



# News From The Rock

June 2009

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

## Administrative Council

The Solid Rock Administrative Council met on May 19 at the Warren site. Treasurer Myrna Neff reported March income of \$20,193.62 and expenditures of \$12,384.51. Income for April was \$18,822.14, with expenditures of \$18,509.06. Cash balance as of April 30 was \$25,324.64.

Trustees reported that sales of both the Jefferson Center church and the Jefferson Center parsonage are pending. June 5 has been set as the closing date on the church property. It is being purchased by New Hope Church in Huntington and will continue to be used as a church.

The trustees are in the process of doing necessary renovations to the Warren parsonage. Pastor Kathy Newton will move to the Warren parsonage, with the front of the home continuing to serve as the church office. The move is scheduled to take place the week of June 1.

Jeff Walter reported on plans for Celebration of Ministry Sunday on May 31 at Jefferson Center. This will be the final service to be held at the Jefferson Center site. Beginning on June 7, all services will take place at the Warren site.

The Capital Funds Team reported that phone surveys have been conducted by Church Growth Services. Based on input received through these interviews and feedback provided on Vision Sunday, a congregational survey has been prepared. This confidential survey will take place on June 7. Church Growth Services will then prepare a recommendation regarding the timing of a capital funds campaign.

The Building/Site Committee is scheduled to meet May 26. They will be reviewing comments generated on Vision Sunday.

The S.O.S. group reported that approximately 100 women participated in the "Day Away" on May 16.

The next meeting of Administrative Council is set for June 23. All meetings will now take place at the Warren site.

## Pastor Kathy to be ordained June 28

*Editor's note: Pastor Kathy was asked to explain what ordination entails. She graciously submitted this article.*

Just what is ordination? Well to some it might not be a big deal, but to this pastor it is a REALLY big deal. Nine years ago in August, I went to License to Preach School. I then could preach, teach, administer the sacraments, marry, and eulogize for my congregation. Once ordained I will be permitted to do this for anyone. I am also allowed to vote on decisions at Annual Conference. Who knows what other responsibilities will be expected of the ordained elder with the reorganization of our Conference.

In order to be ordained I needed to go to seminary and attain my Masters of Divinity and then tender papers to the Board of Ordained Ministry answering John Wesley's questions from the United Methodist Discipline. Each year asked something a little different of me. One year it was a Bible Study, the next a context visit (they came to see where I work), and yet another year there was a sermon due. The Board then read the papers, interviewed me and made suggestions. This relationship with the Board has occurred year after year for three years.

This coming June 28, at Emens Auditorium on Ball State Campus, the process will come to fruition. The Bishop will lay his hands on me and pray over me and command me to "Take thou authority." For this pastor it has been a long and costly journey, but God has been faithful every step of the way. I pray that you will come and celebrate with me at Annual Conference this year.

Kathy



Just Leaning  
on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



This newsletter carries for me, and probably a good many of you, a real mixed bag of emotion. I arrived at Jefferson Center

**"I ... thank God that all of Warren is talking about the courage, bravery and faith of two Methodist congregations coming together to further the Kingdom"**

some three years ago following a wonderful pastor and wondering how I could ever care for all of you as well as Kathie Jones did. I still don't know that I have gotten the job done, but what I do know is

that I have found a family I never want to let go of.

Paul wrote to the Romans in Romans 1:8: "First, I thank God in the name of Jesus Christ for all of you. I do this because people everywhere in the world are talking about your faith." As we celebrate the wonderful ministry that has been done as Jefferson Center, I also thank God that all of Warren is talking about the courage, bravery and faith of two Methodist congregations coming together to further the Kingdom. Lord, please bless these folks with Your wisdom, guidance and peace as we celebrate what You have done through them. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.

Shalom,  
Kathy

The Bible Study at the home of Doris and John Souers is taking a break for the summer, hoping to have several fun fellowship outings during that time. We had some excellent studies and great fellowship together, with seven to fourteen in attendance. Watch for the invitation in the August newsletter announcing when we will be commencing in September.



🔗 **Lauren Keller** was chosen volunteer of the year at Purdue University by Students Helping Others Through Service at their recent end-of-the-year banquet. Lauren spent several hours weekly doing volunteer work in addition to her normal schedule as a pre-med student and a Resident Assistant at Harrison Hall.

🔗 **I want to thank** the youth for their participation in the service on Mother's Day. I enjoyed it very much. They were so enthusiastic and charming as well. Thanks also for the potted flowers. Mine are in a sunny spot on my window sill and are doing well. Not knowing what will bloom is very exciting. Thank you all so very much. You all are a very important part of our church, this new

### News From The Rock

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[www.solidrockumc.com](http://www.solidrockumc.com)

**June 2009 Worship Schedule**  
Sunday School at 9:00  
Worship at 10:00  
at **Warren**

Office: 375-3873  
Jefferson Center: 375-2997  
Warren: 375-3871 or 375-3872  
Parsonage: 375-3686

Pastor: Rev. Kathy Newton  
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[gary@solidrockumc.com](mailto:gary@solidrockumc.com)

News deadline for the July newsletter:  
June 21

Solid Rock UMC.

I appreciated this past Sunday's Prayer Warriors sharing their experience in praying. It was very moving to hear how our Lord listened and answered their prayers. It was also a very pleasant revelation that we were all being prayed for by this group of ladies. Thanks ladies, ever so much.

Linda K. Howell

🔗 **Don and Marjorie Pearson** attended their granddaughter Sarina Winterrowd's graduation, where she graduated magna cum laude in Professional Chemistry from the University of Evansville.

🔗 **Carolyn Winters** and family gathered at her daughter's home in Festus, MO with grandson Kienan DeLaney on April 26 to share with him at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis for the celebration of the sacrament of confirmation, a greater commitment to Jesus Christ and His church and the discernment of the life and vocation to which God is calling him. The weather was 85 degrees, a very beautiful day.

🔗 **Carolyn Winters** enjoyed a beautiful evening with daughter Michelle and granddaughters Selena and Staci on May 15 at the Van Buren United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. We shared a delicious salad supper and heard an inspiring message by Nancy Rosinski.

🔗 **A lot of hard work**, time, and prayer dedicated to God preceded the "Women's Day Away" on May 16, led by Paula Gast at the Warren Church. The S.O.S. ladies led with singing of praise songs. What a celebration in music! There was lots of delicious food and extending God's love in fellowship. Paula's theme was "How can I ask God to bless me when the world is such a mess?" God will help us remain true to our faith through whatever difficult times we must face. We may have to endure trials, but our souls cannot be harmed if we have accepted Christ's gift of salvation. The world goes in one direction, but the followers of Christ go the other way, marching to the drumbeat of heaven against the flood of evil. That's the reason it is so important to pray daily.

- Submitted by Carolyn Winters

## UMYF News

On June 19, the UMYF will be going to the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. We will meet at 9:00 at the Warren site. Bring a sack lunch. Please let Barb or Marie know if you plan on going! We may need some adults to drive, so if you would be willing to help, please let us know.

June 25 is our service project at the Riverside Veterinary Clinic. We are also planning our trip to the Reservoir sometime in July. Look for updates in the newsletter!

Senior High Camp: Our kids are going the week of July 19. If you will be in grades 9-12 next year and are interested in going to camp that week, let Pastor Kathy know ASAP!

Anyone have a canoe? The kids would like to go canoeing on the Salamonie River next fall, but we are in need of some canoes and a few adults to help lead them for an afternoon trip.

Some changes: We are glad that Randy Neff will now also be helping Barb and Marie to lead UMYF! We are thankful for his willingness to answer God's call to help with the youth program.

Fall planning has started! Kids, look for our kick-off meeting in August!

Remember, UMYF is for all youth in grades 5-12. Everyone is welcome—and bring a friend!

Thanks!

Marie and Barb

## May 31 service marks final chapter in 82-year Jefferson Center history

The merger of the Jefferson Center and Warren United Methodist churches to form Solid Rock brings together two long and rich histories of ministry to the Warren community. The Jefferson Center facility has now been sold, and the service on May 31 will be the last worship celebrated there by the congregation.

The founding of Jefferson Center in 1927 was itself the result of a merger. There were two Methodist Episcopal churches in Jefferson Township in the early 1920s, one at Pleasant Plain, two miles west of Jefferson Center, and one at Otterbein, two miles south of Jefferson Center. Both churches were struggling with declining enrollments and finances. In the

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early months of 1926, plans for merging the congregations began to take shape.

The site of the old Center School seemed an appropriate location for the new church building. Initial thoughts were to move the Otterbein church and demolish the Pleasant Plain church, but plans for a new building using lumber salvaged from the old buildings prevailed. Benjamin Beaver of Majenica was awarded the contract to erect the building. The new building was completed by the end of the year.

What is today considered a modest structure was, at the time of its building, a state-of-the-art rural church. The *Warren Tribune* stated that "when the building is finished and the old school house torn away the Jefferson Center congregation is going to have one of the most attractive homes to be found in Huntington County." The Van Buren newspaper noted that "the new church is to be modern in every respect, being electric lighted and have classrooms, kitchen, dining room, etc." The building was dedicated on January 9, 1927.

*Additional historical information may be viewed at [www.solidrockumc.com](http://www.solidrockumc.com). Copies of the 75th anniversary history book are also available.*

## United Methodist Women

The Solid Rock United Methodist Women met May 7 in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe. Myrna Neff thanked Ann for making arrangements. The topic for her devotions was Mother's Day.

The prayer calendar and birthdays were announced. Carolyn Winters led in prayer. Roll call was answered by 15 members and one guest, Rosalie Walter. She showed and told the group about many of the reading point books. Approximately a dozen books are available to us.

Mick McNany shared the Mission Moment, telling about Kathie and Harold Jones' trip to the Holy Land.

Pastor Kathy spoke about the hate crime bill that is before the house, senate, and president. Our studies have recently been on social justice in connection.

Myrna thanked those who helped with



United  
Methodist  
Women

the District Spring Meeting on April 18. Solid Rock hosted the event, which was held at Heritage Pointe.

Upcoming events include: Day Apart with Paula Gast, May 16; District Officers Planning Session, June 20; UMW Annual Conference, June 15; Kathie Newton to be ordained, June 28; Drive-in Day at School of Missions, July 8; Christian School of Missions, July 8-11; Mini-School of Missions, August 22; Bazaar, October 10; Next UMW meeting, June 4.

Our program of the day was given by Freddie Couch about a mission trip experience she and Bill had taken with the High Street United Methodist Church of Muncie, Washington, D.C. was the destination to help the homeless.

## School's out

The end of another school year. It has always been a guilty secret that teachers look forward to summer vacation every bit as much as students do. Even though by the end of summer, I am anxiously anticipating getting back into the structure and routine of the school year, June is a time for looking toward weeks of no routine, no back-to-back thirty minute therapy periods, no meetings, no paperwork and most of all, no federally mandated regulations, the only objective of which appear to be to interfere with the process of education rather than to foster it. But that is the fodder for another soapbox rant at another time.

My joy in school is to be able to spend time in a world as seen through the eyes of children. Every day brings new insights into the very literal and concrete ways they interpret everything happening in the school environment. Much of the fascination is that I continue to be surprised even after so many, many, many years, sometimes not even in a good way. One year, working in a school exclusively for severely, multiply impaired elementary children, I was talking with a 10 year old who was confined to a wheelchair. He had played a particularly mean trick on a classmate who had been blind since birth. I asked how he could justify doing that to someone who was actually his friend. He assured me it was not really a bad thing to do, "since David can walk."

This year has been particularly difficult for students. While there have been some fun moments, there have been times when the thoughts shared and the expressions of fear and apprehension have been heart-wrenching. I cannot think of a time when

the state of the nation and anxiety over the future have been so prevalent in the everyday life of so many children.

They share information about one or both parents losing jobs, fear about losing or having already lost their houses, imminent divorces, having to move in with grandparents or other relatives, having to move to new schools wherever possible jobs might be available and the inability to do things that their parents used to be able to afford. One first grade teacher told me of three children in her class who had essentially been "abandoned" by their parents, leaving them with other caregivers, while seeking jobs elsewhere.

A bomb threat in the high school, which ultimately proved to be a hoax, resulted in the schools being in lockdown for two days. Rumors multiplied, scaring parents and students alike, and while the precautions taken were necessary, many children were terrified and had difficulty returning to school. Additionally, the threat of flu, with daily reminders about coughing into their elbows, hand-washing and use of sanitizer repeatedly in every classroom compounded the stress.

A fitting way to close this school year would be to echo the prayer of Tim Cratchit, in Charles Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL. "God, Bless Us Everyone."  
- Barbara Kleinhans

## Men's Fellowship

The Solid Rock Men's Fellowship met on May 9, 2009, in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe. The meeting was opened in prayer by Gary Walter. Breakfast was served by Kim's Katered Affair to 18 men.

Marion Bell provided devotions. The first was based on the 2 Corinthians passage which describes the price Paul paid to be a follower of Jesus, and we were challenged to reflect on the price of being a disciple. The second related the call of Isaiah and his response, "Here am I, send me." Are we ready and willing when called?

Steve Holmes reported that 94 individuals were served at the East of Chicago fundraiser on April 21, and that \$444 was raised for use in local mission projects.

Marion Bell closed the meeting in prayer. The next meeting will be June 14.



Men's Fellowship

## Kids' Club finishes spring session

We have just finished our "Cruisin' in My Father's Car" Kids' Club program. We've had a great time learning about the Bible, the trinity, creation, repentance, fellowship, heaven, and much more. We've had an average of about 20 kids in attendance each week, with 37 different kids attending in all. The kids enjoyed Bible lessons, crafts, games, snacks, songs, and weekly visits from the car hop and Officer Fife.

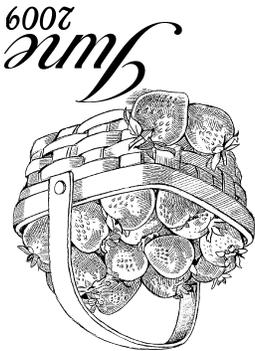
Thank you to all of those who helped to make this spring session a success: Pastor Kathy, Becky Arnett, Brenda Conner (car hop), Barbara Hart, Mary Ann Holmes, Linda Howell, Linda K. Howell, Jo Keller, Susan Mills, Barb Preston, Brandi Richardson, Randy Richardson, Lisa Sabinske, Vicki Sieberns, Rosalie Walter, and Michelle Woody.

*And thanks to Julie Schwartz for directing this program!*

## Prayer for Fathers

Heavenly Father, through your love and guidance, help me be a caring and devoted father. Give me patience to listen with sincerity and wisdom to answer with truth. Help me not to insult that which is important to my child. Grant us opportunities Lord for quality time. Help me always point to you. Let me teach courage in adversity and to learn from my child's simple faith. Cause occasion to demonstrate respect for the elderly and those in authority. Give me the inspiration to forewarn my child of the world's evils and empty promises. Thank you Lord for the mother of my child. Through our love may we guide our child to a loving mate someday. Help me be a good example to other fathers. May my entire family spend eternity with you through the gift of Your Son Jesus Christ.

Amen



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