

News From The Rock

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

January 2012

Henderson Settlement Trip Update

The days are ticking by and before you know it, a group of Solid Rockers will be heading to southern Kentucky to help with the building of a much-needed home and other work at this United Methodist mission. March 1 is the deadline for making your payment of half of your cost for room and board. The price is \$290 (note the updated cost) and includes bed, linens, and all but one meal.

Anyone thinking of going, please see Rosalie Walter for a brochure and more information about the area and the trip.

If you would like to participate in this opportunity, but do not feel you can afford the cost, do *not* let that stop you. We will find the money.

If you know you can not go on this mission trip, but would like to support or sponsor someone who is willing to go but does not have the money, a check can be written or money enclosed in the offering designated "Mission Trip Scholarship." If no scholarship money is needed, this money will be applied to trip gas money for the group.

Also, about \$7,000 needs to be raised for our portion of the building costs for the house. A separate Henderson Settlement Trip Fund has been established. Be watching for fundraisers, and if you would like to make a donation to this fund please designate it as "Henderson House."

Lastly, Henderson Settlement has a thrift store which provides thousands of donated clothes, furniture, and household items at minimal cost to families of the area. Space has been set aside in an unused classroom downstairs for collection of items to take when we go. As you are sorting or downsizing and find you have items that are not needed for the Blessings and Needs Ministry, please consider adding them to the Henderson collection. Please



first consider if they can be useful. The room is the first room to the left as you turn left down the hallway in the basement. Please pack in sturdy boxes for stacking and transport.

Bazaar Update

Proceeds from the 2011 Fall Bazaar have been allocated to the following ministries: \$400 to the Building Fund; \$400 to Warren Area Ministerial Association; \$400 to United Methodist Women; and \$400 to camp scholarships.

Men's Fellowship Christmas Family

Shopping was completed for the Men's Fellowship Christmas family and gifts delivered on Saturday, December 17. The family resides in Warren and there are three children: Angel is 6, Ava is 4, and Evan is 3. Thank you to all who support the Men's Fellowship, and please keep all families who are struggling in your prayers.

Movie Night at Solid Rock

Solid Rock will be showing the movie *Courageous* at the church in January. The date has not yet been determined. Watch for future announcements.



Women's Winter getaway planned

Solid Rock is sponsoring "Christ... E.T.C.," a women's overnight getaway, January 20-21, 2012, at Lake Placid Retreat Center in Hartford City, Indiana. Guest speaker will be Paula Gast. The get-

Just Leaning
on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



"He saved us because of his mercy, and not because of any good things that we have done. God washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning."

(Titus 3:5)

Each year we begin anew or at least try to. This verse was a wonderful reminder for me. Remember I am saved (and you

"Believe and have faith my brothers and sisters that you too can have a fresh beginning this year"

too) by His great mercies! Nothing I have done (or you either) has influenced this salvation and likewise nothing I haven't done has impacted this wonderful gift. Our sal-

vation has taken place by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. We have been washed clean! We have been made whole. We have been given a new life! Start here with a fresh beginning! Believe and have faith my brothers and sisters that you too can have a fresh beginning this year. Start your year with Christ at the center of all that is your life. I think you'll find great peace and joy for your new year.

Shalom,
Pastor Kathy

away is for any interested women from any church denomination.

We plan to laugh, study the scriptures and share together, all while listening for the presence of Jesus Christ.

We women often get lost in life's busyness or lack of meaningful connection. This time away offers opportunities to evaluate our priorities, make adjustments where appropriate, and develop our relationships with Christ and others.

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Waiting to blossom

A 1979 song called "The Rose" (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep



the faith, even when the source of our hope isn't visible.

In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth "with the sun's love" into springtime flowers.

When you're in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God's love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.

News From The Rock

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Solid Rock United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 322

Warren, Indiana 46792

www.solidrockumc.com

Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

at 227 N. Main Street, Warren

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Office Phone: 375-3873

Hours: 9 a.m. to Noon

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News deadline for the February newsletter: January 22

UMYF Schedule

January 8: Pizza after church at East of Chicago

January 15: UMYF Meeting, 4:00-5:45

January 22: Bible study after church

January 29: UMYF Meeting, 4:00-5:45

Hello All!

Things have been going great with UMYF this past month. We are currently wrapping up the series that we started in



September, which means we are moving into the next series of the curriculum! We are still working out the kinks of transitioning into small groups, but I definitely feel that this will help our students build deeper relationships and get more one on one time with each other. As we move into the next quarter, we are working on planning a girls' retreat, lock-in, and a few other events are being talked about. Please continue praying and supporting our teens as we start the new year off!

Paige Wilson

A New Year's blessing

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;



Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,

But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

—Author unknown

November Offerings

General Offerings \$11,175
Building Fund Contributions \$7,741

New mercies

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging.

The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).

God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord's unceasing love.

What *not* to take into the new year

• Self-help books — Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)



• Tape measure — Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)

• Rearview mirror — Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)

• Gavel — Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)

• Life vest — Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)

• Garage-door opener — We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)

• Handcuffs — Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through — and despite — us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

—Gregg McCaslin

• "Let us sing even when we do not feel like it, for in this way we give wings to heavy feet and turn weariness into strength."

—John Henry Jowett

• "I am so made that worry and anxiety are sand in the machinery of life. Faith is the oil."

—E. Stanley Jones

(Continued from page 1)

Our goal is that we will be Encouraged through biblical Teaching and conversation and experience more of the Confidence Christ desires for us.

The cost is \$60 for overnight and all sessions and \$40 for the sessions only. Forms are available at the church office and should be submitted by January 7. For more information, call the church office at 375-3873 or Tamara Spahr at 375-2859.

Men's Fellowship

The Solid Rock Men's Fellowship met on December 10, 2011, at Heritage Pointe with 17 men in attendance. David Spahr opened the meeting with prayer. Breakfast was served by Kim's Katered Affair.



Men's Fellowship

Marion Bell shared devotions, "Happiness for Ordinary People" (Luke 10:21-24) and "If You Want a Happy Marriage" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Randy Hensley reported on the family that the group assisted at Thanksgiving, and a family of five that we will sponsor at Christmas.

The group voted to direct all funds from the April pizza fundraiser to the Henderson Settlement trip next summer.

Closing prayer was offered by Bill Couch. The next meeting will be January 14, 2012.

Living above the weather

Have you ever boarded an airplane in a snowstorm? The sky is gray with heavy clouds. Snow is coming down hard, with no sign of letting up. Plows clear the runway and unfamiliar machinery de-ices the wings. Passengers might consider it madness to fly in such weather.

But the pilot knows the storm is earthbound. Past the clouds is glorious sunshine. The plane can fly above the weather, if only it can get off the ground.

When troubles overtake us like a storm, we may wonder in the midst of the darkness if God still cares or if he is even there at all. But if we believe that God, like the sun, is unchanged in good weather and in bad, we can ride it out. For storms are earthbound, but we are not.

—Kari Myers



United Methodist Women

Solid Rock United Methodist Women met December 1 at Heritage Pointe. They will not assemble again until March 1, 2012.

Ten members were present and were led in the business meeting by President Myrna Neff, who also shared devotions from United Methodist missionaries' news of their work being done in service in North America. Unit members present shared joys and concerns locally and in their homes, and Myrna led prayers for these, for healing in illness and for joy in the real meaning of Christmas.

The lesson for December was led by Pastor Kathy Newton and was entitled simply "Christmas." Everyone present participated in reading and singing about God's gift to his people, from the beginning to the birth of Jesus—Christmas!

The U.M.W. of Solid Rock plan to have a jewelry and bake sale after the first of the new year and welcome contributions of used jewelry for the sale! Further announcements of date, and where to take the items for sale, will be forthcoming in early January. Profits will enter our treasury and will support the Solid Rock U.M.W. mission projects which are supported throughout the new year. An effort such as this is an important supplement to the regular pledged support coming annually from members.

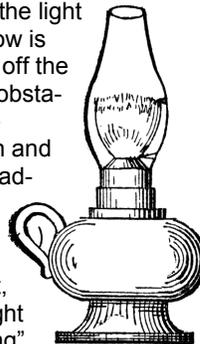


United Methodist Women

The guide

Picture a man stumbling along in a heavy fog, completely disoriented. Then, off in the distance, he sees the light of one small lamp. Its glow is sufficient neither to burn off the fog nor to illuminate the obstacles that might be on the ground between the man and that lamp. Still, it is a steadily burning lamp. Something within the man prompts him to believe that if he heads toward it, he will be going in the right direction. That "something" we can call "faith."

While heading toward the lamp, he finds another lost man whose eyesight is so poor



he can't see the lamp. The first man takes the second by the hand and helps him toward the lamp also. The act of reaching out to another we can call "love."

And the lamp that draws him? It's called "hope."

—The Wired Word (August 7, 2011)

Trumped!

There were two rich brothers who looked great on the outside, even attending church regularly, but whose hearts were evil.

A new, more astute pastor arrived at the church. The congregation grew and a fund raising campaign was started to extend the church.

All of a sudden, one of the brothers died. The day before the funeral the remaining brother sidled up to the pastor and gave him a check for the full amount needed to complete the extensions.

"Just one condition," he said. At the funeral you must say that my brother was a saint."

The pastor gave him his word and deposited the check.

The next day, at the funeral, the pastor let it all go. "He was an evil man," he said, hard on his wife and family, corrupt in business," and on and on. He concluded, "but, compared to his brother, he was a saint."

Sermon to Order

After the praise and worship the pastor got up and said, "For today I have prepared 3 sermons. A \$10 hell raiser on fire and brimstone that will take an hour and

a half to deliver, a \$50 exposition on the evils of sin that will take 45

minutes to give, along with a \$100, 10 minute gem on love and generosity. We will now take the collection to see which you vote for!"



- Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to. ~Bill Vaughn
- Many years ago I resolved never to bother with New Year's resolutions, and I've stuck with it ever since. ~Dave Beard

Less is more

What if we took our lengthy lists of changes we want to make in the new year and narrowed them down — way down? Rather than making a half dozen or more commitments that we're unlikely to keep, how about zeroing in on a single word that captures the essence of what we want to achieve or become?

North Carolina pastor Mike Ashcraft encouraged church members to each find one word that points to or describes a characteristic or vision they wanted to achieve in the year ahead. The experiment turned into a movement, with ideas and testimonials available at myoneword.org.

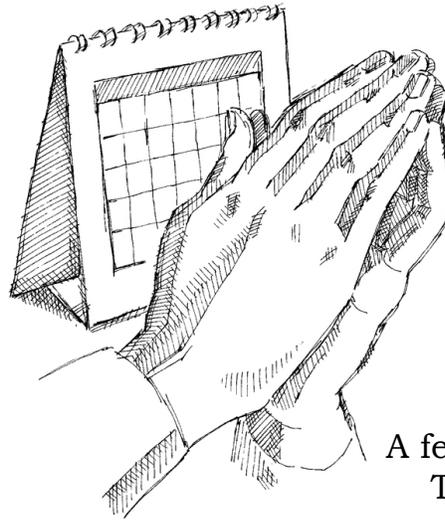
What would your one-word resolution be?

Believe.
HOPE.
Encourage.
PERSEVERE.

A New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;



A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed

An understanding heart;

A sense of humor;

Time for quiet, silent meditation;

A feeling of the presence of God;

The patience to wait for the coming of these things,

With the wisdom to recognize them when they come.

Amen.

2012

January

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