

Volume 11 Number 1
January & February 2006

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE..."

CROSSLIGHT



MATTHEW 5:16

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Cicero Christian Church

1715 Stringtown Pike
Cicero, Indiana 46034
phone: 317-984-4653
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One Service Only 9a



Meet the Candidate See page 3



Introducing Our Candidate

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Candidate Sermon Sunday
January 8

One Service Only
9 am



**Love, Sex &
Lasting
Relationships**

**New Class
Offering**

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*A Season of New
Beginnings*

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Prayer*

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KIDMO is COMING!

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**Family
★
Night**

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Resignation Announcement

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From Pastor Bill



On January 8, Tim Lueking will be bringing us the message and after the service we will be praying and then voting about whether Tim will be our next senior

minister. As I thought about this, many memories came flooding into my mind.

Memories of Larry and the years he spent serving God here at CCC and the lives he touched come to mind. We have so much to be thankful for because God sent Larry to CCC. It is almost one year since Larry went home to be with the Lord and so it's important for all of us to remember the times before his illness. He was a blessing to each of us, so why not take a moment right now to remember him and thank God for the gift he was to you and to the entire church "Lord, we do thank you for Larry and the love, dedication, ministry and blessing he was to each of us. He was a friend, a counselor, an encourager, a teacher and so much more. We release him to your love and care and look forward to the day when we will be together with You and him for eternity." Amen.

My memory also went back to the two churches I had before coming to Cicero and I clearly remember what it was like to follow pastors who were loved by the people and who grieved their moving on. I also remember what it was like to become a pastor who was loved and what it felt like to leave a people we had served for a number of years. How difficult it was to make that announcement and see tears form in people's eyes. Transition is never easy, but God is always present to help us through the process of change.

In response to these memories I would like to say that we all should remember Larry as a beloved pastor and friend who will be missed and never replaced. When Tim, or another pastor, comes to be our pastor he will not replace Larry. It will be an opportunity for all of us to make a

new friend, to develop a relationship with a new pastor; someone who will bless us in new ways as he serves the Lord here in Cicero. So let's be sure we don't compare, but appreciate, our new pastor as a man called by God to serve us here, just as our previous pastors have in the unique way God has gifted them. Let's be sure he and his wife and children are welcomed and celebrated as part of our family. Following are a few articles that hopefully will help us do just that.

God Bless,

Pastor Bill

Help Your New Preacher

By: Robert J. Tinsky

Some time ago my church was between preachers, so I had the privilege of filling the pulpit. I shared with the congregation the following ways to help the new minister have a successful ministry. Now that I think about it, I realize these ideas would work anywhere, even if your preacher has been with you for some time.

Be Realistic in Your Expectations

1. It is unrealistic to think the minister and his family will be perfect. They are to be examples, but they make mistakes like everyone else.
2. It is unrealistic to think your preacher will preach like Billy Graham, Bob Russell, Chuck Swindoll, or Max Lucado.
3. It is unrealistic to think every sermon will be chocolate cake with ice cream on top. Most sermons will be meat and potatoes. Some will be leftovers.
4. It is unrealistic to expect him to "hit a home run" every time he steps in the pulpit. Hank Aaron hit 755 home runs, but he struck out 1,383 times. Babe Ruth launched 714 home runs, but he struck out 1,330 times. Be glad when your preacher occasionally hits a double or triple, but realize that most of the time he will hit only a single. And sometimes he will strike out.
5. It is unrealistic to think he will never be "down in the dumps," grouchy or moody just as we all are at times.
6. It is unrealistic to think everybody will like him. Not everyone liked Jesus, and the apostles seldom were liked by the majority of the people where they ministered.

Realistic Expectations:

1. Expect him to preach God's Word directly enough to convict sinners and to challenge Christians and the lost.
2. Expect him to have a genuine burden for those who are lost.
3. Expect him to be honest.
4. Expect him to be diligent about the Lord's work. While you should not expect him to spend so much time in "church work" that he neglects his family and his own health, you do have the right to expect a full-time minister to work full time.
5. Expect him to minister to the entire congregation. This does not mean, however, that he and his family cannot have some special friends in the congregation.
6. Expect him to be the same person out of the pulpit that he is in the pulpit.
7. Expect him to be a good family man.

Be a Good Listener

The effectiveness of every sermon depends on how well the sermon is prepared and how effectively it is delivered. But it also depends on how well you listen.

Every Sunday there are 250,000 preachers in the pulpits of the churches in the United States who preach about 500 million words to 50 million pairs of ears. While all these words are spoken, not all of them are really heard.

If you want to be a good listener try to pick out the main point the preacher is trying to make and constantly ask: "How does what he is saying apply to me?"

Be an Encourager

Preachers not only need to be encouragers but they need encouragement from us. There are some things you should not do if you want to be an encourager:

1. Don't be a nitpicker. Nothing is more discouraging than to have members of the church constantly complaining about little things.
2. If you have any complaints or criticisms don't tell the preacher about them just before the service begins. How can the preacher lead in a joyous service of praise when he has just received a barrage of complaints?

3. Don't gripe if the service is longer than you like. The Holy Spirit doesn't always work on our time schedule.

Some ways that you can be a genuine encourager:

1. Don't be afraid to let him try new ideas. That new idea may not always work, but it is better to fail trying to do something than to succeed at doing nothing.
2. Remember your preacher on special days: his birthday, the anniversary of his coming to be your preacher, and during October, which has been designated as "Clergy Appreciation Month."
3. Let him lead. He has been specially trained to lead the congregation. This does not mean he is to call all the shots, but he is to be the person who has a vision of what God wants your church to accomplish.
4. The greatest way you can encourage your preacher is by inviting people to church and by working with him to win them to the Lord.

Pray for Your Preacher

The request Paul made to the church in Ephesus is one that every conscientious preacher makes, "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel" (Ephesians 6:19).

Pray that God will give your preacher courage to speak boldly, patience when confronted by complaining members, humility when he is complimented, strength to resist temptation, and wisdom to bring the messages we need.

Love Him to Death

You have a right to expect your preacher to love you, and he has a right to expect you to love him. You may not agree with everything he says but still you are to love him. He may do some dumb things, he may make some mistakes, he may fail to do some things you think he should do, but still you are to love him.



Tim Lueking

My name is Tim Lueking and I am married to Katherine Lueking. We have two boys: Timothy Ryan Jr. (2 years) and Paul Henry (2 months). Katherine and I were raised in small towns approximately six to eight thousand in size. Katherine is from East Palestine, OH and I am from Sullivan, IN. I graduated from Sullivan High School and pursued a Mechanical Engineering degree from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana. Upon graduation from Rose-Hulman I started working for Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, IN.

While working for Crane I felt God calling me into the ministry and I ended my engineering career by enrolling in Lincoln Christian Seminary to pursue a Master of Divinity. I started my first preaching position at Lake Fork Christian Church in Lake Fork, Illinois while pursuing my Master of Divinity. I served at this church for two years and then relocated to Indiana as the senior minister with Ladoga Christian Church in Ladoga, Indiana. I graduated from Lincoln Christian Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree.

I currently serve as the senior minister at Indianola Church of Christ located in Columbus, Ohio. I am concentrating my efforts on Biblical preaching, teaching, membership development, discipleship, evangelism, and training Biblical leaders for the future. I am a very committed servant of God who preaches and teaches sound Biblical doctrine. I have a great desire to save souls and to train others on how to share their faith with their family, friends, and neighbors.

Outside of my ministry with the church, I also have served on the board of directors for the Alexander Christian Foundation located in Indiana.

My hobbies are woodworking, running, hiking, reading, and basketball. I am devoted to my marriage and to rising to the challenge of being the husband and father that God has called me to be.

My wife, Katherine, graduated from Youngstown State University with a B.A. in Professional Writing and Editing. She has worked as a copy editor, journalist, and most recently as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Lincoln Christian College and Seminary. Following the birth of our first child in 2003, Katherine left her job to be a full time mother and focus on our family.

Katherine and I are committed to rearing our children in the way of the Lord and to serving God wholeheartedly. We look forward to the plans that God has for us as He leads us daily. We believe that Cicero Christian Church is the church home for our family and a place that can be a tremendous outreach to the community.



Saturday, January 7 at 7p

Come for an evening of fellowship and snacks. This is a chance for you and your family to meet the senior Pastoral candidate Tim Lueking and his family in an informal and enjoyable setting.

Gather in the Family Life Center on Saturday January 7, at 7p. We hope you will take this opportunity to join together with your church family in getting to know the Lueking's in anticipation of Pastor Tim's trial sermon on January 8 at 9a.

A message from our church Elders



As we look forward to the New Year with its challenges and opportunities, there are some changes being made in the roster of Elders. Dan Conder will be taking a sabbatical leave for one year. Stephen Zell is returning after a few years absence. Mike House and David McGill will continue their internship. There is no special time set for them to begin serving as ordained Elders. When one has completed the mentoring/intern process, and there is agreement the candidate for eldership is ready to step into full responsibility, the candidate makes that request known and the procedure is begun which can lead to being set apart as an Elder.

Bob Browning, J.R. Cowan, and Don Robinson have requested to be relieved of the responsibilities of serving as Elders for personal reasons. Their ministry has contributed greatly to the growth of our congregation during their period of service. We have deeply appreciated their dedication and the fellowship we shared with them while sharing this ministry. We thank God for them and their continued service for Him in the opportunities He provides.

We are thankful for the continued prayer support of the congregation. This past year has provided your Elders, as well as each member of the congregation, the opportunity to develop a closer relationship with our Lord. It has been a challenging year in that we (each member of the congregation) have been working through our grief resulting from the death of our Senior Minister. The individual emotional relational each of us had with Larry Wiseman has impacted our working through the grief process.

Larry, as with each of the previous preachers of our congregation, brought us to a certain level of spiritual growth with the talents and abilities the Lord had given each of them. Our new Senior Minister will also have God-given talents and abilities which will complement our current leadership team in leading our congregation to the next level of ministry for our Lord in this place. He will need our love and prayers as have each of our ministers.

Your Elders dedicate themselves to servant-leadership through example, guided by the Holy Spirit, under girded with prayer. They humbly request your prayers for them and your willingness to come to them (or any of them) if you have concerns to be addressed.

The history of the Eldership at Cicero Christian Church is traced to the scriptures. (Acts 14; 20-28, 1 Peter 5: 1-2, Titus 1:5). A hand-out has been developed on how the elders are overseers and shepherds of the flock as apostolic representatives, and can be obtained through the church office. This study identifies specific functions of elders dictated by scripture and traces from the first century church the plan for each local churches oversight and shepherding accomplished by a unified team of godly men. It is believed that a team of qualified, dedicated Spirit-placed elders is not a passive, ineffective committee; it is an effective form of leadership structure that wishes to greatly benefit the church family. These men balance one another's weaknesses with their varied Spiritual gifts allowing the body to function as it is designed. This leadership role is shared with our ministerial staff. Today at CCC, the eldership has two general categories of oversight and leadership, that of Administrative Elders and Pastoral Elders. Your eldership conducts its oversight and leadership direction after prayer and then consensus. Each elder is a manager of a team in the Team Ministry programming at CCC, with each team having a coach. The elders also have some organizational duties spelled out in our Constitution and By-laws (a copy is available in the church office). Perhaps the most obvious visual identification one may have with the eldership is the presiding role carried out each Sunday morning in our celebration of Communion.

Recently the elders along with the ministry staff have been examining our formats and activities in an ongoing effort to meet the needs of our congregation, both for now and the future. We have worked on better defining our mission statement. We have developed some core practices to tell others how we are carrying out and will carry out, our mission statement. We have developed and implemented a five-step program to mentor candidates for the eldership. We are also meeting with members one on one to better communicate our programming and vision direction. We also have implemented a program addressing the biblical solution to conflict resolution. One major effort currently is to have all leadership involved in the home fellowship programming. We want to lead the way toward a family based ministry here at CCC. Recently some of the elders and staff have attended the ACTS TWO (Acts 2: 42-47) Conference at Willow Creek, in Chicago. Some have attended the Home Based Church seminar recently held in Cloverdale, Indiana. We had several attend the Elders Congress held in October at Southport Heights Christian Church. We have been regularly presented materials to read and reflect upon related to the eldership and church programming.

As you probably know, the elders and staff meet every Sunday morning at 7 a to pray, study reflect, and share prior to our participating in Sunday School, teaching assignments, Community gatherings and Worship services. The elders hold monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of the month. We also plan at least three retreats per year for prayer, planning, review and program creation. Currently we have a gathering with elders and staff and wives on a bi-monthly basis.

We are anticipating a great year in the life of our congregation. We have a wonderful, dedicated staff and we thank God for each of them. Let's look forward with love and prayer as our new Senior Minister and his family begins their ministry with us. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Mike Jenkins, Bill Cunningham



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Love, Sex & Lasting Relationships

New Class Offering

High School & College Students
Sunday 9:00 Room 204

This new class is being led by Amy Morris and Jason Morehouse. It will show you how the pursuit of "true love" is everywhere you look! It's romanticized on TV and in the movies we watch. There are books about it, songs about it, internet dating, and even seminars on it...all of which are designed to "help" you find that special someone to love.

So why is "true love" so elusive?

Could it be that the picture of love we see in today's culture is nothing more than an illusion? If so, what does real love look like?

In this 10-part small group curriculum, you'll discover that there is a better way to find love, stay in love, and grow in intimacy for a lifetime. Chip Ingram unpacks Ephesians Chapter 5 and delivers to us God's prescription for building relationships that last a lifetime

YOUTH CALENDAR

REGULAR EVENTS

Every Sunday

Youth Assembly 9 - 9:40am

Sunday School Classes

9:45am

grades 6, room 213

grades 7- 8, room 218

grades 9-12, room 204

college & career, room 206

Youth Groups Sunday Night at 6p

Monday Nights

6:30 pm Meal

7:00-7:30p Prayer

Wednesday Nights

The Youth will be joining in the new format of Family night



Our current programming for the youth is "under construction." Check the Youth Calendar to see the exciting new changes that are being made. With the assistance and guidance of Ben Radant, the youth sponsors are creating and implementing a new mission statement and Christ-centered Core Values. Thanks Ben! The intent is to provide programs and events that fulfill the mission statement and core values. Some events or programs will be tweaked, some will be changed, and some may be eliminated. This is all in an effort to provide the very best events and programs with a clearly defined purpose for the youth.

Youth Group – Join in Sunday Nights!

On Sunday evenings, approximately 40 youth and sponsors gather and participate in games, a message, and small group time. Youth Group **begins at 6p and ends at 8p at the church.** If you haven't been able to attend yet, make every effort the come and enjoy the fun, fellowship and growth time.

The youth department is looking for youth sponsors. As the sponsors have taken on the "hands on" part of the youth ministry, more hands are needed to be sure that the programs and events are properly and adequately staffed. This is a great time for adults, young and old, to invest time into the lives of a great group of youth. The youth will benefit from your lives and you will benefit from theirs. If you are interested in becoming a youth sponsor, please see Ben Radant or Jay St. Peters.

Worldview Weekend

Twenty-six youth and adult sponsors attended the Worldview Weekend. Through the many sessions offered, the youth received a variety of very valuable information on how to impact their world. The favorite session was learning how to share Christ with people you come in contact with daily. During our lunch break, many of the youth and sponsors were practicing their newly learned technique of sharing Christ with waitresses and cashiers! Knowledge in action!

Sr. High Lock-In

Buck and Barb Green opened their home to about 15 Senior High Youth after a tailgate party at the High School Game. This was a great time of building relationships and hearing testimonies from their peers.

Resignation Announcement

We want to communicate to you in a timely manner that Pastor Barry LeBlanc has voluntarily tendered his resignation as Worship & Music Minister at Cicero Christian Church. We want to thank him and his family for their 6½ years of dedicated service to Cicero Christian Church. We wish them well and pray that God will bless their family.

We are in the process of planning a departure time line with Barry. We are also in the process of creating a transition format which will allow us to continue a meaningful worship service that will glorify God. More information will be communicated as it develops.

Sincerely,

The Eldership of Cicero Christian Church

The Hand of God

*God's gentle Hand is guiding,
But it doesn't push or shove,
Instead it clasps our human hands
And leads with Grace and Love.*

*We find within this Hand of God
A heavenly Strength indeed,
And as we follow, God provides
For what we truly need.*

Jr. High Lock-In

What do you do with about 50 Jr. High Youth? Stick 'em to the Velcro wall! Pizza, movies, games, fellowship, mid-night devo and of course a chance to be a "fly on the Velcro wall" was the agenda for this Lock-In. This was a great opportunity to get to know the Jr. High youth and their friends.



It's coming to be that time of the year where the snow blows. You will find information on closings due to weather on Channel 6 and Channel 13.



A Season of New Beginnings/Week of Prayer

January 1 through January 8

A new year brings a fresh beginning. Cicero Christian Church is entering into a season of new beginnings. Some new beginnings will be easy and some will take more time. The best way to enter into something new is through prayer.

The New Year will begin with 168 Hours of Prayer. It is a time to seek the Lord's heart and mind. Let's all enter into the New Year with our hearts and minds set on the Lord and His purposes.

Commit to a time of prayer during this 168 hours of prayer. The sign up sheets are in the foyer. You can pray in the House of Prayer or at home – please indicate if you are praying at home.

The Lord has incredible things in store for us and we want to be able to recognize and join in the Lord's work.



Crosslight Christian Montessori Preschool and Kindergarten

As the New Year rolls by, so does the second year as a Christian Montessori School. Enrollment for the 2006-2007 school year will begin in January 2006. Our unique Montessori Christian curriculum is available for 3-5 year olds in Preschool and 5 year olds in Kindergarten. The Preschool offers morning (9:00-11:30) and afternoon classes (12:30-3:00). Also, some children may want to stay for lunch and join the "Lunch Bunch." This small group stays until 1:00 and has more time to do crafts and socialize. We will once again be offering a choice of a 2, 3, 4 or 5 school day week.

Kindergarten enrollment will also begin in January. The Lord continues to bless us and our vision to have a Christian school here in Cicero. This year (2005-2006), we offered half day and full day Kindergarten for a limited 12 students. Lunch is available for all students. For the 2006-2007 school year, we are also limiting the size of the class to better serve the children. However, **if the Lord allows, we will expand to First Grade.** It is so exciting watching the growth and success of Crosslight School!

If you are interested in enrolling your child in Preschool, Kindergarten, or First Grade, please contact Jodie Bolinger, Director of Preschool or Beth Rutan, Director of Kindergarten at 984-4653 ext 28. Both Preschool and Kindergarten programs will have limited space.



Baby Dedication

**Sunday,
January 22**

(10:45 only)

If you are interested in having your baby dedicated, contact Ben Radant or JaNell Martz at the church for a form. Forms are due one week before Dedication Sunday and will not be accepted after that.

"I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord."

I Samuel 1:27-28



Plainfield Christian Church

**Saturday,
January 14
8a – 1:30p**

FREE ADMISSION

Statistics show kids have formed their worldview by the age of eight. In addition, between 80-90% of high school seniors who profess to be Christians abandon their faith by their senior year in college! As a parent, what should you know and what can you do to prevent this from happening to your kids?

Featured guest speakers answer some of the toughest question about Christianity, so don't miss out.

See Steven Hancock for more details or call Plainfield Christian Church at 317-839-2384.

Jesus and Me Child Care Ministry



Now Enrolling

Children ages 6 weeks through 12 years

Open 6:00am-6:00pm weekdays

Bible-based activities

Nutritious breakfast, snacks,
and hot lunches

Inside and outside play area

We have a great before and after school program for your older child too. We provide transportation to PM kindergarten and are open on those school closure days too! Let us know how we can meet the needs of your family. Stop by and take time for a tour and more information. Director Jenni Roosa or Asst. Director Jody Boyd 984-4653 ext. 25

A Little more about Jesus and Me

Jesus and Me offers a safe and secure environment where children, 6 weeks to 12 years old, will receive excellent care. Your child will experience the love of Jesus through loving teachers, a structured circle time and involvement in activities that reflect Christian values.

While your child is at Jesus and Me, he/she will participate in art, songs, action songs, learning the alphabet and numbers, shapes, colors, Bible stories and much more. We do offer the opportunity for your child to learn through play.

Our Child Care Ministry is registered with the State of Indiana, complying with all health, building, and fire codes. This Child Care Ministry is governed by the Crosslight Christian School Board consisting of Cicero Christian Church members.

The administration and staff have a strong commitment to provide children in our care the utmost opportunity to grow and develop to their highest potential. We are also committed to providing parents with a peace of mind, knowing their child is safe and receiving excellent, loving care while they are at our Child Care Ministry.

We invite you and your child to come and experience Jesus and Me!



A New Beginning

A new year is dawning and a chance to start again is near. Sure we have resolutions that we make every year, resolutions of self-improvement, home improvement, job improvement, so why not family improvement? Maybe this year make a family resolution to improve your family. The concepts are simple but hard to apply.

Family Improvement Tip #1: Spend more time together

I know you saw that one coming, so I'm just going to state the obvious. Time together in any relationship is vital. Time together says "I love you," it lets you know who the people are in your family better, and it lays the foundation for relationship. This may involve cutting back on extra curricular activities, sitting down for a meal, having a family game night, taking your kids out on a "date," or reading a bedtime story. You can get as creative as you want to, but time spent with your family is well spent.

Family Improvement Tip #2: Go with God

How much time does your family spend talking about the Lord? The "Shema" talks about how to do just that. You can find this scripture in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 which says, "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them to your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." That basically says that God is to be a part of everything that your family does. He should be common in your conversations. Cicero Christian Church is striving and working on making this easier for families by centering a church-wide theme each Sunday and on Wednesday's Family Night. That way you can talk to your children about what they learned and you can talk about the same topic because you covered it as well.

These are just two tips to get you started this year. There are other things you can do for your family like serving them or reading a book on how to deal with a

family issue. I keep a bookshelf in my office dedicated to families, containing books, videos, tapes, and CDs that could help out. I want to be a resource for you and help you and your family in whatever way I can. Stop by my office sometime and check out my mini-library, you are always welcome. So to borrow from the Home Depot:

"Family Improvement: you can do it, I can help."

Love in Christ,

Pastor Ben

KIDMO is COMING!



KIDMO is a new program for those in grades 1-5 from the same company that produces Lil'K. This is a great new way of doing Kid's Church Live and it fits in very well with what we currently do. The worship ties in well because I have slowly incorporated the songs that KIDMO uses in our current worship time. The children really like those songs; they are catchy and relate truths about God as well as deal with aspects of their everyday life. KIDMO encourages small groups after the lesson, something that is already done. The program also has memory work introduced in much the same way that the children have been used to learning it already.

There are some new things from KIDMO that will enhance the Kid's Church Live experience. One way is the idea of team competition. The children will compete in things like Team Attention, Team Participation, and Team Energy. Every time the team displays one of those characteristics they can score points for their team. They can also score points during the MEMORY MAX and KWIZMO portions of the program. The team at the end of the large group time is the winner and something exciting happens.

Feel free to check out KIDMO online at <http://kidmo.com>. There you will find more detail about the program. And while you are at it, check out our Children's Ministry site at: <http://cicerockkids.tripod.com>.



Noah's Park

We are in need of volunteers for Noah's Park (age's birth through 3), our KIT program (ages 4, 5 & Kindergarten), and Child Care for Wednesday nights in Noah's Park! Our nursery and toddler rooms are growing! We have had 10 new babies born this year so far. Many wee ones have begun to walk and have moved into the toddler room. So if your

heart is with giving love to little ones we desperately need help in these areas. Our two & three year olds have been learning about Jesus and the Bible with Lil'K for the past few months. They look forward to the lesson at 10:45am every Sunday. We also need substitutes for our present teachers.



OK kids picture your parents doing the motions to your favorite Kid's Church Live song, or telling

knock-knock jokes with you in K.I.T. Well, now you will have your chance. On **February 26, 2006** we will have our first "Bring a Parent Sunday." That means that you can take your mom, dad, or grandparents with you during second service, (10:45am) to K.I.T. or Kid's Church Live. There they can experience the same fun and excitement that you do as you learn about God and His ways. So beg, plead, and drag your parent to KIT and Kid's Church Live on February 26. I'll see you there!



KIT (Kids in Training), ages 4, 5 and Kindergarten **are in need of four teachers**, two at 9:00am on the fourth Sunday, two at 10:45am on the second Sunday of the month. All materials are prepared for you, including crafts. Bring a smile and lots of love for the children.

Wednesday night for the next 3 months is family oriented and your older children will be in the study with you, but we are in need of help in Noah's Park for the birth through 3 year olds. You may sign up for one night or more with us. All parents of children in our ministry are asked to help in any area, please contact Ben Radant or JaNell Martz to sign up in any of the above classes.

During the 10:45 service K.I.T., (Kids In Training) will no longer be in room 105. Sunday school for 4s, 5s, and Kindergarten will continue to meet in 105 during the 9:00 service. K.I.T. will now be held in the Discovery Cove room, (116, and 117). **This will be effective January 15.** Sign in for K.I.T. will be at Discovery Cove. Those children who attend both Sunday School and K.I.T. will be escorted over to the new location starting at 10:50. This will allow those parents who wish to escort their children to the new location the ability to do so as well as give time for the Sunday School only children to be picked up. This change will provide more room for the children to be interactive with Lil'K and each other. If you have any questions please contact Ben Radant.



January – March 2006

Altered schedule for this session:

- Opening prayer and meal at 5:30
- Opening and short teaching at 6:05
- Opening activity at each table at 6:15
- Interactive study in groups at 6:30
- Closing prayer in each group at 6:50
- Wrap-up at 6:55
- Music ministry rehearsals at 7:00

Because of our busy lives, it seems so many families get so little time to spend together. In the past, Wednesday nights at church have been called Family Night, but families still only had a short time together. To help with this we have decided that for the next three months we would do an experiment with Family Night. Since it is Family Night, we thought, why not do it together as a family! Therefore each Family Night we will, as usual, begin our meal at 5:30 sitting together as family groups. We are asking that two or three families sit together and invite to join them any children, teens or others who do not come with their families. In this way they too can feel cared for and loved as part of our family. We are asking that infants through three year olds be taken to Noah's Park at 6:00. Then all children four and over, teens, and adults will remain in the Family Life Center so that we can learn together as a family.

At little after 6:00 we will begin the activities using the schedule above until 7:00. At 7:00 the music department will be dismissed for practice, and everyone else is welcome to stay and continue sharing and visiting or take their families home.

During each week's group study each table will choose someone to be the



Leader Training
Saturday, February 4 9a

When you think of Home Fellowships do you have questions such as: What is a Home Fellowship? Why are they important? Who would be in my Home Fellowship? Where are they held? Can I lead one? How often are they held? What about the children? What do we do in a Home Fellowship? Will I have help?

If you have these or other questions, then the next LIFE Ministry training session for Home Fellowship leaders is for you! **On Saturday, February 4 from 9-11a** there will be a training session for those interested in starting a Home Fellowship or for those who might be interested but still have questions. During this training you will come to better understand the sound Biblical reasons for developing Home Fellowships, how to begin and maintain a Home Fellowship, various formats for Home Fellowships and much more.

If interested please contact Pastor Bill at the church or by email at blbergstrom@insightbb.com

table leader. The leader will simply guide the group through the interactive teaching and encourage sharing using the guide that will be provided. Children and youth are encouraged and welcome to read and share along with the adults – we can all learn from each other! For the children, there will be activity sheets to occupy them if they start to lose attention. The purpose here is to learn, pray, share, get to know one another and encourage each other together.

The theme for the months of January through March will be **Getting to Know the Father**. Each week we will take a look at topics such as: *Does My Heavenly Father Really Care About Me? Can I Really Trust My Heavenly Father? Does My Heavenly Father Expect Too Much From Me?, Focus on the Cross, and Looking Forward to His Return.*

We hope you will give this experiment a try and spend some time with your own family and your church family learning together about our awesome God. My prayer is that all of us will be blessed and grow spiritually as we learn from each other and get to know people of different ages in our church family.



Why are Home Fellowships Important?

Why do we feel that Home Fellowships are so important? The biblical basis for Home Fellowships begins with and flows out of the Trinity. As we study God we find that God is a "small group" – The Trinity tells us we have one God that consists of three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit –so united in their love for each other, their total openness to each other, that they are truly One. Since God is a 'small group' and we are created in His image, it would make sense that meeting together in small groups is the only good way to develop the intimacy He wants us to have with Him and with each other.

As we study the Bible we find that God has a passion that He be glorified. God is glorified when people are saved and follow Him. Home Fellowships are the best atmosphere for the kinds of relationships necessary for discipling people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and mentoring them as they mature in their relationship with the Lord.

Every Christian is called to the ministry of One-Anothering. We are to love one another, serve one another, submit to one another, instruct one another, encourage one another, help one another, forgive one another, and so forth. This is our spiritual service. This is your ministry to the Body of Christ and the basis from which every spiritual gift should operate. A study of all the places in the New Testament that mention "one another" shows that Christianity is not for hermits. There is no place for individualism in the Kingdom of God, for we are a Body of many members, each fashioned together into interdependence. You will also see that we are called to live very simple lives of quiet service to our brothers and sisters. It is neither complicated nor difficult. There is no better place to "One-Another" each other than in Home Fellowships.

Someone once said:

*I sought my God, and my God I could not see;
I sought my soul, and my soul eluded me;
I sought another, and I found all three.*

Since the life God wants us to have together fits naturally into a Home Fellowship atmosphere, I would invite you to seriously consider getting with a few other people and starting a Home Fellowship. For initial training to be a Home Fellowship Leader, please contact Bill Bergstrom or attend Leader Training February 4 at 9am.



**Health &
Spiritual
Wellness**

The 5 Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct, and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry and administrators. These people shape out nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes out the little finger; the smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinky should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more directly.



Should you find it hard to get to sleep tonight, just remember the homeless family who has no bed to lie in. Should you have a bad day at work, remember the man who has been out of work for the last three months. Should you despair over a relationship gone bad, think of the person who has never known what it is like to love and to be loved in return.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness, or insecurities, remember, things could be worse. You could be them!

HOPE

Family Care Center

Mission Statement:

To improve the general health conditions as well as assisting each person in achieving their full potential through a dynamic experience of personal growth and development throughout the lifespan.

Hope Family Care Center is now open on the first

Saturday monthly 9am-noon

At CCC: enter North Family Life Center.

Hope Family Care Center has Voice Mail for calls and inquiries: 965-9043

Beginning in January 2006, Hope Family Care Center will be open only on the first Saturday monthly from 9a to noon at Cicero Christian Church. If you are attending the clinic, please enter the church at the north side of the Family Life Center. Hope Clinic will be open on January 7, February 4, and March 4.



Hope Family Care Clinic

Calling all

medical and non-medical personnel. We need your help! The pay is lousy, but the rewards are wonderful! If you can talk to people, have office skills, and have a desire to help people in need, then you are who we are looking for. Call Jeff Glover at 965-9043 to sign up today!



giving.

Donations are still needed for the Home for HOPE campaign. Please remember Home for HOPE during your year-end



A Time for Christmas

A Dramatic Musical

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped with this year's musical, "A Time for Christmas" Our total attendance was over 1800 and the offering collected was \$2,250.

If you would like to purchase pictures of the performance you may go to <http://www.peepspics.us>. We appreciate everyone who had a part in making this year so successful.



Choir Practice

Adjusted Start Time for Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm

January 11-March 29

In order to allow choir members to participate in the special 12-week Family Night program, the adult choir will delay the start of the Wednesday evening rehearsal until 7:00 PM. Rehearsals will conclude by 7:45 PM. Contact Nancy Reed if you need child care. (Children's programming ends at 7p.)



HIS Instrument

January 15, 2006

Leading Worship

9 & 10:45 Services

Join us on January 15, 2006 for HIS Instrument, a mixed ensemble from Indiana Wesleyan University that exalts Christ through a balance of contemporary Christian and traditional gospel music. They glorify God through music and testimony, and are a favorite among teens and adults alike.



Mephibosheth News

As we begin a new year I pause to reflect on the many blessings the Lord has given us in the past and look with great anticipation of what He has in store for us in the future! I stand amazed at what He has done with the small seed of Friends Unlimited which was planted ten years ago. Mephibosheth Ministries, Inc. has blossomed into a mission reaching across central Indiana. He has also blessed me with an opportunity to present a workshop at a national conference in Vienna, Virginia (a suburb of Washington, DC) in March thanks to Jim Pierson of CCFH. The Lord has been good to us. We give all honor and glory to Him alone!

Jesus said *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."* Matthew 13:31-32

It is our desire at Mephibosheth Ministries, Inc. to create a new sense of community. A return to the fellowship of the believers recorded in Acts 2:42-47. According to author Andy Stanley, **"Vision is a clear mental picture of what could be, fueled by the conviction that it should be."** We believe there is a distinct difference of being **"a part of the community"** rather than just being **"in the community."** Inclusion is the term we are now using in serving individuals with disabilities, however, inclusion is not a new concept. King David modeled the first

recorded account of inclusion with Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9:1-13.

"And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem; because he always ate at the king's table, and he was lame in both feet." vs. 13

On November 18, 2005, Mephibosheth Ministries, Inc. received **The Arc of Indiana's 2005 Community Living Award**. This award recognizes individuals, organizations, or businesses that have improved the availability, quality, and opportunities of people with mental retardation and related disabilities to live an integrated life in the community.

The Community Living Award was based upon the ongoing programs of Mephibosheth Ministries, Inc. such as our Recreation/Leisure Adult Day Program, Friends Unlimited, and Camp Mephibosheth. While Cicero Christian Church supports us by donating program space, there are additional expenses that occur as we strive to meet the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the individuals we serve. There are program supplies, office supplies, payroll expenses, liability insurance, and the list goes on. Did you realize that if 200 people would sacrifice a soda a day and donate the \$.50 to Mephibosheth Ministries, Inc. we would be able to raise \$36,500. in a year? Please contact the Mephibosheth office if you are interested in joining our **"Soda for Success"** Campaign.

Serving Him, *Becky Moore*, Director

Adult Day Program ~ Growing Again! Mondays & Thursdays 9:30a - 2:00p

God has been so gracious these past 3 months! The Day Program here at Mephibosheth Ministries, Inc. has been growing by leaps and bounds. It has grown so much that we are in need of more volunteers to come and assist with the different activities. We meet from 9:30am-2:00pm on Mondays and Thursdays in the gymnasium and Discovery Cove. If you are interested, or want more information, contact our Day Program Coordinator, Molly Mohr, at 984-4653 ext30 or email at mcmohr04@yahoo.com.

Friends Unlimited Resuming January 3

Friends Unlimited enjoyed hearing the story of Christ's birth in a different way this year through The Polar Express. *"Jesus often took modern day issues of His time and told a parable to make a God-honoring point. All good communications know that it's a story that grabs the heart. You have the same opportunity to turn this movie into a teaching on faith and belief."* Said, Jim Burns, of HomeWord. If you would like free teaching resources for next year, check out the website www.ThePolarExpressDownloads.com

Camp Mephibosheth Staff training ~ July 22, 2006 Overnight Camp ~ July 23 - 25, 2006 Day Camp ~ July 27 & 28

Watch for your application in the mail sometime in February! Last year, our overnight camp held a waiting list. Don't miss your opportunity to experience God through this wonderful nature setting!

Welcome Mike Justice



Custodian

The office staff at Cicero Christian Church would like you to welcome Mike Justice as our new head custodian. Mike is married to Melissa and they have a son, Samuel. Mike and his family have been

members of CCC for over 6 years. Take the time to welcome Mike to his new position here at CCC.



Schedule all of your events through the office and fill out your peach sheet!

God's Design is for Blessing His People

2005 Budget is \$1,132,120

October 23, 2005

9:00 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	296
10:45 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	282
General Fund.....	\$14,760

October 30, 2005

9:00 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	258
10:45 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	187
General Fund.....	\$13,544

November 6, 2005

9:00 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	350
10:45 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	281
General Fund.....	\$20,709

November 13, 2005

9:00 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	389
10:45 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	313
General Fund.....	\$14,650

November 20, 2005

9:00 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	339
10:45 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	228
General Fund.....	\$26,102

November 27, 2005

9:00 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	288
10:45 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	237
General Fund.....	\$11,838

December 4, 2005

9:00 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	243
10:45 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	226
General Fund.....	\$15,225

December 11, 2005

9:00 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	260
10:45 Service/SS/ABF attendance.....	256
General Fund.....	\$16,364

2005 General Fund

Offerings year to date.....	\$979,144
Budgeted year to date.....	\$108,857
Average weekly need.....	\$21,772
Average weekly giving.....	\$19,583

Prepare the Way (ended 10/03)

Commitment.....	\$831,006
Received to date.....	\$677,670

COFFEE SHOP
Mugs & Hugs



Mugs and Hugs Coffee Shop is open for business every Sunday morning from 7a-10:30a. Stop in and get a cup of coffee and something sweet to eat before class. At main gym entrance.



The 2006 budget was approved by the Team Ministries Cabinet for 2006. All team ministry coaches and managers have a copy of the approved budget in their office mailbox. If you would like a copy, contact Beth or Sherry in the office and we'll get you a copy.

Approved cabinet officers for 2006 are Mike Jenkins, Chairman; Ron McGill, Co-Chairman; Beth Roberts, Secretary; Sherry Strauss, Treasurer.

2006 Budget

Ministry Total	\$918,284
Missions Total	\$91,828
Total Budget	\$1,010,113
Weekly Need	\$19,425

Summary by Ministry Center

Evangelism (Senior Minister)	\$10,575
Dove Tail (Mgr. Mike Jenkins)	\$1,850
Care (Mgr. Gene Etchison)	\$350
Discipleship (Mgr. Steven Hancock)	\$5,145
Finance (Mgr. Ron McGill/Sherry Strauss)	
Ministerial Payroll	\$296,185
Support/Custodial Payroll	\$194,419
Utilities	\$57,696
Insurance/Finance/Maintenance	\$31,237
Mortgage	\$157,200
Behind the Scenes (Mgr. Wade Candler)	\$5,690
Guest Services (Mgr. Ron McGill)	\$-4,550
	<i>includes income from crops</i>
With Agape (Mgr. John Knapp)	\$2,137
Worship (Mgr. Barry LeBlanc)	\$24,395
Administration (Mgr. Steve Zell)	\$84,185
Youth (Coord. Ben Radant)	\$14,600
Missions (Mgr. Mike Jenkins)	\$91,828
	<i>equal to 10% of all ministry budgets</i>
Children (Mgr. Ben Radant)	\$19,000
Involvement (Mgr. Bill Bergstrom)	\$8,650
Women's Ministry (Mgr. Bill Bergstrom)	\$2,070
Men's Ministry (Mgr. Steven Hancock)	\$0

Every Tuesday, 11:45am-1pm



Bring your Bible, \$2, and join us - line forms 11:45, lesson noon to 1pm.

Coordinators

January	Ed/Trudy Purcell
February	Kathy Adler Virginia Rushton

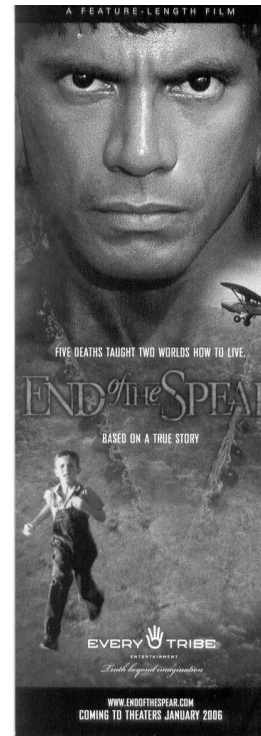
all church training session



On **Wednesday, January 4** ACTS will be an example of the new content for family night study for the up coming quarter. We'll have a meal at **5:30**, and the program will then follow.

End of the Spear

In movie theaters starting in January



"Beyond the Gates" was only the beginning. Steve Saint, son of Nate Saint, was only 5 years old when his father was speared to death in the jungle. Yet the events of that day have played a major in the rest of his life. "End of the Spear" tells the heartrending and hilarious story of his life in the jungle with the people who killed his father, and years later his return to the

jungle with his family to help his father's killers adjust to their new life. Catch this movie in the theaters starting January 20, and see how this true-life story inspires sacrifice and forgiveness.

CCC Purpose Statement

To bring people to Jesus and *membership* in his family, develop them to Christlike *maturity*, and equip them for the *ministry* in the church and life *mission* in the world, in order to *magnify* God's name.



- † That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
- † The Gospel plan of Salvation as taught in the New Testament is:
FAITH: To believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God and our personal Savior.
REPENTANCE: To repent of all past sins and turn from them.
CONFESSION: To confess before man that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
BAPTISM: To be immersed in water for remission of sins, being thereby buried with Christ that we may put on Christ and rise to walk in the newness of life.
FAITHFULNESS: To be faithful to Christ, His Church, and His teaching for our daily living until He calls us home to live with Him for eternity.
- † Believes both the Old Testament and New Testament are the inspired Word of God and are profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.
- † Recognizes that the New Testament contains the only authoritative rule of faith and practice for the church today.
- † Regards its people not as the only Christians, but as Christians only, seeking to avoid sectarianism and denominationalism.
- † Keeps the Lord's Supper weekly as a testimony to Christ, offering each Christian the opportunity to accept Christ's invitation to partake after self-examination.
- † Exercises a spirit of love toward all men, irrespective of differences, theological or personal.
- † Invites into its fellowship all who will commit themselves to the lordship of Christ by the terms of His New Testament.
- † Contends for Christian liberty in all areas where the Lord of the Church has not spoken.
- † Hopes that its congregation can help restore the truth and simplicity of the Church as established by Christ and organized by His inspired apostles, as revealed in the Word of God.
- † Welcomes the inquiries of any who seek the way of God in an atmosphere of reverence and freedom.



Cicero Christian Staff

Involvement Minister & Interim
 Administrative Minister..... Bill Bergstrom
 Music & Worship Minister Barry LeBlanc
 Adult Discipleship Minister ... Dr. Steve Hancock
 Children's Minister/Youth Coord. Ben Radant
 Youth Minister Open
 Office Manager, cabinet secretary Beth Roberts
 Financial Secretary, cabinet tres. ... Sherry Strauss
 Secretary..... Shirley Whisman
 Worship Coordinator Nancy Reed
 Music Librarian Lisa Jamison
 Assistant Choral Director Todd Lamkin
 Children's Ministry Assistant JaNell Martz
 Property Manager..... Tom Ping
 Custodian Mike Justice
 Assistants Daniel Zell, Erin Fultz,
 Matt Green, Justin Collar

Crosslight Christian School

Jesus & Me Child Care Ministry
 Director..... Jenni Roosa
 Assistant Director..... Jody Boyd
 Crosslight Christian Montessori
 Kindergarten Director Beth Rutan
 Preschool Director..... Jodie Bolinger
 Crosslight Christian School Board
 Lacy McGrew (president), Steven Hancock,
 Mike Jenkins, Jim Craig, David McGill,
 Tracey Beck, Wendi Russell

Missions

Missions Team Chairman Bev McGill
 Mephibosheth Ministries, Inc.
 Director..... Becky Moore
 Assistants Kay Newman, Molly Mohr
 Dunamis Ministries,
 Show Low, Arizona..... Greg & Beth Smith

CCC Elders

Gene Etchison 984-5302
 Mike Jenkins (cabinet chairman) 984-3194
 John Knapp 984-3670
 Ron McGill (cabinet co-chairman) 984-4336
 Wade Candler..... 776-0384
 Steve Zell 984-4778
 Bill Cunningham Emeritus
 Dan Conder *on sabbatical*

Special Events Calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 1-8 168 Hours of Prayer
- 2 Office Closed for New Year Holiday
- 3 Board Meeting Hope Care Clinic 7p
- 4 ACTS meal 5:30p Session 6:15p
- 6 Baby Sitting Co-Op 6p
- 7 HOPE Care Center Clinic 9a – noon
Meet the Candidate 7p
- 8 Combined Service candidate Sermon 9a
- 9 Mephibosheth Board Meeting 6:30p
- 14 Mephibosheth Annual Board Retreat
LIFE Fellowship Leader Meeting 9a
- 15 HIS Instrument Vocal Group Both Serv.
- 20 Baby Sitting Co-Op 6p

February

- 3 Baby Sitting Co-Op 6p
- 4 HOPE Family Care Clinic 9a
LIFE Fellowship Leader Meeting 9a
- 7 Board Meeting for HOPE Clinic 7p
- 13 Mephibosheth Board Meeting 6:30p
- 17 Baby Sitting Co-Op 6p

Weekly Events Calendar

Monday

- 6:30a Prayer Meeting, House of Prayer
- 9:30a Mephibosheth Day Program
- 5p Griefshare; 2nd & 4th Mon., 133
- 6:30p Youth prayer, 218
- 7p Elders Meeting; 4th week
- 7p Gym reserved for adult sports

Tuesday

- 6:30a Prayer Meeting, House of Prayer
- 9:30a Women's Study, 118
- 11:45a Soup, Salad & Scripture, gym
- 6:30p Friends Unlimited, gym

Wednesday

- 5:30p Family Night Meal, gym
- 6p Winter Session Family Night
- 7p Worship Team Rehearsal

Thursday

- 9:30a Mephibosheth Day Program
- 7p Missions 2nd week., 133
- 7p Gym reserved for Basketball
- 7p Alanon, 118

Friday

- 7:15a Prayer Meeting, House of Prayer
- 6:00a Men's Breakfast, Arni's

Sunday

- 8a Adult Bible Fellowships
- 9a Worship Service/Sunday School
Adult Bible Fellowships
Community Gatherings
- 10:45a Worship Service
Children's program birth-grade 5
Fellowships & Gatherings
- 6-8p Youth Group grades 6-12



CICERO CHRISTIAN CHURCH

where God's
love flows
like a river

1715 Stringtown Pike Cicero, IN 46034 ph:317.984.4653 fax: 317.984.3351