



# News From The Rock

December 2010

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

## Administrative Council

The Solid Rock Administrative Council met on November 15. The Finance Committee reported that Building Funds currently total \$492,312.

The Building/Site Team has completed worksheets for the architect outlining sizes and uses of designated areas in the new facility. The architect will use those guidelines in further developing the design.

Effective January 1, 2011, the church will no longer be required to be insured through the Indiana Conference. Trustees are acquiring bids from several providers and will make a determination by the end of the year.

The Outreach Team reported that more volunteers are needed to serve in the Bread of Life Food Pantry on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. Twenty-three families were served on November 10. Anyone with an interest in assisting should contact Rochelle DeHaven.


## October Offerings

General Offerings ..... \$18,275  
Building Fund Contributions ..... \$21,987

## Solid Rock Youth

Thanks again to Gary and Rosalie Walter for opening their home for our fall

**SOLID ROCK UMYF**



Inviting all young people  
Building our faith  
Caring for others  
Worshiping our God  
Connecting with other believers  
Come to God's Party!

youth cookout. We had a blast going back to the pond, playing some capture the flag, and then heading inside for dinner and more games!

I'll be gone from December 20 through January 20 due to Christmas break and then a class I'm taking in January where we'll be in L.A. for a couple weeks, so Jeff and Marie will be running the show while I'm away.



## Christmas at Solid Rock

December 5 \* 5:30  
Christmas Caroling at  
Heritage Pointe

December 12 \* 2:00  
Christmas Cantata at  
Heritage Pointe

December 19 \* 10:00  
Christmas Cantata  
at Solid Rock

December 24 \* 7:00  
Christmas Eve Service

December 24 \* 11:00  
Christmas Candlelight  
Service

Special thanks for everyone's cards, prayers, and support for my family and me during this transition.

Andy Hayward

### Upcoming Youth Events

- December 5, Meeting, 4:00
- December 12, Bible Study, 11:30
- December 19, Meeting, 4:00
- December 26, No Meeting
- December 28, Possible tobogganing at Pokagon State Park, TBA
- January 9, Pizza, Sledding?
- January 16, Meeting, Sledding?

Just Leaning  
on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



My mailbox has been inundated by catalogs, sales announcements and general commercial items for, you guessed it, Christmas. So I decided to look into when

**"Amid these catalogs, sales announcements and commercial items may we be ever mindful of what Christmas really is about!"**

and how Christmas started. I know, I know, surely a pastor would know when Christmas started. Well the obvious answer is actually not the correct one. It seems that before the

Christian Church started celebrating December 25 as Christmas, there were others that celebrated in other ways for other reasons.

Thousands of years ago in the Norse country they celebrated "Light and Birth," also known as Yule. This was celebrated on December 21, where fathers and sons would drag a large log, set it on fire, and they would celebrate sometimes as long as 14 days for as long as the log burned. Another tradition, a little more recent, was "Saturnalia," celebrated by the Romans. This festival included the celebration of the birth of Mithra on December 25. It was in the fourth century that the Christian Church began to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity. It was not until 1894 that it became a work holiday in the U.S.

You see, what Christmas is really about was announced to the Shepherds in that field long ago. Luke 2:9-14: "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,

(Continued on page 3)

## Open Apology #2

Let me begin by admitting there was a long internal debate before deciding on the title for this column. The one you see here was the winner, not necessarily because it was more appropriate, but only because it was shorter. The one not chosen was, "IF YOU DON'T LIKE SAUERKRAUT, DON'T EAT THE CHOCOLATE CAKE".

Recently, I was enjoying my regular Friday, waffle breakfast at one of the Bob Evans Restaurants in Fort Wayne. As usual, a book was my companion, but apparently not completely holding my attention, because I overheard a waitress discussing her family's Thanksgiving traditions with another diner. Some of the ele-

ments included renting a hall, 70 people, and her contribution to the meal, which was always 40 pounds of potatoes, mashed, and 5 dozen hard-boiled eggs which she "deviled". She revealed her responsibility for those items on the menu was due to the fact that everyone in her family agreed no one else in the group could do them as well, even though others had tried through the years. She went on to share the amount of time it took just to peel and cut up all those potatoes. She also divulged a unique, but secret, ingredient she was not willing to share with the other family members.

You are wondering why I have to apologize for any of that. It is necessitated by what occurred when she came over to refill my coffee cup. Explaining I had eavesdropped on her conversation, and wondered if her "secret ingredient" was the same as mine. She SAT DOWN ACROSS THE TABLE FROM ME! As she elaborated on the task, stating she did not reveal the addition of TURNIPS to the mix because there are people who don't like turnips, all I could do was wonder what the other diners in the room were thinking as they observed the two of us. My hope is that none of you were there waiting to be served before going out to get a head start on Black Friday.

Yes, a turnip is also included in my mashed potatoes, but not as a secret ingredient. Why would I try to conceal the fact a completely legitimate vegetable, which does enhance the flavor of a relatively bland dish, is a mainstay in my culinary repertoire?

However, since we had obviously bonded, I reluctantly revealed when baking a chocolate cake from scratch, the moistness everyone so obviously enjoys, is the by-product of an ingredient not typically included in most traditional chocolate cake recipes. Rest assured, if someone were to ask specifically if that particular food item had been used, I would acknowledge its presence.

Barbara Kleinhans

## Cards appreciated

We have received Mykel Overby's address. He would appreciate cards and letters. NO candy, gum, stickers or glitter in the envelope. He will be punished if this happens. Remember him in your prayers.

AB Overby, Mykel E  
331 TRS/FLT 067 (dorm B-1)  
1320 Truemper St, unit 369535  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236.6407

## Men's Fellowship

The Solid Rock Men's Fellowship met on November 13, 2010, in the Calico



### Men's Fellowship

Room at Heritage Pointe with 15 men in attendance. Bill Couch opened the meeting with prayer.

Breakfast was served by Kim's Katered Affair.

Marion Bell's devotional, "Conversations with Felix," was based on Acts 24:7.

Steve Holmes reported that we served 81 at the pizza fundraiser in October.

Randy Hensley reported that our adopted Thanksgiving family has six children. The group approved funding for this project.

The group also approved the purchase of disposable roasting pans for the Food Pantry.

Closing prayer was offered by Gary Walter. The next meeting will be December 11. Our usual meeting room will not be available. We will meet in the Library Activity Room at Heritage Pointe.

## Nothing much

In 1925, the New York World celebrated Abraham Lincoln's 100th birthday with a now-classic cartoon. Two Kentucky farmers are talking over a picket fence. One asks, "Anything new happen lately?" The other responds, "Nothing much. A new baby was born over at Tom Lincoln's place, but nothing much ever happens around here."

I'm sure there were folks who said the same thing in Bethlehem [on Christmas Eve]. I can picture them, can't you? Standing on the corner, just outside the inn. "Anything new happen around here? Naw, just a baby born down in the stable. Nothing much ever happens around here."

—James A. Harnish

## True hospitality

A 7-year-old boy was chosen to be the innkeeper in the Christmas program. When Joseph and Mary approached him, looking for shelter in Bethlehem, he simply had to say there was no room.

The kindhearted boy tried to take the sting out of the situation, however. "I don't have room for you in the hotel," he said. "But I'd love to have you come in for milk and cookies."

### News From The Rock

is published each month by

#### Solid Rock United Methodist Church

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Warren, Indiana 46792

[www.solidrockumc.com](http://www.solidrockumc.com)

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Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

at 227 N. Main Street, Warren

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News deadline for the January newsletter: December 19

(Continued from page 1)

which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

So amid these catalogs, sales announcements and commercial items may we be ever mindful of what Christmas really is about!

Shalom & Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Kathy

## S.O.S. Christmas Project

S.O.S. is adopting the Malta House in Huntington as our Christmas "family." This is the new men's shelter. They are in need of men's coats and outerwear. If you have gently used items you would like to donate, please call Becky Arnett at (260) 519-5259, or place your items in the box in the fellowship hall.

## Cookie Ministry

Third graders and up, we will be baking Christmas cookies on December 6, from 4:30 to 8:00. If you have ball games or other commitments, come when you can. Pizza and drinks will be provided for supper.

## Young Adults

The next gathering of Young Adults will be in January due to everyone's busy December schedules. Have a Merry Christmas!

Cindy

## United Methodist Women

Thirteen members of the Solid Rock United Methodist Women met November 4 for their annual World Thank Offering and Pledge Service program. President Myrna Neff opened the meeting with a reading about making music in life. "Sing and make music in your heart in the mornings! We can't all be nightingales, but we can be sparrows!"

Members joined in the U.M.W. Purpose, before Myrna's sharing of the November Prayer Calendar. James Campbell, a missionary in Anchorage, Alaska, will be cele-

brating a November 5 birthday; Carol Gullatt, a Deaconess working in Huntsville, Alabama, is also a "birthday girl" this



## United Methodist Women

month. Our prayers also go with the work of the Methodist Women's Federation of Peru, S.A., in the Women's Micro-Economic Project there.

Carolyn Winters recorded joys and concerns of our members and led us all in prayer for those specific matters, plus prayer for our newly elected officials in American political and governing positions.

Barbara Hart's "Mission Moment" was about a U.M.W. ministry in a Kansas prison for women, where a woman, "Lorna," is "serving time" with Christian service. She is an organizer and worker in a prison Welcome Wagon program. There is also a program of various types of handwork, which is a valuable use of time in service for others while in prison. As treasurer, Barbara reported a treasury balance of \$387.61 as of October 31. Individually pledged monies to be paid before the end of the year are \$100. Unit members discussed a year's end mission gift from our unit; motion was amended to make this amount \$160—\$10 for each active member, derived from monthly small offerings. Barbara stated that for the year 2009 the total mission funds the North Indiana Conference U.M.W. contributed to mission work of the United Methodist Church was \$17,797,706, from over 800,000 givers! Above all, this expresses the love we have for one another.

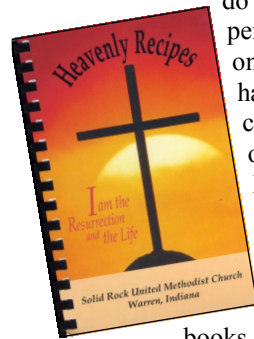
The meeting concluded with Barbara leading members in a service honoring our annual World Thank Offering in this Thanksgiving season, and our Pledge Service for the coming year.

## Souers Bible study

The Bible study at Souers' home will be suspended for the months of December, January and February (for holidays and winter months). We have had an average of 10 attending each session. Those attending were Barbara Kleinhans, Mindy Rider, Mick and Bill McNany, Sue and Dave Wechsler, Marge and Darrell Blair, Mark Sunderman, Francis and Richard Kistler, Pastor Kathy and Doris and John Souers.

## A Christmas gift idea!

With Christmas only a few 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.



## S.O.S.

The December S.O.S. meeting will be at the home of Vicki Sieberns at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. We will be serving a soup dinner for our Christmas party. Also, we will be collecting gently used men's coats for the Malta House in Huntington. For more information, contact Becky Arnett. If anyone from the congregation would like to donate a coat or hats and gloves, they would be greatly appreciated.

## Now's that's punishment

It was the day after Christmas. Dad was trying to take a nap, but his young son kept finding ways to interrupt his siesta. Finally, the father lost his patience and said, "Go to my room, and go now!"

Hearing this, the boy's mother asked, "Why did you tell him to go to your room and not his?"

"Are you kidding?" the father replied. "Did you see all those Christmas presents he received? In his room, he has a TV, a stereo, a computer, eight new CDs and three new video games. If we want to punish him, we have to send him to our room."

—Homiletics

## Newborn stats

A pastor asked a church member to have a sign made for Christmas. It was to be rather large: 6 feet long and 2 feet wide. The layperson paid for the sign, took it to the church and hung it above the front door.

Imagine the shock when people saw that it read: "Unto Mary, Jesus was born, 6 feet long and 2 feet wide."

## A Christmas Message



Christmas holds the mystery  
Of how God touched the earth  
By giving us the Christ child  
In a newborn baby's birth.

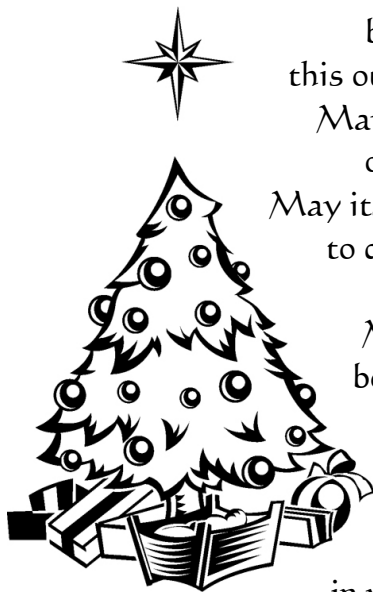
Great awe was in young Mary's heart,  
And in the shepherds' pace  
As they ran quickly to the town  
And found that special place.

These humble shepherds knelt before  
This tiny newborn king;  
And as they did so, they could hear  
The lovely angels sing:

"Fear not, for unto you this day,  
The Prince of Peace has come  
To share God's love throughout the world.  
Rejoice now, everyone!"

—Peggy Ferrell

## Christmas Tree Blessing



Holy Creator of Trees,  
bless with your abundant grace  
this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy.

May its evergreen branches be a sign  
of your never-fading promises.

May its colorful lights and ornaments call us  
to decorate with love our home and our  
world.

May the gifts that surround this tree  
be symbols of the gifts we have received  
from the Tree of Christ's Cross.

Holy Christmas tree within our  
home,  
may Joy and Peace come and nest  
in your branches and in our hearts. Amen.

December  
2010



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