



# INDY PFLAG NEWS

JANUARY 2010

PFLAG meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be Sun., Jan. 10 from 2 to 4 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in the Youth Wing (North door), just west of Meridian on 86<sup>th</sup> St.

## January 10 meeting

**Byron Reynolds, Executive Director of Brothers United**, will be our program speaker in January. A little background history: A group of men from the African American community in Indianapolis were alarmed about the impact HIV and AIDS were having on our community. Gatekeepers and other concerned men came together in the summer of 1998 for a discussion focusing on the lack of sexual health services targeted towards African American gay, bisexual, same-gender-loving and transgender persons. They named themselves Brothers United.

For over ten years Brothers United has provided high quality, comprehensive prevention and care programs in a welcoming environment. The mission of Brothers United is to enhance the health and wellness of our community, which includes those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and the people who live and work in our neighborhoods. Brothers United provides high quality, comprehensive prevention and service programs in a welcoming environment and seeks to improve the overall health of the Indianapolis community, through education and training, outreach and advocacy, prevention and research.

Byron's presentation will follow our confidential sharing time.

*Buying a cup of coffee? Filling up your gas tank?*

*Booking a flight for that dream vacation?*

Every day, you make decisions about whom to support in corporate America. The **2010 Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Buying for Equality** can help you easily support companies that support equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans. Check it out online at [http://www.hrc.org/about\\_us/13875.htm](http://www.hrc.org/about_us/13875.htm)

**If you haven't already, please consider joining Indy PFLAG.** Your membership dues and donations assist us in the projects and events we sponsor. We are a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization and your donations to Indy PFLAG are tax deductible. And it's so easy! **You can now go online to join, renew your membership, or make a donation using PayPal.** Check it out at [www.IndyPFLAG.org](http://www.IndyPFLAG.org)

## Notes from Annette

Last month I participated in a Parent Forum that was led by Indiana Youth Group and IUPUI. Eleven parents of GLBT children were invited to discuss what it was like when their children came out and how they and their families reacted.

My son came out in 1998 – over 10 years ago. Even though a lot of time has passed, I can still remember feeling scared and unsure of how the world would treat him. I had read the stories about Mathew Shepard and I also was nervous about my son possibly contracting AIDS. I had no information and no one to talk to.

I went to my first PFLAG meeting in 2000. Meeting other parents who had gone through what I was going through was a blessing for me. I could express my fears and know that these people understood. I learned that my thoughts were not “crazy” and were in fact typical of a parent whose child has just come out.

Since those early days in PFLAG, I have become an activist. I have met other young GLBT children whose parents do not accept them. So besides working to erase homophobia for my own child, I also wanted to do it for all these other young people. I have overcome my fears of speaking in public and sharing with others my story.

I credit PFLAG with my metamorphosis. I think you might even say I'm like the bull in the china shop. I will tell my story over and over, to people who need to hear it. The only way we can eradicate homophobia is to tell our story. I repeat it month after month at PFLAG meetings – there are always new people there who will benefit from hearing it.

I ask you now to come to PFLAG meetings and share your stories. New parents to PFLAG can learn from us how we overcame those first few months after learning about our child's sexuality. We need you to help those parents.

*I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year! We hope to see you soon!*

Indy PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is a group of people who share common experiences and provide support for each other. We listen and love. We help families have open, positive and loving relationships with GLBT children and we work for their civil and human rights.

**Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles Elects Lesbian Bishop**

(Episcopal News Service)

The 114th annual convention of the Diocese of Los Angeles made history on Dec. 5, electing an openly gay candidate, the Rev. Mary Douglas Glasspool, 55, as bishop suffragan, pending the required consents from the majority of the church's other dioceses. She is the second openly gay partnered priest to be elected a bishop in the Episcopal Church. The first was Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, who was elected in 2003. Rev. Glasspool's ordination and consecration is scheduled for May 15, 2010. Her life partner of 19 years is Becki Sander, who holds degrees in theology and social work.

With 70,000 members in 148 congregations, the Diocese of Los Angeles includes all of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and part of Riverside County and is one of 110 dioceses that form the Episcopal Church, located in 16 nations and territories.

**DC Mayor Signs Gay Marriage Bill**

By The Associated Press 12.18.2009

(Washington) The mayor of Washington has signed a bill legalizing gay marriage in the nation's capital, but it won't go into effect just yet. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty signed the bill Friday in a public ceremony.

The city council passed the measure Tuesday to legalize same-sex marriage in the city. Congress has final say over D.C.'s laws, however, so the mayor's signature doesn't mean the bill immediately becomes law.

The bill must pass a 30-day period of Congressional review.

Supporters expect Congress won't touch the law and that gay couples may be able to wed in the district as early as March. Opponents, however, plan to fight the bill.

**10 Things to do as an Ally in your Faith Community**

*There are so many things you can do as an ally in your faith community, big and small. We couldn't put them all here, but this list should help you get started. No matter what your belief or comfort level, there's something for you to do as an ally in your faith community right here!*

1. Personally invite GLBT people to services and/or events at or sponsored by your place of worship.
2. Provide affirming GLBT books or movies for the congregation library.
3. Have an event, such as a potluck and movie night to show a film with themes of homosexuality and spirituality (like *For the Bible Tells Me So*) and follow it with a group discussion.
4. Speak up when a negative comment is made or a joke is told about GLBT people, both in your personal life and in your faith community.
5. Invite an outside speaker to come to your place of worship and do a presentation on GLBT people and faith to get a new perspective.
6. If possible, have an open discussion with the head of your congregation about why you think your community

needs to be more openly accepting. Be a resource to that leader and let them ask questions.

7. Give a sermon about acceptance and love for all people - and mention gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people - as a way to start a congregation-wide conversation.

8. Ask your faith leader to perform commitment ceremonies for gay couples.

9. Educate your church on which organizations are inclusive of GLBT people and which ones aren't.

10. Support church policies that promote equality for all.

**Did you know?** Since 1970, *gaychurch.org* has maintained a worldwide directory of welcoming Christian churches, and at the close of September 2008 there were over 5,300 gay-welcoming churches in its ever-growing directory.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PFLAG National scholarships available for 2010: \$5,000 scholarships, \$2,500 scholarships, \$1,000 scholarships!**

Review the following eligibility requirements:

-You are a graduating senior entering higher education for the first time in 2010 (if you graduated in 2009 and took a year off you are still eligible to apply).

-You self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) or as a straight ally

-You demonstrate an interest in service to the LGBT community.

-You have applied to an accredited higher education institution.

In order to be considered for a scholarship, you will need to submit:

-A complete application form

-A one page essay

-A high school transcript

-One letter of reference

-A complete the release form

Application Process:

-Send your high school transcript, letter of reference and the release form in one packet to PFLAG National (see address below).

**PFLAG National  
1726 M St. NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036**

Submit your application and essay online at <http://community.pflag.org/scholarships> (if you prefer, you may submit a hard-copy of your application and essay). For online submissions, you will be assigned a reference number; this number needs to appear on the cover of your packet containing the reference, transcripts and release form that you send to PFLAG National.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 12, 2010**

To talk with a parent who also has a gay son or lesbian daughter & to learn more about Indy PFLAG, please contact:  
**\*Sarah (317) 545-7034**                      **\*Charlene/Oran (317) 897-0126**                      **\*info@indy.pflag.org**  
**Indianapolis PFLAG, P.O. Box 441633, Indianapolis IN 46244-1633**                      **www.indypflag.org**