



News From The Rock

April 2015

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Lids, lids, lids!

Save your plastic lids! Green Tree Plastics takes recycled plastic lids (water, detergent, butter ... large and small) and turns them into benches or picnic tables. The goal is a picnic table for the outdoors. We need everyone to participate. Please remove paper or metal, clean all caps, and turn them in to Kodi Elliot. Lids only! Thanks for your help.

Fruitful Congregation Journey

The Fruitful Congregation Core Values Workshop met at the church on March 8. The workshop was led by Heather Olson Bunnell. There were 34 in attendance. A lot of discussion took place regarding the core values of Solid Rock.

Fruitful Congregation workshops will be held once a month for the next several months. The next workshop will be April 19 from 11:30 to 2:00, with a light lunch served. This workshop will be the Vision Workshop. Everyone is welcome to attend the lunch and the workshop.



**Fruitful
Congregation
Journey**

Administrative Council

The Solid Rock Administrative Council met on March 17 with 14 members in attendance.

The treasurer reported the mortgage fund now is only for the payment and the extra goes on the principal each month. All the investments, which are only a few, are back with the treasurer. All of our banking is now with iAB Financial Bank.

Perry Spahr reported all the information the bank needed to redo our mortgage payment has been turned in and will be done by the end of the month.

Bonnie Zeller reported for the trustees. Landscaping is to be done this spring along with working on the outside worship area.

Electricity to the storage shed, and insulation and sealing of cracks in the church are to be done. Extending the width of the driveway at the front of the church will be done at a later date.

The youth would like to go to church camp but right now they haven't found a way to stay together as a group. If this doesn't work out they will work on another youth retreat. They had nine at the last youth meeting.

Good used furniture is needed by the Blessings and Needs Team. Items given will be stored and available when needed. If you need more information, see John Mills.

The Fruitful Congregation had a "Core Values Workshop" on March 8. It was well attended and a lot of information came out of this workshop. The next workshop will be April 19 and will be "Vision Workshop" from 11:30 to 2:00 with a light lunch served.

The proceeds from the church pork roast will go to the church college scholarship fund. The men's group will have their fundraiser on April 21 at East of Chicago Pizza, with proceeds going for community missions.

The Council voted to give \$200 to the Huntington County Youth Services Bureau for the 2015 fundraiser for 5K for Kids.

Thank You

The family of Ron Neff sends a grateful thank you to the Solid Rock Church family. We thank you for all the persons who took time for the visitation, attending the funeral celebration, the beautiful flower from the church, and also the arrangement from the choirs, all who donated food for the meal, the use of the church, Pastor Kathy for assisting in the service, Bruce for operating the sound system and video, for all the cards, kind words, and for the prayers that have sustained us through this time in our lives. Because of you our grief was more bearable. That was the first time Ron "attended" the new church building. Thank you and blessings on all of you,

Myrna and families

Just Leaning on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



Ecclesiastes 3 from *The Message* (MSG):

There's a Right Time for Everything
There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth:
A right time for birth and another for death,
A right time to plant and another to reap,
A right time to kill and another to heal,
A right time to destroy and another to construct,

"I will always consider myself blessed for having been allowed to work side by side for the Kingdom."

A right time to cry and another to laugh,
A right time to lament and another to cheer,
A right time to make love and another to abstain,

A right time to embrace and another to part,
A right time to search and another to count your losses,
A right time to hold on and another to let go,
A right time to rip out and another to mend,
A right time to shut up and another to speak up,
A right time to love and another to hate,
A right time to wage war and another to make peace.

As most of you have heard by now, after this month I will no longer be your pastor. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how wonderful you all have been!

First of all your first and foremost desire is to do what God has called you to do. For that I am eternally grateful. Please continue to make this your number one

(Continued on page 3)

United Methodist Women

The women of Solid Rock United Methodist Church met March 5, 2015, at 9:30 in the Calico Room of Heritage Pointe. Barbara Hart, president, welcomed everyone and gave an inspiring devotion entitled "Living the Vision." The vision of U.M.W. is faith, hope, love, work for justice, and to change unfair policies.

The women then repeated the U.M.W. Purpose. The World Day of Prayer will be Friday, March 6. The birthday for the month is Dee Ann Heptar of Welch, West Virginia, who is a church and community worker.

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



United
Methodist
Women

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P.O. Box 322
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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

Pastor: Rev. Kathy Newton
pastorkathy@solidrockumc.com
Phone: (765) 210-4368

Editor: Gary Walter
gary@solidrockumc.com

Office Manager: Norma Smith
norma@solidrockumc.com

Treasurer: Rosalie Walter
rosalie@solidrockumc.com

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr
wanda@solidrockumc.com

*News deadline for the May newsletter:
April 19*

The roll was called with eight ladies present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was also given.

Everyone appreciated the donations that had been given by S.O.S. and the Solid Rock church from their bazaar.

Bernie Garrett gave an interesting mission report.

Carolyn Winters gave a good lesson on prayer and self-denial which included the importance of hospitality. She also shared the article "Ye Are the Light of the World." Mother Teresa is a perfect example of hospitality and self-denial.

A letter was received from the Lucille Raines Residence thanking us for donating towards their new boiler.

Under new business, Barbara shared that S.O.S. was interested in meeting with us sometime for a painting party. This item was tabled until next month.

The meeting was closed by listening to the words of "This Is My Song." The next meeting will be held April 2.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Plummer

Methodist Mountain Mission

We really need your help! Our warehouse is empty of donations! We are not picking up enough to keep us working every day! We need:

- Clothing for men, women and children, including underwear, socks, and shoes
- Dishes, pots and pans, small appliances
- Good, usable furniture
- Other household items

Remember, we can bale clothing, belts, purses and caps (even if they are not good enough quality to put in our stores).

If you have a large load you need picked up at your house or store or wherever, or you need your load picked up at a time other than when the truck is scheduled to be in your area, call Tammy and arrange a special pickup: 606-666-7795.

Thank you for your generosity!
Methodist Mountain Mission

At the cross, evil is conquered as evil ... because God turns it back upon itself. He makes the supreme crime, the murder of the only righteous person, the very operation that abolishes sin. The [maneuver] is utterly unprecedented. No more complete victory could be imagined.

—Henri Blocher, *Evil and the Cross*

What's with the bunny and the eggs? Easter traditions explained

So there's a bunny, who lays eggs, which kids are sometimes sent out to find, or are given in a basket to eat. But what, many ask, does that have to do with the Christian holiday of Easter? Some of those holiday traditions can be traced back to northern Europe.

Many European words for "Easter" actually find their roots in the Hebrew word "pasah," a clear connection to the Jewish Passover, according to linguistic and religious sources.

But the English word "Easter," and the German version "Ostern," derive from "Ostara" the name of a Germanic goddess, which in pagan traditions represented springtime, the morning, and the East.

A New York Times piece from 1899 notes that for a faith

looking to "give Christian significance to all such observances as could not be thoroughly rooted out," it wasn't too far a leap to "prove a connection between joy at the arising of the natural sun... with the rising of Christ from the grave."

Those springtime festivals also featured symbols of fertility, which carried over to Christian traditions surrounding Easter. Hence the bunnies.

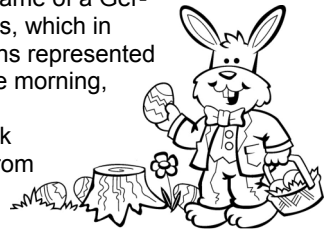
"The bunny thing is spring and fertility," said Lizette Larson-Miller, a professor with the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. "Bunnies are known for their fertility so I suppose someone long ago put that connection together."

The eggs too are also considered natural fertility symbols, but Christians were also able to find in them something else: Symbols of future life, and, in a way, resurrection.

Eggs don't just have a Christian significance. The New York Times piece also references the fact that Jews use eggs in Passover, "And even the Persians presented each other with colored eggs at their festival of the solar new year in March." In the Eastern Christian tradition, a popular Easter game involves cracking dyed, hard-boiled eggs together.

"The cracking of the eggs is the cracking open of the tomb," said Larson-Miller. "So the Easter eggs represent in some ways the tomb of Christ in the garden."

The Easter egg hunt, seems to have multiple origins. The New York Times 1899 article notes that in "Scotland, it used to be the custom on Easter Sunday for the young



(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

priority.

Second, you have been compassionate, caring individuals who have shown the love of Christ! I would encourage you to continue this as well.

Through these two gifts you have blessed me, people in the church and people beyond the church. This community is better for having all of you in it. I will always consider myself blessed for having been allowed to work side by side for the Kingdom.

My season at Solid Rock has come to an end, but your season to answer God's call and show Christ's love will NEVER end, so please keep up the good work.

Shalom,
Pastor Kathy

(Continued from page 2)

people to go out early in the morning to search for the eggs of various wild fowls for breakfast, it being though most lucky to find them."

The German church reformer Martin Luther, Larson-Miller said, also appeared to encourage the tradition.

"We know that Martin Luther had Easter egg hunts where the men hid the eggs for the women and children went and it probably has this connection back to this idea of eggs being the tomb."

And what about the idea of bunnies laying those eggs?

"That might not be biologically correct," Larson-Miller said, laughing. "But somebody made that connection, yeah."

- www.cbsnews.com

SOS

The Solid Rock SOS met on March 12, 2015. Meeting highlights:

- A devotion on Jeremiah 29:11 was given by Cindy Boxell.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- Joys and Concerns were shared.
- A lesson on not worrying about the past, present or future was given by Lana Myers. Verses discussed included Romans 12:2, Matthew 11:28, John 14:6, and Matthew 16:23.
- A love offering was collected to be used for the scholarship fund.
- Old Business
 - UMW potential fundraiser and activity discussed.

- New Business
 - Updated by-laws to fix typographic error and add section on gift given with death of member's child.
- 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: 13
- Next meeting: April 9 at Cindy Boxell's house with Cheryl DeWeese as co-hostess and Sherry Gifford giving the lesson.

Love INC Ministry Report

Loving Neighbors

Loving Neighbors is our attempt to live into the fullness of Love INC's mission: to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ!

We pair families and individuals who are in need with a trained volunteer from a local church who works with their neighbor to make positive steps toward personal, financial, and spiritual stability.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Loving Neighbors 2014:

- 52 total households
- 23 participated in a budgeting program
- 15 participated in personal growth programs (GED, etc.)
- 18 participated in job searching/skills training
- 21 were connected to partner agencies/programs

Everyday Cooking

Everyday Cooking is a cooking class that is offered to our neighbors in collaboration with the Purdue Extension and Parkview Hospital. We strive to help our neighbors learn how to prepare healthy and balanced meals for their family!

Community Food Pantry 2014:

- Households served: 1,124
- Individuals served: 3,499
- Times assisted: 4,980
- Food Pantry volunteers: 111
- Hours volunteered: 4,028

Love INC Gift Shop

Two years ago we had a dream to open a low-cost gift shop. We wanted to help our neighbors provide Christmas for the families with dignity! In 2014 we had 114 families participate!

Back-to-School

This year Love INC, along with local churches and community partners, served 452 children from 197 families during our Back-to-School Shopping event! This event helps students start the school year on the right foot with confidence! Thanks to everybody who donated or volunteered to make this program a success!

Volunteers

We are so thankful that people from all over Huntington County choose to invest in Love INC with their most precious gift: their time!

- 193 people volunteered at Love INC in 2014
- 11,559 hours were logged by volunteers in 2014

Capital Campaign 2014-2016

The Board of Directors for Love INC elected to pursue a small capital campaign in 2014, with the goal of raising \$250,000. With this money we plan to pay off the new house we purchased in July which is adjacent to our building, pay off our current mortgage, repave the parking lot, and renovate the new property. By the end of 2014 we had over \$105,000 pledged.

2014 Financial Snapshot

Our overall income for 2014 was \$218,123.75 while our expenses totaled \$226,705.42 giving us an operational shortfall of \$8,581.67. In 2015 we've made our budget leaner and plan to be more active in fundraising and donor relations.

Solid Rock is a continuing financial supporter of Love INC.

Men's Fellowship Fundraiser

East of Chicago Pizza

April 14
5:00-8:30 p.m.



The answer is Easter

After the April 2013 suicide of his 27-year-old son, Matthew, pastor and author Rick Warren was often asked how he was able to keep going. His frequent reply? "The answer is Easter."

In the Easter sermons Warren preached the following year, he emphasized that Jesus' resurrection is the answer to discouragement, defeat and devastating trials.

"The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus happened over three days," Warren explained. "Friday was the day of suffering and pain and agony. Saturday was the day of doubt and confusion and misery. But Easter, that Sunday, was the day of hope and joy and victory."

"You will face these three days over and over and over in your lifetime. And when you do, you'll find yourself asking, as I did, three fundamental questions. Number one, what do I do in my days of pain? Two, how do I get through my days of doubt and confusion? Three, how do I get to the days of joy and victory?"



Jesus Is Alive

Hallelujah Jesus is alive

Death has lost its vict'ry

And the grave has been denied

Jesus lives forever

He's alive He's alive

He's the Alpha and Omega

The first and last is He

The curse of sin is broken

And we have perfect liberty

The Lamb of God has risen

He's alive He's alive

Hallelujah Jesus is alive



- Ron Kenoly
CCLI Song # 550652



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