



News From The Rock

July 2017

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Meet Jane

Solid Rock welcomes Jane Hitzfield as our new Office Manager/Treasurer.

Hello Solid Rock Family:

Just a little bit about myself. I was born in Huntington County and attended Jefferson School. I lived with my family of six on a dairy farm directly across from the school and adjacent to the Jefferson Center Methodist Church. In 1969 my dad retired from farming and he (Clyde), my mom (Helen) and I moved to Zanesville, Indiana. I then finished my eighth grade year at Ossian Elementary and went on to graduate from Norwell High School.



I lived 10½ years in Dixon, Missouri, where I was blessed with three children, Zachery (37), Katie (36) and Dana (32). Zach lives south of Markle (in construction, with wife Erin, a teacher at Summit Middle School) and three children: Kylee (9), Nolan (5) and Miles (4). Katie lives in Columbus, Ohio (stay at home mom) with husband Isaac Cogar (in construction) and three children: Jaydon (5), Sophia (3) and Solomon (3 months). Dana (stay at home mom) lives in Ft. Wayne with Erik Falcon (in construction) and two children: Eden (5) and Brantley (3).

My hobbies include anything to do with family, sports, water, traveling and being with great friends.

I currently reside in Ossian, Indiana, and am truly excited to work with Pastor Paul, the congregation, and the Warren commu-

(Continued on page 3)

Concession Stand

The concession stand is a wonderful outreach opportunity and a way for our church to show that we care about our community. It provides a chance to meet people in their everyday lives, a chance to encourage, a chance to witness. The stand provides quality food at very reasonable prices. The outreach goes way beyond the food service, however. With the monies made, we have made an impact on the community by giving to the Food Pantry, WAMA (to enable programs such as “The Way”), and the Bargain Basement, in addition to helping fund mortgage payments, scholarships, and children’s education for our church. It appears to be a “pay it forward” opportunity. For example, the “relations room” at the Food Pantry has created an atmosphere of caring and friendship among the patrons, and they are giving back and helping others in return.



As many of you who have worked in the concession stand know, the building needs to be replaced. The Concession Stand Committee has designed a new building, but the cost of the new construction and update on equipment and appliances required is beyond the monies available for the project. The new site will be handicap accessible and low maintenance. There may be money available through the Town Council and Park Board, but again, we are short of our goal.

May Financial Update

General Offerings.....	\$14,268
General Fund Expenses.....	\$17,057
Mortgage Balance	\$71,333



from
Pastor Paul

Building Bridges

There once was a carpenter who visited one of two brothers who had recently grown embittered with each other over a misunderstanding over the farm they had managed together for the past 40 years. The carpenter was in need of work, or so he said, and he asked the one brother if there was anything he might do to help him out.

“Yes,” said the older brother. “I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That’s my neighbor. In fact, it’s my younger brother! Last week there was a meadow between us. He recently took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I’ll do him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence, an 8-foot fence—so I won’t need to see his place or his face anymore.”



The carpenter said, “I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I’ll be able to do a job that pleases you.”

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day—measuring, sawing and nailing.

(Continued on page 3)

Our Vision: Sharing and experiencing the life-giving message of Jesus, to restore wholeness and build an intentional community of hope, relationship, and purpose for everyone.

Missionary Update

This is not an easy email to write. Many of you have heard Jade and I discussing the health of our son Ezra over the past couple of years related to his epilepsy. During our time here in the States we have been consulting with Riley Children's Hospital to assess the problem and identify a plan. We have been working with a neurologist at Riley to find a medication that would reduce Ezra's seizures as much as possible. We've recently been told that after trying four medications, our chance of success in this route is below 5%. As a result, Riley has recommended brain surgery. The word "brain surgery" has been a difficult concept for our family to deal with. Although we don't have all the answers, Jade and I felt the time has come to



share what we know so far.

Ezra's left temporal lobe is the area causing his seizures. This week we have been at Riley for a 3-day EEG to help them further identify the area causing his seizures. We found out that Ezra is constantly having seizures that we cannot see. He has them all day long and even in his sleep. We only see the outward manifestation of his

seizures 1-2 times a week. The results of that EEG show that Ezra will have a 85% chance of being seizure free with brain surgery. On August 2nd, after a few more tests, Ezra will undergo a procedure called a 'temporal lobectomy'. During this procedure Dr. Smith

will remove about 5cm of his temporal lobe. Ezra will be in the hospital for a couple days after the surgery but should then be allowed to return home. Following the surgery, Ezra will need 4-6 weeks to completely heal before the neurosurgeon will clear him to travel. Both Ezra's neurologists and his surgeon are incredibly supportive of us moving back to Uganda. We are thankful for such a quality experience with these doctors so far.

As you may have noticed, the scheduling of these procedures and recovery time will impact our previous schedule in returning to Uganda. We were planning to leave July 19th but the plan must change. We are moving our departure date to the end of September.

Right now our lives feel chaotic but even in the shifting and fluctuating we recognize that there are important truths that remain. First, God isn't nervous about any of this. Please pray that our family will lean in together to the faithful love of God as He cares for us in this time. Second, we're still called to Uganda. When the plan gets changed our whole family, including Ezra, felt that nothing had changed in our call to Uganda. The calendar might look different but the call does not. Third, we aren't alone. So many have expressed love and support in ways that we truly appreciate. Your friendships and prayer are a huge boost to us all. Thank you for your encouragement and support!

With Love,
Nathan, Jade, Maddix,
Sophie, Ezra and Ruby
Metz

New study in "Kitchen Class"

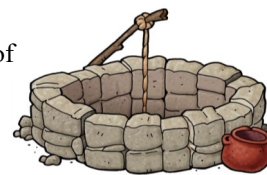
Coming soon in the church kitchen, Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.: *Balancing Life's Demands: Biblical Priorities for a Busy Life* by Chip Ingram.

Are you busy, tired, stressed out, and stretched to the limit? Does life seem a little out of control? Are you running long on "to do's" and short on time? If so, join us in this series. You'll learn how to put "first things first" and find peace in the midst of pressure and adversity. No clichés or quick fixes, just practical biblical insights to help you order your personal world.



Getting Refreshed at the Well

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 4, we read the account of a woman who came to her



town well to get water and in turn received the "water of life." Amazing things happen when we encounter God through the study of scripture, individually and as a group. If you have not tried this experience, you are invited to join with others who are seeking to have their life changed through meeting the Master. You do not have to be in attendance each Monday evening for this life-changing to take place. The gathering spot is the kitchen of Solid Rock Church, and the time is at 7:00 p.m. each Monday evening. If you want to prepare in advance, the schedule is as follows:

- July 3: Matthew 1:29-42 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- July 10: Luke 7:36-50 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- July 17: Luke 8:1-15 (Joe Haney, leader)
- July 24: Luke 10:30-37 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- July 31: Luke 5:27-39 (Perry Spahr, leader)

The kitchen is cool and the water is life-giving! Come meet with us!

News From The Rock

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Solid Rock United Methodist Church

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Warren, Indiana 46792

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Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

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Office Phone: 375-3873

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News deadline for the August newsletter: July 23

(Continued from Pastor Paul, page 1)

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There wasn't a fence there at all. The carpenter had fashioned a bridge... a bridge that stretched from one side of the creek to the other, handrails and all! And the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming toward them, hand outstretched, meeting them in the middle, "You are quite a fellow, you know, to build this bridge after all I've said and done." Then, hoisting his toolbox onto his shoulder, the carpenter departed. "I'd love to stay, but I have many more bridges to build."

That's just like the carpenter, isn't it—that is the carpenter from Nazareth, our Lord Jesus Christ, who would tear down the dividing walls of hostility, not just between us and God, but between us and others too? It's just like our Lord who bridged the gap of sin with His cross, and gifted us with His love that we might love one another more like Him.

See You Sunday,
Pastor Paul

(Continued from Jane, page 1)

nity at Solid Rock Church. My whole adult life has been in an office surrounding from Inside Sales to Office Administrator. I know I have big shoes to fill (three sets of them actually) and pray for patience from all while I fully comprehend the knowledge these shoes fulfilled.

As I have mentioned to a few people in our congregation, I feel as if I have come full circle since childhood memories in Jefferson Township, from attending church occasionally and Bible school every summer at Jefferson Methodist to now being a part of the family at Solid Rock.

While serving and assisting, I do look forward to becoming more acquainted with each of you in the process.

Jane (Janie) Hitzfield

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe on June 1, 2017. Barbara Hart, President, welcomed everyone and gave a devotional entitled "Who We Are As United Methodist Women." The purpose of our group was recited by all.

The Mission Focus was the Neighbor Center in Utica, New York. The birthday for June 1 is Hye Yun Hong Seo, serving in

Mongolia as a missionary with the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.



Joy and concerns were taken by Bernie Garrett who offered prayer for those mentioned. Helen Campbell expressed thanks for the kindnesses she received from the group. Mick McNany

gave the mission moment themed around lilacs and June.

Roll call was taken and the Secretary's report given by Martha Plummer. Barbara gave the Treasurer's report. The United Methodist Church's Annual Conference is in Indianapolis June 8 - 10. The UMW Mission will be held at DePauw University, July 18 - July 21. Registration is due by July 1.

A very interesting program, "Mothers in Action," was given by Vi Heinen. She opened with prayer and read scripture from Exodus. The article she shared stressed the importance of women teaming up to help others as they are inspired by God assuring that every child and every mother should have a chance for a healthy life.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Food Pantry Needs

- Canned Spaghetti
- Snack Pack Pudding
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Popcorn
- Juice Packs
- Snack Crackers
- Chicken Noodle Soup



Also needed: plastic bags, books and magazines (6 months through adult)

Please leave your items in the wooden boxes in the narthex.



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SOS

The **April 2017** SOS Meeting was held at Teresa's home with Teresa as hostess, Allison as co-hostess, and Mariah gave the lesson. Devotions were led by Shannon.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read by Mariah. The Corresponding Secretary's report was given by Lana.

Old Business: dessert of the month fulfilled, catering an anniversary party in May, and the times the booth will be open during the Salomonie Summer Festival. We also talked about float ideas for the SSF parade.

New Business: discussed what SOS is going to sponsor at the Salomonie Summer Festival and how we can support the Pulse Opera House's competition. Seasonal Committee planned a group activity to go to the Pulse Opera House to watch the competition practice at 7:30 p.m. on April 26th.

The lesson was given by Mariah. She talked about Autism Awareness Month, what she does, and how the community perceives differences in children on the autism spectrum.

Joys and concerns were shared. Shannon offered prayer. A love offering was given, prayer partners were designated, benediction was sung, and the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be May 11th at 7:30pm at Allison's house.

The **May 2017** SOS Meeting was held at Allison's home with Allison as hostess, Martina as co-hostess and Susan gave the lesson. Devotions were led by Shannon.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read by Mariah. The Corresponding Secretary's report was given by Lana.

Old Business: times for catering an anniversary party in May were set-up, and the sign-up sheet for the booth for the Salomonie Summer Festival was passed around. Signage on the trailer is finished. Each member is to bring two pounds of candy for the Haystack for Salomonie Summer Festival. There was no new business.

The lesson was given by Susan. She talked about heaven and near death experiences.

Joys and concerns were shared. Shannon offered prayer. A love offering was given, prayer partners were designated, the benediction was sung and the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be June 8th at 7:30 p.m. at Lana's house.

Ministry Opportunities

In preparation for upcoming Lay Leadership Committee (nominations) meetings, you will find attached to this newsletter a copy of Ministry Opportunities. Please prayerfully consider the areas in which you may be called to serve and complete the form accordingly.

To answer any questions you may have about these events, ministries, and roles, leaders in the various areas will be available after worship on July 9 and 16. Please return your completed form not later than August 6.

Administrative Council

The Solid Rock Administrative Council met June 20. Rosalie reported that the mortgage is now down to \$71,333.26. A new computer and new presentation software have been purchased to improve projection.

A security light on the north side of the church has no wiring. Also, the women's restroom door needs some repairs. The concrete has been poured for the cross outside and it will be set soon. It was reported that we will need a new janitor. Anyone interested should contact Dave Spahr.

The design for the new parsonage kitchen has been completed but put on hold for now due to lack of funds.

Marie reported that five young people were at church camp that week.

There will be a church float this year and it will be worked on at Heritage Pointe.

S.O.S. will have a hay stack, a float, and a food trailer at the Salamonie Summer Festival this year.

Retirement

As you read your newsletter, I have retired from the church office after 38 years. I started June 13, 1979, and the first pastors I worked with were Milt Gould and Chip Gast. Altogether I have worked with 13 pastors, including Steve Laue, Steve Haiflich, Homer Lynch, Charles Ternet, Linda Jo Powers, Kathie Jones, Randy Rider, Kathy Newton, and Pastor Paul. At the Warren church, I worked with Jim Farrar and Dewey Miller.

There have been many changes over the years, a manual typewriter, electric, and then the computer. Printers changed from crank type to electric (if something got

caught, it just kept running until you shut it off!), and now the printer in the office will print from your computer.

I started in the Warren Church office, and it was the Huntington County South Parish, which included Jefferson Center, Majenica, Mt. Etna, and Warren. Majenica closed in 1991, and Warren went on their own that year.

Jefferson Center and Mt. Etna became the Mt. Etna-Jefferson Center Charge. The office was moved to the Mt. Etna parsonage, and I also worked at the Warren office for a couple of years. I was at one office

two days a week and the other office three days.

In 1994, Mt. Etna went on their own and my office moved to Jefferson Center. In 2008, Jefferson Center and Warren joined to become Solid Rock. The church office was moved to the Warren parsonage for awhile, then relocated to the office by the railroad tracks, and finally, in September 2013, to the new office at Solid Rock.

I don't know what my future holds, but I do know I don't like to travel. Thanks to everyone who ever did anything in the office for me.

Norma Smith

Puzzle!

Read the Old Testament book of Ruth, which is a great love story. Then search for the words below, which are all from that book.

B A W O N N I W S L S Z D R V
D E B O T B A O M H X Q A I R
X W T Q Y R L M C X G G V O P
N A A H A R V E S T E B I Z B
P O V M L S L A D N A S D N B
O G V N Z E R F I R I L S B F
N A N O M U H V L M M K S E J
L G O I M D L E O C F G H I J
C L L L H L Y A M B H L O Y A
E E H I F S N A E T F R B O D
S A A K F B E G U G P W E P S
N N M W X E V R R A A R M M J
E I G D J U D A H J E E W S G
A N X P E M Z I S T W K V H O
W G L H V I Z N U C I T V H K

Barley, Bethlehem, Boaz, David, Elimelech, Gleaning, Grain, Harvest, Jesse, Judah, Killion, Kinsman, Mahlon, Mara, Moab, Naomi, Obed, Orpah, Ruth, Sandals, Threshing, Vinegar, Winnow

“Those who are generous are blessed.”
— Proverbs 22:9a (NRSV)

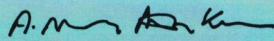
Together, We Do More

THANK YOU

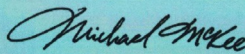
For Giving Faithfully 100%
To The Tithe Covenant In 2016

*Bishop Julius C Trimble
Indiana Annual Conference*

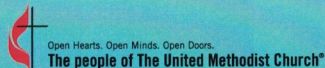
Solid Rock United Methodist Church



A. Moses Rathan Kumar
General Secretary and Treasurer
General Council on Finance and Administration



Bishop Michael McKee
President, General Council on
Finance and Administration



608742

Independence Day lessons for church life

- **Return to the basics** — On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.
- **Honor the gift of freedom** — “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- **Enjoy community** — July 4 is known

for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.

- **Be light in the darkness** — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word dynamite and the Greek word for power — as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others.



—Heidi Mann

You’ll never miss it

Frustrated that income never covered expenses, a longtime church treasurer resigned. Another member, who owned the town’s grain elevator, volunteered to take over with one stipulation: He wouldn’t submit a report for the first year.

The puzzled board members agreed because they knew he was an honest man. After all, they trusted him to process their grain.

By year’s end, the new treasurer gave a glowing report. The church’s building debt had been erased. Staff salaries had increased 15 percent. And the budget showed a healthy balance.

When the shocked but delighted congregation asked for an explanation, the treasurer said, “Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. When I paid you, I simply withheld 10 percent on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You never missed it!”

Imagine what we could do for God if we willingly returned the first tenth of his gifts back to him.

The holy space of love

An ancient story is told of two brothers who shared grain fields and a mill and, at day’s end, equally divided the results of their labor. But the unmarried farmer felt that his brother, with a family to support, should have a greater share. So each night, under cover of darkness, he added some of his grain to his brother’s.

Meanwhile, the married brother was concerned that his single brother would have no children to care for him in his old age. So each night he, too, added to his brother’s granary.

One night, the selfless brothers ran into each other. Grasping what was going on, they laughed and embraced. Rabbinic legend holds that on that spot — where love was freely shared — God decided his Temple should be built. Wherever people act in sacrificial love, the space between them is holy.

Doing faith

Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you’re going, but going anyway. A journey without maps. [As theologian] Paul Tillich said ... doubt isn’t the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.

—Frederick Buechner

WAMA Worship Service
July 2 at 5:30 p.m.
Downtown Stage



Praise and
Worship

featuring praise teams from
Solid Rock United Methodist
Church
Warren Church of Christ

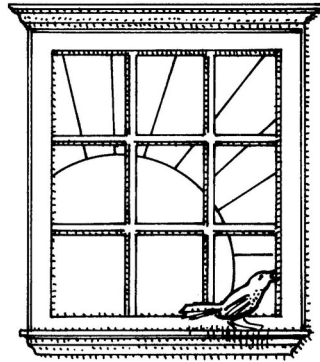
and specials from
Few Good Men

Plum Tree United Church of Christ
Warren United Church of Christ
Warren First Baptist Church

Jim Barron

Professional Magician/
Clean Comedian
at 6:00 p.m.

O you most holy and ever-loving God, we
thank you once more for the quiet rest of
the night that has gone by,



for the new promise that
has come with this fresh
morning, and for the hope
of this day. While we have
slept, the world in which
we live has swept on, and
we have rested under the

shadow of your love. May we trust you
this day for all the needs of the body, the
soul, and the spirit. Give us this day our
daily bread. Amen.

—Robert Collyer (nineteenth century)

