

April 6-7, 2019



OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE YOUGH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts

*Our vision is to lead all whose lives we touch
into a living relationship with the person of
Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament,
Service and Fellowship.*

www.youghcatholic.org



**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
(FYI, I DO KNOW WHERE I AM.)**

To our visitors... If you are just passing through, we are glad you chose to worship with us. If you are seeking a new church home, please know there is always room in our pews and a place in our hearts for you.

DEVIVO CENTRE

116 South 2nd Street
Connellsville, PA 15425

724.628.6840 (f) 724.628.0838

MON-THU 8:30am-noon / 1-4pm
FRI 8:30am-1pm

BRADY CENTRE

459 Ranch Road
Dunbar, PA 15431

724.277.4236 (f) 724.277.8954

MON, TUE, THU, FRI 9am-3pm

SATs 5:15-5:45pm at IC

Confession

and by appointment

We work with the Holy Trinity Conference of Saint Vincent DePaul to help our neighbors in need. You may call them at 724.562.3341.

We are grateful for the advertisers on pages 4 and 9, who cover the cost of printing our bulletins.

Please frequent their businesses in support of them.

This week's featured advertiser is SERVPRO OF FAYETTE COUNTY.

Our Faith Community consists of the Parish Families of Immaculate Conception, Connellsville (1869), Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Dunbar (1874), Saint John the Evangelist, Connellsville (1895), and Saint Rita of Cascia, Connellsville (1915).



We also embrace the former Parish Families of Saint Vincent de Paul, Leisenring (1888-2008), Sacred Heart, Dawson (1889-2007) Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Connellsville (1901-1913), Saint Emory, Connellsville (1903-1970), Holy Trinity, Connellsville (1903-2008), Saint Polycarp, West Leisenring (1917-1997).

OUR STAFF - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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RON NAGY

Leisenring Cemetery Care
724.603.2020

SUN, MAR 31, 2019 STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Adult	\$4,855.00
Loose	353.00
Maintenance	20.00
Total:	\$5,228.00
Cemetery	\$42.00
Lent	\$111.00
Easter Flowers	\$20.00



ST. ALOYSIUS

Adult	\$4,209.00
Loose	250.50
Children/Young Adults	17.50
Parish Improvements	30.00
Total:	\$4,507.00



ST. JOHN

Adult	\$2,800.00
Loose Collection	372.00
Total:	\$3,172.00
Cemetery	\$35.00
Lent	\$125.00



ST. RITA

Adult	\$4,310.00
Loose Collection	348.00
Maintenance	130.00
Total:	\$4,788.00
Cemetery	\$70.00
Lent	\$37.00
Ash Wednesday	\$25.00



**“Open your heart to HOPE,”
the 2019 Diocesan Lenten Appeal,
helps HOPE shine.**

**To make an online DLA donation
to your parish, or to see a video of
Bishop Malesic describing how the DLA
supports our Catholic schools
and helps our students shine,
visit dioceseofgreensburg.org/HOPE.**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



APRIL 7, 2019

Ezekiel 37:12-14 A CHANGE OF HEART

Are you still being faithful to your Lenten resolutions? No matter how firm or weak your resolve, you have come to face the mystery of sin, loss, and death. Changing old habits is hard. To change something is to lose something.

Those chosen for baptism this Easter will change their old habits. They will put to death whatever has kept them from life in Christ.

The faithful also will change old habits. They will put to death the sin that mars their faithfulness to God. All in the community need

the prayerful and penitential support of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Ezekiel addresses people who have lived in exile and oppression, far from the center of their social and religious life. They have lived in a tomb. Now God promises, “I will open your graves and have you rise from them.” God will dwell with them and give them the divine spirit.

This Lent, the church has invited you to examine your life, to confront your sin, and to secure your intent to change. The season is nearly over. The day of promise draws near. God stands ready to open your grave and bring you forth to new life. If you die to whatever keeps you from God, you will grow from the lessons of loss.

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DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL - current to 4/1/19

IC	SA	SJ	SR
<u>DLA Goal</u>	<u>DLA Goal</u>	<u>DLA Goal</u>	<u>DLA Goal</u>
\$38,133	\$26,715	\$18,319	\$34,301
<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Pledged</u>
\$29,810 (78%)	\$19,371 (73%)	\$10,680 (58%)	\$27,400 (80%)

**If you need a DLA envelope, they are in the back of our churches,
or they may be picked up at the Brady and DeVivo Centres.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

MON:	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:12-20
TUE:	Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
WED:	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
THU:	Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
FRI:	Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
SAT:	Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
SUN:	Lk 19:28-40 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56 [23:1-49]

What's Happening at home

The final practice/dress rehearsal for the Living Stations will take place **THIS SUN, APR 7, at IC at 6pm.**

IC Festival and 150th Anniversary committees will meet on **MON, APR 8** in Sciberras Hall at 6:30pm. Bring your ideas to help us continue with our year of celebration.

St. Rita Christian Mothers will begin making cavatelli in Bucci Hall, on **TUE, APR 9** and **THU, APR 11**, at 8:30am, for St. Rita's Street Fair (JUL 11,12,13). They will bag them on **WED, APR 10** and **FRI, APR 12**. All help is appreciated. Donations are being accepted to help defray food costs. Cash, or checks payable to St. Rita and marked "Food Fair Donation: can be dropped in the collection basket or given directly to Rita Pratt.

Tom Severin's Bible study continues **WED, APR 10**, in IC's Sciberras Hall from 6:30-8pm.

Boundless Compassion book study continues on **THUs** during Lent, in St. Rita's Bucci Hall from 1:30-3pm.

Molli's Bible study on **FRI**s after 8:30am Mass at St. Al continues in the social hall.

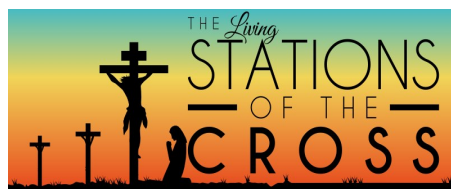
Traditionally the Novena to St. Anthony begins 9 **TUE**s before his feast day (JUN 13), which this year would be APR 16. However, since that is **TUE** of Holy Week, there will be no public recitation of the novena. Anyone who wishes to keep the 9 weeks may begin privately at home. Group recitation of the novena will begin on **APR 23** at 6pm with the rosary, novena prayers, veneration of the relic of St. Anthony, as well as Eucharist Benediction if a priest is available that day.

St. Anthony of Padua, pray for us!

Our Lady, Queen of the Yough Catholic Community Children's Choir will rehearse **SAT, APR 13** in IC's Sciberras Hall, at 11am. The Choir will also sing at IC's 6pm Palm Sunday Vigil Mass on **SAT, APR 13**. All children in grades 3-6 are eligible to join the choir. In addition, 7-8th graders and senior high students may join as cantors and leaders of song.

St. Rita Holy Name will meet in Bucci Hall **SUN, APR 14** after 8am Mass. New members are always welcome. Coffee and donuts will be served.

Our next 2nd grade parent/child meeting for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion will take place next **SUN, APR 14**, starting with 9:30am Mass at IC. We will stay upstairs for our session after Church. This is our final meeting before Rehearsal.



Living Stations will be presented on **Palm SUN, APR 14**, at IC, at 7pm.

This very moving praying of the Stations is accompanied by a live portrayal by youth and adults from our entire Catholic community, in honor of IC's 150th anniversary. (This will also mark our own Fr. Dan's dramatic debut, which you won't want to miss!)

St. Al's needs someone to trim the cemetery. If interested, please call the Brady Centre at 277-4236.



Please drop donations of individually wrapped candy in the basket in the gathering area.

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors are needed for **SAT 5pm Masses** at St. Aloysius. To volunteer, please call the Brady Centre at 277-4236.

SPECIAL ITEMS FOR SALE AT OUR CHURCHES

IC's 150th Anniversary Committee will have items for sale in their social hall after 9:30am Mass on **APR 7** and after 6pm Mass on **APR 13**. In addition to commemorative pens, mugs, Christmas ornaments/cards, there are 1 lb. boxes of Colebrook chocolates/\$23, and specially labeled wine from Vinoski Winery: Chardonnay/\$28, Merlot/\$25, Riesling/\$20 and Isabella/\$18. You can also order by calling Christa Puskar at 880-9666 or Becca Richter at 787-7875.

St. John's Fundraising Committee will again be selling their frozen pirohi for \$10/dozen, this **SUN** before Mass, 10:30-11am and after, 12:30-1pm.

IC Christian Mothers will sell their nut, apricot, and poppyseed rolls for \$10 each plus cinnamon rolls for \$4.50/half dozen on Palm Sunday weekend - **SAT**, noon 'til after 6pm Mass; **SUN**, 8:30 'til after 9:30am Mass. There will also be a Chinese auction.

THE EASTER BUNNY ALWAYS CONFUSED ME. THINGS JUST NEVER ADDED UP. EVEN AS A YOUNG GIRL, I HAD SO MANY PERTINENT QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS BUNNY!

Why does this bunny need to wear glasses? Bunnies eat carrots... which are good for your eyes, right?

Where does this bunny get all of these eggs? He obviously isn't laying them. WHY does he have them? Does he steal the eggs? That doesn't sound very nice.

AND MY MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION:



Why does a giant bunny wearing pastel pants and suspenders bring me chocolate and jelly beans? Wow, this giant bunny must be really EXCITED that Jesus

has conquered sin and death.

Don't get me wrong, as a Mom I am ALL ABOUT Easter egg hunts and Easter baskets filled with spring time necessities such as fresh chalk or a kite: and anyone that knows me knows that I love (and LIVE) to dress up my three kids in adorable/humiliating outfits adorned with bunny ears.

And yet, I see a culture that is not willing to even ask WHY we continue to keep some of the commercialized traditions that we get SO COMPLETELY WRAPPED UP IN. Let's be honest, for some Easter has essentially become another Christmas; a holiday that has been

reduced to (and a cause of) major stress and anxiety so that we can post pictures on social media of how many presents our children receive and how perfectly beautiful our life is.

WHERE IS JESUS? I DON'T SEE HIM.



Absolutely NOTHING is wrong with wanting to celebrate Jesus Christ's Resurrection with gifts given to our loved ones. But when Easter grass, chocolate bunnies and Cadbury cream eggs are the only reason for our child's joy on Easter morning, we have completely missed the point.

I recall almost being sucked into the hype when I first became a Mom. My oldest was about 2 years old and I remember almost not taking her with me to Tenebrae service on Good Friday evening because "she would be too tired," and we had planned to have breakfast with the Easter Bunny the next morning. Even as I had that thought in my head, it didn't quite add up to me. So, we nixed our breakfast date with the bunny and off to Tenebrae we went.

Is it wrong to have breakfast with the Easter bunny? Absolutely not. But when our desire to partake in the culture supersedes and takes place of our desire to put Christ at the center of our lives, it is time to reevaluate our priorities.

Why are we SO AFRAID as parents to give our children the free gift of the GOSPEL? Are we afraid that Jesus won't be enough for them?

After all, do we not believe that Jesus *alone* is the true source of our joy?

The truth is we really don't need to buy into the lie that the Easter Bunny (or anything else other than Jesus for that matter) will bring my child joy. And yet, we accept this lie. Even if we don't accept it, we go along with it at the risk of sounding like an intolerant, closed-minded and self-righteous prude.

CONSIDER THAT THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THE WORLD WANTS YOU TO THINK.

As Christians, we shouldn't WANT to blend in with what the culture is doing. We should WANT to stand out! We should *want* to show the world a different way; the way to life in abundance! After all, we are called to be salt, light, and leaven for the world.

We should take Easter as an opportunity to show the world that the source of our JOY is in Jesus and in Jesus Christ

alone! A wind-up Easter chick is cute and all, but Jesus Christ has opened the gates of Heaven forever! We don't HAVE to be afraid, because HE has given us the hope and promise of the Resurrection; and it is THAT blessed assurance that should motivate ALL that we do!



Christ's peace and our Mother
Mary's love,
Mary Sampey



On the Fifth Sunday of Lent the RCIA elect celebrate the Third Scrutiny and they also formally receive the Our Father. This bedrock prayer of the

Church is known to all who profess the name of Christian and is recited around the world in imitation of the prayer given by Jesus to his disciples. In reciting this prayer, the elect are joining with us ever more deeply in a common bond of belief and worship. In a very short while, they will be joining us at the Table of the Lord. Remember to take a prayer card home with you and pray for the person on the card and for all those entering the Church this coming Easter. *Molli*

Please pray for the repose of the souls of ANN BEREITER (sister of George and Tom Bailey), DONALD GRAFT (brother of Jean Whipkey), FRANK MALINZAK (father of Dale Malinzak), CECILIA NEIGHBORS and BILL RESHENBERG, SR. (father of Kristin Ohler), who died recently. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace.

Please remember CAROL TRIMBATH and ARTHUR NICKLOW, new additions to our prayer list.

We are in the process of updating ALL 4 of our parishioner databases and need current email addresses. After you complete the cut-out form, please place it in the collection basket, or bring/mail it to the DeVivo or Brady Centres.

If you don't have email, please complete the form and write "NONE".



NAME _____

CHURCH _____

ENVELOPE # _____

EMAIL _____

**alleluia
Party**

**SAT, APR 20
at Waters House
immediately after Easter Vigil**

Drinks will be provided. Parishioners are asked to bring snacks, appetizers, covered dishes and desserts to share.

Please drop them off at Waters House between 6-8pm. Fridge space IS limited.

If cooking isn't your thing or time doesn't allow, monetary donations are also welcomed to offset costs.

To volunteer your time or indicate what dish you're bringing, please call Christa at 880-9666 or Gemma at 322-7548. Texts are welcome.

alleluia alleluia alleluia

All are invited to join Bishop Malesic for the annual Chrism Mass at 10am, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg, on Holy Thursday.

This is a beautiful liturgy during which all of the holy oils used for the year are blessed or consecrated, and at which the priests renew their priestly commitments. As parking is limited, carpooling is recommended. Attending the Chrism Mass is something for everyone's 'Catholic bucket list'. Make this year the year!



Ladies of Charity, with the help of others, will be delivering hyacinths and Easter cards to homebound parishioners from all of our 4 parishes.

Deliveries can be made on SAT, APR 13, SUN, APR 14, or early in Holy Week. Your help would be most appreciated. To volunteer or for more info, call Theresa Jaworski at 628-4034.

Nar-Anon meeting, WED, APR 10 at St. John's Moravek Hall, 7-8pm.

**DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!**

<u>BULLETIN DATE</u>	<u>INFO DUE</u>
SUN, APR 21	MON, APR 8
SUN, APR 28	MON, APR 15

Both parish offices will be closed Holy THU, Good FRI and Easter MON.

COMMUNAL LENTEN Penance SERVICES

THU, APR 11 7pm St. Raymond, Donegal
 SAT, APR 13 11am St. John, Scottsdale
 MON, APR 15 7pm St. Aloysius, Dunbar

**ATTENTION ALL MINISTERS OF IC, ST. AL,
 ST. JOHN, AND ST. RITA PARISHES.**

**If you would like to minister
 at one of the Triduum Masses**

HOLY THU 7pm at IC

GOOD FRI 1:30pm at IC

Liturgy of the Word

EASTER VIGIL 9pm at IC

**please contact Chris Sparks ASAP,
 preferably by email at
 crsparks1@zoominternet.net
 or by phone at 628-7510.**



· T · E · N · E · B · R · A · E ·

**GOOD FRIDAY, APR 19
 ST. RITA CHURCH AT 8:30PM**

This meaningful service reflects on
 Christ's passion, crucifixion and
 death through the reading of lessons,
 the singing of hymns
 and the extinguishing of candles.
All are invited.

ST. AL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**There are sign up sheets
 in the sacristy for volunteers
 to fill all ministry positions
 for Palm Sunday and Easter.**

It is very important
 that these positions be filled
 so that we can celebrate
 the ceremonies properly
 with due reverence.

ROSARY SCHEDULE

SAT, APR 13
 Volunteer

SUN, APR 14
 D & E Gmitter

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

MON, APR 8

8:00am St. Rita
 8:30am St. Al
 6:00pm St. Al

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Monica, Jeannie, Fred & Deceased Members of the
 Parr & Sarko Families (Jeanine)
 Sturge Hughes (The John Leonbruno Family)
 Stations of the Cross

TUE, APR 9

8:00am St. John
 8:30am St. Al

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Raymond Polakovsky (The Lauffer Family)
 Mary Ryan (Dolores & Warne Rankin)

WED, APR 10

8:00am St. Rita
 8:30am St. Rita
 12:10pm IC
 6:00pm St. Rita

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Angelo & Annie Nudo & Deceased Sons & Daughters
 (Salvatore & Esther Ruvo)
 Adoration until 5:30pm
 Stations of the Cross
 Ted & Marie Pavlosky (Children & Grandchildren)

THU, APR 11

8:00am IC
 8:00am St. Al
 8:30am St. Al

ST. STANISLAUS, BISHOP/MARTYR

Carolyn Mahokey (Don & Karen Mahokey)
 Prayers for Priests & Padre Pio Devotions
 Harry & Dorothy Lizza (Larry, Tim & Kelly Bara)

FRI, APR 12

7:10am Geibel Chapel
 8:00am St. Rita
 8:15am St. Al
 8:30am St. Al
 9:30am IC

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Gloria Gasbarro (Ann & Al Calabrese)
 Tony Cataldi (Veronica Lesniowski)
 Divine Mercy Chaplet
 James Brown, Sr. (Gene & Jerry Egnot)
 Michael Prestia & Benefactors of Conn-Area Catholic,
 Living & Deceased (Conn-Area Catholic School Family)

1:50pm Geibel
 6:30pm St. John

Stations of the Cross
 Stations of the Cross

SAT, APR 13

4:00pm St. Rita
 5:00pm St. Al
 6:00pm IC

VIGIL/ST. MARTIN I, POPE/MARTYR

Ricky Rush (Mother, Tina Molinaro)
 Bob DeCara (Wife, Audrey & Family)
 Randall Herbert, Sr. (Randall & Gemma)

SUN, APR 14

8:00am St. Rita
 9:00am St. Al
 9:30am IC

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Joey Marciantie, Jr. (Tony, Parents & Family)
 Eugene & Jackie Baker (Deborah & Roger Monosky)
 Tommy McGuinness (Grandmother, Dolores laquinta
 & Uncle Dan)

11:30am St. John Pro Populo

IC, ST. JOHN, ST. RITA MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	ACOLYTE	EX MINISTER	CROSS BEARER	LECTOR
APR 13				
SR-4pm	K Callahan K Callahan	D Grenaldo K Grenaldo R Pratt	J Domer H Specht	M Merendino B Sheehan
IC-6pm	N Spotto S Spotto	A Shroyer E Aquino J Miller	O Spotto E Pleva	L Galiardi R Goron
APR 14				
SR-8am	G Joseph E Armstrong	L Lauffer C Porter N Stasia	C Joseph M Martray	C Sparks M Dunaway
IC-9:30am	R Keller L Keller	J Baluch C Baluch M DeFazio	A Zavatchan B Zavatchan	N Keller R Lazor
SJ-11:30am	A Piasecki D Piasecki	D Siecinski B Knizner L Martin	R Gaudiello N Gaudiello	D DeCara C Petrasun



RAMBLES & RAVES

OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE YOUGH'S PASTOR
SHOUTS THE

GOOD NEWS

OF THE SPIRIT'S STIRRINGS IN THE
CONNELLSVILLE- DUNBAR METROPLEX!

PREPARING FOR EASTER: In last week-end's Gospel we heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son, surely one of the most well-known (and well-loved) of Bible stories. Who hasn't heard the story and been struck by the UNBELIEVABLE love and mercy exhibited to the prodigal son by the father. Unless one is denser than the singularity from which the entire universe emerged in the Big Bang (and let me tell you, THAT is pretty darn **DENSE!**) it should be obvious that the father in the parable is meant to represent THE FATHER. (God, that is.) And just as obviously Jesus told this parable to teach us that NOTHING, absolutely **NOTHING** is beyond the reach of God's mercy. Let me say that again NOTHING IS BEYOND THE REACH OF GOD'S MERCY. **NOTHING. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!** All we need do is, like the prodigal son, swallow our pride and come to him. Even if, again like the prodigal son, our motives for doing so are less than perfect.

We hear this particular Gospel during Lent precisely because this season is a time to take inventory of our sins and failings. NOT for the purpose of wallowing in our unworthiness, but rather so that we can take advantage of the incredible mercy God is DYING to show us; or more accurately, for which His Son DIED to show us. After owning up to own sins we are challenged to swallow our stubborn pride and COME to the Father as the prodigal did. We as

Catholics do that, of course, in the Sacrament of Penance. Perhaps YOU have not taken advantage of this incredible gift in some time. Perhaps it has been many years. Don't worry! It is

NEVER too late (at least as long as you are breathing that is) to seek HIS mercy. Maybe THIS is the time to follow the prodigal son's example. To quote Saint Paul "Behold, **now** is the favourable time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2; emphases mine).

As the Paschal Triduum draws ever nearer the opportunities for confession are dwindling. Three penance services remain: Thursday 11 April, Saint Raymond in Donegal at 7pm; Saturday 13 April, Saint John the Baptist in Scottdale, at 11am; Monday 15 April, Saint Aloysius, at 7pm. There will NOT be confessions next Saturday evening. The priest celebrating 6pm Mass will be occupied with last minute preparations for the Palm Sunday liturgy and the other two priests will be occupied with their own liturgies. (Obviously the priest celebrating the 5pm Mass can't possibly be in two places at once, and since the 4pm Mass will have the Solemn Procession that priest won't be free until after 5:30.) However, remember that our priests are available by appointment anytime for confession.

MAMA MIA! Last weekend witnessed Geibel's FANTASTIC production of Mama Mia, the musical based on the music of Sweden's number one export of the 1970's ABBA. I was told that Geibel's Music Maestro (and our parishioner!) Nick Bell had patiently waited 20 years for the rights of the musical to become available. After his stroke two years back he had sadly made the

comment that "now I will never be able to do Mama Mia." But God had other plans and Nick made a nearly miraculous recovery!

One of our ACTIVE parishioners Echo Schaffer (she was baptised at the 2015 Easter Vigil and now is a cantor, choir member, and youth group member) played - FABULOUSLY! - Sophie Sheridan, one of the leads. A number of other parishioners also were involved in the show. Finally, a

certain individual you all know and love (know, definitely; love, well that's pushing it!) made his stage debut

playing the Greek Orthodox priest Fr. Alexandrios. Unfortunately his "performance" was greeted by a rain of rotten tomatoes!



COVER PHOTO: This past week I finally got around to purchasing a new scanner. Last year I destroyed my previous scanner when it was hidden under a pile of clothes on my bedroom floor and I unknowingly (unknown, that is, until I heard the sickening sound of glass cracking underfoot) stepped on it. Armed with my new toy, I have been scanning piles of old photos. As a packrat I can't bear to just throw things away so I compromise by keeping a digital copy and disposing of the hard copies that clutter up my life. In the course of this chore I found this pic from the early aughts, when I was invited to the Jewel to speak to the IC youth group. I wonder if any of these kids are still around ...