

News From The Rock

July 2015

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Youth Fellowship

At our June UMYF meeting we talked about “our stories.” We discovered three important points: 1. Jesus changes our story, 2. Jesus changes our view of others, and 3. Jesus uses our stories to change others. We read 2 Corinthians, Chapter 5, with a focus on verse 18. How is God using your story—your experiences and life lessons—to impact others?



We are looking forward to several fun activities this summer. Next month we will have a swimming/cookout party at Robby’s house on July 26th. We will also be going to a TinCaps game on July 30th. We would love to have some of our church family go to the game with us, so let Marie or Michelle know if you are interested in going. Also, remember that Rock on the Block is coming up on August 2nd. Listen for news about this event on Sunday mornings. This event is for all ages in the church and community—so plan on coming for a picnic, games, children’s activities, and outdoor worship!

Upcoming Events

- **July 26:** Swimming/Cookout after church at Robby’s
- **July 30:** TinCaps Game
- **August 2:** Rock on the Block after church
- **August 16:** Canoeing

Fruitful Congregation update

The Solid Rock Fruitful Congregation Journey continues, although temporarily slowed during the transition between pastors. The Safe Sanctuaries workshop on June 14 was the fifth of a total of 24 sessions during which the process will be carried out. Some steps accomplished to date:

- Rev. David Schramm led a service of

Prayer and Forgiveness on January 11, 2015.

- A Values/Vision Team was named.
- A values workshop took place on March 8, and identified core values that were presented to the congregation on April 17. They have been posted on the website and will be made available in print.
- A Safe Sanctuaries workshop on June 14 provided training for persons in supervisory roles in the church.
- Mindy Rider will chair the Discipleship Pathway Team.



Next steps:

- Coach Pastor Heather Olson-Bunnell will meet with new pastor, Paul Burris, to bring him up to date on the process.
- A vision workshop will take place after the arrival of Pastor Paul, probably in September.
- The Leadership Development Process is on hold until fall so that Pastor Paul can assist in development.
- The Discipleship Pathway Team will begin work in the fall.

SOS

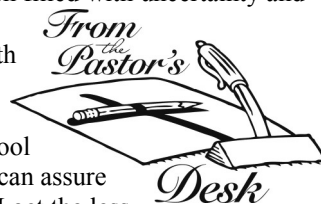
The Solid Rock SOS met on June 11, 2015. Meeting highlights:

- A devotion on how to live your life was given by Cindy Boxell. Key verse discussed was 2 Corinthians 5:17. The unconditional love of God changes the hearts of people.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- Joys and concerns were shared.
- A lesson on the greatest commandments

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From Pastor Paul

For the past couple of months Lisa and I have been packing boxes for our move to Warren. Sitting on my living room couch staring at empty bookcases I am reminded that life is often filled with uncertainty and change. This will be my 16th move since I graduated from high school in 1977 and I can assure you the older I get the less appealing it is to start all over again. I believe that it is part of human nature to be set in our ways and resist change at all cost. However I have come to understand that God desires us to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit and accept new challenges as a way to strengthen our relationship with Christ and each other. Change requires us to put our faith and trust in something, or someone, more powerful than ourselves.



Although we are saddened to have to leave our old friends, Lisa and I are excited and looking forward to being a part of your church family. We know that God has big plans for us at Solid Rock. The key is for us to keep our eyes focused on the future and remain open to the new challenges that lay ahead.

My first Sunday at Solid Rock will be July 19th. I am both humbled and honored that God chose this particular time for us to be in ministry together. Lisa and I ask for your prayers as this new chapter opens in the life of Solid Rock UMC. Take care and God bless. See you on the 19th!

Pastor Paul and Lisa

The more we pray, the more we shall want to pray. The more we pray, the more we can pray. The more we pray, the more we shall pray. He who prays little will pray less, but he who prays much will pray more. And he who prays more will desire to pray more abundantly.

- C.H. Spurgeon

United Methodist Women

The women of Solid Rock United Methodist Church met Thursday, June 4, in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe. Barbara Hart, President, gave a devotional entitled "Raised in Mission" by Inelda Gonzalez, and the mission focus was on the Neighborhood House in Delaware where they work with youth and families. She also stated that June 4 was the birthday of Amanda Howe, who is a community worker in Ohio.

The United Methodist Women's Purpose was recited by all those present.

Carolyn Winters asked for joys and concerns, and there were many that were mentioned. Carolyn then gave an interesting mission report. Her grandson will be



United
Methodist
Women

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Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00
Worship at 10:00
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Church Phone: 375-3871

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Office Phone: 375-3873
Hours: 9 a.m. to Noon

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News deadline for the August
newsletter: July 19

going to China June 10 through July 1. He will teach English and share the Good News of Christ.

Roll call was taken with nine members present. The secretary's report was read and approved.

Barbara Hart then gave the treasurer's report. It showed a balance of \$618.28. It was decided to have our account through the church.

Under new business, it was reported that the UMW had received an Honor Unit Certificate. It was passed around for everyone to see.

The lesson was given by Martha Plummer and was entitled "Welcoming a Sustainable Future." It included actions for stewardship of God's creation.

The meeting closed with the song "For the Beauty of the Earth" and a closed prayer.

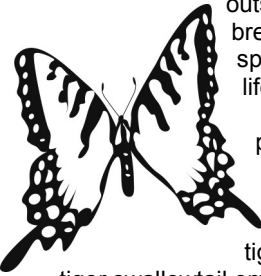
Respectfully submitted,
Martha Plummer

May Financial Update

General Offerings \$14,917
General Fund Expenses \$6,167

Sign of life

In summer 2003, I received news that my 95-year-old grandmother, a faithful follower of Jesus, had died. Right afterward, my husband and I took our two young girls outside to catch our breath—only to find a special symbol of new life waiting for us.



On the porch railing sat a strange-looking, wriggling lump. Upon closer investigation, we saw a tiger swallowtail emerging from its cocoon—body still plump and wings still wet. Before the huge butterfly tried out its wings and flew away, we had a few moments to take photos of it with our daughters.

We still marvel at the timing. We had named our baby after Grandma, but they hadn't yet met. A stunning creature, sent just when we needed it, reminded us that "baby Carrie" would meet Grandma Carrie someday in heaven, where we'll all be made new.

—Stephanie Martin

Mighty to save

Dr. Kent Brantly, a U.S. medical missionary who contracted the Ebola virus last

summer in Liberia, credits a "mighty God" — and lots of prayers — for his survival. After recovering from the disease, Brantly returned to the North Carolina headquarters of Samaritan's Purse, the group he'd been working with in Africa.

He spoke about Deuteronomy 6, saying it's important to remind others of God's acts. "I will never grow tired of talking of this," Brantly said. "I'm going to keep telling my story so I can remember what God has done in my life."

Then Brantly offered this challenge: "Never think you're just a normal person. If you're pursuing God's calling in your life, he will use you. Even if it's a challenging calling, even if you find yourself in difficult circumstances, he will give you what you need to be faithful to him, even if it's a whole army of people praying for you. Share your story over and over and over so you can remember we serve a mighty God."

A God-created super star

"God made ... the greater light to rule the day ..." (Genesis 1:16, NRSV). The first biblical description of Creation reveals that God made the sun — a truly amazing body of light.

At the sun's center (where the temperature reaches 15 million degrees!), every second, 600 million tons of hydrogen fuse into 596 million tons of helium. The 4 million "missing" tons become sunshine, making life on earth possible. The sun's magnetic field (which reverses direction every 11 years) and the resulting sunspots and solar flares impact the earth in ways most of us rarely think about.

Writes Dennis Overbye in the New York Times: "In all of recorded history, as far as scientists have been able to tell, the sun's output has varied by only a tenth of a percent." If the sun were more volatile, like many stars, earth would either burn up or freeze at regular intervals.

As you spend time outside this summer, give thanks for this bright marvel that God designed.

• "Life is like a ten-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use."

— Charles M. Schulz

• "Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

— Henry James

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that were given by Jesus was given by Pamela Hensley.

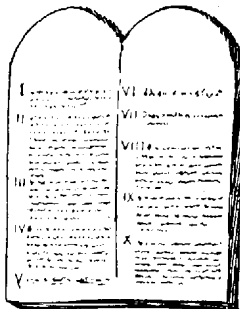
- A love offering was collected to be given to church members dealing with an illness to help with expenses. An offering was also collected for food pantry quarterly feminine product donation.
- Old Business
 - Bank change to PNC is in process.
 - Women of Faith farewell tour: If you want to attend let Tamara Spahr know.
 - SSF: Upcoming festival was discussed. Members signed up to help work food stand.
 - Youth "Rock on the Block" event is planned for August 2. We will discuss further after graduations and after the festival.
- New Business
 - We will discuss sharing a food booth at Montpelier Jamboree if asked by McNatt UMC.
- Committee report: Committee was thanked for throwing Mariah's baby shower.
- Many cards were received and sent by the Corresponding Secretary.
- Prayer partners were assigned, and the meeting was adjourned with prayer and a sung benediction.
- Attendance: 22
- Next meeting: July 9 at Jessica Barry's house with Shannon Rogers as co-hostess and Shannon Rogers giving the lesson.

Ten Commandments for Welcoming a New Pastor

- I. Thou shalt not compare the old Pastor and the new Pastor, for the Lord thy God has made each person unique and wishes you to appreciate each original creation.
- II. Thou shalt not expect everything to stay the same when the new Pastor arrives. Nor shalt thou resist change, nor assume that change is bad, but thou shalt trust that the Lord thy God isn't finished with your church yet and is bringing change for your good and the good of your mission.
- III. Thou shalt not make graven images of thine old grudges, nor shalt thou keep stale disappointments in the temple of thine heart, but thou shalt forgive and move on in the grace of the Lord thy

God, for how can thou ask God for mercy unless thou give mercy from thine heart?

- IV. Thou shalt not commit gossip, nor shalt thou fearfully complain, nor shalt thou listen to those who do, but instead thou shalt entreat them to adjust their attitudes and lighten up, for everything shall be alright, and in fact, shall turn out very well indeed – better than you can even imagine.



- V. Thou shalt not commit nostalgia or say that the old days were better, for in so doing thou shalt make thy judgment come true. Be assured that the Lord thy God is not falling asleep at the wheel, but will be with thee and surprise thee with abundant blessings, more than thou canst contain or count.
- VI. Thou shalt not factionalize nor create "us-them" divisions, but thou shalt unify with thy brothers and sisters even when they annoy or confuse you.
- VII. Thou shalt not come to the new pastor with your demands, pressure, complaints, bad reports, manipulations, threats, agendas, unsolicited advice, or snide comments. But thou shalt say, "Welcome! How can we help you? We love you! We would like to increase our giving significantly. We're praying for you and your family. Welcome to our community! We baked you some cookies!" And each week, thou shalt do so again and again until the new pastor begs you to stop.
- VIII. Thou shalt increase thy giving, and not withhold thy tithe, but invest thy money and thine heart in the future of thy community of faith and mission.
- IX. Thou shalt not come to thine old and former pastor with anything but praise for the new pastor, but thou mayest bring thy concerns to God in humble prayer, and if thou must, thou may also share concerns with the duly appointed leaders of the church.
- X. Most important, thou shalt trust God, and stay connected to God, and draw strength from God, staying deeply rooted in the message of God's grace. For God is good, and God will never leave you nor forsake you. You can count on that for sure!

- Brian McLaren

Freedom under God

Our status of dominion [over creation] derives from God's delegated authority. We do not exist as autonomous persons at liberty to do as we please. Our privilege of dominion does not mean freedom from God; it means freedom under God.

Our commission to be subrulers under God carries with it enormous responsibilities. ... He intends for us to rise above the rest of the created order and to participate rationally and responsibly in his divine purposes.

- Kenneth Cain Kinghorn,
Christ Can Make You Fully Human

On vocation? Use GPS!

Many vacationers rely on a global positioning system to get them easily to a destination. But in every season of life, God sends us on vocation — following his call to both feed our passions and serve others. Our "calling," Frederick Buechner said, is "where [our] deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

But is there a GPS for vocation? It's not as detailed or predictive as we'd like. It doesn't name our destination at the outset, and it offers general instructions rather than specific directions. And we may end up "recalculating" our life route more often than our vehicle GPS recalculates our vacation route.

Even so, we travel in safety. This "GPS" might stand for God's Peace and Strength, or Gospel Promises Sustain, God Provides Salvation or Go! Proclaim! Serve! The GPS guiding our vocation speaks to us through Scripture, worship, trusted Christian friends, life events and the silence of our heart. Listening, we hear our Guide's calm voice and continue on vocation.

- Heidi Mann

Marked by God

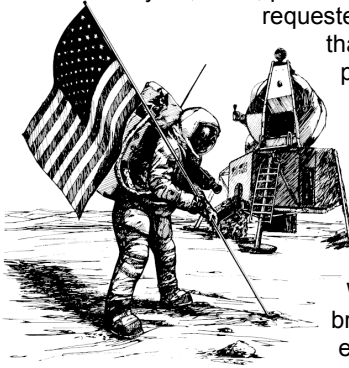
A pastor who recently traveled to Russia observed a curious sight on the roads. In their back windows, certain cars displayed a large card bearing only an exclamation point. After inquiring, he discovered that new drivers in that country are required to keep those signs up for seven years. What an incentive to stay on the "straight and narrow" as one undertakes the responsibility of driving!

The exclamation points made the pastor wonder: How are we "marked" when we enter into a relationship with Jesus? As we travel through life, what evidence indicates that we're faithfully following him? How are we exclaiming our joy at being forgiven and redeemed?



Communing with God

After Apollo 11 landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, pilot Buzz Aldrin requested via radio



that people pause to give thanks for the achievement in their own way.

When his broadcast ended, Aldrin read a verse

from the Gospel of John and took communion, which his church had sent to space with him.

“It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements,” the astronaut said. “At the time, I could think of no better way to acknowledge the enormity of the Apollo 11 experience than by giving thanks to God.”

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved, that no prosperity, no adversity shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble and a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life.



- Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471)



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