



News From The Rock

October 2015

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Fruitful Congregations Journey Update

Following an in-depth study in 2014, the Solid Rock congregation, during a Church Conference in December, voted to accept the consultation team's recommendations and implement a five-part ministry action plan. Although the process was temporarily slowed by the transition between pastors in mid-2015, it is once more moving forward.



The adopted Ministry Action Plan encompasses five initiatives:

1. Discern a clear, shared vision for the church.
2. Create a comprehensive and accountable communication process.
3. Develop a discipleship pathway for all persons.
4. Create a leadership development process.
5. Build strong intergenerational ministries.

As part of this process, a Safe Sanctuaries Workshop was led by FCJ Coach Pastor Heather Olson-Bunnell on June 14. Safe Sanctuaries is a process to ensure that congregations are "safe places where children, youth and elders may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith." A final draft of Solid Rock's plan will go before the Administrative Council for approval at an upcoming meeting.

A Vision Workshop will take place on October 18, following a light lunch. All who attend Solid Rock are invited and encouraged to participate. Input will be received to guide the Vision Team in drafting a vision statement based on the core values which were identified and adopted

in April. The vision statement and core values will ensure that both existing and future ministries are in alignment with the church's identified mission.

Other teams are being formed to analyze interior and exterior signage and to evaluate current forms of communication, such as newsletter, bulletin, and Facebook page, as well as to explore new avenues of communication.

Please pray specifically for the Vision Workshop later this month, that Solid Rock might clearly discern the missions to which God has called us. Please pray for the study teams being formed, and prayerfully consider your role if asked to participate.

Youth Fellowship

We had our first fall meeting on September 20th. We discussed Psalm 139:1-18 and talked about how God has created each of us and has a plan for our lives.

The youth are walking in the CROP Walk on October 4th. Please see a UMYF member at church if you would like to sponsor them for this event.



The Fall Party will be held on October 16th. Youth should check the UMYF Facebook page for information about time and location. UMYF is for all youth! Come join us and bring a friend!

Upcoming Events

- October 4: CROP Walk, 1:30 p.m. at the church
- October 16: Fall Party, 7:00-9:00 at the church
- November 1: Meeting at 6:45 at the church
- November 15: Veterans' Dinner
- December 6: Meeting at 6:45 at the church
- December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 10:30
- December 29: Lock-In at the church



from
Pastor Paul

Perhaps you've heard the familiar story about a pig and hen who were enjoying a nice stroll down the street when they saw a sign at a lunchroom window reading DELICIOUS HAM AND EGGS. "Isn't it grand," said the hen, "that together we can give human beings something that delights them?"

The pig frowned, "Yes," he said, "but you're giving out of surplus. For me, giving is a real sacrifice."

In a somewhat humorous way, the story conveys the difference between giving our leftovers and giving of ourselves. In a more serious way, in Luke 21:1-4, we read the story of the widow's mite.

As He looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury.

He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," He said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."



The wealthy were giving large sums of money, but it was out of their surplus. Their lifestyles were not affected. Jesus saw the widow give what she needed to live on. From our perspective we may be asking ourselves, "How is it possible to add together the offerings of countless rich people and declare the total less than the two mites of the poor widow? How is it possible so little could be so much?" Jesus' arithmetic is not so hard to understand when we see that the secret of giving is not the amount that was given but the spirit in

(Continued on page 3)

United Methodist Women

The women of Solid Rock United Methodist Church met Thursday, September 3, in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe. Barbara Hart, President, welcomed each one present and shared a message from Denise Geller, President of the Northeast District of United Methodist Women. It included the importance of faith, love and hope.

Barbara gave an invitation to attend various meetings, and invited anyone to go with her to the meeting on September 26 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church near Fort Wayne. Reservations are to be in by September 18.

The United Methodist Women's Purpose was then recited by everyone present.

The Prayer Calendar listed the mission focus as Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta, Liberia. The birthday for that day, September 3, was Jodi Day, Deacon in Jefferson, Oregon.

Carolyn Winters asked for joys and concerns. Many were named, and Carolyn offered prayer for each joy and concern.

Doris Souers gave a very interesting and challenging Mission Moment on friendship and love. Roll call was then taken, with eight members present. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was given and showed a balance of \$647.13.

The lesson was given by Helen Campbell on welcoming. Many suggestions were given by the members as to the many opportunities to welcome others.

The next meeting will be held October 1, 2015. The Sammy Morris story will be told by Bernice Garrett. The election of officers will also be held.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Plummer

"Feasting on the Word" Bible Study

You are invited to join in the Monday evening Bible study in the church kitchen at 7:00 p.m. Bit by bit the group is growing in numbers and in discipleship as we look forward to the next Sunday morning message. The bible passages for the month of October are as follows:

- September 28: Luke 22:14-33 (Aletta Heath, leader)
- October 5: Acts 3:1-10 (Mike Heath, leader)
- October 12: Genesis 22:1-19 (Joe Haney, leader)
- October 19: Genesis 41:33-57 (Aletta Heath, leader)
- October 26: Joshua 1:1-18 (Mike Heath, leader)

Bring your Bible, a friend, and a spirit of openness to the leading of God's Holy Spirit.

We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.

—Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and "hero" of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*

August Financial Update

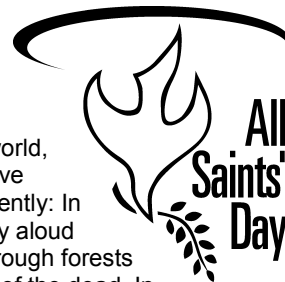
General Offerings.....	\$16,750
General Fund Expenses.....	\$12,297
Mortgage Balance	\$236,907

What's a Christian to do with Halloween?

These days, children associate Halloween with trick-or-treating and candy. But centuries ago, Christians named the night before All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) "All Hallows' Eve." As the faithful prepared to remember people who were entrusted to resurrection life, they adopted various traditions to poke fun at death.

Around the world, Christians observe Halloween differently: In Poland, kids pray aloud while walking through forests to comfort souls of the dead. In Spain, tolling church bells remind people to remember the saints. In Finland, so many people light candles in cemeteries that the observance is called "seas of light." Although some Christians steer clear of Halloween, others use it as an evangelism opportunity and provide entertainment alternatives such as harvest parties.

No matter your views, you can remind children that though it's fun to pretend, we can always be ourselves with God. Whatever our features and flaws, we need not and cannot hide from God behind masks. God made us in his holy image and loves us as his holy — *hallowed!* — children.



Equals at communion

After saving England from Napoleon's threats in 1815, the Duke of Wellington achieved hero status. One Sunday as the duke approached the altar for communion, a poor man from London's streets, wearing rags, knelt beside him. The indignant minister whispered for the vagrant to move away. "Don't you realize this is the great Duke of Wellington?" he asked.

When the duke overheard, he responded, "Leave him alone. We're all the same here. The ground is level at the cross."

That's the spirit in which we celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday of October. Paul says believers share the Lord's Supper by partaking of the "one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). Everyone at the communion table is equal in God's sight, needing his forgiveness and grace.



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Worship at 10:00

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which it was given. The key is attitude, not abundance.

In our personal stewardship (the giving of our time, talents and money) we may want to stop focusing on what we are giving and begin to look at what we are willing to give up. Sacrifice is referred to as giving up something of value. It may mean giving to the food bank when our cupboards are already lean or sharing clothes when our closets are already half empty. Our giving will reach that level of sacrificial giving illustrated by the widow with her mite when our giving impacts the way we live.

See You Sunday,
Pastor Paul

CROP Hunger Walk

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

Background

With its inception in 1969, CROP Hunger Walks are “viewed by many as the granddaddy of charity walks,” notes the *Los Angeles Times* (Oct. 26, 2009). On October 17, 1969, a thousand people in Bismarck, ND, walked in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP – and raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger. As far as we know, York County, Penn., was the first walk officially called the CROP Walk for the Hungry – and that event has been continuous since 1970. Several other CROP Hunger Walks occurred soon thereafter, and before long there were hundreds of Walks each year in communities nationwide.

Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,300 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in more than 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone.

What does CROP stand for?

When CROP began in 1947 (under the wing of Church World Service, which was

founded in 1946), CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia.

Today, we’ve outgrown the acronym but we retain it as the historic name of the program. CROP Hunger Walks are inter-faith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by CWS local offices across the U.S.

Where do CROP Hunger Walk funds go?

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs something CWS has learned through some 68 years of working in partnership around the world.

Solid Rock will be the host church for the 2015 Warren CROP Walk on Sunday, October 4. Walkers should gather at the church at 1:30 p.m., with the Walk beginning at 2:00. Those wishing to donate may do so through any walker. Contact Rochelle DeHaven for further information.

SOS

The Solid Rock SOS met on September 10. Highlights from this meeting:

- A devotion on timing was given by Cindy Boxell. A Charles Swindoll story was shared where God’s timing using a shop keeper to help the wife give a gift early kept a policeman alive.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- Joys and Concerns were shared.
- A lesson on quiet time was given by Marie DeWeese. Quiet time with God can happen in many ways. Some are intentional, like a set prayer time of Bible

reading time. However, our senses can be used to appreciate what God has created and recharge. Psalm 46 was shared.

- A love offering was collected to be used to help a church member. The feminine product quarterly donation for the food pantry was also collected.
- Old Business
 - SSF: Will need to purchase two new grills for the next SSF.
 - Sign-up sheet for upcoming auction was distributed.
- 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: 16
- Next meeting: October 8 at Pamela Hensley’s house with Cindy Boxell as co-hostess and Susan Mills giving the lesson.

The Feste Burg

“A Mighty Fortress,” the hymn written by Protestant reformer Martin Luther in 1529, is powerful in English but even better in its original German. Historian Michael Streich notes that Luther compares God not only to a fortress but to a completely secure stronghold, or Feste Burg.

“A burg was a fortified town,” Streich says. “When invaders approached, the surrounding populace fled to the safety of the walls” — sometimes to layers



of walls within walls. Luther’s hymn compares God to the most powerful of all burgs, with eternally unbreakable walls.

When we need a place of refuge, God offers his Mighty Fortress, his Feste Burg. Within this refuge, with our value based on our relationship to God rather than on earthly achievements, we’ll never be put to shame. Inside this fortified town, the God who desires an eternal relationship with us delivers, rescues and saves us.

—Homiletics

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you’ll love him. And the more you love him, the more you’ll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you’ll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

—Ned Erickson

Solid Rock Bazaar

Saturday, October 24

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

485 Bennett Drive

- Food
- Crafts
- Baked Goods



Unprecedented love

Whether you understand it or not, God loves you, is present in you, lives in you, dwells in you, calls you, saves you and offers you an understanding and compassion which are like nothing you have ever found in a book or heard in a sermon.

—Thomas Merton,
The Hidden Ground

Autumn Prayer

God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn.

We thank you

for the touch of coolness in the air
that gives us a new burst of energy,

for the coloring of trees

that shows the creativity of the Divine Artist,

for the falling leaves

that reveal the strength of the branches,

for the hues of fields that bring peace to our souls,

for the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to children,

for the fall harvest

that brings us gratitude for the bounty of our land,

for this change of seasons

that reveals the circle of life.

God of all seasons,

as you transform the earth,

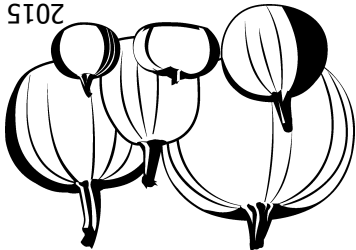
transform us by your Spirit.

Amen

- Doug Leonhardt, S.J.



2015



OCTOBER

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

