

## First Christian Church of Vincennes

Fifty years after the close of the American Revolution and twenty-eight years before the outbreak of the Civil War, a Disciples of Christ Church was organized in Vincennes. It was June of 1833.

Without a building for the first fifteen years, the small congregation with its rational approach to faith grew in a climate of hostility from other denominations. Guided by part-time ministers for the first thirty-four years the church remained high spirited.

From 1848 the congregation has found sanctuary in three buildings. Building upon the past the congregation marched forward. In 1880 the envelope system was established as the means for collecting weekly contributions. A pattern we follow yet today.

First Christian Church has survived war, exclusions of members due to unchristian conduct, building projects and tragic losses of ministerial leaders. For almost one hundred and eighty years a desire to bring Christ into the hearts of people has moved the church in mission.

Today, First Christian Church is on the move welcoming newcomers to faith in Jesus Christ. As a growing congregation, we now have two campuses for ministry. Located at 319 Broadway Street in Vincennes, our downtown location continues to be home for gathering the congregation for worship, program, Christian education and administration. Key is the obvious welcoming spirit that prevails when we gather. We have come to be known as, "one of the most friendliest churches."

In June of 2012 a second location was added for outreach at 2134 Washington Avenue in Vincennes. This twenty-seven thousand foot facility has opened the door to new opportunities never before possible. Located on one of the most traveled roads in Vincennes, the Washington Christian Center, as it is known, is now home to an outreach program in the community bringing school supplies to over 650 children and youth. Plans call for our first Day Camp this summer for those 6 - 12 years of age in the basement to be renamed, "The Jungle." This fall we will welcome our first students to the Washington Christian Preschool Academy seeking to make school readiness a priority. Many outside churches and groups are finding WCC the place for activity. Just recently we received the donation of a computer lab with 20 computers linked to make us technically ready to teach children and adults computer skills. Mission and ministry in the name of Jesus has an ever expanding look in Vincennes.

Following the vision God has given, we have found faith to require sacrifice, hard work, thinking outside the box and embracing new people with new ideas. Together, the future of First Christian Church is about being church. Being relevant, being helpful, working with others and putting hands and feet to our prayers. We pray the high spirit of First Christian Church continues as God has need.

