home. The dinners will be an opportunity to get to know you and your dreams and passions. The August 29 date still has a few open spots, September is filled, but the rest of the dates October 17, November 16, and December 7, are available. If you would like to come to a dinner, please contact Mary Sue McAlister in the church office at [mmcalister@meridianstreet.org](mailto:mmcalister@meridianstreet.org) or 317.253.3237.

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## Celebrate the Martin Luther King Community Center!

It's been a busy and exciting summer at the MLKCC! The summer program at the center looked to hire youth from the neighborhood. While the MLK team had enough resources to pay for 10 youth, they ended up having 34 apply. All 34 ended up being hired by the MLKCC for their summer program. The students were even recognized by Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett at the end of their summer program.



Another program this summer was the Summer Reading Program. Here are some success stories from this program:

- Our 5th-7th graders saw on average 2 year growth in reading levels in 6 weeks!
- 66% of our 5th- 7th grader were below grade level in reading at the beginning of the summer and only 22% are today.
- Our Reading Specialist worked with four students, one-on-one twice a week
- Our Kindergarteners read 32 books, 1st-3rd graders read 7 chapter books and 4th graders read 3 chapter books
- Our youngest students who came in not knowing a single letter, are ready to start school knowing letter names and sounds!

As the new school year begins, Allison Luthe, the Executive Director, reflected on how far the MLKCC has come. In 2015, there were zero kids signed up on the first day of school for their after school care program. This year, the MLKCC already has 60 kids signed up so far.

Meridian Street is a part of this success story! Through the generous grant support of the Otto Legacy Grant for the summer programs, to the support of the Hansman Grant for MLKCC's continued programs, and the many volunteers and contributors, we helped to make a difference in our neighborhood with our wonderful partners at the Martin Luther Community Center!

There still time to make a difference! If you are interested in volunteering at the MLKCC, there are two training sessions that are required on Saturday, August 12. There are two sessions to choose, Session 1: 9am-12pm or Session 2: 1pm-4pm. You can RSVP at [info@MLKCenterIndy.org](mailto:info@MLKCenterIndy.org).

We also look forward to welcoming Allison Luthe to worship on Sunday, August 20 as she will award Meridian Street with the first ever "Partner of the Year" award.

Thank you for your continued support of our neighborhood partners!  
Pastor Matt



## Christmas in July Donations!

Merry Christmas in July! We had volunteers running Christmas gifts all over the city! We're so glad to support the amazing work of Exodus Refugee Immigration, Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis, NeighborLink Indianapolis, Soup's On at Roberts Park, and Fletcher Place Community Center.

## News from Youth and Campus Ministries

### Youth

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to our Fall Retreat at Camp Allendale, August 4-6 in Trafalgar, IN. You can find more info and sign up on our [website](#).

Our fall calendar is ready and here is our new Sunday morning schedule, beginning Sunday, August 13.

- 9 - 9:30 a.m. Join Celebration Bells at Practice on the Third Floor (Starting September 10)
- 9:30 -10:30 a.m. Worship with us in the Chapel
- 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Weekly Youth Group Time!

Youth in grades 6-8 (called 4Twelve) will meet in Room 304. Youth in high school (grades 9-12) called Upper Room will meet in Room 308. This is a time for discussion, reflection, games, and connection!

### Campus Ministry

Students are heading back to Butler and we are planning for the year ahead. This year we are focusing on Faith and Vocation, so along with our monthly meetings we will host an event based just on faith and careers.

On the last Tuesday of each month we will have an event for students of all faith denominations to listen to guest speakers and have discussions about how faith correlates with day to day life in the fields most prevalent at Butler University. If you would like to be a guest speaker please contact Dani Campbell at [dcampbell@meridianstreet.org](mailto:dcampbell@meridianstreet.org).

Here is the schedule for the school year!

- September 26: Business
- October 24: Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- November 28: Communication
- January 30: Education
- February 27: Liberal Arts and Sciences
- March 27: Jordan College of Arts

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## Finance FAQs: Mission Dollars

It's mission and outreach season at Meridian Street! Washington D.C. in June, youth team Day of Service and Christmas in July projects during the month of July, and Bolivia in August....amazing!

What is the financial impact of Meridian Street's involvement in world mission work and community program support? About **\$150k per year...again, amazing!** Not to mention this amount only includes hard dollars and doesn't factor in any volunteer hours or non-monetary donations generously provided by the amazing Meridian Street community!

- **\$31,600** is allocated to missions/outreach in the 2017 operating budget.
  - **\$15,000 to world mission partners:** Mission Guatemala, Andean Rural Health Care (Bolivia), Fairfield Children's Homes (Zimbabwe), UMCOR Midwest Distribution Center, Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (South Africa), Friendly Planet Missiology (Congo), Fairbanks Native Bible Church (Alaska), others
  - **\$16,600 allocated to community** enrichment programs: Family Promise/IHN, Neighbor Link, Soup's On, Fletcher Place, Habitat for Humanity, and others.
- **\$8,500** (approximately – the amount varies depending on which international mission is selected) is used to help fund **mission work trips**. The \$8,500 is raised primarily through mission breakfast fundraisers and individual donations of the mission work trip team. An estimate of **\$20,000** per year is spent by **individuals participating in various mission work trips** for travel, lodging, supplies, etc.
- **\$60,000** (approximately) is expended from **Hansman restricted fund** each year. In honor of Mrs. Florence Hansman, Meridian Street offers grants to outside organizations and internal ministry programs to support experimental ministry and outreach projects.
- **\$30,000** (approximately) is annually expended from **Otto Legacy restricted fund**. This fund was established after the sale of Camp Otto on June 7, 2005. These monies support Meridian Street youth mission trips/retreats/camping experiences, and other internal fellowship and spiritual development events. Grants are also available to outside groups involved in outreach to Indianapolis area disadvantaged youth.

## Neighbor to Neighbor Work Day

### Neighbor to Neighbor Painting Project

The next Neighbor to Neighbor work day is Saturday, August 12, 9 a.m. – Noon. The project is exterior window trim painting for a senior. This is to clear citations from the Board of Health. She has medical problems and has spent several months recently in the hospital and then rehab in a nursing home.

Neighbor to Neighbor will provide supplies and water/drinks. More information and the specific location will be shared closer to the service date. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Jefferis at [j11jefferis@gmail.com](mailto:j11jefferis@gmail.com). Sign up with the link below:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044ba4ac2ea1fe3-neighbor>

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# MERIDIAN STREET

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## Save The Date!

Some important upcoming dates

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| July 30 – August 6  | Interfaith Hospitality Network at Meridian Street |
| July 30 – August 12 | Mission Trip to Bolivia                           |
| August 12           | Neighbor to Neighbor Work Day                     |
| August 20           | MyMeridian Open House – 1 service at 10:30 a.m.   |
| September 15-16     | Butler Celebration                                |