

# News From The Rock

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

February 2009

## Congregation to share new building ideas

Solid Rock congregants will have an opportunity to share their ideas for a new church building on Sunday, February 8. Following worship on that morning, we will gather at the Warren Sportsman's Club for a carry-in lunch, after which those in attendance will meet with representatives from Studio Three, the architectural firm which has been selected to design the new building. Please plan to attend this event. It is important that everyone share their visions for future ministries and facilities to support them.



## Building/Site and Capital Funds Committees discuss next steps

The Building/Site and Capital Funds Committees met jointly on January 13 to discuss the next steps in Solid Rock's building project. Also in attendance were Bill Walter, capital funds campaign consultant from Church Growth Services, and Brian Hollars and Kerry LaPrees, architects from Studio Three.

In his presentation, Bill Walter emphasized the importance of keeping three factors in balance throughout the project: *ministry* (what the church ultimately wants to accomplish in ministry and the facilities needed to meet these goals), *money* (the funds needed to complete the project) and *materials* (the architectural design). The ministry piece will primarily be the responsibility of the Building/Site Committee. Planning for funding of the project will be a cooperative effort involving Church Growth Services and the Capital Funds Committee. The Building/Site Committee, in collaboration with Studio Three, will develop the building plan.

A tentative timeline was outlined. An opportunity for congregational input will be provided following a carry-in lunch on February 8 at the Warren Sportsman's Club. This discussion will be led by representatives from Studio Three. Using ideas gleaned from this session, along with ongoing input from the Building/Site Committee, Studio Three will begin developing preliminary plans. April 15 is the target date for having a basic building plan to present to the congregation for feedback.

As the process continues, Church Growth Services will prepare to answer three questions: (1) What are we going to get for our money? (2) How much will it cost? and (3) How are we going to pay for it? Based on early data provided to the consultant, it is estimated that Solid Rock should be able to generate between \$1.13 million and \$1.53 million in funding for this project. The goal of the Capital Funds Committee is to hold the capital campaign in the fall.

Between now and the congregational input session on February 8, the Building/Site Committee will be meeting to define needed capacities in four areas: worship, Christian education, fellowship, and administration, after which the architect can proceed with preliminary planning.

## "Soup for the Soul"

Solid Rock as a united church will be holding its first "Soup for the Soul" supper as a joint effort on February 17, at the Knight-Bergman Civic Center, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available to give to your friends and neighbors. (There is no fee for the tickets. They are only a reminder of the event.)

We have posted a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall at the Warren site. Please join with us by providing needed items, by working the event, and by inviting others. If you have questions contact Margaret Bentley (375-2317) or Susan Mills (468-2895).



## Just Leaning on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



On Ash Wednesday, February 25, Lent begins. During this 40-day period, Christians re-evaluate their spiritual lives. It's a time for us to have a spiritual check-up and to strive to live the Christian life

**"Our pilgrimage through Lent should inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives"**

more faithfully and more intentionally.

One might go on a spiritual retreat, spend time with a prayer warrior, Bible expert or theologian or attend

a Bible group. My hope is that our young people will choose to participate in confirmation. I will offer this time of fellowship and learning on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. The confirmands and I will be going to the Bishop's Rally on March 7 in Noblesville. This is a time to go and connect with others going through confirmation and to hear the Bishop speak. Please contact me if you plan on participating. We will study our faith, our beliefs, and hopefully have fun along the way. I'd like to start on March 1 and study through April 5, at which time the confirmand will have the option to become a member of Solid Rock. I will be sending home discussion sheets for you and your child to discuss and my desire is to have a mentor for each youth.

For the adults we have many Bible Study groups available. We will have the normal groups at Neff's, Souer's and Wednesday morning, but will add a study group on Sunday evenings. Please plan to attend the one of your choice.

I will also need some folks willing to serve as mentors for the above young people. Please contact me if you would like to get to know one of our youth one on one. During Lent, attending the various church

(Continued on page 3)



☞ **Don and Marjorie Pearson** visited with their daughter Janie in Charlotte, NC. Then they went to Gainesville, FL to see a grandson. They spent one day in Silver Springs, FL, which was all decorated for Christmas. It was a wonderful winter vacation.



☞ **Thank you Matt and Lois** for the trumpet and piano music of that wonderful old hymn, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee." It is always a joy to hear you play.

**Thank you, choir,** for blessing us with your voices. It is always an inspiration in our worship service.

Carolyn Winters



☞ **I would like to say Thank You** to... Marie and Barb for their work with the

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**February 2009 Worship Schedule**  
Sunday School at 9:00  
Worship at 10:00  
**at Warren**

Office: 375-2997 or  
375-3871

Warren Fellowship Hall: 375-3872  
Parsonage: 375-3686

Pastor: Rev. Kathy Newton  
pastorkathyn@yahoo.com

Editor: Gary Walter  
walter@citiznet.com

News deadline for the March newsletter: February 15

young people of this church ... For their time spent preparing, sharing, and "being available" for each youth involved.... For their leadership in the beautiful Christmas Eve Service portrayed by these young people. Thank You to each who took part — you truly gave me a wonderful gift that night of Christmas. Thank you to all who helped provide such a beautiful sanctuary for Christmas. I know it was a lot of work....please know it was appreciated. Pastor Kathy.....for being the earthly shepherd you are — I am so very grateful. My prayers for you each day. And to Gary....You Are a Blessing! Thank You!

Mary Ann Holmes

**UMYF Schedule**

**February 1**  
Super Bowl Pizzas

**February 15**  
Meeting: "Let's Party,"  
4:00-5:30

**March 1**  
Meeting: "Let's Party," 4:00-5:30

**March 15**  
Meeting: "Let's Party," 4:00-5:30

**April 5**  
Meeting: "Faith Journeys," 4:00-5:30

**April 19**  
Service Project: Party

*All meetings are at the Warren site.*



**Adult Sunday school**

Solid Rock is very blessed to have two wonderful Sunday school classes. One class is now studying "God is Closer Than You Think." Pastor and author John Ortberg believes that God is near and knowing him is possible for everyone who wants to feel his presence: "The teaching of Scripture is that God really is present right here, right now.... The Spirit of God is available to you and me: flowing all the time, welling up within us, quenching our unsatisfied desires, overflowing to refresh those around us." This class is led by Mindy Rider.

The second class is studying "Secrets of the Vine." Author Bruce Wilkinson explores images of the vine and the vine-dresser in John 15. All believers are expected to bear fruit. How does God foster fruit-bearing? Jesus portrays himself as the

vine, the Father as vine-dresser, and his followers as the branches. Wilkinson believes that Christians can better understand God's methods for ensuring personal fulfillment, and find a closer walk with him. Gary Walter is leading this study.

Classes begin at 9:00 each Sunday morning. All are invited to join!

**Men's Fellowship**

The Solid Rock Men's Fellowship met on January 10, 2009, in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe. Ron Neff opened the meeting with prayer. Breakfast was served by Kim's Katered Affair.

Dale Smith led devotions, reading two inspirational stories. The first illustrated God's provision during a winter storm. The second showed God's blessing of a seemingly insignificant gift.

Ron Neff reported on the Christmas family adopted by the group. A family of six was provided with food and Christmas gifts. Ron Neff and Steve Holmes chaired this project (with help from Myrna and Mary Ann).

The next meeting will be February 14 at Heritage Pointe.

**X = Kiss**

During the Middle Ages, when few people were able to write, many documents were signed with an X. Signers kissed the letter to affirm their sincerity in the same way they kissed the Bible when taking an oath.

The letter X wasn't selected at random. It was the sign of St. Andrew, who was crucified on an X-shaped cross. The X implied a sacred promise to fulfill one's obligation in the saint's name.



**PIZZA SALE!**



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**Solid Rock UMYF**

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 1, 2009**

(Continued from page 1)

services and study opportunities can help people grow spiritually and become more informed about the Christian faith.

Our pilgrimage through Lent should inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives. Let us make this journey as a family that is the family of Solid Rock UMC.

Shalom,  
Pastor Kathy

## Administrative Council

The Solid Rock Administrative Council addressed several finance-related items at its January 20 meeting. Reports from Myrna Neff, church treasurer, show the church to be in good financial condition. The year-end report for 2008 states that contributions and other income totaled \$122,249.34, while expenditures were \$85,401.70. Cash balance as of December 31 was \$36,847.64.

Following this positive report, Council voted to pay off the remaining balance (approximately \$7,000) of the mortgage on the Jefferson Center parsonage. Council also learned that currently the Building Fund totals about \$15,000. It was agreed to use \$4,000 from this fund to pay a retainer fee to Studio Three, the architect which has been chosen to design the building project. Council also directed that \$10,000 from this fund be invested in a 6-month certificate of deposit with the Indiana United Methodist Loan Fund.

In other business, Council received a report that at least one church copier is experiencing problems, and that none of the current copiers is capable of handling the level of use that has become necessary since the merger. Suggestions were made that current copiers be replaced with one larger-capacity copier with networking capabilities so that all office computers could access it. A decision will be made after further investigation.

Trustees reported that a local Realtor has estimated values of Solid Rock properties, including the two church buildings and two parsonages. There has been no determination yet as to how or when these properties might be offered for sale.

Council members expressed appreciation to S.O.S. for purchasing new blinds and curtains for the church office, which is now located in the Warren parsonage.

Plans were announced regarding the meeting on February 8 with architects from Studio Three. A carry-in lunch at the War-

ren Sportsman's Club will be followed by small-group sessions giving Solid Rock members the opportunity to share ideas for a new church facility. It was emphasized that everyone is urged to participate in this process, including children. Using input from this session, architects will begin initial designs.

The next Council meeting will be March 17 at Jefferson Center.

## Prayer Adventure

Prayer Adventure on Wednesday evening, 6:30-7:30, is a powerful tool we have to be overwhelmed by the love of God. He is always there to hear our prayers! All of you are prayed for. We pray you feel God's love and presence with you every moment. Please join us and you will be truly blessed.

## Fundraising opportunity

Mildred Elam, at Heritage Pointe, has offered the material, quilting frame, and her talent to anyone interested in making a quilt for a raffle with the proceeds going to the Solid Rock Church. If you know how to quilt all the better, but she will teach you if you don't. Call the church office if you are interested, or you can sign up to help at church. A list will be located on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

## Next Monday

Three weeks, but who's counting? What is it that makes deciding upon a New Year's resolution so eternally compelling? Why do we always presume the resolution to extinguish bad or inappropriate behaviors is going to last longer than three or four weeks? Decades, multiple decades, of hitting the three week wall should be sufficient to convince even the most hard-headed individual that when nothing changes, nothing changes. The missing element, however, just may be the inclusion of specific measures necessary to enable the change.

At this point each year the typical aspect of the ritual behavior is what I like to think of as the Four Phases of Making a New Year's Resolution. First, there is the guilt you experience because you "didn't have the time yesterday because... but will make up for it today," and then you don't do whatever you had planned again today.

The second step is to vow to start over "next Monday," because everyone knows you cannot initiate a new habit in the middle of the week. Thus, it becomes perfectly reasonable, since you are going to start again "next Monday," that you might just as well indulge in whatever activity you are planning to diminish or eliminate UNTIL "next Monday." Finally, the thought occurs to you that you are capable of changing from the undesirable to the desirable action any time you really set your mind to it, and it doesn't necessarily have to be this coming "next Monday." Dietary resolutions especially are susceptible to this kind of convoluted thinking. You can begin in two weeks, or right after your family celebrates Mom and Dad's fortieth wedding anniversary, or as soon as you return from the cruise you are taking to the Bahamas because everyone knows you are going to gain weight on a cruise. Good grief, they have a sundae bar open around the clock at pool side!

My particular recurring vows through the years, naturally, have been to lose weight. If I had lost as many pounds as promising myself, I would be within ten pounds of my birth weight. However, the only thing consistent or habitual is how easily the aforementioned four phases have become a part of my behavioral repertoire. Sometimes, I even add a fifth phase: anger. Not at anyone in particular, unless you can count the women who are walking ahead of me on the street or in a mall and it is obvious that their thighs are not rubbing together. If life were really fair, a person would be able to walk up to them, slap them upside the head and then be able to walk on without any repercussions. But then who said life was fair?

- Barbara Kleinhans

You are invited to a

**Wii**™

**Party!**

**February 22 • 2:00 p.m.  
at the Knight-Bergman Center**

**Supper at 5:00**

**Games for all ages!  
Bring your friends!**

**Solid Rock United  
Methodist Church**  
invites you to

# Soup for the Soul



a free soup supper

**February 17 · 5:00 - 6:30**  
or until the kettle is empty

**Knight-Bergman  
Center**

*Bring your family  
and friends!*

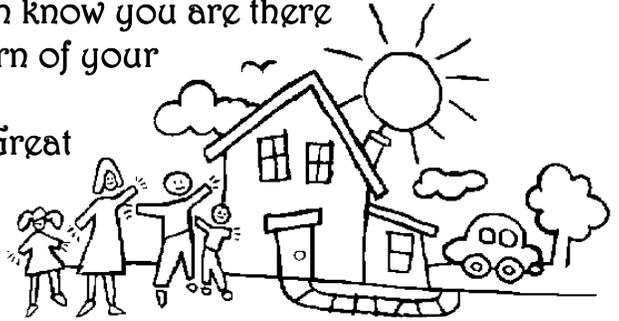
Lord, I've discovered it's never a secret  
When you live in a home  
For you simply cannot be hid.  
The neighbors soon know you are there  
Even strangers learn of your  
presence.

When you are the Great  
First in a home  
There is a  
radiance that  
speaks of joy

There is gentleness, kindness  
Laughter and love.

There is commotion mixed with contentment  
There are problems mixed with prayer.

Lord, your own Word says it so vividly:  
"It was known that he was in the house."



- Ruth Harms Galkin



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