

News From The Rock

March 2014

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Kroger Gift Card Fundraiser

What is it?

The Kroger Card is a fundraiser for the church.

How does it work?

You can get a rechargeable card at the church office for \$5.00. The card will have a \$5.00 balance on it.

Take this card to Owens, Kroger Stores, Highlander, Pay-

less, or Scott's and load some money onto it at the front desk. Then you use your card when you check out. Your grocery receipt will show what you have left on the card. You can also use the Kroger card at the Kroger gas pumps. You may keep reloading the card. If you use the full amount on the card you must reload it within thirty days or you lose the usefulness of the card and will have to purchase a new card.



Why have a Kroger Card?

This is an easy way to raise funds for the church. When the supporters have recharged their Kroger cards to \$5,000, the Kroger Gift Service Department will send us 3% of the total amount. No money for the church is taken from your card. This 3% is just what the Kroger Company does for the church.

When was it started?

This fundraiser was started in April 2009 and as of December 2013 we have received around \$2,300, which goes into the Building Fund account.

If you don't have a card, please consider getting one. We all buy groceries and gas, and this is an easy way to support the church. For more information, contact Robert DeWeese or the church office.

Youth Fellowship

Thank you to everyone for supporting our pizza sales. We have purchased our ping pong table and will be purchasing our basketball goal soon!

Our lesson topic for February was dating. We talked about the benefits and dangers of dating. We also talked about working out standards for dating. The scripture was Romans 12:9-10: "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."



We are looking for a few people who would like to be a mentor group for UMYF. You would be meeting once a quarter with the kids as a group and discussing topics and sharing your faith. If you are interested, please contact Marie or Michelle. Thanks!

Upcoming Events

- March 9:** Pizza after church
- March 16:** Meeting, 6:45-8:15
- March 20:** Winterjam Concert
- March 30:** Meeting/Outing
- April 13:** Meeting, 6:45-8:15
- April 27:** Meeting, 6:45-8:15
- May 4:** Pizza after church

S.O.S.

The Solid Rock S.O.S. met February 13, 2014. Meeting highlights:

- A devotion based upon Isaiah 43 was given by Jessica Barry.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- Concerns were shared.
- A lesson on the Recipe for Friendship was led by Sherry Gifford. It was discussed that sisters in the Lord add texture, sweetness, flavor, and substance to

Just Leaning on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Fellowship comes from the Greek

"According to the scripture, fellowship is not an optional matter for believers"

word, KOINONIA, which means "to share in common." Christian fellowship is more than attending church — it is "assimilating" into the body of believers, becoming "one" in

worshipping, loving, caring and sharing.

According to the scripture, fellowship is not an optional matter for believers. It says, "if we walk in the light [in fellowship with God]... this causes us to have fellowship with one another." And from the outcome of this fellowship, "the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Coming in May is a great opportunity for this fellowship. We will be studying "Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation" by Bishop Robert Schnase. My prayer is that we will have host homes for 6-8 small groups, facilitators who will guide at each host home, and ALL of you to participate as we learn how we can honor God more.

If you are willing to participate, and I hope you all will find the time, please let me or the office know. This will be a 5 week adventure, so it really is a short term commitment. Please consider being a part of this opportunity to grow closer to our Creator and to have fellowship with your brothers and sisters at Solid Rock.

Shalom,
Pastor Kathy

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From Carolyn ...

Looking back on the year 2013, re-viewing all days and months while living in the valley where you grow the most of life's experiences, I praise God for walking with me in this valley.

My friends and my church family were like angels who lifted me to my feet, when my wings had trouble remembering how to fly.

Finally, thank God for all the ways He's turned my mourning into dancing. The way He's taken away my heaviness and filled me with gladness. The moments I'm most thankful are when I look back to where I was in times of sadness and pain, and see where God has brought me to now.

It causes me to see all that encircles me today with new eyes of thankfulness.

Carolyn Winters

News From The Rock

is published each month by

Solid Rock United Methodist Church

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www.solidrockumc.com

Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

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Hours: 9 a.m. to Noon

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News deadline for the April newsletter:
March 16

Missions Update

Since 1983, the Society of St. Andrew has salvaged fresh, nutritious produce from American farms—produce that otherwise would be left to rot—and delivered it to agencies across the nation that serve the poor.

2014 is off to an excellent start. Gleaning pounds are up 15% over last year.

North Carolina collected more than a half-million pounds in January. Add to that the success of the annual backyard citrus drive in Florida, citrus and apples in Alabama, and an abundance of apples in Virginia.

For the period January 1-31, 2014:

- Pounds Saved and Delivered: 2.1 million
- Gleaning Network Pounds: 1.4 million
- Potato & Produce Pounds: .7 million
- Servings Provided: 6.3 million
- Number of Events: 187
- Number of Volunteers: 1,516
- Total Food Saved and Distributed: 717 million pounds
- 1983 to Today: 2.2 billion servings

For more information, go to www.endhunger.org.

January Financial Update

General Offerings.....\$7,908
General Fund Expenses.....\$12,625

Spreading the Ever-Helpful Moringa Tree

Darfur remains linked in many Western minds with starvation and violence—but in fact that long-troubled region of Sudan is experiencing many more positive developments these days.

Since peace agreements were signed in mid-2011 between the national Sudanese government and Darfuran rebel movements, some autonomy has been established for individual states in Darfur, and a measure of greater stability has been achieved, although outbursts of violent conflict can still bedevil the region.

Work goes on, in spite of any such challenges, to improve people's everyday life. In the still-new state of East Darfur, the United Methodist Committee on Relief



(UMCOR) has been contributing to a major boost for local agriculture. A new training program concentrates on the benefits that local people can gain from the remarkable Moringa tree.

At the heart of the training is the distribution of Moringa Oleifera seedlings. These seedlings are extraordinarily resilient, and, given the kind of care in which the recipients are trained, they record a survival rate of 90 percent.

Obtained by UMCOR through funding from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of USAID, the trees are especially well-adapted to Darfur's difficult climate since they are not adversely affected by the hot and dry conditions. The Moringa is fast-growing and can reach 10 feet in height within a year.

Its leaves can be used as



livestock fodder and as mulch for crops. In terms of human consumption, its leaves and seeds provide tasty food that is also rich in vitamins, minerals and micro-nutrients. If the leaves are dried, they work effectively as herbs to sprinkle on dishes, or to make a tea-like hot drink. Non-food uses include the production of soap and oil – and its seemingly endless properties also include functioning as a water-purifier.

Much of the UMCOR training focuses on preparing Moringa dishes in ways that best preserve its helpful qualities—avoiding over-cooking, for instance. Using Moringa as a nutritious supplement to existing popular recipes is also encouraged, and special emphasis is laid on the proper ways to clean and prepare the leaves before using them.

Farmers Call Moringa “Tree of Life” Lead Farmers in the El Daien program said they looked forward to taking their training back to their home areas, and spreading the skills of Moringa cultivation and use among their agricultural communities.

Elawa Mohammed Al-Dood, a 55-year old mother of seven children from the village of Abu Matarig, far to the south of El Daien, said: “The Moringa tree does all these good things for all of us—really, it is the tree of life.”

In the future, UMCOR also has a longer-term aim with the ever-helpful Moringa. It plans to help farmers go into business packaging and marketing leaves for sale in their local markets.

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our lives. Biblical examples of friendship were discussed.

- Love offering was collected and given to a community member to aid with expenses due to medical treatments.
- Many cards were sent in December 2013 and January 2014 by the Corresponding Secretary.
- Old Business:
 - Washington DC retreat date was re-discussed. Other date options are being considered.
 - Three baby Bibles are currently on-hand.
- New Business:
 - Winter Committee will provide a movie night. Date tentatively set for 3/21/14 at 6:30 P.M.
 - Planning for the summer festival has begun.
- Prayer partners were assigned and the meeting was adjourned with prayer and a sung benediction.
- Attendance: 16
- Next meeting: 3/13/14 at Martina Cocklin’s house with Sherry Gifford as Co-Hostess and Linda (Mc)Howell presenting the lesson.

Stop, look and listen

Lent, the season of the church year that’s associated with repentance, begins on Ash

Wednesday (March 5 this year). While some people deny themselves by giving up something

for Lent, others prepare for Easter through special Bible studies or devotions.

Christians observe Lent for these reasons:

- It causes us to STOP. Lent says, “Stop and rest awhile,” as well as “Stop doing wrong.”
- It tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ offering healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.
- It tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words aren’t only important for our safety in travel; they’re also helpful for our journey through the 40 days of Lent.



A new creation

Just as spring brings beauty and renewal, in Christ we, too, are made new.

Directions: Follow each flying butterfly to its correct number. Then write that word on the line with the corresponding number to read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

10	old	the	anyone	has	11
8					6
12	new	has		in	9
5			new		7
13	The	Christ		the	16
3			is	creation	17
2	gone			come	14
15					4

“Therefore, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ is here!”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

Fear not

I wonder if fear is not our main obstacle to prayer. When we enter into the presence of God and start to sense the huge reservoir of fear inside us, we want to run away into the many distractions that our busy world offers so



abundantly. But we shouldn’t be afraid of our fears. We can confront them, give words to them, cry out to God and lead our fears into the presence of the One who says, “Don’t be afraid. It is I.”

—Henri J.M. Nouwen

Kids Club



Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30

Starting March 5

For children grades K-5

Bring your friends,
grandchildren!

“Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own.”

—Robert Heinlein

Ashes to Ashes

Oh, divine Fire,
burst aflame in my life —
spontaneous combustion
to turn all that traps or crushes growth ...

laziness
busy-ness
self-preoccupation
worries and doubts
indifference ...

to turn all that traps or crushes growth ...
into ash.

Rendered to ashes by way of a Cross,
The world will know I've been graced by the Fire.

And finally, oh Fire divine,
I will come to know your light and warmth
in the sooty depths of my soul.

—Heidi Mann



2014



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