

News From The Rock

January 2009

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Church offices move

The Solid Rock church offices have re-located to 120 N. Matilda Street (the former Warren parsonage). Although the offices have moved, the phone numbers remain the same. You may reach the office at either 375-3871 or 375-2997.



United Methodist Youth Fellowship

We had a fun time at the Youth Christmas party on December 21. We had a gingerbread house decorating contest with the boys versus the girls. Our independent judges decided the boys won, but the girls got honorable mention for their peppermint candy siding! However, many of the building supplies seemed to vanish mysteriously. They finished off the party with pizza, and Wii games and Uno. Thanks to all who sent snacks for the party!



Here is our schedule for January:
January 4: 4-5:30 at the Warren site:
"Walk Tall"

January 18: 4-5:30 at the Warren site:
"Let's Party!"

Men's Fellowship

The Solid Rock UMC Men's Fellowship met at the Warren site, with 17 men in attendance. Breakfast was prepared by several of the men. Dave Spahr opened with prayer.



Men's Fellowship

Norm Wolfe led devotions, sharing from Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Life*.

Ron Neff and Randy Hensley reported on the Thanksgiving meal provided for a family in need in the community. The group will also sponsor a Christmas family, providing a meal and gifts for four children. Ron Neff, Randy Hensley, and Steve Holmes will chair this project.

The next meeting will be January 10 in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe. Howard Cress closed with prayer.

United Methodist Women

The Solid Rock United Methodist Women held their Christmas meeting on December 4 at Heritage Pointe. Myrna Neff welcomed 16 members and 4 guests. She also expressed her appreciation for Ann Slaughter taking care of the luncheon arrangements, and to Martha Plummer for distributing posters for the meeting. Myrna then gave devotions from "Christmas Memories" and "In the Days of the Angels."

The Purpose was read by the group, and the prayer calendar was shared. Sharing of joys and concerns was followed by prayer led by Carolyn Winters.

The Mission Moment was given by Ann Slaughter. Various thank-you notes were read. Secretary Mary Emma Holmes and Treasurer Barbara Hart presented reports.

Social Action Secretary Ann Slaughter mentioned how nice the business section of downtown Warren looked. We will be needing approximately 40 cheer baskets this Christmas. Cindy Boxell's cookie bakers are willing to share with our group in helping fill the baskets and with delivery. Thanks, Cindy and gang! Baskets will be assembled on December 17 following Bible study.

Program Resources Secretary Treva Holt had three books, Response, and World



United Methodist Women

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Just Leaning
on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



I have told most of you that I no longer make New Year's resolutions. I have had more than my share of failures and thus have chosen not to set myself up for failure. However I was reading the other day and ran across this "Vow for the New Year." It was so succinct that I decided to share it this month.

"Making plans for your life in the New Year? Could it be that God already has a plan for you and is patiently waiting for you to make that plan a reality?"

"To set one's mind on divine things leads us to consider the one vow we should take seriously for the New Year"

When one considers how everything seems to have a purpose in nature (atoms, genes, plants, animals, etc.), it makes sense to believe that each of us has a purpose as well. On the other hand, if all of creation seems to have just happened without any reason, then this means our minds and spirits must have no reason or purpose as well. How can we trust them?

But believers trust that there is a great Intelligence that brought everything into existence.

There is a Mind and a Heart at the center of all creation. If that's the case, then life can only make sense when we seek what the Creator has in mind for us.

Jesus, who knew the Mind and Heart of God better than anyone who ever lived on Earth, once said to the erring Peter: "You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Mark 8:33, NRSV).

Setting our minds on human things can get us into trouble. That's why it often seems we live in a crazy mixed-up world. How can life ever be fulfilling, without the purpose God has for that life?

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✂ **I would like to express** to the church how much I am enjoying the “Goodie” basket that they left with me this week. There was such a variety of so many “goodies” that I had to try one of each before I stopped nibbling. Thanks to all who had any part in this thoughtful giving. I also want to thank everyone who made my birthday a real time of celebration by sending me cards and letters for this special birthday on the 18th of this month. Thanks again for all of your love and prayers. Love you all.

Mabel Fields



✂ **Lauren Keller’s new address** at Purdue is Resident Assistant, Harrison Hall, 107 MacArthur Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906-4232



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P.O. Box 322
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January 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

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News deadline for the February newsletter: January 18

✂ **Margaret Bell, Myrna Neff, and Carolyn Winters** enjoyed beautiful Christmas music performed by Huntington University and a lovely tea served by the United Methodist Women at Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntington on December 11.



✂ **Thank you** to the choir of Solid Rock UMC for your gift of the awesome cantata on Sunday, December 15. A job well done!



✂ **Martha and John Plummer, Oma Zent, and Carolyn Winters** were given another blessing on Sunday night, December 14, with another awesome cantata performed by the choir of Van Buren United Methodist Church.



✂ **Michelle Sexton, Staci Sexton, and Carolyn Winters** journeyed to Louisville, KY on December 19 to watch Carolyn’s 12-year-old granddaughter, Lauren English, skate in “The Nutcracker on Ice.” She was the ballerina doll and snowflake. It was a joy to be with family once again. They are so precious!



✂ **Perry and Tamara Spahr** still have sausage and Sam patties for sale. All proceeds go to the Building Fund.

To eat or not to eat

As a parent of some fifty years and a meal preparer for even longer, I feel adequately qualified to offer some heartfelt advice to any of you who may be anticipating adding additional seating, of the offspring type, to your holiday tables in years to come. Of course, this only applies if you intend to preserve your family’s dietary history.

This caution is prefaced on the understanding that your menu is determined by the issue of your own bloodline, and not by those they may bring to the table. However, in my family, the following “tastes or preferences” are totally disregarded ... though sometimes not openly: my former husband informed me, prior to our marriage, he would eat no food flavored with garlic, a stipulation later shared by a former son-in-law; my sister’s husband refused to eat any dish in which onions were a key ingredient, and one brother has the same stipulation with regard to celery. In the instance of certified, life-threatening

allergies, these concerns would have been respected.

However, try cooking Italian, making a bowl of potato salad or Thanksgiving dressing within those constraints. Needless to say, none of their “demands” were ever respected and they have all eaten at my table for years, never knowing the difference. It’s amazing what you can get away with when you are catering to rather unsophisticated palates and have a blender at your disposal.

Thus the aforementioned advice, “MOTHERS, DON’T LET YOUR DAUGHTERS GROW UP TO BE VEGANS!” Vegans, as I am sure you know, always inform the uninitiated, they will eat no foods produced by anything “with a face.” When you eliminate meat, fish, poultry, dairy and fungus in the form of mushrooms from your possible ingredient list, traditional holiday meals become major issues.

Of course, everyone at the table can be served the expected Thanksgiving turkey while you throw veggie, soy burgers on the grill for the vegans. However, these trouble makers do like dressing and gravy. The dressing in my house has always had the turkey giblets as a major component, and both the dressing and the gravy base include the pan drippings from the roasted turkey. Thus you are compelled to mix two batches of dressing, but one begins with cooking the vegetables in a vegetarian broth and giblets are added to the other. That goes ditto for the gravy; two batches, one starting with vegetarian broth, one with pan drippings. Forget desserts; just toss an apple to each of the vegans.

Any suggestions for Christmas dinners, where pasta e fagioli and ravioli are the mainstays, would be appreciated beyond measure.

Barbara Kleinhans

Right to Life

The Huntington County Right to Life will commemorate the 36th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion on demand with a January Memorial Ad. For a minimum donation of \$1.00 per name, individuals may help sponsor this ad. The ad will read: “We the following citizens of the Huntington County area oppose abortion-on-demand, and pledge our efforts to the restoration of the right to life to all pre-born children.” See Rosalie Walter if you would like to participate.

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To set one's mind on divine things leads us to consider the one vow we should take seriously for the New Year. Your will, Lord. Your will and nothing else."

In light of this article I believe I'll resolve to yield more often to God's will. I hope you will resolve the same!

Shalom,
Pastor Kathy

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Outlook magazines to assist members in acquiring their reading points.

Pastor Kathy Newton was in charge of the program, "O Come Let Us Adore Him." Pastor Kathy thanked the group for the service pin she had received on Sunday, November 30. Those assisting Kathy with the program were readers Mabel Fields, June Shideler, Carolyn Winters, Treva Holt, Helen Campbell, and Joyce Shepherd.

As the program progressed, the figures were added to the stable, the shepherds, the wise men, Joseph, Mary, and last, but not least, the Christ Child in the manger. What if the stable had remained empty? There would be no reason for the season, would there? Thank you, God, for filling the stable.

Myrna led in the singing of several Christmas carols. We joined in a choral reading.

Our next meeting will be March 5, 2009. Treva Holt will be giving the Mission Moment, and Carolyn Winters will lead the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial.

Santa ... in the flesh!

The snow crunched under my boots as I walked to a home at midnight on Christmas Eve to play "Santa" for the children of one of our church families. Snow was falling straight down, creating a "Silent Night" atmosphere and the street lights illuminated the red and black and white of my full Santa outfit as well as the pack on my back.

Coming to an intersection, I noticed a pick-up truck sitting under the street light and discerned quickly that it was a mother and her 1-2 year old daughter. The mother was watching me, and when I made eye contact she smiled broadly. It was clear to me that we both knew I had a job to do: introduce her child to Santa Claus . . . in the flesh!

So, I walked up and spoke to the child (after a hearty "Ho, Ho, Ho"). She was sitting in a car seat with her arms dangling over the safety bar. Her eyes were as wide as saucers, her mouth open in disbelief (or belief), and her body was totally limp. I told her of the magic of the evening and closed with the usual: "I am here to leave your gifts, but you have to go home and go to sleep first." She nodded her head weakly in affirmation. (She had never taken her eyes off me and she had never moved a finger as if she couldn't believe what she was seeing and hearing.)

So I wished her a "Merry Christmas" and looked at her mother, who gave me a voiceless "thank you," and with a look in her eye that even she was so relieved to have seen "Santa" as well. (I imagine she had been taking her daughter for a ride in order to get her to go to sleep in the first place.)

I walked a few steps, turned, and waved one last time. The little girl was still watching me and finally raised an arm in a limp wave of goodbye.

She had truly seen Santa Claus on Christmas night!

(This is a true story. And that is why I will never, ever forget it.)

Ed Clark

Solid Rock to host coffee house at Heritage Pointe

Solid Rock will host a coffee house on January 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Recreation Room at Heritage Pointe. Can you play the harmonica, perform illusions, juggle, sing, do a comedy routine, take part in a skit? Whatever your talent, you are invited to join the fun! This could be your ticket to fame! Those wishing to perform should contact Lana Myers, Jo Keller, or Tamara Spahr.

All are invited to enjoy this evening of unique entertainment. A light supper will be served.

Death requested

Thank you, Lord, for the New Year and all of the prospects it offers. I pretty well know what you wish for the world, but what do you have in mind for me?

All right, I get it. I need to stop making excuses. I'm good at it, am I not? I'm at least as good as Moses when he tried to get out of going to Egypt to lead his people to the Promised Land. I have dodged serv-

ing the homeless or teaching a class at the church. And yes, I have claimed I was too busy to really study the Bible or too old to work with the youth or too strapped to be more generous in my giving.

I could go on but you know full well that I'm in spiritual trouble. I need to get right with you.

To do so, I have to ask a favor. I want to ask you for death. No, not the death of me, but the death of my excuses. When I tell you I can't do what you want me to do, then give me a guilty conscience and make me restless until I repent and recant of my excuses. May all of my excuses perish permanently so that I am totally surrendered to you. In Christ's name. Amen.

—Charles Ferrell

What are the grown-ups doing?

A Sunday school teacher was teaching a group of youngsters about the Israelites in the Old Testament. She kept referring to the Jews as the "children of Israel."

A little girl interrupted her, wanting permission to ask a question.

"Certainly," the teacher responded.

"Well," the child said, "you keep talking about the children of Israel. The children of Israel crossed the Red Sea. The children of Israel built the temple. The children of Israel did this and did that. Didn't the grown-ups ever do anything?"

Questions: What are we grown-ups doing to show that we are faithful children of God today? What is our mission? What is our calling? What does the Lord require of us to prove that we are God's loving and serving children today?



A New Year wish

May the New Year bring us:
Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
Enough trials to keep us strong;
Enough hope to keep us lively;
Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;
Enough failure to keep us humble;
Enough success to keep us eager;
Enough friends to give us comfort;
Enough wealth to meet our needs;
Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
Enough faith to overcome despair;
And enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.

Solid Rock Coffee House

January 4

6:00 p.m.

Heritage
Pointe

Light supper provided

Come and enjoy!



A Prayer for the New Year

Take me into a new year, Gracious God. Help me to continue looking for meaning, seeking peace, praying for light, dancing for joy, working for justice, and singing your praise. I go into the new year filled with expectations, a touch of worry, and a bundle of hope. I do not journey into the new year alone but with you as my guide, with a commitment to my disciplines, with a community of family, friends, and faith. Take me into the new year, Creator of beauty and wonder. Bless me with the companionship of Jesus, and gift me with the guidance and power of the Spirit. Amen.



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