



News From The Rock

November 2010

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Coming up at Solid Rock

N.O.W. Calendar Planning
November 2, 6:30 p.m.

Harvest Sundays
November 7, 14, 21
Collecting items for Thanksgiving for Bread of Life Food Pantry. Needed items: sweet potatoes, brown sugar, dried onion rings, mushroom soup, stove-top stuffing, instant potatoes, cake mix/icing, brownie mix, corn, chicken broth, green beans.

UMYF Cookout
November 5 at Jerry and Lois Walter's pond, 6:00-9:00

Church Fall Fest
November 6 at the home of Marty and Vicki Sieberns, 1104 W 450 S, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Soup and hot dogs provided. Please bring a dessert or snack to share.

Charge Conference
For Grapevine Cluster, November 8, 6:30 p.m. at Solid Rock. The Solid Rock Praise Team will assist with worship.

Decorate the Church
November 21, 4:00 p.m. A light meal of soup and sandwiches will follow.

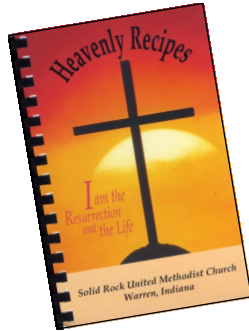
Card Sale

The Card Ministry will continue to offer cards for 50¢ each for the next two weeks. We need to make room for holiday cards. We will have a large selection of stamped, new, and recycled Christmas cards, along with a few Thanksgiving cards. What a great time to stock up on those needed birthday, get well, thinking of you, and other cards! Then, don't forget to check out the racks for all your holiday cards.



A Christmas gift idea!

With Christmas only eight weeks away, do you need an inexpensive gift for someone special? We still have cookbooks and



cookbook DVDs for only \$10 each. Please contact Susan Mills, Denise McIntire, or Debbie Shaw. All sales from cookbooks and DVDs will go to the Building Fund.

We as the cookbook committee would also like to apologize to Alexis Miller. Her name was printed in the cookbook as Lisa Miller.

Fall Bazaar

We want to thank everyone who helped in any way with the Fall Bazaar. We had a good time with great fellowship. As of October 24, total proceeds were \$2,106.85. (Baked goods and crafts brought in \$1,458.60; lunch, \$484; cookbooks, \$130; and honey, \$34.25) Thanks again!

Jackie Wolfe and Marg Bentley

CROP Walk

Eleven Solid Rock members received donations for the 2010 CROP Hunger Walk held on October 3. Solid Rock walker contributions totaled \$1,015. Total funds raised were \$5,571 with ten churches participating. Funds are used to end hunger at home and around the world. Solid Rock participants included Rosalie Walter, Gary Walter, Mariah Spahr, Walker Spahr, Ron Neff, Myrna Neff, Erica Hanson, Zach Hensley, Pamela Hensley, Rochelle DeHaven, and Liz Bolinger.



Just Leaning
on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



November is a time of elections, family and great Thanksgiving. The first weekend in October I had the opportunity to serve on a weekend with women whose

"We are too busy trying to quantify what God has done rather than praising God for what God has truly done"

loved ones are incarcerated. As I contemplate the many blessings God has bestowed upon me, one woman in particular comes to mind. Her son was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. Yet this

woman truly praised the Lord. I found myself ashamed of how I felt about the blessings I have received. I complain and belly ache and yet this woman, who will only be able to visit her son periodically while being observed by guards, recognizes her blessings even in the sight of her loved one being incarcerated.

I think the problem I have is I ask the question, "How has God blessed me?" rather than making a statement, "God has truly blessed me!" We are too busy trying to quantify what God has done rather than praising God for what God has truly done. We must not look to others to rate our blessings rather simply be thankful for the blessings we receive. May your Thanksgiving be a true opportunity for giving thanks to The Giver of All Blessings! Joh 1:16 "Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another."

Shalom and Happy Thanksgiving,
Pastor Kathy

September Offerings

General Offerings \$11,489
Building Fund Contributions \$7,137

Neffs enjoy family visit

Ron and Myrna Neff spent a long weekend with their son, Rick and his family, Kris, Natalie, and Ashlyn in Louisville, Kentucky. Kris and Myrna did a little shopping. Rick and Ron had a two mile walk, raked leaves, planted a magnolia tree, changed oil in a vehicle, and watched ballgames on TV. They had the chance to see Natalie, who is a seventh grader, play basketball in three games. Natalie plays for the eighth grade team also, since only four eighth graders tried out for the team! A Saturday night concert was enjoyed at a church which featured Josh Wilson and Matthew West. Myrna had to wear her sun glasses for the Matthew West portion of

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P.O. Box 322

Warren, Indiana 46792

www.solidrockumc.com

Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

at 227 N. Main Street, Warren

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the program because of the wild, flashing lights. Ron had to turn his hearing aid off because of the loudness. But we enjoyed being with family.

The church, Southeast Christian Church, they attended was very large, reminding us of the coliseum at Fort Wayne. There was an escalator to the first and second balcony. The membership is 16,000. There was to be a leadership conference on Friday evening with 1,000 ministers attending. They are planting a new church also. Although we are comfortable with a smaller church, we also enjoyed worshipping there.

Capital Funds update

We want to thank everyone who made a commitment during the campaign and have remained faithful to that commitment. Thanks is in order for those who have contributed without any commitment. As everyone knows, we had \$ 556,000 in commitments. Prior the campaign we had \$200,000 in building funds. Through September 30, we had received \$280,000 since the start of the campaign. The total in the building funds as of August 31 was \$460,000. Thank you for your faithfulness

United Methodist Women

The Solid Rock United Methodist Women met October 7. President Myrna Neff thanked Ann Brauchla-Slaughter for making arrangements for the meeting and Martha Plummer for distributing flyers. A brief devotion by Myrna preceded the reciting of the U.M.W. Purpose.

A recognition of the U.M.W. work worldwide was made by the President from the Prayer Calendar.

Carolyn Winters led the women in prayer for the joys and concerns presented by members. Roll was called and the secretary's minutes were read.

Mick McNany shared a Mission Moment regarding stewardship: "Stewardship is not just talent being put to service in the church, but represents a person's willingness to be used. Is it ever enough? It involves responding to our possibilities to be of help to others. It is as if we were choos-

ing not to look at ourselves, as in a mirror, but to look out a window to others in the world around us."

Books and other reading materials for the 2010 Reading Project were noted by Myrna. Barbara Hart's treasurer's report showed a balance of \$207.94.

The program for October was given by Margaret Bell and was a review of a recent book from the 2010 listing, a book entitled *A Little Piece of Ground*. It was very timely in its story of three young boys' enthusiasm, hopes, dreams, fears, and disappointment in trying to create a soccer-playing field—all against the background of the longstanding and still very current serious fight between Israel and the Palestinian people for land ownership and usage in the Holy Land.

Two attend UMW Fall Celebration

Carolyn Winters and Myrna Neff attended the second Fall Celebration and Annual Meeting of Indiana United Methodist Women on October 9 at the Castleton United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. Carolyn's daughter, Michelle Sexton, was their "designated driver." She took the opportunity to take some work with her to catch up on.

Retiring officers were honored during the business session and all officers for 2011 were installed. This included Carolyn, who is a member of the nominating committee.

During part of the lunch time, the women assembled kits to be sent to Midwest Distribution Center. The kits were for newborns, disaster kits, and health kits. Myrna had gone to the distribution center in Chatham, Illinois a few years ago to work with United Methodist Women in a "Hands on Mission" project. It was the last such project that the women have done. The portrayal of John Wesley by Birt Kite was compelling as he told how his mother Susanna was crucial to his Christian upbringing.

The offering amounted to \$1882.45 and will be used for mission. There were 224 in attendance.

Bishop Mike Coyner greeted the women, affirming John Wesley's words that, "Best of all, God is with us all the time." The shared Holy Communion bound all together in the assurance that Christ loves everyone.



United
Methodist
Women

When I was young...

Nine weeks into the new school year, and this is the toughest one I can recall in a very long history of beginnings. For the first time, my school has opened enrollment to students not residing in our attendance area, and the public has apparently been waiting for just such an invitation. The last count I heard was that 80 new students had taken advantage of the policy, with more than a third of them having special needs. Many of them are in foster homes.

The foster home placements account for almost 25% of my caseload. Some of their stories are the most heart-wrenching imaginable, and some of these children are so closed off it is impossible to assume they know how to even walk or talk. The expectation they will occupy themselves worrying about adverbs and adjectives is ludicrous.

Additionally, the school corporation has decided to "go green". Not only do we have recycling baskets and bins in all the classrooms, halls, corners and entry ways, with the "big kids" on recycling duty, we have flash drives for every computer and "smart boards" in the classrooms. The definition of a smart board escapes me. Every time I try to use one, it becomes necessary for some second grader to tell me what to do next to fix the problem.

All of this makes my elementary school days seem unbelievably quaint and simple. Growing up on a small family farm in the thumb area of Michigan during the 40's and early 50's was an experience I'll always cherish. It afforded me the opportunity to attend a one-room, white clapboard, country school. There was no running water, but we had a hand pump in front of the schoolhouse, a woodshed and two outhouses, one each for girls and boys. Though the school served grades K-8, the enrollment in any one year never exceeded thirteen students.

Schoolyard games, such as Eenie-Ienie-Over, Duck Duck Goose, Red Rover and baseball were a challenge when two teams had to be formed from a group that included only two kindergartners, three second graders, a third grader, two fifth graders and one student each from the 7th and 8th grades. Science class was always a field trip, or could more commonly be called a walk to the lake behind the schoolyard to look for different kinds of leaves, birds or wildflowers. In the morning, we said the pledge to the flag and then sang

"The Old Rugged Cross" or "My Name Is Solomon Levi."

Without question, students today have a much more diverse education and are exposed to a bigger world, but I am not sure I would trade with them.

Note: This trip down nostalgia lane has forced me to remember how I bullied one boy, who shared the same grade with me, after I found him tormenting my kindergarten brother behind the boys' outhouse. Immediately upon being excused for recess, I would chase him into that same outhouse and keep him there the entire time we were outside. Am wondering if I need to find him and apologize. Would only do it if he proved to be sufficiently remorseful.

Barbara Kleinhans

Men's Fellowship

The Solid Rock Men's Fellowship met October 9. Marion Bell's devotional, "Cost-Saving Christians," was based on 2 Corinthians 11:23-27. The next meeting will be November 13, 8:00 a.m., in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe.

Downstairs class begins new study on prayer

The "downstairs" adult Sunday school class is beginning a new study, "When God's People Pray," by Jim Cymbala. In this study, authored by the pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, class members will learn how prayer can change lives and circumstances like nothing else. Cymbala shares how prayer turned his own church from a tiny, struggling inner-city congregation into a vital, thriving community of believers. All are invited to join us each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

You Pays Your Money

"Let's go over the list once more," I mutter to myself at the check-out stand. "Oatmeal, frying chickens, and a half gallon of rocky road. Yuban coffee and a couple loaves of Roman Meal bread. A gallon of milk about rounds it out." The register whirs. I plunk down my money.

"Thanks," I say to the checker.

"Don't thank me," the grocery checker chuckles. "You pays your money, you takes your choice."

No thanks needed? Your forefathers'

hands caressed hard seed grains as they sowed freshly-turned furrows. They knew whom to thank.

"A man scatters seed on the ground," Jesus observed. "Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:26-29)



No wonder Pilgrims gave thanks.

But the average person lives too far from the soil to awe at amber waves of grain. I had glanced at my watch and tapped my foot while the checker worked slowly through the loaded grocery cart ahead of me. So what's to be thankful for? Shorter lines?

Yes, for starters. Women stand in lines for hours in Moscow to buy fresh fruit. The selection on our supermarket shelves would boggle the mind of a Mexican villager.

We thank God for a job to pay for our food—thousands are out of work. We thank God for a warm home and a table to eat at—the homeless live out of their cars at the park.

"But I work hard for what I have," you object. Yes, so does the Chinese peasant bending over in a cold rice paddy.

You pays your money, but you can't buy health. You pays your money, but you can't buy a son or a daughter. You pays your money, but you can't buy rain to water crops in Peoria and Des Moines.

Thank you God, for the gifts you've given which I have no inherent right to. Make me genuinely grateful. Amen.

- Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Thankfulness

- Be thankful for your problems. For if they were less difficult, someone with less ability would have your job.
- There's one thing for which you should be deeply grateful: Only you and God have all the facts about you.
- Happiness comes when we stop wailing about the troubles we have, and offer thanks for all the troubles we don't have.
- Be grateful for the doors of opportunity—and for friends who oil the hinges.

- Compiled by Vernon McLellan

Giving Thanks

For the hay and the corn and the wheat that is reaped,
For the labor well done, and the barns that are heaped,
For the sun and the dew and the sweet honeycomb,
For the rose and the song and the harvest brought home —
Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the trade and the skill and the wealth in our land,
For the cunning and strength of the workingman's hand,
For the good that our artists and poets have taught,
For the friendship that hope and affection have brought —
Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the homes that with purest affection are blest,
For the season of plenty and well-deserved rest,
For our country extending from sea unto sea;
The land that is known as the "Land of the Free" —
Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

- Author Unknown

Thank You, Thank You, Generous God!

Thank You, thank You, thank You, generous God!
You have injected life with joy, thus we know laughter.

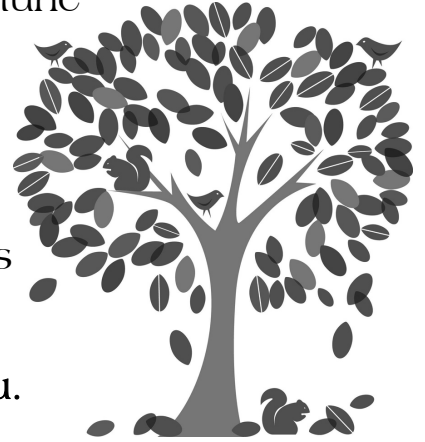
You have dabbled creation with color, thus we enjoy beauty.

You have whistled a divine tune into the rhythm of life, thus we hear music.

You have filled our minds with questions, thus we appreciate mystery.

You have entered our hearts with compassion, thus we experience faith.

Thank You, God, Thank You.
Thank You!



- C. Welton Gaddy



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