

News From The Rock

April 2016

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Communications Task Force

One outcome of the Fruitful Congregations Journey process has been identification of communication, both internal and external, as an area to be examined and strengthened. A Communications Task Force has been established and is moving forward with analyzing current tools (such as newsletter, bulletin, website, and Facebook page) as well as exploring new technologies which might be employed.

The Task Force is currently creating a new church brochure as another tool for creating awareness of Solid Rock in the community and for inviting those seeking a church home. A Twitter account has also been established (@solidrockumc) as one more avenue of communication.

Please pray for this team as they continue the process, and do not hesitate to share your ideas for making communications more effective. Members are Pastor Paul Burris, Olivia Bolinger, Shannon Rogers, Jessica Barry, and Gary Walter.

Youth Fellowship

The youth have enjoyed the Lenten lunch meetings the past month, and also a great afternoon of bowling together. Look on the church Facebook page for some awesome pictures of our great bowling form and styles!

Our next meeting will be on April 17 at the church. Remember also to mark your calendars for the May 15 service of the Warren Area Youth (WAY) from 5:00 to 6:30 at the Civic Center. This is an organization sponsored by the Warren Area Ministerial Association. The first service was held in March, and was a lot of fun! It was awe-

some to see all those youth from our community, from all denominations, and also all the support from the adults from each church. We are looking forward to some great worship, faith-building, and fun for the youth of our community. Be sure to start inviting your friends to attend this!

Church camp week will be June 26. We have 5 youth planning on attending Epworth Forest. Please start praying for these youth.

Remember that UMYF is for all youth in grades 6 through college age. Please come and bring a friend!

Upcoming Youth Events

- **April 10:** Lunch with young adults after church
- **April 17:** Meeting, 5:00-6:30
- **May 1:** Meeting, 5:00-6:30
- **May 15:** The Way (Warren Area Youth Service), 5:00-6:30 at Knight-Bergman Center
- **June 26-July 1:** Epworth Forest Camp Week

Prayer Chains

We have two prayer chains available for prayer requests. The phone tree prayer chain can be used on weekdays until 11:00 a.m. by calling the church office at 375-3873. The calling prayer chain can be used at all other times by calling Tamara Spahr at 375-2859, Becky Parker at 375-2090, or Carolyn Winters at 375-2343. If you would like to be included in the prayer chains, please call the office and we will gladly add you to the list.



Every year when the NCAA men's basketball tourney takes place, I am often reminded of past tourneys and feats of heroics (and no I'm not referring to IU's 5 National Championships, sorry Boiler-maker fans). In mid-March every year teams take the stage with high hopes of going as far as they can in the tourney regardless of the odds.

One tourney that sticks out as one of my favorites took place in 1983. That year the North Carolina State Wolfpack won eight consecutive games which propelled them into the title game. They faced the University of Houston Cougars, whose twin towers, Clyde Drexler and Hakeem Olajuwon, had earned the nickname "Phi Slatamma Jamma."



Experts considered the championship match an afterthought. Houston needed to go only through the motions. But the Wolfpack had other ideas. Another contest as an underdog didn't faze Jim Valvano's team.

NC State used the same strategy that had carried it on its winning streak. The team stuck to a controlled offense, tight defense, and planned to foul late to force Houston into pressure free throws. The tactics worked well. The Wolfpack led 33-25 at the half.

Houston regrouped and went on a 17-2 run. With 3 minutes remaining, the Cougars forged ahead 52-46. NC State began to foul. The plan worked. Houston missed free throws, and the Wolfpack hit buckets.

With the score tied at 52, Valvano ordered his team to work for the final shot. But the Pack's offense wasn't clicking and

"Clouds come floating into my life,
no longer to carry rain or
usher storm, but to add color
to my sunset sky."

—Rabindranath Tagore

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SOS

The Solid Rock SOS met on March 10, 2016, at Teresa Kriegbaum's house. Meeting highlights:

- Devotion about seeking God's reconciliation in every area of our hearts was led by Susan. (2 Corinthians 5:19)
- The lesson was given by LeAnn from the devotional "Jesus Calling."
- Joys and Concerns were shared.
- A love offering was collected for Madi Canady's mission trip.

Old Business

- Collected money for feminine products for food pantry.
- Liberty Center UMC Mother's Day entertainment committee will have a meeting Wednesday, March 16, at 7:15 p.m. at the church. Everyone is invited to attend to give over ideas.

News From The Rock

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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 485 Bennett Drive, Warren
Church Phone: 375-3871

Church Office

Office Phone: 375-3873
Hours: 9 a.m. to Noon

Pastor: Rev. Paul Burris
pburris@hotmail.com
(260) 609-9260

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 24*

- 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 members and 1 guest
- Next meeting: April 14, 2016, with Allison Voght as hostess and Brenda Conner as co-hostess and Sherry Gifford giving the lesson.

Food Pantry Needs

- Cereal
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Snack Crackers
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Spaghetti
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Pudding Snack Packs
- Ramen Noodles



Also needed: plastic bags, books and magazines (6 months through adult)

Please leave your items in the wooden boxes in the narthex.

Fools for Christ

April Fools' Day isn't a religious holiday, though it may date to Pope Gregory XIII and his new calendar. In 1582, he shifted New Year's Day from April to January, and people who didn't believe the change were called April fools.

April Fools' Day may also be connected to the lightheartedness that comes with warmer weather, as well as to medieval Christian festivals that involved pranks, disguises and a temporarily inverted social order.

Yet, in Scripture, such reversal characterizes the kingdom of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, St. Paul writes that the gospel seems foolish to people who don't know Christ, that God uses the "foolishness of our

proclamation" to offer salvation to all and that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Jesus "foolishly" inverted the social order, saying the last will be first and the first, last.

So if on April 1 — and every day — we live as "fools for Christ," we're precisely what he calls us to be!

Treasures

One by one he took them from me,
all the things I valued most,
until I was empty-handed;
every glittering toy was lost.

And I walked earth's highways, grieving
in my rags and poverty
till I heard his voice inviting,
"Lift your empty hands to me!"

So I held my hands toward heaven,
and he filled them with a store
of his own transcendent riches,
till they could contain no more.

And at last I comprehended
with my stupid mind and dull,
that God could not pour his riches
into hands already full!

—Martha Snell Nicholson

"Feasting on the Word" Bible Study

Now that Easter has brought us new life, it is time to hear the Lord speak to us through weekly scripture reading. Each of these readings is coordinated with Pastor Paul's Sunday message. You are invited to read the passage and bring your Bible to the Monday evening study at 7:00 p.m. in the church kitchen. Below are the dates and readings.

- April 4: Matthew 6: 1-5, Mike Heath, leader
- April 11: 2 Timothy 3: 14-17, Joe Haney, leader
- April 18: Matthew 1:18-23, Matthew 28: 16-20, Aletta Heath, leader
- April 25: Matthew 20: 20-28, Mike Heath, leader

Praise the Lord for the continued guidance that is given to God's children for their living!

February Financial Update

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| General Offerings | \$14,275 |
| General Fund Expenses | \$16,032 |
| Mortgage Balance..... | \$205,265 |



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time ticked away. Dereck Wittenberg fired a desperation shot that touched nothing but air. Suddenly, two monstrous hands reached up, grabbed the ball, and stuffed it through the hoop as the buzzer sounded. The hands belonged to NC State's Lorenzo Charles. The Wolfpack reigned as the NCAA Basketball Champs.

NC State proved that things don't always go as planned. The strongest and the swiftest don't always win. The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote: "I have seen something else under the sun: the race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise nor wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all." (Ecclesiastes 9:11)

Time and chance happen to all. And God controls both. Let that be a reminder to us as we continue the work God has called us to here at Solid Rock. The Wolfpack's 1983 championship season is a powerful statement as to what can be accomplished if one stays focused on the task at hand. As we move forward in ministry, let us continue to pray for the readiness to receive the unexpected from God.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Paul

Administrative Council

The Solid Rock Administrative Council met on March 15, 2016. There were 14 present.

Secretary's report was approved as written.

Treasurer's report: The 2015 birthday/ anniversary offering was transferred to the Mission Fund. The Health Care Fund for 2011 has finally come through with the church getting around \$450. The funds for 2012 and 2013 had already come through in 2015. It was reported the mortgage balance is now at \$205,264.76.

Trustees are still working on trying to get the church signs up. The bell tower is to be worked on soon.

The WAMA community youth met March 13, with 44 youth and 16 adults in attendance. This was their first meeting. The Solid Rock youth group has 5 going to church camp.

The December-April Fuel account has been changed to Christmas Year Round. More people are being helped all year.

S.O.S. group will be having a Mother's Day Program at Liberty Center.

Men's group has been having 15-16 attending their meeting at Heritage Pointe on the second Saturday of each month for breakfast and devotions. There is always room for more. Men's group will be having their fundraiser on April 19 at East of Chicago Pizza.

The church pork roast fundraiser profit is to go to the WAMA Youth Group Service. WAMA group has 13 pastors and youth pastors at their monthly meetings. Chamber of Commerce has an average of around 25 in attendance at their monthly meetings. The community has a lot of good things going on.

The next meeting will be May 17, 2016.

Thank you!

Thank you to the following individuals for leading sessions of this year's Lenten study: Joe Haney, Gary Walter, Mike Heath, Patty Hensley, and Charles Ternet.

Community Men's Choir

A community men's choir will present a program at Solid Rock on Sunday, April 24, at 6:00 p.m. See Dave Spahr for further information.

A Meditation on Spring

NEW LIFE

Spring bursts out all over, no half measures, no holding back as if unsure of itself. It comes! The Chinese say 'Chun tian dao le!'



Spring has arrived. This is the miracle of Spring. It is new life waking up after a long winter of icy cold days. Spring turns everything around. A dry bleak ground hard with frost becomes soft and lush with green grass. And

then, like a celebration of God's creative imagination and artistry, Spring shows its true colors and joy. Daffodils, hyacinths, primroses, tulips, irises and many other flowers open their buds and cover the ground with their beauty and splendor. Trees, dark bare skeletons of winter's lifeless wind and snow, suddenly look majestic in their buds, leaves and blossoms. Warm

air wafts the scents of flowers and blossoms across meadows and downs, hills and valleys. Skies look bluer and the sun brighter. Birds wake up with the light and start chirping their songs. They flit about from tree to tree and when shadows fall in the twilight hour they gather together and sing full throated anthems to the Creator.

THE FIRST SPRING

Springtime is the recreation of the first Spring. Eleanor Farjeon, (1881-1965) composed the hymn, 'Morning has Broken, Like the first morning...' Everything that we experience now had its first morning, its first day, its first sunlight and flowers, its first Spring. The very first Spring could hardly be more miraculous than this one but as Farjeon points out the first morning was 'Fresh from the Word of God.' Behind that One Word is the Creator who brings everything to life.

GOOD NEWS OF ANOTHER SPRING

There is another Springtime that is ready to break into our lives, our inner world of thought and feeling, dreams and nightmares. It is not a season that changes to summer, then to autumn and winter. It is the newness of life the Spirit of God is waiting to breath into our souls. St. Paul says, 'So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) This Springtime comes into our hearts and dispels the winters of our sadness or sorrow, anger or bitterness. Like rain and sunshine that make the Spring possible so the gift of the Holy Spirit cleanses us from sin by the grace of Christ and leads us in holiness and truth, happiness and joy.

—Selwyn Perry

Evangelism tip

We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.

—Madeleine L'Engle



Men's Fellowship Fundraiser

East of Chicago
Pizza

April 19
5:00-8:30 p.m.



Our Mission:

The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision:

Sharing and experiencing the life-giving message of Jesus, to restore wholeness and build an intentional community of hope, relationship, and purpose for everyone.

Ladies Spring Fling

Sponsored by Solid Rock SOS



Friday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m.

- ☼ Salad and dessert carry-in
- ☼ Drinks, bread,
- and table service provided

O Lord our God, grant us grace to
 desire you with our
 whole heart,
 that so desiring,
 we may seek and
 find you; and so
 finding you we may
 love you; and loving you we
 may hate those sins from which you
 have redeemed us;
 for the sake of Jesus Christ.



—St. Anselm (1033-1109)

