



News From The Rock

March 2010

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Easter flowers

Once again, our sanctuary will be adorned with spring flowers on Easter Sunday. Flower orders are now being taken. They may be given in honor or in memory of someone. Prices are: tulips, \$13; hyacinths, \$13; daffodils, \$13; Easter lilies, \$14. Please submit your order to Norma Smith by March 21.



Tentative construction start: 2012

The vote to decide the projected start for construction of our new building was completed on February 7. A total of 83 votes were tallied:

- Construction to start 2010: **8**
- Construction to start 2011: **22**
- Construction to start 2012: **51**

There were two write-in votes: one for a 2013 start and one for "Take your time and do it right."

Thank you to all who participated in the vote. The next step will be for the Building and Site Committee to meet with the architect to begin preliminary plans. We will continue to keep you informed as things progress. Please continue to pray for the process and all those involved.

Camp work day planned

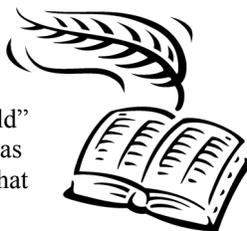
We are planning a work day at Camp Lakewood, near Kendallville, on Saturday, May 22. The focus will be on grounds work (pulling weeds, mulching, preparing the beach, clearing trails, opening up and cleaning cabins). If you are interested in helping, contact Rosalie Walter (375-3789). More mission opportunities are being investigated for other dates.

Scholarships available

Solid Rock offers scholarships to encourage our students to go to college and to provide moral support for these students. Applications are available from Rosalie Walter, scholarship committee chairman. At least one of the following criteria must be met: Member of Solid Rock United Methodist Church for at least one year or a dependent of a member or regular attendee and supporter of the church. Deadline for return of application is April 15.

Lenten Study Series

The Lenten Study Series, "Finding Peace in a Troubled World" by Max Lucado, has been extended so that more time can be given to each topic. Sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings. Here is the revised schedule:



- February 21**, Session 1, "Don't Just Do Something—Stand There," Dave Spahr
- February 28**, Session 2, "Hucksters and Hypocrites," Perry Spahr
- March 7**, Session 3, "Uncluttered Christianity," Jeff Walter
- March 14**, Session 4, "The End Will Come," Randy Hensley
- March 21**, Session 5, "The Sign of the Saved," Patty Hensley
- March 28**, Session 6, "When Your World Turns Against You," Dave Spahr
- April 11**, Session 7, "Christ's Most Painful Words," Linda McHowell
- April 18**, Session 8, "Never Give Up," Perry Spahr

January Offerings

January offerings totaled \$14,518. Building Fund income was \$10,768.

Just Leaning
on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



It's that time of year again...

Lent that is...and actually we've been in Lent now for two weeks. However this is a special time in the Christian year where we attempt to give some of our attention to the

"There are all kinds of opportunities where we as Christians can use this time to benefit someone besides ourselves"

sacrifice that Jesus has made for all of us. We think about the cross, the flogging, the crown of thorns, and we wonder what it must have been like to give one's life away in such a manner.

For some we wonder why He would do this, for others it is a heartfelt thankfulness that allows us to celebrate our Christian faith. We realize that without Jesus' life, mission and demonstration of God's love for us, the church would not be here. Christianity would not be here... But, since it is, this time has always become a challenge. As children we were taught that this was a time to give up our favorite food, candy, pizza, etc. As we grew older, a new concept of giving to someone who could not care for themselves was brought to our attention. Suggestions were made that one could fix a meal once a week for an elderly widow, clean the sidewalks for our neighbor, or take meals on wheels to someone in need. There are all kinds of opportunities where we as Christians can use this time to benefit someone besides ourselves.

The word "Lent," according to Webster, is an annual season of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and including the next forty weekdays before Easter, observed by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and other churches. Solid Rock is one of

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

those "other churches."

In the past, our society gave a lot of attention to Lent; now it has become a time that is just like the rest of the year, with very little difference. The question is what will we do for Lent this year? Will we give up our favorite food (chocolate), offer to cook a meal for someone in need, or will we take these 40 days as just another part of our lives and perhaps fail to give to God something that would express our love for His sacrifice?

I will be praying that God might show all of us something that between "He and me," so to speak, that all of us can do for Lent this year. Some thoughts that I had were these:

- Go to church each Sunday in Lent
- Attend a Sunday school class (there are friends in each one)
- Visit a nursing home
- Help at the Love INC
- Send cards of encouragement, thank you
- Help make someone's life a little easier.

Shalom,
Pastor Kathy

Youth ministry starts with 'YOU'

By Brian Durand

Associate Director of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries, Indiana Conference, United Methodist Church

What do you think is the number one factor in effective ministry to youth in the church? A great youth pastor? Strong Sunday School programs? Mission trips? A youth-friendly senior pastor? A large youth group? While all of these can be contributing factors, none are the most important.

The most important factor in effective ministry to youth in the local church is commitment to youth ministry by the entire congregation.

In 2003, the Exemplary Youth Ministry Project released the first report from an academic study that surveyed effective protestant youth ministries all over the United States. The study

looked at excellent youth ministries in all kinds of congregations—large membership and small membership; urban, rural and suburban; a single pastor to multiple staff members. All of these churches with great youth ministry had something in common—a total congregational commitment to youth ministry.

So many churches are looking for the key to strong youth ministry, so here it is: the key is relationships. Ultimately we know this, but somehow we've formed an idea that youth ministry is best done by someone who relates better to youth than us, or who is assigned to minister to the youth, or if we're lucky enough, is paid to work with our youth. Yet even the most extroverted of those assigned to youth ministry can't do youth ministry alone. They need you, meaning everyone from the pastor to the parent, from those who saw their children through to adulthood years ago to those who don't have children of their own, from those already involved in other church leadership to those not yet involved.

So here is the challenge to you. Find a young person in your midst and mentor them in the faith. Perhaps you have a grandchild or a niece or a nephew, but you've never really talked about faith. Perhaps you can mentor in a school or after-school program nearby. Perhaps you are a parent and could encourage faith conversations with your youth's best friend. Or, if



your circles don't have contact with young people, talk to whoever is working with youth at your church and see how you can get involved.

As United Methodists, we believe that all are called by God to be in ministry, and some are called to order and serve the church. Perhaps that can help us understand effective youth ministry. All are called by God to be in ministry with young people, and some, our youth workers and youth pastors, are called to order and serve those congregation-wide ministries to youth. Contact the youth leader in your church and find out how you can be part of the life-changing, Christ-centered and transformative relationships that are vital to our youth and young people today.

If you are interested in being part of a UMYF mentor ministry for Solid Rock, please contact Pastor Kathy, Marie DeWeese, or Jeff Walter.

Thanks for supporting pizza project

The Solid Rock UMYF thanks all who helped make pizza or purchased pizza on Super Bowl Sunday. Proceeds will go to UMCOR relief for Haiti and the Solid Rock Building Fund.

Card Ministry

Come join us in the fun of stamping and recycling cards for Solid Rock's new Card Ministry. We will be meeting on March 6 at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

King of kings

During Jesus' earthly life, colored cloth was very expensive. Only royalty and wealthy people could afford it. When Jesus

was arrested and sentenced to die, the soldiers set about humiliating him (see Mark 15:16-20, NRSV). They found a purple cloak — the color of royalty — and put it on him.

Then they placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. "Hail, King of the Jews!" they mockingly cried. The soldiers hit Jesus with a reed and spat on him. They taunted him and knelt before him, pretending to honor him.

Despite what he endured, our Lord did end up a King — King of kings and Lord of lords.



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Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

at 227 N. Main Street, Warren

Office: 375-3873

Church: 375-3871 or 375-3872

Parsonage: 375-3873

Pastor: Rev. Kathy Newton
pastorkathy@solidrockumc.com

Editor: Gary Walter
gary@solidrockumc.com

News deadline for the April newsletter:
March 21

How do I know myself?

The Greek philosopher and scientist, Thales', exhortation "Know Thyself" is of particular importance to us as Christians if we are to succeed in our goal of servanthood or ministry. We must have an awareness of the particular spiritual gifts we have been given to use in achieving those goals. How we distinguish the true gifts from what may be personal interests or particular talents we have developed is not always easy.

It is far less difficult to determine which are the specific weaknesses or obstacles we have to overcome. Sitting down and making a list of all the behaviors that get in the way of accomplishing our objectives is something we do many times in our lives, if we are at all introspective. For me, not having a deadline to meet is almost the kiss of death. If there is not a definite time limit in which to complete a task, it does NOT get done.

Those of you who are teachers know the self-talking we do: "I'll do that during winter break (or spring break, or over summer vacation)." When the time arrives, my self-indulgent excuse is, "I'm really stressed/tired/worn out and just need to relax for a few days. Will just read the latest Dean Koontz novel, or visit with...., or take a long week-end and" Without realizing it, the end of the break looms and the whine is, "There is definitely not enough time now to begin what ever had been put on a back burner." Sound familiar?

My behavior, when sitting down to write this monthly note to you, would be a fairly typical example. It might be a reasonable expectation that since the time frame is the same each month, the process should be an established habit. It isn't. Immediately after turning a column in, any thought of the next one does not enter my head until the church bulletin announces its due date. Panic! What to write? Sit down and scribble on a yellow legal pad until something starts to take shape. Put it aside for a day or two. Come back to it and start refining. Put it aside again. Later, more revisions, more deletions. Panic! Friday night, and still not satisfied. Utter panic!! As Gary will attest, it is usually forwarded to his computer on the Sunday morning it is due. Hurrah for deadlines!

Is there a lesson in this? I have been trying to discern that for the week this particular piece has been in progress. Is it an issue of organization, or will power or mo-

tivation? My most frequent rationalization at this point in my life is that anything, or nothing, is to be expected at my age. How then do I explain pulling those all-nighters in college—not studying for exams—but always when writing papers? Maybe the only explanation is a quote from an equally famous American philosopher, Popeye, when he asserted, "I yam what I yam and that's all what I yam."

Barbara Kleinhans

Men's Fellowship

The Solid Rock Men's Fellowship met on February 13, 2010, in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe, with 18 men in attendance. Gary Walter opened the meeting with prayer.



Men's Fellowship

Breakfast was served by Kim's Katered Affair.

Marion

Bell presented devotionals

based on Psalm 24:3-4, "Poetry of the Body," and 1 John 3:1-2, "What does it mean to be a child of God?"

Closing prayer was offered by Dave Spahr. The next meeting will be March 13.

Craft Day

On March 13, at 9:30 in the fellowship hall, we will be finishing ornaments and designing seasonal wreaths.



Linda K. Howell will be painting door hangers in April now instead of March. We do need to know how many will be attending on April 10 so we have enough supplies.

I want to welcome anyone who would like to come, and thanks to those who have come. We hope to see you on March 13!

Tamara Spahr

Regional Power Soccer Tournament at HNHS

Colin McIntire will be participating in the Division 1 Midwest Regional Power Soccer Tournament at Huntington North High School on March 27 and 28. It's a great opportunity to see Power Soccer.

Love Unity Feast

Love INC will host a Love Unity Feast on Sunday, March 7, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at 4-H Heritage Hall in Huntington.

Come join us for a delicious meal of homemade chicken and noodles or pork loin. This event is sponsored by partner churches of Love In the Name of Christ. What a bargain! For only \$7.00, adults will enjoy a complete meal including homemade desserts and beverages. Children under 10 years old pay only \$4.00. Take-outs are also available. Proceeds will help the outreach ministry of the churches through Love INC.

Would you like to reach out to those in our community who are struggling during this economic downturn? Here is a great opportunity to get involved as an individual or perhaps as a group. We are looking for people to do the following:

- Sponsor a portion of the meal through a donation
- Help cook the meal at various church locations
- Serve in the serving line
- Bake a variety of desserts
- Sell presale tickets within your church family and friends
- Set-up or tear-down

If you or your group would like to help out, please call the LOVE INC office at 356-0933.

One of LOVE INC's core values is that we highly value unity of the Body of Christ. What a great way to demonstrate this unity by working together with the Unity Feast crew to raise funds to reach out to our community. Thanks for showing this unity in Christ by helping make this event a big success!

Equal opportunity

When young Kelli said her prayers each night, she would bless every family member, every friend and every pet (current or past). Toward the end of her prayers, she'd say, "And all girls."

One night her father asked his daughter why she always ended that way.

"Because," she replied, "everybody else always finishes their prayers by saying, 'All men.'"



United Methodist Youth Fellowship

The Solid Rock UMYF has a new purpose statement:

Solid Rock UMYF

Inviting all young people
Building our faith
Caring for others
Worshiping our God
Connecting with other believers

Come to God's Party!

UMYF leaders are planning a mini-retreat for the youth this spring, probably in May or June. They would like to have a surprise traveling lock-in where they would visit different homes from our church for a couple hours to do a project, play games, do an outdoor activity, or eat a meal.



If anyone would like to be a part of this, we would love the help! We would probably have around 10-12 kids. We will finish up at the church for the night. Contact Marie or Jeff if you are interested in helping.

The UMYF now has a Facebook page. Check it out to see upcoming events, pictures, and ongoing discussions. A link to the page can be found on Solid Rock's web site (www.solidrockumc.com).

Upcoming events:

- March 7: "Using Our Spiritual Gifts," 4:00-5:30 at the church
- March 21: Meeting, 4:00-5:30 at the church
- April 4: Easter—No youth meeting
- April 11: Bowling
- April 18: Meeting, 4:00-5:30 at the church

The red-faced usher

When an elderly woman asked a church usher to seat her close to the pulpit, he tried to talk her out of it. "If you sit up front, you won't be able to sleep," he said.

The woman looked the usher square in the face and asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No, I don't," he responded.

"Well," she said firmly, "I'm the preacher's mother."

Fully embarrassed, the usher asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No," she answered.

"Good!" whispered the fellow. "Sit anywhere you want."

Getting acquainted

By Gina Canady

Can you identify these Solid Rock members? Answers on page 5.



A



B



C



D



E

1

Since school-age, he attended Jefferson starting around 1942 because his friends went to that church! His family attended the Baptist Church in Warren, but there was a lot of school rivalry from going to church in Warren since he went to Jefferson school, therefore he and his family switched to Jefferson!

She went to Jefferson with her first husband since 1959, and then met her current husband at church. Her hobbies are crosswords, jigsaw puzzles and embroidery. He enjoys mowing the yard in much anticipated, nice weather!

They both have lived in Huntington County their whole lives. She graduated from Warren High School and he graduated from Jefferson High School. (Notice the rival schools joined together in wedded bliss!)

Their favorite sports are basketball and softball. She played softball in high school. They like to go anywhere and really enjoy the Senior Tours trips! They have four children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Psalm 23 and "God Will Take Care of You" are her favorites, and John 3:16 and "The Old Rugged Cross" are his favorites. Their favorite part of church is the sermon and all music.

Her special church memory is her great aunt taking her to be baptized in a Presbyterian Church at the age of 10, and his special church memory is in the late 1940s going to the church revivals and the church would be packed to the max. He also enjoyed family dinners there!

2

She was born and raised in the WUM Church, and when he married her he joined too! Her hobbies are cooking and collecting bells and his are collecting toy tractors and tractor pulling. They have both lived here their whole lives.

He likes the Colts and the Bears and she likes the Colts. They love to go to Tennessee and have one child each and two granddaughters.

"The Old Rugged Cross" is her favorite hymn, and his is "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." children's sermon and carry-in dinners are their favorite parts of church. Reading out loud from the Bible was nerve-wracking during Sunday school as a child!

3

She attended Jefferson as a child, then married and they moved around quite a bit for 22 years. They then settled close to Warren and started attending Jefferson Church sometime around the 1960s. Her hobby is reading and his is being friendly to all!

She lived around here much of her life. When married they moved around, then have lived close to Warren for 45 years. They enjoy watching Purdue Basketball. Florida is their choice for get-away trips. They have three children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren

Their favorite scripture is Psalms 19:14, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, oh Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." Singing old hymns is their favorite part of church.

A mission Trip to Topeka, Kansas left a memorable impression. They helped build a classroom at an Indian reservation.

4

She was raised in Poneto and attended

(Continued on page 5)

the Poneto Church, where they were married! His family started attending Jefferson Church because his older brother wanted to go there—his friends all went there. (Is that another Jefferson-Warren rivalry?!)

They married at Poneto Church and attended there, then when they moved to Warren they switched to Jefferson Church. He enjoys golfing, bowling and watching any kind of games and she likes to play the piano, read and do puzzles! They both have lived close to Warren all their lives and have lived in Poneto and Warren for 51 years together.

His favorite teams are the Cubs, Bears, Colts and IU, and she just follows what ever team he is cheering on! They love going to Florida and California and want to go to Colorado and Hawaii...hint, hint kids!

They have five children and 12 grandchildren. Favorite parts of worship include plentiful offerings and singing all the music.

Her favorite memory of church is going to the altar to accept Christ into her life, and his was watching his Dad lead the music at their church.

5

She has attended her whole life and they were married at the Warren Methodist Church by Dewey Miller. Her husband then joined in attending.

Fishing, watching and cheering school basketball and tractor pulling are their hobbies. They have all lived in this area their whole lives.

The Colts, IU and school ball are their choice of sports. They like to visit Arizona, Florida and California. They have 1½ children!

“Amazing Grace” and the new praise songs are the favored music of this family. Singing the upbeat praise songs are their favorite part of church.

Childhood memory of a member in this family is making pizza with the youth group on Super Bowl Sunday.

Keep Your Fork

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things “in order,” she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she

wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. “There’s one more thing,” she said excitedly.

“What’s that?” came the pastor’s reply.

“This is very important,” the young woman continued. “I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.”

The pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. “That surprises you, doesn’t it?” the young woman asked.

“Well, to be honest, I’m puzzled by the request,” said the pastor.

The young woman explained. “My grandmother once told me this

story, and from there on out, I have always done so. I have also, always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement.

“In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, ‘Keep your fork.’ It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder ‘What’s with the fork?’ Then I want you to tell them: ‘Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.’”

The pastor’s eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman’s casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question “What’s with the fork?” And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right.



So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

Show your friends how much you care. Remember to always be there for them, even when you need them more. For you never know when it may be their time to “Keep your fork.” Cherish the time you have, and the memories you share ... being friends with someone is not an opportunity but a sweet responsibility.

- Roger William Thomas
in *A 3rd Serving of Chicken Soup for the Soul*

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Sometimes the grace of God penetrates into unlikely places. Edward Mote’s parents were hostile to religion, but while still a boy Edward became a Christian through the influence of a cabinetmaker to whom he was apprenticed. As a man, he became a skilled cabinetmaker with a successful business of his own.

Regardless of the claims of his business on his time, Mote always found time to worship God. He was especially interested in Christian music, and one day felt inspired on the way to work to write down a verse that came to his mind. Before the day was finished, he had completed four verses. His new hymn began with the words, “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.”

Not long thereafter, Mote visited a friend whose wife was ill. It was a Sunday, and the friend mentioned that he and his wife liked to observe Sunday by singing a hymn, reading a scripture, and having prayer together. Mote had a copy of his hymn in his pocket, so they sang it. The friend’s wife was so taken with the hymn that she requested a copy for herself. Encouraged by her interest, Mote had copies printed — and soon found himself the author of a beloved hymn.

At age 55, Mote responded to a call to the ministry. He served out the rest of his life — more than two decades — as the pastor of a Baptist Church in Horsham, Sussex, England.

Mote may have written other hymns during his lifetime, but this is the only one in common use today.

- Richard Niell Donovan

“Getting acquainted” answers:

1. B. John & Doris Souers
2. E. Jay & Deb Shaw
3. A. Dean & Barbara Hart
4. C. Ron & Myrna Neff
5. D. Tara, Chris & Wyatt Korporal



World Day of Prayer

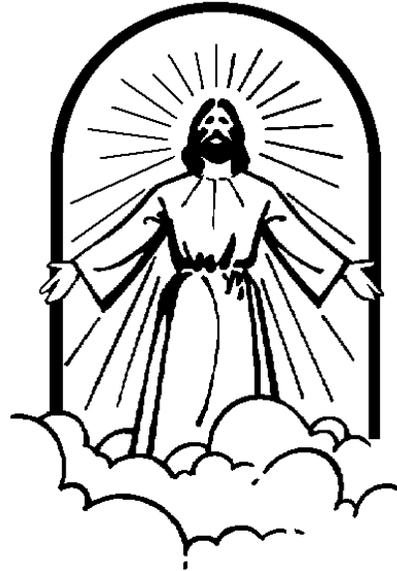
Friday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.
St. Peter's First Community Church

Theme: "Let everything that has breath praise God."

Continental Breakfast
at 9:00 a.m.



Lord Jesus, you are our way to the Father.



We have no goodness of our own to make us fit for God's presence. We come humbly to the Father through the benefits of your death for us and through the victory of your resurrection and ascension. We come to him through you and give you praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

2010

MARCH



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