



December 2024

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Illinois Campers On Mission

President's Letter—

Hi! To our COM Family:

Another month has come and gone!!! Time is going quickly.

Some members of ILL COM traveled to the Passion Play recently. Fred and I enjoyed going and helping. Please consider this ministry in either spring or fall for any time you can give. Other state COM groups were also there helping.

Gary Watson has been helping with a project in Salem. They are needing some help if you are available. Please call Gary Watson at 618-315-3228 for more information or to volunteer.

We wish you a Christ centered Thanksgiving coming soon and a wonderful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and the promise He brings to us as His children. May you be surrounded by friends and family to share your love.

Fred and Paula

Prayer for the week

Accept, Oh Lord our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the beauty of this world, for the wonder in the world, for the wonder of life and for the mystery of Love



COM Officers

President—Fred Riley, 618-508-3917, paulakriley45@hotmail.com

Vice-President (Project Manager) - Richard Evans, 618-218-4546, akrlevans1@gmail.com

Secretary—Karen Mowers, 309-945-3971, kcc61254@gmail.com

Treasurer—Dick Mowers, 309-945-1477, 728 Cardinal Ct., Geneseo, IL 61254

Chaplain—Jim & Marilyn Diercks, 618-965-9748 or 618-317-2353

Food Supervisor— Francie Lindeman, 618-713-2402

Historian - Irma Burnett, 309-253-8557

National Coordinators—Rick & Cindy Truesdail, campersonmission72@gmail.com

National website: campersonmission.org

2024 & 2005 Tentative Schedule

Dec.7 Christmas Luncheon, FBC, Farina - **see announcement on page 10**

Feb. 21 & 22, 2025 Winter Fling, Lake Sallateeska

April 21—25, 2025 Lake Sallateeska work project

With Easter on April. 20, we will not come in until Monday

May 18—23 Streator Baptist Camp

June 3-5, 2025 National Rally, Aiken, South Carolina

Additional Dates at The Great Passion Play (See Don Kragness for info)

Jan. 18—31, 2025 Piney Woods Camp, Texas to work

Mar. 30—Ap. 19, 2025 (Easter is April 20, 2025) The Great Passion Play



Don and Jan Kragness present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Betty Riley. This award is in honor of Betty and Wayne's dedication to COM over the years. Wayne passed away this year. Congratulations Betty.

Betty is doing well and helping her son take care of her grandson.



Congratulations also to Linda Riley as a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award for the work she and her husband, Larry, did for so many years with IL COM. Larry also passed away this year.

Faith Focus—

We appreciate the support we have received from our Campers on Mission family in being selected to serve in a new capacity for COM. With God's blessings and guidance, we pray that we can meet the spiritual needs of our members.

In order to keep Christ in Christmas, we need to be driven to shine as lights in the world. Christmas is an opportunity for us to be a witness for Christ, so let's take that opportunity. Let's make it a point to shine as bright as the lights on our tree and houses to the world for Christ this season.



Along with keeping Christ in Christmas and shining as lights in the world, may we also remember the hope we have in Jesus.

So this Christmas, shine as lights, especially to those who have a hard time at Christmas because of bad memories or maybe the loss of a loved one.

Let's help one another do that this Christmas season!

Jim and Marilyn Diercks
618-965-9748 or 618-317-2353
inchristwithu@yahoo.com or
marilyndiercks@yahoo.com

1	Fred Riley
3	Marilyn Thomson
10	Jim Page
11	Jan Kragness
13	Josh Hunley
14	Andy Muller
23	Eileen Ainsley
28	Emil Nattier
30	Karen Mowers





Even though the IL COM year is done with our local projects, many of us have kept on working in other areas. Here are some photos from the great passion Play in Eureka Springs, AR which is a second home to many in our group.

Thanks to Jim, Marilyn, James, Logan, Sky, JoAnne, Ella and Eve Diercks, Chet Whyers, Don & Jan Kragness, George & Penny Meese and Fred & Paula Riley for the good work you did along with COM family from Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Much work was accomplished and many blessings will come from it.



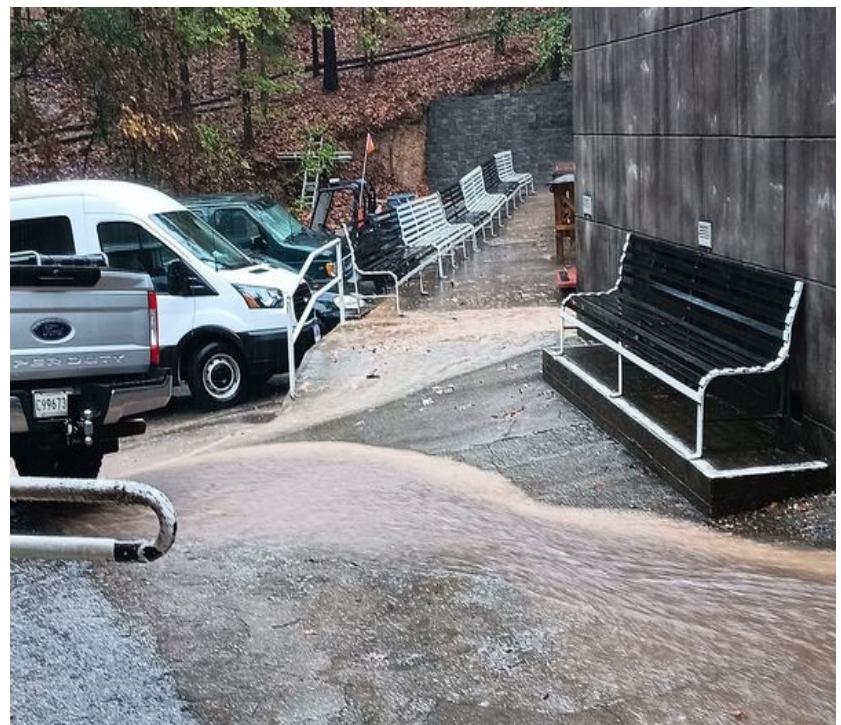


New flower boxes were built for the marketplace area. They will look so nice filled with flowers for next summer.

Below is a photo of the play scenery during the last presentation for 2024. Plans are already underway for the show next year. Come be part of the show!!!!



Sometimes it rains—A LOT!!! The work continues and the play goes on and volunteers keep going.





YOU ARE
INVITED TO
THE
IL COM
LUNCH.
RSVP TO
Catherine.



YOU ARE
INVITED
RSVP to Kassie



Christmas Luncheon Is coming

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024

Location: Farina FBC, 400
Adams Street

Time: Lunch is at 1 pm but doors
open at 11 so come early

Cost: \$14 per person (including
tip)

RSVP: Catherine Rentfrow,
618-267-7399 by Nov. 30.

**We plan to take updated COM
member photos for the directory.
If you cannot attend, please send
me a new photo.**



A note from our treasurer:

Thank you to those who have been so generous with making donations to Illinois Campers on Mission this year. Because of your generosity and the generosity of others, IL COM has made it through the year without debt.

If you would still like to consider giving a gift to IL COM, please get it to me before December 31. I will give you a tax receipt for it to use with your income tax deductions.

You can send it to me at Dick Mowers, 728 Cardinal Ct., Geneseo, IL 61254.

Thanks for being the hands and feet of Jesus in such a servant way,

Dick Mowers

MARK YOUR CALENDARS -

The 50th Anniversary celebration for Illinois COM will be held on **Saturday Oct. 4, 2025**. There will a luncheon, program, speakers, music, a slide show of past projects and more!

The event will be held at the IBSA building in Springfield. Please make plans to come.



And the angel said unto them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

May the peace of Christmas be with you and your family this holy season.



You know the “bear factory”?

These little bears are making a big impact on the places they go. They are seen at the Baptist Children’s Home Fall Festival, MorningStar Mission, 2 hospitals in southern Illinois, places where there is a need for comfort and lately at a church where the children listened intently to the message of salvation from the bear tags. They are carried in our cars, motorhomes, trucks and always available when a need comes up.

The last church encounter has prompted a church to inquire how they can help to support the factory efforts by donating funds for everything needed to make bears for a year. Our sewing committee is doing their research on what that cost would be. It takes fabric, stuffing, ribbon, evangelism outreach cards and thread for the physical needs and many, many hours tracing patterns, cutting, sewing, stuffing, sorting the cards, sewing up the back and choosing a ribbon to tie on the cards.

This is a project of love and happens at work projects and in many homes during the year preparing for our “factory” time together.

Many women (and many men) have been part of this ministry. Even if you don’t sew, you can help in other ways. They are not toys but tools for the Lord.

Thank you for any part you have played in the “bear factory” and the out reach ministry it has. Pray for those little bears as they enter the world and spread the Good News of the gospel.

To fill the current requests for bears, we need more people to help. During our long winter days, we can still be part of the COM “bear factory” ministry by cutting out bears or gathering supplies or stuffing bears while we watch TV at night. There are hurting people of all ages that we meet that need the message that the bears give and we want to be ready.

If you have not been part of this project, are you willing to join? Our sewing team will train you with what you need to know. THANKS!

