

The Seed

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Hunger Hike 2007

Sunday, September 16

An annual event to help feed the hungry

Benefiting Lafayette Urban Ministry's food programs, St. Thomas Aquinas' Haiti Project, and Food Finders Food Bank, the annual Hunger Hike presented by Bison Financial Group gives participants the opportunity to directly impact hunger issues. Last year, over 500 walkers enthusiastically walked and ran the Wabash Heritage Trail route and raised over \$60,000.



You have a chance to help the hungry. You can:

Hike— collect donations in advance.



Ride— New this year: form a team of motorcyclists! Get sponsors, show off your bikes, ride your own route!

Sponsor— walkers from your church or business.

Recruit— your own team of walkers; encourage each to raise \$50 or more

Donate— online at www.hungerhike.org

Create— your own fund-raising page for Hunger Hike (it's FREE, FUN and EASY). Learn more at www.hungerhike.org.



Need a registration form to start collecting pledges? Use the enclosed form, stop by LUM, call 423-2691, or go to www.hungerhike.org.

**Join us on Sunday,
September 16!**

12:30-1:30 PM Registration at Riehle Plaza. Come early for great door prizes!

2:00 PM 2-mile hike begins on the Wabash Heritage Trail. Also—extended 4.5-mile route for joggers!

3:00 PM Party time! Live music by Malachi Jagers Band, clowns, balloons, massages, watermelon, and hot dogs. *All these are provided by generous donations.*



Sharing God through gifts of the spirit

by Mary Anderson, Executive Director

I'm not necessarily a big fan of "blogs." It seems as though a person could spend an entire day reading just a fraction of these internet personal commentaries on life, politics, social issues and the like. Many seem to be personal rants; too many are probably taken much too seriously. But there are a few that I look at occasionally, including family blogs from across the country that keep me posted on two of the world's cutest grand-nieces.

And every few months I look at a blog of sermons from the daughter of a good friend. Just the name—"Lutheran Coffee Hour"—makes it interesting. I admit that I don't read every sermon, or every word of the ones I do look at, but occasionally something pops out that really strikes a chord.

So it was with Gail Hermodson's Pentecost sermon at the end of May. She was speaking of the breath of God coming to the disciples as the Holy Spirit, the rushing wind, the tongues of fire as they gathered in that small room. Pastor Hermodson quoted Barbara Brown Taylor explaining the work of the Spirit as **"taking God into you and giving God back to the world again, with some of you attached."**

Wow. That's what happens every day of the year, many times each day, here at Lafayette Urban Ministry. Volunteers, staff members, and donors all give of themselves to others, with a little of their own personality and gifts attached. Some give back because

of the Gospel call to serve the least among us. Some give back because of deep compassion. Some give back because of personal experience and empathy. Some give gifts of time. Others share gifts of talent. And others extend the gift of treasure. **But every gift comes with some of the giver attached.**

And that giving is at its best at LUM Camp. Our LUM Camp sponsors made that opportunity available to 70 children this summer.

The gifts shared with LUM clients give God back to each one, with a little bit of the giver attached. It makes those gifts personal, and special, and valued.

Our extraordinary volunteer counselors gave their time and talent and endless patience. Our staff gave their creativity and best organizational skills. **But each one left something of themselves with each camper as well.**

Who can measure the effect of words of encouragement to a child who usually hears little but negative comments? Who can tell what seeds are planted by the example of a college student who shares the joy of learning? How do you quantify the results of workshops on diversity,

peace making and living in community?

Whether it is a smile at the registration desk of the homeless shelter, a listening ear from a morning advocate, the patience of a tax preparer, the energy of an after school volunteer or a donation of any kind, the gifts shared with LUM clients give God back to each one, with a little bit of the giver attached. It makes those gifts personal, and special, and valued.

In a world that seems increasingly impersonal and distant, I am thankful for people who are willing to share of themselves. You may never see a LUM camper, or talk with a shelter guest, or help prepare a tax return. But you have breathed in God, and you have returned your love and compassion with some of you attached. It can't get any more personal or connected than that.

Pastor Hermodson ended her sermon saying, "Imagine where that breath goes as it leaves your body, imagine the lives that can and will be changed as you breathe in and out God's breath." I can imagine it. I see it every day. ✨

Campers and critters get up close and personal at LUM Camp 2007

LUM Camp 2007, "CRITTER CAMP," was a huge success! 70 campers, 31 volunteer counselors and over 25 program directors experienced a week of fresh air, good food, new friends and great learning. Activities included swimming and outdoor games, sleeping in cabins, rock wall climbing, paddleboats, jugglers, storytellers, and plenty of educational enrichment.

The campers and staff thank everyone who helped make LUM CAMP 2007 possible. You have touched the lives of these children in many ways.



LUM campers were introduced to many different kinds of critters by Purdue entomologists and other wildlife experts. Children were able to visit with a large millipede (above), as well as an alligator, boa constrictor, hedgehog, skunk, and mounted bug specimens.



Campers participated in many outdoor activities including swimming (above), paddleboat rides, hiking, and lots of other fun.



Campers enjoyed nutritious meals (above) all week long. One night everyone enjoyed ice cream treats (below) that were served by members of the LUM Board of Directors.



Touching the future by helping children and families today




LUM 1972-2007

Celebrating 35 years of service

The SEED • September 2007

Change Service Requested

Briefly noted

- The Emergency Overnight Homeless Shelter needs** donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste. Please bring your contributions to LUM during regular office hours, M-F, 8:15am-4:30pm. Thanks for your help!
- LUM is seeking Full-time and Weekend Shelter Coordinators.** Coordinators are on duty from 8pm-7am but are allowed to sleep for part of that time. Coordinators receive a stipend of \$35/night. In addition, the **full-time shelter coordinator** is offered an efficiency apartment, meals, laundry, and internet. Applications are available online at www.lafayetteurbanministry.org (go to "Be an Overnight Shelter Volunteer" under NEWS and scroll to the bottom of the page) or contact Joyce Boehm at 423-2691 or jboehm@lafayetteurbanministry.org
- The Afterschool Program needs juice!** Donations of small juice boxes or powdered drink mix would especially be appreciated. 
- Is the 2007 Thanksgiving Celebration on your calendar?** LUM's annual Community Thanksgiving Celebration will be held on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, from noon-2pm at Central Presbyterian Church. You can help by being a volunteer or donating food. The online signup is now available. Just go to www.lafayetteurbanministry.org.

Say HELLO to LUM's new Afterschool Program staff

We are pleased to introduce **Cindy Haley** as the new director of LUM's Afterschool Program (ASP). Cindy is an ordained United Methodist minister who has extensive experience working with children and youth in church and school settings. Most recently, she worked in the school system as a related service counselor. She is married to Tom Hermiz and they have one son, Thomas Haley-Hermiz, who just started his first year at Purdue. Welcome, Cindy!



At the same time, we welcome **Lindsey Groth** as the aide for the ASP program. Lindsey has volunteered with the program in the past and is entering her senior year at Purdue. Welcome back, Lindsey!