



# News From The Rock

December 2011

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

## United Methodist Youth Fellowship

We will be having the UMYF Christmas party after our volunteer night at the Food Pantry. We will be going back to the church for pizza and snacks and then playing games until 11 p.m. We are also planning to go sledding during Christmas break—or whenever we have a good snow!

### Upcoming Events:

- December 4: Meeting, 4:00-5:45
- December 11: Pizza after church
- December 21: Volunteer Night, 6-8 at the Food Pantry; Christmas Party, 8-11 at the church
- December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 11:00 p.m.
- January 8: Pizza after church

## Concession Stand Report

The Solid Rock Concessions committee would like to thank all of you who assisted this year in making it another good year. Despite losing almost half of the little league season to rainouts, we were able to serve many of the youth in our community in a positive relationship. With your assistance we were able to make donations to several worthwhile causes this year from the profits we earned. The funds were distributed as follows: \$2,000 to the church building fund, \$600 to the missions fund, \$700 to the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Warren, \$700 to the Blessings and Needs committee, \$1000 to Christmas from December to May fund, and \$600 to the Warren Area Ministerial Association (WAMA) for their fund for community needs program.

We are looking forward to starting again next spring, while sharing the joy of working on this project with all who are kind enough to volunteer to help us serve the needs of the children in our community.

The Solid Rock Concession Committee

## Groundbreaking

Solid Rock held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new church building on Sunday, October 30, 2011. After sharing a carry-in lunch, members of the congregation gathered at the site on Bennett Drive. Following a blessing by Northeast District Superintendent Rev. David Michel, ground was broken by pulling a walk-behind plow driven by Bruce Preston, Building Committee Chair, Pastor Kathy Newton, and David Spahr, Trustees Chair. Plans for the new facility and photos from the groundbreaking may be viewed at the church website, [www.solidrockumc.com](http://www.solidrockumc.com).

## Youth Update from Paige

Hello All! This past month has been great working with the Youth! We've had a lot of fun going through our new series by Doug Fields, and right now we are half way through! With Christmas just around the corner, we will be planning a Christmas party this month, and I am very excited to see that play out and spend extra time with our youth! I ask that you would please keep them in your prayers as we are nearing final projects, tests, and holiday festivities. This is an exciting transition time and the UMYF team is grateful for your prayers! Blessings!

Paige Wilson,  
Youth Director

## United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women met November 8, 2011, in the Calico Room of Heritage Pointe, with 11 members present. Barbara presented the November program, concerning our Thank Offerings and the theme: "Letting God, to be Thankful." Each member chose a rock to hold on to, representing the cares and anxieties of our lives. We were invited to drop it into a bowl (God's care) of icy water (Jesus' ever-available care), and to let our neighboring member dry our hands with a soft towel.

Just Leaning  
on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



Merchants trying to be politically correct now say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas". How does this make you feel? Shouldn't it outrage us as Christians? So here are a few suggestions on how to keep Christ in Christmas. Please know first and foremost the way we keep Christ in anything is by making Him center of our lives. That is to say no matter what the circumstances we give glory to God.

My first suggestion is that you give

**"Jesus' message was that we are completed in service to others"**

God one special gift just from you. This should be something personal that no one else need know about. It should be sacrificial. David in 2 Samuel 24 shares that he would not offer a sacrifice to

God that cost him nothing. This gift could be forgiving someone, in which case you may discover that it's as much a gift to yourself as to God.

Second, set aside a time to read the Christmas story. This may be privately or with your family, but make time for this. You'll find the story in Luke 1:5-56 and Luke 2:1-20. Should you read this as a family, don't be afraid to discuss it with each other.

Third, set up a nativity scene. If you have children I would suggest one that your little ones can move and play with. Fisher Price has a nice one.

Fourth, plan a project of good will. Again, if you want to involve your family this can be done by a group. This could be as small or as large as you would like. There are families in our area that barely put food on the table so it could be supplying winter coats or as much as making Christmas for a whole family.

Fifth, come caroling with us on Decem-

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ber 4. We will go from dining room to dining room at Heritage Pointe. Experience the joy of God's people who otherwise might not get to hear the Good News of Christmas.

Sixth, give a surprise gift of service to members of your family. Again this can be as simple or extravagant as you choose. One suggestion is to do the dishes without being asked. You see it really is "more blessed to give than to receive."

Seventh, before tearing into those presents on Christmas morning, take a minute to thank God for ALL that He has done for you! This helps us to recognize that while it's nice to receive gifts, the gifts God has given us are far superior.

Eighth, attend a Christmas service. We have two Christmas Eve services at 7:00 and 11:00, while Christmas Day we will meet at 10:00 with no Sunday School. Please plan to worship with your church family at Solid Rock for one of these services.

Ninth, send Christmas Cards that actually convey the message of Christ. If you've

already purchased secular cards, don't be afraid to put Scripture references on the card.

Lastly, write to a missionary wishing them a Merry Christmas. These folks usually don't get to come home for the holidays and so a letter to let them know someone is thinking of them is a true gift.

Notice that most of these suggestions have to do with service. This because Jesus' message was that we are completed in service to others. Won't you join me in trying to keep Christ in Christmas?

Merry Christmas & Shalom,  
Pastor Kathy

### Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship met on November 13 with 15 men in attendance. Steve Holmes reported that 71 were served at the recent East of Chicago fundraiser, with total proceeds of \$359. The group approved a request of \$100 to assist in furnace repair for a local family. Approval was also given for funding one or two Thanksgiving families. Randy Hensley will chair this project.

## Grace In A Cradle

*Grace in a cradle  
Love's perfect Child  
Hope in the  
Manger  
A Son  
with God's*



*smile  
Worshiped by wise men  
Shepherds and angels  
Jesus our Savior  
God's grace in a cradle*

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