

News From The Rock

July 2011

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Administrative Council accepts bequest

Meeting on June 21, the Solid Rock Administrative Council accepted a bequest from the Maro Wall estate. The gift, in the amount of \$186,000, was designated by Council as follows: 10% to missions, 5% to the trustees, 10% to the General Fund, and the remainder (65-75%) to the Building Fund. (It is unclear at this point if a tithe of this bequest will be due to the Conference.)

Approximately \$30,000 has accumulated in an undesignated memorial fund. The Memorial and Bequest Committee recommended, and Council approved, the designation of these funds for furnishing of the new building.

The Building/Site Committee reported that the architect has sent detailed plans that have been forwarded to the Conference for approval. The committee is optimistic that construction can begin by the end of the year.

David Spahr informed the council that Mike Tribolet is organizing area U.M. churches to help build a house in coordination with Henderson Settlement.

Due to a lack of volunteers to coordinate its construction, there will be no church float in this year's Festival parade. The church will be distributing bottled water along the parade route.

Youth Fellowship

UMYF will be attending the Fort Wayne TinCaps game, with post-game fireworks, on Friday, July 8. Youth



who would like to attend will need to be at the church at 5:30 and bring money to purchase food at the game.

Please let Jeff Walter know if you will be attending by July 3.

July 6 we will be volunteering at the Warren Food Pantry. Kids should meet at the food pantry at 6.

UMYF is mowing the church yard this summer. Thank you to Tom, Grant, Walker, and Wyatt C. for their help!

Upcoming Events:

July 6, Volunteer Night at the Food Pantry, 6:00-7:30

July 8, Tincaps Games

July 10, Meeting, 4:00-5:30 at the church

July 17, Pizza after church, East of Chicago

August 7, Meeting, 4:00-5:30 at the church

August 14, Pizza after church, East of Chicago

Card Sale

To celebrate our one-year anniversary, the Card Ministry is having a sale! All cards will be 3 for a dollar during the month of July.

It's a great time to pick up all your greeting card needs for the summer. Mix or match, there is a great selection.



United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women of Solid Rock Church held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the Calico Room of Heritage Pointe. Myrna Neff, President, opened the meeting with a reading from her *Women's Devotional Bible* entitled "Even This." Yes, even women's ordinary tasks can lead to thoughts and thanks to God! Everyone shared the U.M.W. Purpose, and appreciated Myrna's report of U.M. workers' June birthdays in many current mission areas, as noted in the annual Prayer Calendar.

Members present shared both current joys and concerns; prayer was offered by

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United
Methodist
Women

Just Leaning
on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



As I prayed about writing this article the Holy Spirit reminded me of a song by Phillips, Craig and Dean titled *Freedom's Never Free*. After humming this song for a number of days I decided to write to all of

"We must remember that we are FOREVER in His debt"

you concerning this song. We celebrate the Fourth of July with firecrackers, picnics and parades, but what exactly are we celebrating?

My understanding is that we celebrate our "freedom." We could have long detailed conversations about what "freedom" really means, but I prefer to share the story from the song.

The first verse talks about "white crosses" that "line a field" and how each cross bears a story. Stories that involve young men who chose to give their lives for ours. The author goes on to say these young men will not be forgotten as he will "dedicate" his life "to the glory of the ones who had to die."

I'm sure by now you're asking yourself what this has to do with Solid Rock. The last verse is what has to do with Solid Rock and how we live our faith. There was another hillside where a cross was raised. Where Jesus "drank our cup of guilt and took the sting from death." We must remember that we are FOREVER in His debt. We must "dedicate" our lives "to the glory of the One who had to die." Remember freedom is NEVER free! Happy 4th of July.

Shalom,
Pastor Kathy

Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?

-Thomas Jefferson

Thanks

Dear Solid Rock UM Church Family,
Thank you so much for all your love, thoughts and prayers during the last several years. I really enjoyed participating in Kids Klub and Youth Group when I was younger. Thank you for the book that was presented in honor of graduation from high school. I plan to attend Manchester College and major in Art and minor in Spanish.

Blessings,
Rachel Decker

New Lenses

*Praying desperately for a full term baby...
Counting the days before you can escape
danger whistling past your ear...
Offering to help an ailing parent who resents
your help...
Agonizing over how to resolve conflicts in*

News From The Rock

is published each month by

Solid Rock United Methodist Church

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Warren, Indiana 46792

www.solidrockumc.com

Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

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News deadline for the August
newsletter: July 24

your church...

*Begging God for relief at your spouse's bed-
side...*

*Reminding your discouraged heart to look
to the unseen...*

*Searching the scriptures in search of an
encouraging word ...*

We all have crises where our expecta-
tions topple. Still, we reach for hope. We
call out to God in desperation. And we pray
for a good resolution.

A conflicted board meeting, tense oper-
ating room, slow grocery line, difficult con-
versation – all may be uncomfortable places
where God offers us new lenses.

While we can't always understand God's
ways in those times, experience discovers

that God is trustworthy. Care-
ful study and meditation in
the scriptures give us new
glasses -- and confidence

in God's good-
ness. Expe-
rience

secures the
glasses while

we hold on to hope
that only God can give.

In our desert, we learn our

Deliverer is trustworthy.

Just as God walked the Israelites from
Egypt to the Promised Land, so our Deliv-
erer walks us through pain and dashed ex-
pectations to a new geography replete with
good provisions. Our precious Savior loves
us and can work things together for good
when we ask.

Journeying through the extremes of
my desert, I rehearse God's previous inter-
ventions. I'd encountered Christ's presence
and was given new lenses to see my Deliv-
erer making a way to accomplish His good
promises.

My Lord will do it again. I just need to
keep my glasses on, and hold tightly to His
hand.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

*I will lead the blind by ways they have
not known, along unfamiliar paths I will
guide them; I will turn the darkness into light
before them and make the rough places
smooth. These are the things I will do; I will
not forsake them (Isaiah 42:16, NIV).*

*Recall a dark time when you encoun-
tered God's light. Spend 30 seconds in
praise and thanksgiving for God's guidance,
transformation, and presence.*

- Paula Gast

on paula-beingtransformed.blogspot.com

May Offerings

General Offerings \$16,850
Building Fund Contributions \$6,947

Thank you!

Dear Solid Rock Scholarship Committee,
Thank you for your generosity in
awarding me with the Solid Rock Scholar-
ship. The scholarship will be a tremendous
help in furthering my education.

Thank you,
Colin McIntire

Hymn Story: "The Solid Rock"

Edward Mote was born into poverty on
January 21, 1797, in London. His parents,
innkeepers, wouldn't allow a Bible in their
house, but somehow Edward heard the
gospel as a teenager and came to Christ.
He eventually became a skilled carpenter
and the owner of his own cabinet shop.

"One morning," he recalled, "it came into
my mind as I went to labor to write a hymn
on the "Gracious Experience of a Christian."
As I went up to Holborn I had the chorus:
*On Christ the solid Rock I stand/All other
ground is sinking sand.* In the day I had four
verses complete, and wrote them off.

"On the Sabbath following, I met brother
King...who informed me that his wife was
very ill, and asked me to call and see her. I
had an early tea and called afterwards. He
said that it was his usual custom to sing a
hymn, read a portion, and engage in prayer
before he went to meeting. He looked for
his hymnbook but could not find it any-
where. I said, 'I have some verses in my
pocket; if he liked, we would sing them.' We
did, and his wife enjoyed them so much that
after the service he asked me, as a favor, to
leave a copy of them for his wife.

"I went home, and by the fireside com-
posed the last two verses, wrote the whole
off, and took them to sister King.... As
these verses so met the dying woman's
case, my attention to them the more ar-
rested, and I had a thousand printed for
distribution."

In 1852, Edward, 55, gave up his car-
pentry to pastor the Baptist Church in Hor-
sham, Sussex, where he ministered 21
years. He resigned in 1873, in failing health,
saying, "I think I am going to heaven; yes, I
am nearing port. The truths I have been
preaching, I am now living upon and they'll
do very well to die upon. Ah! The precious
blood." He passed away at age 77.

Here's an interesting verse from Mote's
original that is omitted from most hymnals
today:

*I trust His righteous character, His council,
promise, and His power;
His honor and His Name's at stake To save
me from the burning lake;
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand, All other
ground is sinking sand.*

(Continued from page 1)

Myrna for all, in the absence of Carolyn Winters, Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Matters of business were taken care of, and future U.M.W. events were discussed. Especially noted was the next meeting on July 7, which will be another "Guest Day," with Deb Johnson of the U.M. Northeast District as leader of a study on the Holocaust.

Before the study June 2, Mick McNany shared a very entertaining "Mission Moment" entitled "An Apron Full of Memories"—thoughtful and meaningful memories of the author, many familiar to us, also.

Martha Plummer presented a program, reporting on the many serious problems still troubling recovery in Haiti, since the terrible earthquake in that country. Can you imagine eating "dirt cookies," composed of actual dirt, with a little addition of sugar and perhaps flavoring? Babies are being delivered 80% at home, and 50% with no assistance. Education is often completely unavailable. Help with food and shelter is still needed, and prayer is certainly still needed. The program concluded with a litany of prayer which Martha had prepared for members to share together, thanking God for leaders in Haiti and for wisdom to provide for the children's needs for clean water, bread, health care, and education.

Write it down

A fun-filled, five-day weekend in the sunny southwest ... or at least as far in the southwest as you can be if you are standing on the highest elevation in Missouri. That was not a part of the plan, which originally was to spend the days relaxing, and planning a dinner party in celebration of the daughter whose birth precipitated the onset of reading subsequent Mother's Day cards. (Truly do not understand the phenomenon that allows her to be fifty-three years old, when, at this moment, I am only as old as I have ever been.)

Back to Taum Sauk, aforementioned high point, at 1,700 feet. One morning, aforementioned daughter announced it was our destination for the day, since she is well aware of my "Bucket List." Delightful day ensued, except that the driver (daughter) was not aware the map reader (mother) needs a visual stimulus, not the verbal printout from Map Quest without the accompanying picture. The extra twenty-five miles heading SW was exceeded by the forty-two miles returning NE.

Birthday dinner two evenings later in-

cluded my nieces and nephews, children and spouses of Mary Lou, my late sister-in-law. As usual when extended families are fortunate enough to spend time together eating and laughing and, of course, more eating and laughing, reminiscences abound. What a blessing!

Since "birthday" was the theme for the evening, age was also a topic. And that generated the moment ANYONE who has ever had children has experienced. A very thoughtful comment from a toddler or preschooler has had each one of us saying, "I've got to write that down, or I'll never remember it." Latest gem: Nephew Bruce and his wife, Roberta (Bert) shared this conversation with their older granddaughter:

Maddie: "How old are you, Poppa?"

Bruce: "Oh, I am older than dirt."

Maddie, with great indignation, or even high dudgeon: "Poppa, HER NAME IS BERT!"

Figure if they don't record it for posterity, I have taken care of doing it for them and you are all obligated to remind them now, should your paths cross.

Barbara Kleinhans

Thank You

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I would like to thank you (and the church body) for your continued support of my education. The assistance you have offered to me is much appreciated, and I do not feel that I have the words to portray my gratitude. So, thank you for your support and prayers.

Emma Sabinske

First Things

When I was a kid growing up, I knew a man who loomed bigger than life to me. His name for Edwin E. Bailey, and he ran the astronomical observatory at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. I would go to the Franklin Institute most Saturdays just to spend time with him. His encyclopedic mind fascinated me. He seemed to know something about everything.

I was friends with Ed Bailey right up until he died several years ago. When he was in the hospital, after a serious stroke, I went to visit him. In an effort to make small talk, I told about all the places I had been to speak and how I had come to his bedside right from the airport.

He heard me out and then said with a slightly sarcastic manner, "You go all over the world to people who, ten years from now, won't remember your name. But you

haven't left time for the people who really care about you.

That simple sentence hit me hard and changed my life. I have decided not to let my time be used up by people to whom I make no difference, while I neglect those for whom I am irreplaceable.

A friend of mine recently got a call from the White House asking him to consult with the President of the United States. He said no because it was to be on a day he had promised to spend with his granddaughter at the seashore. The nation survived without him, the President didn't miss him, and his granddaughter had some precious time with her "Pop-Pop." First things ought to be put first.

- Tony Campolo

Mustard ice cream

Jonathan Acuff, author of *Stuff Christians Like* (Zondervan), remembers watching a child accidentally squirt mustard on an ice cream sundae at Chuck E. Cheese. When an employee tried to hand the embarrassed boy a new bowl, he insisted he was okay and just began stirring the mustard into his ice cream.

Acuff says he's put a lot worse than mustard in his proverbial sundae. "For most of my adult life, I thought that being a Christian just meant stirring harder," he writes. But no amount of effort on our part can make us good enough. "I finally saw how broken my bowl really was and realized that I could not fix me with me," Acuff says. That's when he realized Jesus came for the sick.

"Let's quit trying to be enough," Acuff urges Christians. "Let's stop trying so hard. Let's be sick. Let's be loved."



Out of the mouths of ... toys?

As my 6-year-old son played, I overheard his conversation. "I'm Zurg," he made a toy proclaim. "I used to be evil, but then I got stuck in some goo, and Buzz Lightyear saved me. So I decided to be good now."

Although I didn't want to interrupt my son's play, sometime I'll draw the faith connection for him. By dying on the cross, Jesus saved us from the "goo" of sin. And that should prompt a change in our hearts and behavior.

Sometimes imagination reveals truth, and the least likely objects become instruments of the Holy Spirit.

—Heidi Mann

Avoiding temptation 101

A mom and her young son were walking through a mall when she suggested they go into a toy store to buy a birthday gift for the boy's friend.

"No, Mommy, I can't go in there," he protested. "I'll see something I want and can't have. Then I'll cry. So it's just better if I don't go in."

Temptation wasn't yet in this boy's vocabulary, but he sure knew what it was. More impressively, he knew what to do about it.

Follow the boy's example: Don't put yourself into vulnerable positions in the first place. For "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41b, NRSV).

Be a disciple

A girl returning home from Sunday school expressed disappointment with the class's reaction after the day's lesson.

"We were taught to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations," she said, "but we just sat!"

—Source unknown

Come, let's shout praises to GOD, raise the roof for the
Rock who saved us!

Let's march into his presence singing
praises, lifting the rafters with our hymns!

And why? Because GOD is the best,
High King over all the gods.

In one hand he holds deep caves
and caverns, in the other hand
grasps the high mountains.

He made Ocean—he owns it!

His hands sculpted Earth!

So come, let us worship: bow

before him, on your knees before God, who made us!



Psalm 95:1-6, *The Message*



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