

News From The Rock

August 2014

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Scholarship Reminder

Reminder to those students approved for Solid Rock scholarships for the fall college term: A copy of your fall schedule, including the total number of credit hours being taken, must be turned into the office before your check can be written.



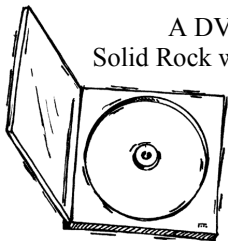
Snacks are appreciated

Would you be willing to provide snacks for three days for an average of 10 students? The G.E.D. classes are now being held at our church and the students and teacher are enjoying the snacks that are being provided.

There is a plastic storage tub on the shelving unit by the coffee house with a calendar taped to the lid. If you are willing to bring snacks, please write your name on a Sunday (or see me). You can then bring your snacks on your designated Sunday and put them in the tub. Thank you!

Cindy Boxell

DVDs of worship services available



A DVD is made of every Solid Rock worship service. Call the church office to arrange to borrow a copy. A DVD player is also available for loan.

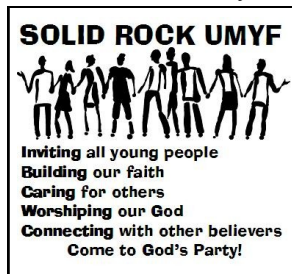
Thank You!

Thank you so very much to all who sent cards to wish our Mother, Nova R. Preston, a Happy 95th Birthday! She appreciated your thoughtfulness, and we did too!

Bruce Preston and Mary Ann Holmes

Youth Fellowship

The UMYF retreat to Tennessee was wonderful! Hiking, baptisms in a mountain stream, praise and worship around the campfire, devotions and discussions on the 5 Practices of a Fruitful Youth Ministry, breakfast served by Mike and Liz, picnics in the rain, go-carts and ice cream, white-water rafting, and Dixie Stampede Dinner. Thank you to Pastor Kathy, Mike and Rita Bolinger, and Liz Bolinger for helping chaperone this special time! Also thank you to all who offered prayers for a safe journey, and who donated or helped in making our trip possible.



Our UMYF kickoff for the 2014 school year will be the annual Tincaps game on August 4th. Please let Marie or Michelle know if you will be going. We will start in with our regular schedule the end of August. We are looking forward to implementing some of the wonderful ideas that were developed on the youth retreat. UMYF is for all youth in grades 6-12. Please come join us and bring a friend! Remember, "all you need is a highway and Jesus!"

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Upcoming UMYF Events

- August 4: TinCaps Game
- August 24: Meeting, 6:45-8:15
- September 7: Meeting, 6:45-8:15
- September 14: Pizza after church at East of Chicago
- September 21: Meeting, 6:45-8:15
- October 5: Meeting, 6:45-8:15

June Financial Update

General Offerings.....\$15,843
General Fund Expenses.....\$11,502

Just Leaning on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



Love and loyalty will come together; goodness and peace will unite. Loyalty will sprout from the ground; justice will look down from the sky above.

(Psa 85:10-11)

There has been much discussion and concern about the seemingly insurmountable differing opinions in the United Methodist Church. I am encouraged by the words of the Psalmist and by the following points of Bishop Mike's. He is comparing our (United Methodist's) relationship to that of a long term marriage. He points out that his 44 year marriage has not survived by "focusing on their differences but by focusing on love, commitment and blessings." The following are the list of things he sees that unite us.

1. We are united by our faith in Jesus Christ. Once we become professing members who join two thousand years of followers of Jesus, we become a part of the Body of Christ and we discover our unity with all other believers. Our unity in Christ is a gift we receive, it is not an organizational reality we achieve.

2. We are united by our common mission: "Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Despite our many differences of opinion on a variety of topics, when we focus upon our mission, we discover a unity which gives us power to achieve that mission. That was obvious at our Indiana Annual Conference Session when 201 congregations came forward to declare their desire to be one of our New Points of Light in the coming year and

(Continued on page 3)

Heal Me, Hands of Jesus

Heal me, hands of Jesus,
and search out all my pain;
restore my hope,
remove my fear,
and bring me peace again.

Cleanse me, blood of Jesus,
take bitterness away;
let me forgive as one forgiven,
and bring me peace today.

Know me, mind of Jesus,
and show me all my sin;
dispel the memories of guilt,
and bring me peace within.

Fill me, joy of Jesus;
anxiety shall cease,
heaven's serenity be mine,
for Jesus brings me peace!

Michael Perry

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P.O. Box 322
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Worship Schedule
Sunday School at 9:00
Worship at 10:00
at 485 Bennett Drive, Warren
Church Phone: 375-3871

Church Office
Office Phone: 375-3873
Hours: 9 a.m. to Noon

Pastor: Rev. Kathy Newton
pastorkathy@solidrockumc.com
Phone: (765) 210-4368

Editor: Gary Walter
gary@solidrockumc.com

Office Manager: Norma Smith
norma@solidrockumc.com

Treasurer: Rosalie Walter
rosalie@solidrockumc.com

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr
wanda@solidrockumc.com

*News deadline for the September
newsletter: August 24*

Just so you know ...

I have a nine-year-old grandson, Nathan, who lives in Cincinnati. He asked his parents to get him a piano. They tried to find one for him, then they called Grandma Brauchla. Isn't it interesting that a piano was available sitting in the old church?

After asking around I found that Nathan could have the piano. After a few weeks the Meyers arrived with a truck to take it home. After polishing, tuning, and some new keys, it found a cozy new home by the stairway.

We went to Cincinnati to attend a graduation party for his sister. He was at a recital when we got there, but he soon arrived with a special achievement award. Grandma was so proud!

Ann Brauchla Slaughter

United Methodist Women

A small but spirited group of U.M. Women met July 3 for their regular monthly gathering in the Calico Room of Heritage Pointe. President Barbara Hart led everyone in the formal Purpose of this international group, then surprised us with an article by Harriet Olson about "Our Capacity for Mission" that has existed since 1870! In five years we will be celebrating that missionary work capacity for 150 years.

Members, in a regularly stressed element of our meetings, shared joys and concerns for the past month, and welcomed Mary Miller as a new member to our fellowship. Secretary Margaret Bell noted that a special greeting had been sent to a longtime member, Mildred Elam, who has been unable to attend meetings for some time.

Ann Brauchla gave the lesson, for which she chose the simple title, "My Life." It was a delightful program, as it was a true recounting of Ann's whole life, which has been lived in Warren. As an "only child," Ann gave us lots of laughs and honest remembrances. She went to church—the Methodist one—with her parents, but went to other churches as she had many friends to share with. She graduated from Warren High School. Her remembrances stimulated many similar ones from other members—all of which produced a very enjoyable July



**United
Methodist
Women**

meeting. It closed with a special song for July, "Take My Life and Let It Be."

Thanks from SOS!

SOS would like to thank all who helped us out at the festival and the congregation for your support. We appreciate you!

A 90-10 split

When the weather prediction is for a 10 percent chance of rain, do we sigh and grumble and stay indoors? Or do we go ahead and picnic, golf or hike because the chance of bad weather is so low?

When doctors say our child has a 90 percent chance of full recovery from a deadly illness, don't we rejoice at the great prognosis? We quickly decide we can live with the slight chance of some impairment.

When a really tough exam comes back with a 90 percent grade, aren't we glad to have done well?

When a politician runs for office, 90 percent of the vote would be considered an overwhelming mandate.

Why then, when God gives us 100 percent of our material blessings, are we so horrified at the thought of giving him 10 percent back?

Unanswered prayer?

One day a little boy asked his pastor-mom why she always bowed her head for a moment before starting to preach. The mother, delighted that her son was so aware of what went on during worship, answered, "I pray for God to help me deliver a good sermon to the people."

Alas, her delight was short-lived and fizzled at the child's response: "So why doesn't God ever answer?"

Bad news, Moses

God called down to Moses and said, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is that I've chosen you to deliver my people from bondage. I will force Pharaoh to release my children by causing years of pestilence in Egypt. There will be plagues of locusts and frogs and inconceivable devastation upon the land. Pharaoh's armies will chase you, but don't fear; I will part the waters of the Red Sea so you can escape."

"So what's the bad news?" Moses asked.

God answered, "You'll have to prepare the environmental impact statement."

(Continued from page 1)

to start new worship services to reach new people. That wonderful response included people from different church sizes, differing theological perspectives and a variety of ministry styles – but they were united by a desire to fulfill our common mission.

3. We are united by our compassion ministries. Every time there is a disaster anywhere in the world, United Methodists join together to respond with care, material goods and hands-on efforts. At such moments, no one asks about differing theological perspectives. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and other ministries of compassion through our United Methodist Church are offered to all people – not just those with whom we agree.

4. We are united by our Wesleyan General Rules, summarized by Bishop Rueben Job in Three Simple Rules as: Do no harm, do good and stay in love with God. From the beginning of the Wesleyan revival, those rules have governed the way Methodist people work together, and we would do well to focus upon those rules in our discussions about difficult issues.

5. We are united by our commitment to vital congregations. In fact, our UMC is focused upon how the various conference structures can strengthen the ministry of our local congregations, and not the other way around. Or as we have said it here in Indiana, the conference exists for the sake of the congregations, the congregations do not exist for the sake of the conference. That's why talk of our being "congregational or connectional" is a false dichotomy. We are both. We are a connection of congregations united for our global mission, so our congregations are really what I call "global churches" – churches which are both local and global.

6. We are united by our desire to have our congregations and our supporting structure exhibit these characteristics of fruitfulness, as described by Bishop Robert Schnase in Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations: Radical hospitality, Passionate worship, Intentional faith development, Risk-taking mission and service, and Extravagant generosity.

7. We are united by our Wesleyan understanding of God's grace, namely Preventive Grace, Justifying Grace and Sanctifying Grace. We are not a "doctrinal" church in the narrow sense of that word; rather we focus upon discovering and living in the grace that God offers to all of us in Jesus Christ.

As children of God called United Methodist, let us focus on our blessings rather than our differences!

United in Christ,
Pastor Kathy

SOS Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the July 10 meeting of SOS:

- A devotion about busyness was given by Jessica Barry.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- Joys and concerns were shared.
- A lesson on intentional faith development in a busy world was led by Shannon Rogers.
- A love offering was collected and given to a community member to aid with expenses.
- Many thinking of you, birthday, sympathy, get well, and congratulation cards were sent in June 2014 by the Corresponding Secretary.
- Old Business
 - Summer Festival was discussed. SOS won first place for religious organization float. Discussion was held on what to do with leftover meat and pop. Grills will need to be cleaned.
 - Fundraisers were discussed (rummage sale and potato bake completed, and painting with punch upcoming).
- New Business
 - New SOS shirts will be ordered. Design being considered.
 - VBS adult leaders needed for community VBS.
- No committee report.
- Prayer partners were assigned and the meeting was adjourned with prayer and a sung benediction.
- Attendance: 15

'Lives Were Changed Forever' in Alabama

By Susan Kim

Nancy Cole vividly remembers April 27, 2011, the day that 62 tornadoes ripped through Alabama, leaving a path of death and destruction that is still difficult to comprehend more than three years later.

The paths of the storms measured 1,177 miles long and 20 miles wide. More than 23,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. The state estimated the damages at \$1.1 billion, and residents and responders

cleaned up some 10 million cubic yards of debris.

"Those numbers are mind-boggling," said Cole, who helped direct recovery for the North Alabama Conference, "but the most devastating number of all is 250. We lost 250 souls that day. The cost of those lives cannot be measured. Thousands of people were injured and thousands of lives were changed forever."

Long-term recovery is complete from the 2011 storms in Alabama. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) contributed more than \$2.1 million toward the effort, and more than 300 volunteer teams from other states came to help, in addition to hundreds of local teams that also pitched in. Cole estimates volunteer teams worked 143,000 hours, which translates into more than \$3.1 million in-kind.

Even as some Alabama communities celebrate a "new normal" in the wake of the 2011 storms, UMCOR—through grants and training—is supporting recovery from new tornadoes that hit the same region two months ago.

"With staff already in place who have experience from the 2011 storms, UMCOR's support will go even further in the current recovery, which is only just beginning," said Greg Forrester, UMCOR's assistant general secretary for U.S. Disaster Response.

Responders in Alabama said they want to send the message that recovery takes longer than people realize. "You would think, okay, someone's home is destroyed, so let's just go and build a new home. It doesn't work that quickly. Three years later, we are still building," said Lori Feist, assistant disaster recovery coordinator for the North Alabama Conference.

If you live outside the path of a tornado, it's easy to forget there has been a disaster, she added. "Unless you're involved, you don't realize."

Volunteers who help with recovery from this year's storms will have an opportunity to learn what long-term recovery looks like, said Feist. "I look forward to talking to the teams that come in, and talking to the survivors and hearing their stories. I tell people I have the best job ever."

- "Faith is to believe what we do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what we believe."

—St. Augustine

- "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."

—Mark Twain

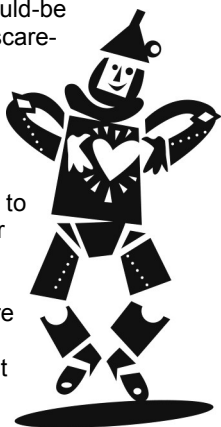


What a heart is really for

As much as I love the 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz*, I have a gripe with one line near the end. As the would-be wizard bestows on the scarecrow, tin man and lion symbols of what they've been seeking but in fact already possess — a brain, a heart and courage — he says to the tin man, "Remember ... a heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others."

"No!" I always protest aloud. Society often functions as if it were so, but Jesus taught, "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12, NRSV). How we relate to others — our "heart" — is *indeed* judged by how much we love. The only sense in which the wizard's words carry a sliver of truth is that we *are* judged by how much we're loved by God, who counts us precious through his grace.

—Heidi Mann



Grant me, O Lord, to know
what is worth knowing,
to love what is worth loving,
to praise what delights you most,
to value what is precious in your sight,
to hate what is offensive to you.
Do not let me judge by what I see,
nor pass sentence according to what I hear,



but to judge rightly
between things that differ
and above all to search out and
to do what pleases you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471)

