

# The Seed

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## LUM program keeps kids thinking in summer

As she subtracted \$19.50 from \$20 in the pretend store at Lafayette Urban Ministry's Youth Program Center on Monday morning, Rhanni Earl didn't view it as a math lesson.

The 7-year-old just saw it as another game she gets to play at the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter Learning Retention Program organized by Lafayette Urban Ministry this summer.

Rhanni is one of 30 students participating in the program, which aims to help students in first through fifth grades keep the knowledge they learned in the last school year fresh for the upcoming one. But the students don't spend their days sitting in desks – they're up dancing and singing, working in the garden outside the Fourth Street building and playing with pretend money.

"We get lots of exercise," Rhanni said. "And I learned a lot about the sun... like, it shines all the time and makes the moon shine."

The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter program targets low-income children and families, since research shows those students tend to fall further behind during summer months than those from middle and high-income families.

The four teachers for the program separate students into math, science and reading lessons at different points in the day. But there are also many group activities.

The curriculum theme during this first summer program centers on gardening. Students in June helped plant vegetables and flowers outside the center and now use those plants as the basis for math and science lessons, and even as the basis for poetry and storytelling.

The program costs about \$60 per child, per week. But some of the families pay only partial fees or have earned scholarships for their students to attend. The program costs were largely supplemented by LUM's recent Campaign for the Future capital campaign.

The students' success will be measured through pre-program and post-program testing



*Tyra Brayant, center, works on subtraction with the help of teacher Andrea Philippsen, as Cheray Moore and Kylie Rosseiler watch Monday during the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter Learning Retention Program at the Lafayette Urban Ministry.*

administered by teachers. And LUM hopes to see the program continue in future summers and grow to include even more children.

"It's doing what it was intended to do," said Shawn Walton, one of the program teachers. "A great deal of knowledge is lost during the summer months, but this is keeping it fresh in their minds for when they start up at school again in August."

By Dorothy Schneider  
*Lafayette Journal & Courier*  
Tuesday, July 12, 2011

### LUM to Dedicate New Facilities

Please circle Sunday afternoon August 21<sup>st</sup> on your calendar. Join us as LUM dedicates our new program offices at 420 N. 4th Street and our new Youth Program Center at 525 N. 4th Street.

A brief ceremony will take place at 2:00pm at 420 N. 4<sup>th</sup> with an open house at both facilities to follow until 4:30pm. The new and renovated facilities have allowed LUM to expand its programs to working families and at-risk children. They were made possible through the generosity of contributors to LUM's successfully completed Campaign for the Future.



Joe Micon  
Executive Director

# Treasure of our Church

Lawrence was a deacon in the early church. He lived his life in 3<sup>rd</sup> century Rome. It was a time of great uncertainty for followers of Jesus. Not only were there religious and cultural persecutions, but they existed under a Roman Government that was literally thirsty for their blood. Christians devoured in the lions den were a common sight for those who lived in Lawrence's time.

As leader of the Christian Community Lawrence found himself imprisoned by the Roman authorities for the simple act of faithfully proclaiming the Gospel. Then one day in 257 he was brought before the Emperor Valerian who desperately wanted to claim the meager material goods of the early church for Rome's own storehouse.

“Lawrence, bring to me the riches, bring to me the treasure of your church, and I shall allow you to go free.”

Lawrence accepted the emperor's offer of freedom – then worked swiftly to distribute to the poor as much of the Church's property as possible. Three days later he presented himself to Valerian, and when ordered to give up the treasures of the Church *he instead presented the poor, the crippled, the blind and the suffering. Lawrence said that these were the true treasures of the Church.*

This act of defiance cost Lawrence his life – death by fire.

Unlike the early Christians, death doesn't await you and me because of our loyalty to Jesus. But like our ancestors in faith, we are still called upon to minister to those who have needs and to recognize:

- that somehow our fate is linked to theirs

- that however we treat the least of these, we also treat Jesus
- that they indeed are treasure, something to be cherished, cared for, protected and invested in.

What a joy it is to be involved with you in ministry here at LUM as together we seek ways to be faithful. And God bless you Saint Lawrence, martyr of Rome, for showing us the courage of your convictions and for teaching us where it is that our true treasure lies.

August 10<sup>th</sup> is Lawrence's feast day. Many faithful still travel to Rome every year on this day to venerate his relics.

## LUM Retires Mortgage



The mortgage to LUM's new 420 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street building was retired in June, leaving us in the enviable position of having no financial debt whatsoever. The LUM Board celebrated the event at their June meeting by burning the mortgage and eating ice cream.

Thanks to all whose leadership and sacrifice made this happy day possible!

## News From LUM's Shelter.....

- So far in 2011 LUM has provided 4,452 overnight stays to 265 different homeless individuals. The average guest stays at our shelter 17 nights.
- We welcome Celcelia Neihouse who has been awarded a contract by LUM to assist staff and volunteers help our homeless guests to become more self-sufficient and to leave our shelter sooner. So far this year LUM has held 365 case management sessions with 160 different guests. Our contract with Cecelia will allow us to do even more!
- Thank you Mr. President! A grant from last year's American Recovery Act is providing some much-needed weatherization to LUM's shelter this summer. 10" of added insulation, patching of energy stealing cracks and holes, repairs to our wheelchair ramp and five new furnaces and air conditioners are all part of the grant.
- Thanks to each of our wonderful volunteers and food providers who each night at LUM show Christ's hospitality to those who have no home of their own.



## Chinese scholars visit LUM

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, a group of 31 Chinese scholars was given an in-depth look at Lafayette Urban Ministry. LUM, in conjunction with Purdue University's Center on Religion and Chinese Society hosted the scholars who are spending a few weeks in Greater Lafayette to observe how American religious groups impact communities through social service.

Dr. Joe Frederick, President of LUM, said that this is the first time the organization has hosted this type of visit, and planning for the event started about three months ago. "The Center asked if we would be interested in hosting the group, primarily sociologists of religion who are from China, to learn about the role of the American Christian church in providing services to needy individuals," he said.

"We were happy to put out the welcome mat and have an informative cultural exchange. We were very excited to articulate why we do what we do." Most of the group's time was spent on Purdue's campus where they attended speeches, seminars and classes. At LUM, the scholars toured facilities and learned about programs. They also served a meal in LUM's shelter, exchanged gifts with board members and listened to a presentation from James D. Davidson, professor emeritus in sociology of religion.



## Quality of Life Survey

Greater Lafayette Commerce has formed a Community of Choice Committee that is charged with assessing the quality of life in our area and working to improve it. Part of that assessment is a survey measuring the community's appeal as a place to live, work and retire. The survey is available online at <http://greaterlafayette.questionpro.com/>

Respondents are asked what attracts them to the community; what they like about living in the area; what they value here; how connected they feel; and how they would rate things such as education, earning and cost of lifestyle, among other questions. Please take 10-15 minutes to complete this online survey



### TP PDQ?

LUM's facilities have 9 restrooms. Our programs operate 24/7. We sure could use your donations of toilet paper.



**The SEED • August 2011**

**Return Service Requested**

## St. John’s Episcopal Church and LUM Ink Food Pantry Agreement

The Vestry St. John’s Episcopal Church and the Board of Directors of Lafayette Urban Ministry have renewed their food pantry partnership after almost twenty years working together to feed the hungry. A new covenant between the two that includes the hiring of a new part-time Food Pantry Coordinator was put in place on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The St. John’s LUM Food Pantry served 7,915 household visits last year providing a three day supply of meat, canned foods, cereal and fresh vegetables to those in our community who were hungry due to unemployment or inadequate public assistance benefits.

LUM Executive Director Joe Micon said “that after working together so well for so long it was just time to have a good discussion about where our partnership has been and where it was going. The LUM Board is grateful to St. John’s Vestry and the entire congregation for their continued strong commitment to feeding the hungry in our community, especially those who live in and near downtown.”

The St. John’s/LUM Food Pantry is located at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Ferry Streets in downtown Lafayette (enter under the green canopy). It is open every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00am to 11:30am and remains largely a voluntary effort. Gifts of food may be dropped off at the pantry during hours of operation. Cash donations can be made to the Lafayette Urban Ministry designated to the food pantry. If you would like to volunteer at the St. John’s LUM/Food Pantry call Jane Vanable at 463-5168.

### **New Food Pantry Opportunity**

LUM is looking for 7 or 8 volunteers who can give one morning per week between 9:00am and 11:30am to check individuals into the St. John’s/LUM Food Pantry. Training provided. You must be very comfortable doing basic data entry on a laptop. Call Patti O’Callaghan at 423-2691.



# Greater Lafayette Hunger Hike 2011

Presented by Bison Financial Group

Benefiting the food programs Lafayette Urban Ministry, Food Finders Food Bank and St. Tom's Haiti Ministry, the annual Hunger Hike gives participants the opportunity to directly impact hungry children and families. Last year, 1,000 participants enthusiastically walked and ran the Wabash Heritage Trail and raised over \$93,000.

[www.hungerhike.org](http://www.hungerhike.org)



## Hunger Hike 2011 Sunday, September 18

- 12:30-1:30pm** Registration at Riehle Plaza  
Come early for great door prizes! Music by Rat Pak Mobile DJs. Free massages from Essential Touch Corporate Massage
- 2:00pm** Walkers begin the 2 mile hike along the Wabash Heritage Trail. 5K run: \$10 registration fee for run
- 3:00pm** More fun! Awards, Rat Pak Mobile DJ's. Lunch on Bison

Registration begins at 12:30pm. Hike begins at 2pm.

**You have a chance to help the hungry. You can:**  
**Hike:** plan to collect donations in advance  
**Sponsor:** walkers/runners from your church or business  
**Form:** your own team of hikers, encourage each to raise \$50 or more  
**Donate:** online at website [www.hungerhike.org](http://www.hungerhike.org)  
**Create:** your own fundraising page for Hunger Hike (it's FREE, FUN & EASY).

**Need a registration form to start collecting pledges?**

Use the one on the back of this insert; stop by LUM, 420 N. 4th;  
 call LUM: 423-2691;  
 contact Patti O'Callaghan:  
[pocallaghan@lafayetteurbanministry.org](mailto:pocallaghan@lafayetteurbanministry.org);  
 or go to website [www.hungerhike.org](http://www.hungerhike.org).

BISTRO 501

501 Main Street  
 Lafayette, IN 47901  
 (765) 423-4501

**Dine Downtown** for Hunger Hike at Bistro 501 every Wednesday in September. Celebrity *matre d's* will be on hand! A portion of your food bill will go to Hunger Hike.

**2011 Honorary Chair:** Purdue University Women's Basketball Coach Sharon Versyp.



**2011 Presenting Sponsor:** Bison Financial Group.

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