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Rev. Tom Ellsworth delivers a sermon during a service at the Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. Photo courtesy Tom Marron, Sherwood Oaks Christian Church.

Spotlight: Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

By Kasey Husk

For the roughly 4,500 members of the Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, being a part of their church is about much more than having a place to hear Sunday morning worship.

It's the sense of home.

"It's having a place you can call your own," said Emily Bedwell, the church's business and communications director. "Whether you are here for six months or 15 years, I think it is important to cultivate a place where everyone feels at home, where everyone has a place to just be yourself."

Over the last half century, Sherwood Oaks has sought to do just that. Today, its extensive programming offers ways for people of every age group and life situation to connect, while other programs reach out to the community and world at large.

"The key is trying to help people connect with one another in different ways," said senior minister Tom Ellsworth. "We know that unless a person really connects in the life of the church with other people, they are not likely to stay. If all they do is take advantage of Sunday morning worship, after a while that won't do it for them."

SPOTLIGHT
continued on page 14



**Coming in April:
Chamber Advocacy
and I-69 Opportunity**

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Chamber of Commerce

MARCH

- 9 hYPe - Entrepreneurship
- 29 March Business After Hours

Please call the Chamber (812-336-6381)
or see the Chamber's website
(www.ChamberBloomington.org)
for more information.

Focus on Education:

Meet the new
Educators of the Year
and examine how
local kids learn about
business and careers.

Begins on
page 7

ADVOCACY Update

The Chamber represents business interests to local, state and federal representatives, serving as an advocate on behalf of all businesses for the issues critical to the future of our community. If you need assistance with a business advocacy issue, please contact your Advocacy Team at The Chamber.

Federal Focus Summit

The Chamber's 2016 Federal Focus event will take place Tuesday, April 19. The topic this year will surround unmanned aerial and vehicle systems. This event will be held in the Shreve Auditorium at Ivy Tech in Bloomington. Speakers will include experts in the areas of defense, technology and regulation of these increasingly popular systems. Please see ChamberBloomington.org for more details.

Sign Ordinances

Due to a recent Supreme Court decision that states

signs can't be regulated based on the content, the city is proposing to make significant changes to their own ordinances. The Chamber Advocacy Council held a special meeting to discuss the issue in depth. The Chamber is working with our members, city staff, elected officials, and other stakeholders to determine the effect of the changes and brainstorm solutions. The proposed changes were presented to the Plan Commission and they voted to continue the discussion at their March meeting. The Chamber is not only closely monitoring the situation, but also researching other communities' ordinances and seeking input from constitutional lawyers.

Chamber Supports Westside Connectivity

The Chamber's board of directors voted in February to support efforts to improve connectiv-

ity on the west side. The Chamber believes extending Industrial Drive to the Curry Pike and Profile Parkway intersection, as proposed by the Monroe County Redevelopment Commission, will allow more access to the area. The project is still in the preliminary stages but has been added to the west side TIF plan and construction will begin in the fall.

Indiana General Assembly

The Indiana General Assembly's 2016 legislative session will end this month and lawmakers continue to focus on a variety of issues including transportation, ISTEP, the teacher shortage and the environment. The Chamber's Legislative Council has identified several bills to follow that may be of significance to Chamber members. As the session continues, we will post updates in the advocacy portion of ChamberBloomington.org.

Monroe County Energy Challenge

The Monroe County Energy Challenge is a community-wide effort to reduce energy use in order to win the \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize. At the same time, we'll improve quality of life, reduce our environmental impact, and save money. To win, we need to save more energy in houses, schools and government buildings than 49 other communities across the country. The Monroe County Energy Challenge is a joint effort of the city of Bloomington, the towns of Ellettsville and Stinesville, Monroe County government, the Monroe County School Corporation, the Richland Bean-Blossom School Corporation, the Indiana University Office of Sustainability, Ivy Tech, the South Central Community Action Program, Vectren Energy, South Central Indiana REMC and many

others. To learn more about the competition visit mocoenergychallenge.org.

I-69 Section 5 Update

Current work on Section 5 in Bloomington includes mainline improvements and access roads, reconstructing the SR 37 mainline to interstate standards as well as constructing access roads from just south of Chambers Pike to the northern end of the project. The anticipated completion time for this work is mid-2016. At Arlington Road, bridge improvements will cause a closure from Hunter Lane to Prow road. Traffic will be detoured via State Road 46, Kinser Pike and 17th Street during construction and will be open to local traffic only. The closure of Arlington Road be in effect through June 30. At Vernal Pike, a center bridge pier is being constructed, followed by a bridge over I-69 and a realignment of a section of this road. This work is

anticipated to be completed by early 2016. At Sample Road a new interchange will have roundabout intersections. This work is anticipated to be completed in late spring of 2016. And at Liberty Church Road a new interchange is expected to be completed by mid-2016. Additional project information can be found at i69section5.org.

I-69 Section 6 Update

INDOT is currently reviewing five preliminary alternatives for the final leg of the I-69 project connecting Martinsville to Indianapolis. Each of these preliminary alternatives will be further refined and analyzed over the next few months through traffic modeling, field work, access evaluation and other screening methods. From this process, the most reasonable alternatives will be identified and included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2017. A preferred alternative will be selected through the DEIS process, with the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision expected in the first quarter of 2018. INDOT held public information meetings in Martinsville, Mooresville, and Perry-Meridian to seek public input and comment. Find additional information at www.i69indyevn.org.



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CHAMBER VOICES



Jeb Conrad. Courtesy photo.

Support and Collaboration

By Jeb Conrad, president and CEO

Winter has finally arrived and your Chamber of Commerce is busy providing support for our local business community and members, leading initiatives important to Bloomington and Monroe County.

The Chamber is focused on key strategic areas that support the local business environment and our members. Our core mission is driven by these areas and supported by bringing programs and events to our membership. We survey our members annually to understand what the business community needs and how the Chamber can serve. The responses vary, but inevitably public policy and advocacy, talent, leadership and education, business advancement and regionalism always rank important.

The Chamber is active in public policy advocacy, working with our county officials and the new city administration on issues and opportunities impacting the business community. The Chamber has an excellent working relationship with our local officials, serving as a convener and a resource to provide input on critical issues affecting our local business landscape.

The key issues that the Chamber is engaged in locally already include: changes to the City Demolition Delay and public right-of-way sign ordinances, county planning and zoning for the urbanizing area and exciting

new development opportunities for the Trades District, IU Health hospital sites, and Switchyard Park—to name a few.

We continue to collaborate on issues such as safe and civil city for our downtown, the local and regional impact and opportunities of I-69 and other issues that impact our members and the business community. Our policy agendas are available on our updated website.

The Chamber also remains committed to education, talent and workforce. In 2016 we are looking to strengthen relationships and collaborations that will enhance

our Franklin Initiative programming, develop local talent and leadership and build a stronger partnership for our workforce development in conjunction with our members. We were grateful to be able to host the Educators of the Year

County teachers and administrators who help foster our future workforce.

Our Helping Young Professionals Excel (hYPe) program is off and running this year, providing opportunities for our future business and community leaders to network, learn new skills and be exposed to the opportunity to lead our community. Monthly programs are available for this under-40 leadership group and I encourage you to join in.

“The Chamber has an excellent working relationship with our local officials, serving as a convener and a resource to provide input on critical issues affecting our local business landscape.”

CHAMBER VOICES

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CONTACT BIZNET

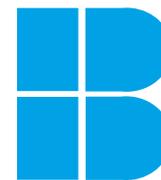
If you are a Chamber member who would like to announce promotions, expansions, community events, or other news in the “Chamber Briefs” section, please contact Carol Kelly at the Chamber: 812-336-6381 or ckelly@ChamberBloomington.org.

To advertise in *BizNet*, please contact Laurie Ragle at 812-331-4291 or lragle@heraldt.com. Be sure to ask about discount rate packages for Chamber members!

For subscription information or customer service, please contact Katie Bruhn at 812-336-6381 or info@ChamberBloomington.org.

Please send press releases to info@ChamberBloomington.org.

Thank you for your interest in *BizNet*!



The Chamber

staff, partners & board members

Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
400 W. 7th St., Suite 102 • P.O. Box 1302 • Bloomington, IN 47402
Phone 812-336-6381 • ChamberBloomington.org

STAFF, PARTNERS & BOARD MEMBERS

The Chamber invites its members to contact these individuals with comments or questions regarding Chamber activities.

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Anne Bono, *Director of Advocacy & Public Policy*
Kelley Brown, *Director of Marketing and Communications*
Katie Bruhn, *Executive Assistant*
Patty Goldman, *Graduation Coach*
Kelsie Holt, *Director of Talent, Education & Workforce*
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Andy McManis, *Members Services Coordinator*
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Jim Shelton, *Government Relations-County*
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BUSINESS NETWORK

Brooke McCluskey, *Editor*
biznet@heraldt.com

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hYPe is in full swing this spring!



Join us on March 9th for an evening of Energizing Entrepreneurs at Hoosier Energy's office (2501 S. Cooperative Way). We'll have Troy Phelps from the Indiana Small Business Development Center with us leading an activity to bring out your next big idea! Plus, we'll hear a practice pitch from B-Start, a program of the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation, as well as our usual refreshments and networking.

On April 13th, we're hosting a BYOCB happy hour – bring your own coloring books! Let's break out our colored pencils and get creative while we relax after work

at Cardinal Spirits (922 S Morton St). Recent studies have shown that coloring has a therapeutic effect as well as intellectual benefits, such as enhancing focus and concentration. We'll have some supplies on hand if you need extra inspiration!

Also, save the date for May 4th - hYPe is hosting a Bring Your Boss luncheon at the DeVault Alumni Center from 11:30-1:00pm. We wanted to give YP's the opportunity to take their boss to lunch (on us!) and create a space for networking with high-level executives in Bloomington. The lunch will also feature a flash panel moderated by Caroline Dowd-Higgins with Tedd Green, President of Cook Pharmica,

Angela Parker, Founder and Attorney at CarminParker, P.C., and Jon Barada, President of the Bloomington Hospital Foundation. We'll hear about their unique career paths and their advice for young professionals today. Thank you to the DeVault Alumni Center for hosting us and thank you to Old National Bank for sponsoring the lunch!

To register for all of these FREE events, visit our website at www.ChamberBloomington.org. For more details and information on hYPe, contact Kelsie Holt at kholt@chamberbloomington.org or 812-336-6381. Hope to see you soon!



MEMBER RENEWALS

- American Family Insurance – Kevin King Agency
- American Cancer Society Southeast Indiana
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- The Beehive Full Service Salon
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- Children's Organ Transplant Association
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- Delta Dental of Indiana
- Fast Park
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Kaytee Lorentzen Photography
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Sunbelt Rentals
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5092 S. Production Dr.
Bloomington, IN 47403
812-824-0650
sunbeltrentals.com

Ten31 Marketing
Contact: Nate Ebel
812-344-9144
ten31marketing.com



CHAMBER BRIEFS

New Hires & Promotions

Garner Joins Law Firm

The law firm of Slotegraaf Niehoff, P.C. welcomes Kristin Garner to the firm as an associate attorney. She will be working primarily in the areas of family law and estate planning. Slotegraaf Niehoff is located at 200 East Third Street and online at slotegraaflegal.com.

McNeely at Meadows Hospital

Chris McNeely has accepted the position of business development director at Bloomington Meadows Hospital. Two additional staff members have been added to this department—Maxwell Peck and Samantha Ginther.

Gieselman Joins Investigation Firm

Trace Investigations of Bloomington welcomes Rebecca Gieselman to the Trace team as a Research Analyst. She will be working closely with the investigation staff, providing research support on cases. Trace Investigations is located at 517 N. Walnut Street and online at traceinvestigations.com.

Awards & Designations

IU Health Presents Award

Indiana University Health has recognized Jim Laughlin and the Positive Link team with the prestigious President's Values Leadership Award. The award is the highest recognition that IU Health offers to physicians and team members who demonstrate extraordinary dedication in working to improve the health of patients and the community.

Representatives in Top 50

Greg Boyer and Mark Oyler with Bill C. Brown Associates ranked in the top 50 financial representatives for 2015 by American United Life/OneAmerica. Both have been with Bill C. Brown Associates for over 25 years and are members of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

Edward Jones Receives Award

Financial services firm Edward Jones was awarded the prestigious J.D. Power President's Award recognizing its commitment to excellence in customer satisfaction. The President's Award is presented periodically and recognizes individuals or companies demonstrating

CHAMBER BRIEFS
continued on page 11

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Wagon Wheel Market began in a small town in Northern California 35 years ago. Since then we have strived to provide only the best products and best customer service to our community. We are now excited to provide our quality products to Bloomington. At our full service meat counter, we serve only 100 percent natural meats. Using the freshest ingredients and meats available to us, we produce over 25 varieties of homemade sausages, many of which are smoked in our state of the art smokehouse. Our beef is USDA Choice Certified Premium and Prime—ensuring your cut of meat is tender and flavorful. We bake fresh bread and pastries daily, carry local and specialty groceries and offer a variety of fresh produce. Come pick up everything you need for dinner tonight, or enjoy a meal with us in our dining room.



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Pest Birds and *the Crow Task Force*

Anyone who steps into downtown Bloomington during the winter months faces the overwhelming sight and jarring sounds of crow roosts. For Bloomington residents, these pest birds—primarily crows—are not new to Bloomington. In fact, the influx of pest birds in Bloomington has been a topic of conversation with Bloomington residents, business owners, county and city administration, Indiana University and the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce for the past two years.

The flock of crows congregating downtown and in other areas of the community, particularly

this year on the Indiana University campus, is disruptive for visitors to local businesses and aggravating for residents. Convincing these intelligent birds to leave once they are settled in is difficult. Meanwhile, their accumulation of droppings on sidewalks, cars and buildings creates health concerns and increases cleanup costs. To address this issue, the Chamber identified safety and cleanliness as a priority area in the 2016 Local Public Policy Agenda.

Representing their businesses and the Chamber's Advocacy Council, the Crow Task Force was formed by Downtown Bloomington Inc, also known as DBI, in 2015. Jim Murphy, President

of CFC Properties and long-time Chamber volunteer, is active in issues surrounding the downtown business environment.

Over the past year, Murphy championed the recent intervention strategies in DBI's crow task force. In a collaborative effort, DBI, the city administration, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services, or APHIS WS, Indiana University and CFC Properties have been working together to develop a community solution.

"This is a community issue, and therefore we need to come together and be vigilant and proactive with careful research to determine the habits and patterns of the crows and then

determine the best solution to mitigate," Murphy said during an update to the Chamber's Advocacy Council meeting.

Last fall, the task force developed a comprehensive approach to effectively study the crow issue and improve the sight of downtown. The goal of the task force is to move crows from Bloomington to an area where they will pose less of a problem.

During the first phase of the study, USDA APHIS' wildlife specialists will collect baseline population and habitat use data on pest birds in the greater Bloomington area for six months or until pest birds depart for the

**CROW TASK FORCE,
CONTINUED ON PAGE D11**

Crows flock to trees in downtown Bloomington. Courtesy photo.





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New Faces in Chamber Membership

**Walker named director
of membership services and
McManis will assist**

Tammy Walker has been named Director of Membership Services for the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. Walker began her new role leading the membership recruitment and retention efforts for the 800-member organization on Feb. 29. She replaces Mary Jo Orlowski, who left the position to lead the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce as its president.

In addition to directing member retention and recruitment efforts, Walker will also serve as the leader of both the Chamber's ambassador and membership committees. These volunteer committees provide support for membership related initiatives and assist with outreach and on-boarding of Chamber members.

"We are delighted that Tammy will be representing our organization with our members, prospective members and

the community. She brings a depth of proven experience to our team," said Jeb Conrad, president and CEO of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce.

"That knowledge, coupled with her passionate resolve to provide superior customer service, will further enhance the Chamber experience for our members," Conrad added.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Walker served as the new market specialist and regional director for Trilogy Health Services, Inc. She started her career there as the community services representative, leading start-up efforts for the Hearthstone and Stonecroft Health Campuses in Bloomington. Walker also spent several years with Meadowood Retirement Community and John Bethell Title Company before moving on to Trilogy Health Services.

The Chamber also welcomes Andy McManis as the new part-time membership services coordinator. She will be assisting

**MEMBERSHIP SERVICES,
CONTINUED ON PAGE D15**



Tammy Walker.
Courtesy photo.



Andy McManis.
Courtesy photo.

What are Local Kids Learning about Business?

By Kasey Husk

In our fast-paced, globalized world, the needs of the business community change as rapidly as the technology does.

Monroe County schools and nonprofit organizations are hard at work to make sure children have the tools they need to be successful in this ever-evolving economic landscape. Starting as early as kindergarten, these organizations are working to ensure that students have the right educational background, technological skills and

opportunities—like internships and job shadowing—to stand out in the crowd as they enter the working world.



Kelsie Holt. Courtesy photo.

Local schools are shifting curricula to ensure students are getting interested in fast-growing career fields and establishing a baseline of economic

literacy. Nonprofit organizations are stepping in to help students learn the practical skills they'll need for a future in the workforce.

Among the nonprofits is the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce's Franklin Initiative, a program aimed at providing career awareness and workforce development services to Bloomington youth.

"For us, in the long-term, we see it almost as workforce development," said Kelsie Holt, director of talent, education and workforce for the Chamber. "We want students to understand the opportunities they have here and that Bloomington is a great place to start your career no matter what you are looking for."

Seeking a Path

Young people are asked to make decisions about their future career path earlier than ever, Holt said. And with unmanageable student loan debt a concern nationwide, there's no denying that a meandering path toward finding a career

could prove costly for students.

Organizations like the Franklin Initiative and Monroe County schools, however, are helping students learn about the career options available to them so they can make informed decisions as they plot a course for their lives. Among the offerings is its speaker bureau, in which the Franklin Initiative coordinates with teachers to have representatives from a variety of career fields come into the classroom to speak to students.

"It is a good way to help students think about what they want to do in the future," Holt said. "We want to motivate them to do better in school by showing them that this is important now, and this is how it is going to affect you in the future."

The program also offers job shadowing, where students can spend a day following someone working in a field that might interest them to gain a better understanding of it, Holt said.

The Franklin Initiative holds two career fairs each year. One is in the spring and involves companies actively looking to hire students. It gives students the chance to find a job, practice their interview skills and learn how to network.

The other career fair, held in the fall, is a more informational event that focuses on science, technology, engineering and mathematics—commonly called STEM—to help students learn more about these sought-after fields, according to Holt.

In the Classroom

Job shadowing is among the opportunities offered to students in business teacher Joann Novak's required freshman course, Preparing for College

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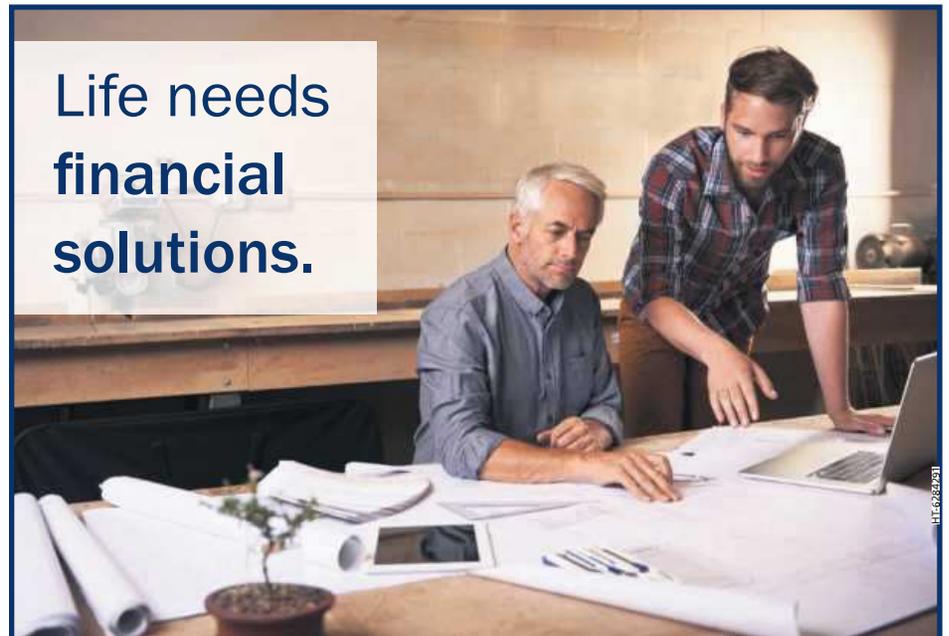
"We want to motivate them to do better in school by showing them that this is important now, and this is how it is going to affect you in the future."

—Kelsie Holt



In this photo from 2010, Edgewood students wait as Carol Reynolds spins a basket with numbered balls before the students pick one. The numbered balls determine life events that students will cope with during their Reality Store experience. Photo by David Snodgrass.

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LOCAL KIDS

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and Careers, at the Monroe County Community School Corporation's Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship. Novak also partners with the Franklin Initiative to offer mock interview sessions with professionals from the community as part of the course.

These mock interviews give students the chance to learn soft skills like making eye contact, shaking someone's hand and talking about themselves.

"Trying that out for the first time as a student is always nerve-wracking," Holt said, but gets easier as students practice.

Both MCCSC and Richland-Bean Blossom Community schools are also helping the facilitate internships for students, so they can test drive an area of interest while still in school. The Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship was already working with the Franklin Initiative to provide internships to some students, but this school year it is launching a pilot program to help students hone in on their areas of interest and obtain more

work opportunities.

In her junior seminar this semester, Novak is implementing what she calls the 20% Time Project, which is "based on the Google model where the employees are allowed to spend 20 percent of their time working on a project of their own choosing." The time for creative exploration helps students gain career focus.

"In this class, I am challenging the students to develop a project that will allow them to explore a discipline that they want to explore on a deeper level," Novak explained.

"At the conclusion of the semester, our hope is that the students will identify a career focus as a result of the 20% Project and then use the results of that project to secure an internship opportunity they can complete during the summer."

Ivy Tech Community College is also proactive in providing its students with hands-on learning opportunities. According to Chancellor Jennie Vaughan, degree-seeking students with a grade point average of 2.6 or higher can be placed into internships, and some degrees even require them.



Jennie Vaughan.
Courtesy photo.

"The value of the internship is the learning experience," Vaughan said. "Through the years over 100 area employers have hosted Ivy Tech students for internships. All these interns have made the most of their learning experiences by getting hands-on training in their field of study. Whether a student stays with the employer beyond the internship or move on into a new career path, the outcome is the same—knowledge and experience."

Piquing an interest

For a 10-year-old, starting up a lemonade stand might seem like just a fun way to earn some money. But for the leaders of Bloomington's annual Lemonade Day, it is so much more.

Throughout Bloomington, nonprofit organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington, which puts on Lemonade Day, are using fun events to help spark youngsters' interest in entrepreneurship, high-growth fields like STEM and personal finance.

"There is a real push right now in the financial community for financial literacy," said Amy Swain, Lemonade Day city coordinator for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington. "We've had some issues as a country with financial matters and so teaching kids how to save, the value of a dollar, how to be successful as an entrepreneur—these are all really good skills for today's economic environment."

Participants in

"I am challenging the students to develop a project that will allow them to explore a discipline that they want to explore on a deeper level."

—Joann Novak



Joann Novak. Photo by David Snodgrass.

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Lemonade Day, a multistate initiative that came to Bloomington around 2011, create lemonade booths and sell at designated locations across Bloomington.

Organizers hold a workshop in the run-up to the event where participants work on building their booths, learn about marketing, craft a business plan and discuss finding an investor, Swain said. After the sale—to be held Saturday, May 21 this year—children are encouraged to save some of the proceeds, spend some and donate some to a favorite charity.

In 2015, at least 421 children participated in Lemonade Day and Swain is hoping for even more this year.

The program, she said, gives kids the chance to learn soft skills like customer service as well as practical business skills. It gets them involved in entrepreneurship early, and in such a way that they don't have to worry about failure.

"If you do fail, it isn't when you've got a mortgage and a car payment and student loans to pay off," Swain said. "You fail when you've got your parents or that mentor there to help back you so you can do better the next time—whether that's on Lemonade Day or in real life."

Meanwhile, for the Bloomington chapter of Girls Inc.—a program

designed to "inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold"—economic literacy is an important piece of the program as early as kindergarten. The organization offers age-appropriate programs for girls from six to 18 years old, including teaching entrepreneurship to show girls that owning their own business "is a career option, a way of managing your own destiny," according to executive director Kristi McCann.



Amy Swain.
Courtesy photo.



Kristi McCann.
Courtesy photo.

"It's all about empowering girls to succeed and that ties in directly with economic literacy," McCann said. "We want them to be able to leave Girls Inc. and have the skills and knowledge they need to understand how to manage their money well."

Girls Inc. is also introducing after school math programs where students use mathematic applications to do projects like build and create a city. The goal is to keep girls interested in mathematics, which in turn may help encourage them to seek careers in the lucrative and growing—but still male dominated—STEM fields.

"If girls start losing interest in mathematics before fourth grade, we see dramatic declines in interest in STEM," McCann said.

Meanwhile, a Franklin Initiative program

introduces junior high school students to the realities of personal finance through one of its most popular events, the Reality Store. Participating students are assigned a career path and monthly salary based on their current grade point average—students performing well might be assigned a higher salary, while those performing poorly would be assigned a lower one. With this

"We've had some issues as a country with financial matters and so teaching kids how to save, the value of a dollar, how to be successful as an entrepreneur—these are all really good skills for today's economic environment."

—Amy Swain

"It's all about empowering girls to succeed and that ties in directly with economic literacy."

—Kristi McCann

information, students travel from table to table to make decisions about allocating their funds for transportation, housing, clothing, insurance and dealing with life's unexpected events.

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During the 2013 Lemonade Day, Courtlyn Bales-Hall carries a drink she bought from Dexter Griffin, right, at the corner of College and 6th Street. Lemonade Day helps kids understand business by running a lemonade stand. Photo by Jeremy Hogan.



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The Reality Store can be an eye-opening experience for students, Holt said. She recalls many instances when students start by purchasing high-end clothes at the beginning of the exercise only to have to return them for clothing from Goodwill when their budgets won't balance.

"We are trying to help them understand that life is expensive and that things you are doing now are going to affect your life later," she said. "The kids are always so surprised at how expensive things are."

Beyond Social Media

It isn't always easy to know what students will

need for the jobs of the future, but local schools are working to ensure that students are prepared as possible for whatever the working world throws at them. That means having a solid education in how to use technology effectively, which is part of what Novak teaches.

"Technology is infused into everything we do and students need to be able to be better at navigating their digital footprint. They need to be more equipped to solve technology problems to ensure their business remains operational. They need to understand database design and management in order to obtain the information they need, and they need to use technology in a responsible and effective manner," Novak explained. "They

need to be able to use technology beyond social media and gaming."

In Richland-Bean Blossom Community schools, all sixth to 12th grade students have one-to-one access to a device—currently an iPad, and Chromebooks next year—to marry the digital and physical classrooms together. The devices, Assistant Superintendent Jason Bletzinger said, allow the students to collaborate through shared documents, engage with the curriculum online and blend the physical space of the classroom with the digital space.

"That reflects how they are going to be expected to operate in the world of work in the future, in jobs they may not have even dreamed of yet," said

Bletzinger. By 2017 all the children in the district will have access to a device at the same time.

Moreover, RBB is focused on tailoring its educational offerings to the needs of the future—in this case, by increasing its focus on STEM fields. It recently received a \$1.5 million grant to be used to develop a STEM-based learning program featuring hands-on, problem solving lessons for students as young as kindergarten to foster interest in the STEM fields. Among the courses that are to be offered are technology-based classes, pre-engineering, coding and more at the junior high and high school level, Bletzinger said.

The district wants to encourage students to go into STEM fields, but even



Jazon Bletzinger. Courtesy photo.

for those who don't, the goal is engaging students in problem-based learning throughout their education. This helps develop core skills like critical thinking, collaboration and creativity.

"When they do enter the world of work and college and career, they'll be more

prepared," Bletzinger said.

In her classrooms at the Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship, Novak strives to build the skills to help her students thrive.

"I want what all teachers at The Academy want for our graduates—students that understand what it means to be a professional, have strong work ethic, the ability to communicate their ideas effectively, the ability to work with a variety of people to meet a goal, time management skills and a deep appreciation for the opportunity to learn and grow," she said. "I want students to be able to apply for, obtain and excel in the job of their choice, not simply what was available."



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CHAMBER BRIEFS

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dedication, commitment and sustained improvement in serving customers. The Bloomington area has 10 Edward Jones financial advisors.

Neidigh Passes Exam

Heather Neidigh has been with Sterling Real Estate, Inc. since June 2015 as a marketing assistant. In December, she passed her broker licensing exam and was sworn into the Bloomington Board of Realtors as the latest addition the realty team. Neidigh brings organization, efficiency and a friendly face to the office.

Two Indiana Influentials

Two Franklin College alumni have been named to the Indianapolis Business Journal's 2016 Forty Under 40. Brooke (Wagoner) Worland of Franklin, a 1999 alumna, and Eric Richards of Indianapolis, also a 1999 alumnus, were selected from a pool of more than 300 nominees. Read more at ibj.com/forty-under-40-2016.

2016 Human Rights Award

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission has chosen the Downtown Resources Officer program as the recipient of its 2016 Human Rights Award. The DRO initiative was launched in 2014 with the intent to do more than arrest, release and re-arrest high-risk individuals.

Three Local Women to be Honored

Three local women will be honored in March for their outstanding service to our community. Jean Capler has been named Bloomington's Woman of the Year, Flo Davis has been named recipient of the Lifetime Contribution Award and Laura Ingram has been chosen to receive the Emerging Leader Award.

Shettlesworth Named District Director

Bloomington Meadows Hospital's director of human resources has been named a district director for the Indiana State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management. Shettlesworth will be the district director for Central and Eastern

Indiana, providing leadership and communication to further state council goals and objectives.

Opportunities & Events

Franklin College's 16th President

Thomas J. Minar will be inaugurated as the 16th president of Franklin College during an installation ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9 in Spurlock Center gymnasium. The ceremony is open to the public.

O'Bannon Fundraising Dinner

The 13th annual O'Bannon Institute fundraising dinner will take place April 21 at the new Cook Pavillion featuring keynote speaker Lee H. Hamilton, distinguished scholar, School of Global and International Studies, professor of practice, School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, and 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient.

McRobbie Receives Award

Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie has been selected by the board of directors of The International Center as recipient of the 2016 International Citizen of the Year Award. The award will be presented at a tribute dinner and program Sept. 20 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

Other

CJAM Executive Director Resigns

Susan Burton will leave her post as CJAM's Executive Director effective as of the end of February. The board will recruit her successor and put in place a plan to provide programs the supervision and support necessary to ensure they perform smoothly during this period.

New Owners at Wampler House

Zachary and Donna Malham are the new owner/innkeepers of the Wampler House Bed & Breakfast, returning to Bloomington after moving to Colorado 40 years ago. They are looking forward to being part of the com-

munity again after their western adventure.

Marsh North Re-Grand Opening

Marsh Supermarket will celebrate recent renovations to the 1825 Kinser Pike location with a re-grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration Thursday, March 24. A short program will begin at 9:30 a.m. with festivities and prize drawings continuing throughout the day.

FASTSIGNS Certified Woman Owned

FASTSIGNS of Bloomington is now certified as a woman-owned business by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council. WBENC certification validates that the business is 51 percent owned, controlled, operated and managed by a woman or women.

Meadows Hospital Lunch & Learn

Bloomington Meadows Hospital hosted a Lunch & Learn event Jan. 20. The topic was "Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth: Being a Culturally Competent Provider." Members of Bloomington PRIDE's

Prism Youth Community presented content regarding LGBTQ+ youth statistics, effective therapy strategies, maintaining confidentiality, proper pronoun usage and other topics.

Grand Terra Gives Chamber Discount

Looking for an alternative to QuickBooks? Grand Terra is now offering 50 percent off their cloud based business software to chamber members with promo code GBCOC. Products include Arrowbooks online accounting software and GTMETRO property management software. Pricing starts at \$6.99 a month. Visit grandterra.net for more information.

If you are a Chamber member who would like to announce promotions, expansions, community events, or other news in the "Chamber Briefs" section, please contact Carol Kelly at the Chamber: 812-336-6381 or ckelly@ChamberBloomington.org.



CROW TASK FORCE

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winter period. Based on current estimations by the wildlife specialists, they have surveyed as many as 13,000 crows in one day in Bloomington, which is higher than the reported crow population in Indianapolis.

By the second phase, USDA APHIS WS will provide an annual summary and recommendations based on their findings.

"Once we have the information from the USDA study, we will then have the information necessary to determine the best plan to

mitigate, and we will be presented a proposal from the USDA as to the best method," Murphy said. "We anticipate that process to include a form of pyrotechnics, similar to how they have successfully addressed the pest bird issue in Indianapolis."

In October, the Crow Task Force held its first public meeting to update the community on the formation of the group and its initial efforts to address the concern. A follow-up pest bird meeting will be held to continue the discussion and share new information including data on the crows' migration patterns, staging areas and roosting sites in the greater

Bloomington area. This meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. March 11 in the ballroom at Fountain Square. The public is invited to attend.

The Chamber is supportive of the Crow Task Force's long-term strategic approach to safely moving the crows and urges member businesses and the public to attend the March 11 pest bird meeting. The crow issue will not resolve itself overnight, but with the expertise of the wildlife specialists, partnership with the task force members, and feedback from the community and businesses, the crow management plan may have a chance.



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Congrats, educators!

More than 200 people celebrated excellence in education at the 15th Annual Educators of the Year Awards and dinner held at IU's Franklin Hall. Seven outstanding educators, one educational community program and one lifetime achievement award were honored at the February 24 event, which was hosted by the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and its Franklin Initiative.

Thanks to personal videos produced by Smithville Communications, the seven individuals accepted their Outstanding Educators Awards as friends, family and colleagues watched for themselves how extraordinary the winning awardees are. The videos showed the dedication, creativity and passion for excellence that are common traits with each of the honorees.

The seven honorees were given an all-expenses-paid in-service training to any Solution Tree training seminar offered throughout the continental United States. Past awardees have been thrilled with the quality and content of these professional development opportunities and have been excited to share what they learned with others at their home schools. As a presenting sponsor, Solution Tree also donated \$500 to the school of each of the awardees, which can be used towards a program of their choosing.

Prism Youth Group was honored with a Leading Light Award. As part of the Bloomington PRIDE network, the Prism Youth Community is an inclusive social group that celebrates all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. This innovative program also helps engage the community through panel discussions about improving the school environment for LGBTQ youth, the effects of discrimination and microaggressions.

The evening culminated with the Lifetime Achievement Award, given to the superintendent of the Monroe County Community School Corporation, Dr. Judith DeMuth. Her address to the attendees brought a hearty standing ovation for her and her work in education.

The Chamber and its Franklin Initiative congratulate and thank the 2016 honorees for all they do for our area's young people and for the field of education.

Steve Brewer, language arts teacher, Edgewood High School

Who was the most influential teacher, coach, principal or other mentor you had growing up? What made them influential?

Blessed with many caring and passionate teachers, I hate to mention one, but since my "growing up" extended well into adulthood, I'll name Sarah Robinson, my student teaching mentor and first department chairperson. Like few people I've known, she was so passionate about art and literature and had so thoroughly assimilated an aesthetic approach to life, particularly with language, that what she taught merged with how she lived. She deployed figures from art and literature naturally and habitually. My outlook—and my house!—is furnished partly from Sarah's sensibility. Even more, however, she cared deeply about her charges here at Edgewood, and I was lucky to be one.

How do you want to be remembered as an educator?

As someone who demonstrated that learning in school can be joyful and can empower one to appreciate life, and that everyone can do it.

Joe Donnelly, Jackson Creek Middle School

What is your educational philosophy that guides you as an educator?

My philosophy has always been to try to get to know students as people and treat them with respect. Students know that I am interested in their lives and that I care about their education. As a result, they work hard and treat me with respect also. Students also need to be engaged. I strive to create a classroom environment and activities that will engage them in the learning process.

What is the most rewarding part of your profession?

The most rewarding part of teaching is when a student "gets it." When a band student can hit a note, or plays a challenging piece for the first time, there is a joy that can't be put into words. In music those milestones often take lots of hard work and focus. I hope that the feeling of success from work transfers to other areas of their education and lives.



Steve Brewer.
Courtesy photo.



Joe Donnelly.
Courtesy photo.

Alissa Drewes, kindergarten Teacher, Edgewood Primary School

If you were giving advice to a person who is entering into a career as a teacher, what are three qualities they must possess to be successful?

They need to possess a hunger for this profession. This is not a clock in and out type of job. My teacher brain never turns off. I am always wanting to provide my students with engaging ways to learn in my room. They need to understand the importance of flexibility. You never know what each day will hold and you must go into each day with the understanding that you may have the best lesson plans in the world but you don't know what your class may throw at you! Don't ever take this profession for granted. I was once let go because of large budget cuts and I took my early years of teaching for granted. I thought my job would always be there. I now go in each day realizing what a gift it is for me to be a teacher and to have a job that I love.

What is your favorite quote/saying?

"All I really need to know I learned in kindergarten." Not only do we teach early reading and math skills, but we teach them how to tie their shoes, be a friend to others, and work together respectfully. I feel that kindergarten is so important and I love being a part of it!

Helen Melwid, third grade teacher, Marlin Elementary

Why did you choose the field of education as a career?

My father, Jack Swarbrick, inspired me to be an educator. He was an engineer at Otis Elevator Company for over 40 years. He participated in a program in which he taught math to the factory workers in the evening. He was also the executive director of junior achievement in Monroe County when I was growing up. Witnessing the desire my father had to help young people discover talents they didn't know they had—and to develop those talents into tools they would use in the future—was incredibly inspiring. To hear my dad talk about the pride his math students felt as he helped them acquire the necessary skills to achieve their goals seemed so wonderful. I wanted to be a part of that world. To be a person who helped

CELEBRATING OUR EDUCATORS CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Alissa Drewes.
Courtesy photo.



Helen Melwid.
Courtesy photo.



CELEBRATING OUR EDUCATORS

The Greater Bloomington Chamber Of Commerce

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

others believe in themselves. To help people develop the confidence that would lead to the fulfillment of their dreams.

How do you want to be remembered as an educator?

I would like to be remembered as a teacher that truly cared. I want to be remembered as an educator that instilled a love of reading and lifelong learning deep within my students. I hope my students remember me as someone who believed in them and wished them success in all they would accomplish in their lives.

Amy Morwick, career counselor, Hoosier Hills Career Center

What is the most rewarding part of your profession?

Very simple—working with kids and watching them succeed. An example of this happened recently when a former welding student stopped in to get additional assistance with practicing for an exam he needed to pass in hopes of getting accepted into the Sheet Metal Union in Indianapolis. It is hard to put into words the difference in maturity that was evident with this young man. The many conversations had with this student during his high school years, combined with valiant efforts from his teacher and other mentors during that time, made a difference. This is why we do what we do!

What do you think is the greatest challenge facing students today?

While it can be very positive, I often worry that our students are being overwhelmed by technology and social media. They never seem to get a break from it. The greatest challenge for our young people will be to keep this in check.

Jenny Noble-Kuchera, English language learner teacher, Binford and Rogers Elementary

Why did you choose the field of education as a career?

As a kid, I was taken overseas by my parents and had the experience of being a language minority in Croatia. Due to that time spent having to learn another language to get along socially and academically, I wanted to be an English as a new language teacher. That way, I could create a support-



Amy Morwick.
Courtesy photo.



Jenny Noble-Kuchera.
Courtesy photo.

ive environment for students coming here from other countries and language backgrounds.

What is your favorite quote/saying?

“For in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet, we all breathe the same air, we all cherish our children’s futures, and we are all mortal.” From John F. Kennedy’s speech at The American University in Washington, D.C. on June 10, 1963.

Gwen Witten Upchurch, sounds of South director, Bloomington High School South

What would you identify as your greatest success as a teacher?

I do not think I have “one great success” as a teacher, but rather many small successes that take up the most room in my heart. Some of these small successes include when a student, or entire class, has an “aha!” moment where everything we have been working for comes together and creates something beautiful. There are plenty more of these little miracles I could talk about, but I do not have enough room. These moments are what makes teaching so amazing. My students and I become a permanent part of each other’s lives, and I think that connection alone is the greatest success a teacher can have.

What do you think is the greatest challenge facing students today?

Students are constantly put under too much pressure. They are expected to wake up at seven a.m., go to school all day, finish two hours of homework, then have extracurricular activities, a social life, and get eight hours of sleep. There just isn’t enough time in the day. I push my students to do their best and strive for excellence, but I try not to put too much pressure on them. In fact, I try to alleviate some of that stress they feel daily. By incorporating calming and grounding exercises into teaching, I feel as though this pressure is lessened immensely, and it connects us with one another mentally so we are able to then connect through song.

Prism Youth Group, Leading Light Award

What is Prism Youth Group?

As part of the Bloomington PRIDE network, the Prism Youth Community is an inclusive social group that celebrates all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. This group is open for all youth between the ages of 12 and 20.

Prism helps engage the community through panel



Gwen Witten
Upchurch. Courtesy
photo.

discussions with topics focusing on improving the school environment for LGBTQ youth, the effects of discrimination and looking at microaggressions. Members of Prism also volunteer throughout the community at the Interfaith Winter Shelter, the Bloomington PRIDE Film Festival, the Bloomington PRIDE Summerfest, and the LGBT Aging and Caring Network. For more information, contact Laura Ingram at laura.ingram@bloomington-pride.org.

Debbie Fish, Bloomington Pride board member, acknowledges Prism’s far-ranging impact. “Because of Prism’s wide reach, youth who would have likely never met have formed friendships and, more importantly, a strong support system. Prism encourages youth to use their voices ... and teaches them that they have worth and value.”

Dr. Judith DeMuth, Lifetime Achievement Award

Why did you choose the field of education as a career?

Most females in my day became secretaries, nurses or teachers in college. I was inspired by listening to students who struggled along the educational continuum but enjoyed the pursuit of specific interests in college. I decided that working with children to guide, support and encourage their interests was where I wanted to be and teaching was the greatest profession to accomplish that passion.

If you were providing advice to a person who is entering into a career as an administrator, what three qualities must they possess to be successful?

Students success is our priority—conquer all of the hurdles that may inhibit each student’s success. Be tenacious—follow through with students and staff so they know you care. It is all about others—practice servant leadership. It really is about students, staff, and community.

What do you think is the greatest challenge facing students today?

Student challenges are opportunities to improve what currently exists. I am always in awe of how much better they will make the world.



Prism Youth Group. Courtesy photo.



Dr. Judith DeMuth.
Courtesy photo.





Rev. Tom Ellsworth delivers a sermon during a service Feb. 14, 2015 at the Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. Photo courtesy Tom Marron, Sherwood Oaks Christian Church.

"I think the next generation is looking for authenticity, for a true mission and purpose. They have a passion for other people so they want to see the church helping other people in a positive spiritual sense."

**—Tom Ellsworth, senior minister,
Sherwood Oaks Christian Church**

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

The church traces its origins back to 1962, when a group of nondenominational Christian churches near Bloomington—seeing a need for services within the city—helped form the new Walnut Street Church. Originally named for its location at the corner of Walnut Street and Grimes Lane, the name was changed when the church moved to the Sherwood Oaks neighborhood.

"When your name is the Walnut Street Christian Church and you move off Walnut, it is hard to keep the name," joked Ellsworth.

But a church fire meant Sherwood Oaks actually had to relocate just outside the neighborhood—to its present location at 2700 East Rogers Road. This time the church retained its name. After all, Ellsworth said, "We aren't that far."

Today Sherwood Oaks is one of the largest churches in town, something perhaps attributable to what Ellsworth calls the "healthy family atmosphere."

"When you can meet the needs of the entire family, that's a good start," he said.

Bedwell pointed out that for college students who are searching for a safe place, Sherwood Oaks is welcoming and offers plenty of opportunities to get involved. Indeed, the church reaches out to college students in a variety of ways, including asking church families to "adopt" a college student so they can get away from campus and enjoy a real home environment, according to Ellsworth.

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SPOTLIGHT

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SPOTLIGHT

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In particular, the church has a bustling outreach program for international students, who, separated from their home and culture, can sometimes feel very lonely. The church reaches out to them through the adoption program, by hosting international coffee hours for students to gather and talk about their lives and by holding an annual furniture drive. Church members donate furniture and home goods—last year, more than 400 pieces of furniture alone, Ellsworth said—to help international students furnish their new homes.

“Reaching out and letting them know they have a place here where they can feel at home goes a long way to helping them succeed when they come to this country,” he said. “Some of them come as Christians already, and they are looking for a place in this country where they can exercise their faith. They need a church home.”

The church also recently started offering Spanish language services, Bedwell said, in an additional grassroots outreach effort.

Programming for families ranges from Sunday school for youngsters to life groups, where small groups of individuals or families in roughly the same stage of life—parents, newlyweds, singles—meet to discuss issues. For children growing up in the church, opportunities include basketball, soccer, cheerleading and joining mission trips within and outside the United States.

The popular Mom2Mom group connects new mothers for fellowship and mentoring during years that can sometimes feel challenging and isolating. About 100 moms participate in the weekly group, Bedwell said.

Sherwood Oaks has also long offered preschool and kindergarten for parents seeking a Christian-based but comprehensive programming. Last August this programming grew to include limited day care for children ages six weeks to kindergarten. The move, Bedwell said, came because “there’s always a need for more options, we have a lot of parents of young children who need help.”

In the new year, Sherwood Oaks has set goals

of finding more ways church members can volunteer in the community and identifying the best ways to help someone in need. In some cases, said Bedwell, that might mean “instead of trying to fix something that is wrong, learning how to walk beside people in crisis.” As part of that program, the church is looking to help connect better to organizations in the community that are already

“It’s having a place you can call your own. Whether you are here for six months or 15 years, I think it is important to cultivate a place where everyone feels at home, where everyone has a place to just be yourself.”

—Emily Bedwell, business and communications director, Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

doing great work, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington or Monroe County United Ministries.

The church has also recently expanded to offer services on the west side of town, at Bloomington

AMVETS Post 2000 on Airport Road. The second location is a “good place to expand our horizons,” Ellsworth said, and serves people who are more comfortable with a smaller services or who simply don’t



Emily Bedwell, Business & Communications Manager, Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. Photo courtesy Tom Marron, Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

want to drive all the way to the east side to worship. Church services are also live streamed each week.

Ellsworth said that he hopes the church will continue to grow, numerically and spiritually, in the future. Sherwood Oaks is always focused on the next generation that will

be the future of the church.

“I think the next generation is looking for authenticity, for a true mission and purpose,” he said. “They have a passion for other people so they want to see the church helping other people in a positive spiritual sense.”



CHAMBER VOICES

Continued from page 3

We are not an island, and thus we are engaged in regionalism. One example is that the Chamber leads the Hoosier Voices for I-69 advocacy group and serves as a convener for meaningful discussion of the opportunities and challenges that impact our community. This role is crucial to the success of our future business market and bringing the stakeholders together ensures the best opportunities for success in Bloomington and Monroe County.

Your Chamber is leading in 2016 and we thank our board of directors, committees and staff for driving excellence in our strategies. Thank you to all our members for all you do for the community!



MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Continued from page 6

Walker with member contact, follow-up and on-boarding details while also providing front office support for Chamber guests and visitors.

Andy and her husband recently relocated from Arizona, where she held several retail management positions, along with leading process improvement and professional training initiatives for educational and financial organizations. Andy holds a general studies degree from Arizona University, a BSBM in global business management and a MAED in adult education and training from University of Phoenix.



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