



News From The Rock

May 2015

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

New pastor appointed to Solid Rock

The Solid Rock Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Paul Burris as our new pastor. Rev. Burris is currently pastoring Rich Valley United Methodist Church. His first Sunday with us will be July 19. He shares this biographical information:

I am one of six children (three boys and three girls). Although we are scattered geographically, we still remain very close. Our sister Lisa passed away in 2006. I grew up mainly in the Indianapolis area, where I graduated from Avon High School in 1977.

My father has been a Methodist pastor for over 50 years. He is still active in the United Methodist Church and living in Fort Wayne. He has been my mentor and anchor throughout my life and my ministry. My mother was always supportive of my father's ministry and did a wonderful job at raising six children. She passed away in 2006.

My wife Lisa and I have been married nearly three years (we've been together for 11) and have three wonderful children between us. My oldest, Deyan (24), lives in Kingston, Rhode Island, and attends URI. My youngest, Kristopher (20), lives in Nashville, Tennessee, and attends TSU. Lisa's daughter, Kinsey (24) lives in Breckenridge, Colorado. Although the kids are scattered across the United States, we feel blessed to have several unique travel destinations to visit each year.

Lisa was born and raised in northern Indiana. She has been a blessing in my life. Her love for God and others is one of her greatest strengths. We share many of the same interests, including a love for the outdoors and the Denver Broncos. She lived in Missoula, Montana, for 10 years where her family owned a canoe and kayak store. Our connection to the West is one of the reasons we were attracted to each other. I thank God daily for bringing her into my life.

(Continued on page 3)

Youth Fellowship

We are looking forward to some fun events this summer for UMYF! Note the Senior Recognition Sunday on May 31. Seniors, please get your pictures to Gary Walter as soon as possible.

We would like to invite all the youth mentors to a picnic and disc golf outing on Sunday, June 28. Please let Marie DeWeese know if you will be able to attend.



Our next UMYF meeting will be on May 3 at 6:45. The lesson will be on equality and diversity. UMYF is for all youth in grades 6-13. Please come join us and bring a friend.

Upcoming Events

- **May 3:** Meeting, 6:45
- **May 17:** Meeting, 6:45
- **May 31:** Senior Recognition Sunday, 10:00
- **June 7:** Meeting, 6:45
- **June 14:** Meal after worship at the church
- **June 21:** Church Camp Week at Epworth Forest
- **June 28:** Picnic and Disc Golf after worship at Tower Park
- **July 20:** Swimming and Cookout
- **July 30:** TinCaps Game
- **August 2:** Meeting after worship

Core values identified

As part of the ongoing Fruitful Congregations process, Solid Rock has identified its core values. The final draft was shared with the congregation on April 19.

SOLID ROCK UMC CORE VALUES

Passionate Worship and Prayer

In brokenness and with yielded hearts, we seek to encounter God in joyous worship to heal wounded souls, renew hope, inspire compassion, and bind ourselves to one another.

(Continued on page 3)

Just Leaning
on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



A final word

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV): *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

I would never consider myself a leader of the caliber that Jesus was/is; however, I know what He has called me to and I know what He has called you to. We are to recognize His power and authority, and because of

His power and authority we are to go into ALL the world and make disciples of Jesus Christ. For you, Solid Rockers, this means touching people in your community of Warren and beyond.

Over the past nine years I have discovered your immense capacity to love. I encourage you to stay the course! Continue to love your community and its members. Continue caring about those beyond the community into all the world. Continue your faithful ministry to Jesus Christ and ALWAYS remember He is ALWAYS with you, forever and ever AMEN!!

Shalom,
Pastor Kathy

March Financial Update

General Offerings	\$17,568
General Fund Expenses	\$12,460

Thank you!

Thank you to all the Lent leaders: Joe Haney, Gary Walter, Mike Heath, and Pastor Kathy. (*Editor's note: also Rochelle DeHaven.*)

Rochelle DeHaven

United Methodist Women

The women of Solid Rock United Methodist Church met April 2, 2015, at 9:30 in the Calico Room of Heritage Pointe. Barbara Hart, President, welcomed the members and also welcomed Tamara Spahr, who was in attendance representing the SOS organization of Solid Rock. Barbara then gave an inspiring devotional entitled "Ponder Your Purpose." No one can do it all, but everyone can do something. The ladies then repeated the U.M.W. Purpose.

The mission focus for the month is Costa Rica. Their mission is to feed and educate children and adults. The birthday for the month is Michelle Wood, who is

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Solid Rock United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 322

Warren, Indiana 46792

www.solidrockumc.com

Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

at 485 Bennett Drive, Warren

Church Phone: 375-3871

Church Office

Office Phone: 375-3873

Hours: 9 a.m. to Noon

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dave Smitley

Editor: Gary Walter
gary@solidrockumc.com

Office Manager: Norma Smith
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Treasurer: Rosalie Walter
rosalie@solidrockumc.com

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr
wanda@solidrockumc.com

*News deadline for the June newsletter:
May 24*

with Global Ministries.

The members were asked to share their joys and concerns, after which Carolyn Winters offered prayer.

Marguerite McNany gave the Mission Moment. She shared "In His Presence," by Anita Donhue, and another article entitled "The Answer is Easter." Both articles were very uplifting.

The roll was called with nine members and one guest present. The treasurer's report was given and showed a balance of \$694.94.

Tamara Spahr then spoke to the group about SOS and the possibility of the organizations scheduling a time when the two could get together for a possible fundraiser. A discussion was held. A vote was taken and everyone wanted to meet with SOS, but not for a fundraiser. A time and date will be selected soon.

Margaret Bell gave the lesson for the day, entitled "Firsts." It included miracles that had been performed and the theme was encouragement.

The next meeting will be held May 7. The meeting closed with the group singing "Because He Lives."

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Plummer

From the District Office:

"Thank you for paying your full Tithes and District Asking in 2014. You and 94 of the 135 district churches were faithful in your financial support of the connection. The Stewardship Number is your tithable income divided by your average worship attendance. The district average is \$1,586."

Solid Rock's Stewardship Number was \$1,527, so we are below average in our giving compared with our district churches. Our building fund loan is currently about \$248,000. Please consider giving up a coffee or soda and increasing your giving to the work of the church.

Neckers named Northeast District Superintendent

Bishop Michael J. Coyner of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. David K. Neckers of Muncie, Ind., as Superintendent of the Northeast District of the Indiana Conference beginning July 1, upon the retirement of the Rev. Dr. David A. Michel, who re-

tires June 30. Neckers has a diverse background in business, counseling and executive church leadership and has led the Indiana Conference as the Director of Church Development since 2013.

Coyner stated, "I am delighted that David Neckers will serve as the next Superintendent of the Northeast District. Since he has been serving on the Extended Cabinet as Director of Church Development, David is known and respected by the entire Cabinet and will make a very smooth transition into this new role." He continued, "David brings considerable experience as a pastor, counselor, coach of pastors and passionate servant of Christ."

As Superintendent of the Northeast District, Neckers will work with churches as a missional strategist to guide and cast visions for vibrant ministries, as well as encourage clergy and lay people to find new ways to support the Conference mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. He will also work with Coyner, the Cabinet and the Conference Directors to foster and supply new leaders for churches and communities across Indiana.

Coyner also noted, "He is strongly committed to our United Methodist Church, but also open to creative new forms of ministry. The Northeast District and our whole Indiana Conference will be blessed by his leadership."

"If you talk to people who know me well, they will tell you I'm a Kingdom guy," states Neckers, "to bring as Jesus prayed, God's Kingdom which is in heaven to earth. In that light, I am excited for the opportunity to partner with the lay and clergy of the Northeast District. I pray that God will fulfill that prayer in us and through us."

Neckers has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y., and a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling from Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky. He is an enthusiast of landscaping and yard work, a professional football fan of the Buffalo Bills and the Indianapolis Colts, NASCAR racing and reading. He also enjoys walks with his wife and playing with their granddaughters. Rev. Neckers and his wife, Darlene, have resided in Muncie for 24 years and have two grown children: Jeremy (Maggie) Neckers who reside in Muncie with their two daughters, Sophie and Ella; and Shannon (Brandon) Kucharski, who resides in Bristol, Ind.

(Continued from page 1)

After graduating from high school, I moved to Colorado where I spent the next 15 years. My time in Colorado was spent enjoying the great outdoors: hiking, camping, mountain climbing, rock climbing, backpacking, etc. In Colorado, I attended Colorado Mountain College in Leadville (AA in Outdoor Studies) and Colorado State University in Fort Collins (BA in History). Although I worked in a variety of jobs in Colorado, my main profession was working with developmentally disabled adults.

In 1992, God called me back to Indiana and into ministry where I have been serving for the past 23 years. I attended Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis and graduated with an MDIV degree in 1997. I was ordained an Elder in the North Indiana Conference (now the Indiana Conference) of the United Methodist Church in 1999. Over the years, I have served five different churches of various sizes in a variety of settings. Although I love the many different aspects and challenges that ministry has to offer, my main passions are preaching and teaching, children and youth ministry, music, missions and outreach, and pot luck dinners. In my 23 years in ministry I have led and/or participated in 16 mission trips (including Jamaica and Haiti).

Hobbies and interests include hiking, camping, golf, travel (I've visited all of the lower 48 states), attending spectator sports (especially football and basketball), genealogy, American Civil War studies, and photography.

(Continued from page 1)

other. As guided by the Holy Spirit, we pray fervently and expectantly to discern God's will in our lives.

- Psalm 100:1-4
- Ephesians 3:14-19

Radical Hospitality

Through His acceptance of us and our responsiveness to the grace of God, we invite, welcome, receive and care for all of those God puts on our path.

- Hebrews 13:2
- Colossians 3:12-14

Extravagant Generosity

Through willing sacrifice, we joyfully give to change lives and relieve suffering in the name of Christ.

- Acts 20:35

Risk-Taking Mission + Service

We offer ourselves in purposeful, sacrificial service to meet those in physical and spiritual need; we serve to transform the world through the proclamation of the message of Christ.

- Matthew 25:35-40
- Ephesians 2:10

Intentional Faith Development

We intentionally nurture all ages in the life-changing truths of God's Word to grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God.

- Psalm 25:4-5

SOS

The Solid Rock SOS met on April 9, 2015. Meeting highlights:

- A devotion on Acts 17:27 using the poem "God Whispering" by Helen Steiner Rice was given by Cindy Boxell.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- Joys and Concerns were shared.
- A lesson on April showers bringing May flowers was given by Sherry Gifford. The Bible speaks of showers of blessing (Ezekiel 34:26). The greatest of showers is a time of refreshing (Acts 3:19-20). God is the redeemer in the rain and He brings new life out of struggle. We don't have to wait for blue skies for God to use the rain.
- A love offering was collected to be used to help a community member with transportation costs associated with healthcare issues.
- Old Business
 - UMW social to be held with potential date of 4/19/15.
- New Business
 - Consensus vote to change banks to PNC.
 - Decided to collect funds to purchase feminine products for the food pantry once per quarter in addition to love offering that is collected.
 - SSF planning has started.
- 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: 15
- Next meeting: May 14, 2015 at Teresa

Kriegbaum's house with Allison Voght as co-hostess and Linda Mc Howell giving the lesson.

Prayer for the Future

Lord, we praise you and give thanks for our many blessings. Refresh us each day with Your word, Your wisdom, and Your guidance. We ask, Lord, that you guide the leaders of the church and the conference; give them direction so that their decisions will promote growth and vitality to our church. Give them discernment as they choose a new pastor for our Parish. Send someone to help us learn to live in harmony with one another ... to speak honestly but with compassion for one another. Release the Holy Spirit within us! Let our hearts burn with the fire and love of Jesus! We ask these in Jesus' name. Amen.

Safe Sanctuaries

A Safe Sanctuaries workshop will be held following worship on June 14. A light meal will be provided. This workshop is for anyone in the church working with children or youth.

Monday Evening Bible Study

Come with your Bible to the 7:00 p.m. Bible studies in the church kitchen. These studies will be in preparation for the coming Sunday sermon.

- May 4: John 3:10, 16
- May 11: John 4:1-15
- May 18: Acts 2: 17-21
- May 25: John 9 1-11

"Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." James 5:8

HELP WANTED

Church Janitor

Application Deadline: May 8

**Contact Dave Spahr
or the church office**

*Church members
considered first*

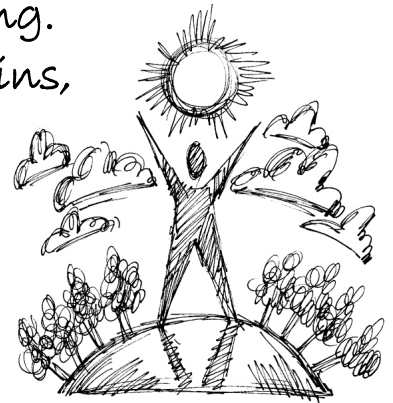
IF WE ALL
WORK TOGETHER
WE CAN DELIVER A
WHOLE BAG FULL
OF HOPE!



LETTER CARRIERS'
Stamp Out Hunger
FOOD DRIVE
SAT., MAY 9, 2015

Your postal carrier will be collecting non-perishable food items to be donated locally to the Bread of Life Food Pantry.

May none of God's wonderful works keep
silence, night or morning.
Bright stars, high mountains,
the depths of the seas,
sources of rushing rivers:
may all these break into
song as we sing to Father,
Son and Holy Spirit.



May all the angels in the heavens reply:
Amen! Amen! Amen!
Power, praise, honor, eternal glory to God,
the only Giver of grace.
Amen! Amen! Amen!

Third-century hymn



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