

News From The Rock

December 2015

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Warmth Tree

Solid Rock will once again be filling a Warmth Tree this year. Last year, we gave sock hats, gloves, and scarves to five elementary and middle schools. What a lot of warm school children! The tree will be located near the coffee house.

Thank you!
Joenita Keller



“Senior Saints”

Pastor Paul had two “cottage meetings” this fall at Heritage Pointe. Attending the meetings were Heritage Pointe residents who had attended Solid Rock and other area churches. Guests learned things they never new about their friends’ histories and past events in the community.



These residents desired to have a nickname for themselves besides “folks in the Big House.” This past month they voted to call themselves the Senior Saints. Thank you, Mary Emma Holmes, for coordinating this name selection and for keeping the Senior Saints informed about quarterly meetings that Pastor Paul will be hosting in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe.

The next meeting will be December 3 beginning at 1:00 p.m. The Solid Rock church family are all invited to join the group and Pastor Paul this month in reminiscing about Christmases past.

October Financial Update

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| General Offerings | \$14,278 |
| General Fund Expenses | \$11,472 |
| Mortgage Balance | \$232,197 |

Christmas at Solid Rock

December 24
Christmas Eve Services
at 7:00 and 11:00

December 27
Christmas Sunday Worship
at 10:00

Youth Fellowship

The Solid Rock UMYF will sponsor a book drive, collecting new and gently used children’s books during the month of December. The books will be given to the Warren Food Pantry for families with children. There will be a collection box in the entry area of the church.

The Youth will be leading the late service on Christmas Eve. Please invite your family and friends to attend this very special celebration of Christ’s birth.

SOLID ROCK UMYF

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

We will be helping at the Food Pantry during the holiday season.

Our Lock-In will be on December 29th. Please let Marie or Michelle know if you plan on attending. Listen to announcements for more information later!

If you have any questions about our youth ministry, please contact Marie at (260) 228-0070. Remember that UMYF is

(Continued on page 3)

from
Pastor Paul

November 29th begins the season of Advent. For 27 days, we journey to the manger where we experience God’s presence become flesh and dwelling among us. God’s good news takes human form to tell us we are not left alone in this life. Emanuel, God with us, comes to us. It is a life-changing story that we enter at this time of year.

This year, I wonder how we will get there. It seems now with the branding of Christmas that there are many other paths to Christmas Day. For some, Christmas is now about what sits under the tree after searching at length for presents we may or may not need. Encountering God’s life-transforming presence seems less interesting if it is even remembered as the story of this season.

The basic definition of Advent means the coming or arrival of a notable person, thing or event. As Christians, we know how our familiar story ends (or begins) with God arriving through poor, unknown parents in a back alley of a small city. In a poem unrelated to Advent yet very pertinent, T.S. Eliot speaks about being in a familiar place and yet exploring it until we arrive at the same place and know it in new ways. He writes,

*We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.*
~T.S. Eliot

We know the destination of Christmas, but what path will we take in our travels through Advent to the manger and Christmas Day? Jesus’ own words in his Sermon on the Mount can be helpful: seek and we will find. We find God’s way in the midst

(Continued on page 3)

Feasting on the Word

“Feasting on the Word” Bible study at Solid Rock meets every Monday evening in the church kitchen at 7:00. Treat yourself to the gift of Christmas by joining us during the month of December.



The group of mixed ages and all walks of life meets to let God speak to us through His Word.

- December 7: John 1:1-14 (Mike Heath, leader)
- December 14: Matthew 1:18-25 (Joe Haney, leader)
- December 21: Luke 2:1-20 (Aletta Heath, leader)
- December 28: Numbers 22:22-38 (Mike Heath, leader)

Feast at the table of the Lord through sharing together in His Word for Solid Rock and the growth of His people.

News From The Rock

is published each month by

Solid Rock United Methodist Church

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 January newsletter: December 20

Veterans' Celebration: Thank You!

Thank you to the veterans and veterans' families who attended the Celebration Sunday on November 15. Solid Rock is so blessed to have so many talented members and visitors to entertain and sing from their hearts, provide the tastiest desserts, supply plenty of drinks, make wonderful potatoes, present amazing children's messages,



preach “soul-touching” sermons, assist and serve the visitors (by our amazing Youth), be motivational lay leaders, take memorable pictures, produce great sound

and video, insert all updates in bulletins and newsletters, and THE BEST volunteers to help decorate, set-up, tear down and clean up!

Thank you to Wendell and Teresa Bradford of the Hog Roasters for the pork and sides. Thank you to Lynn and Vicki Bonewitz for the hot dogs and memorabilia display. Thank you so much to Aletta Heath for donating her beautiful patriotic afghan, made with love!

There were 110 people in attendance and 29 veterans were honored! Thank God for our veterans. Thank you to the members of Solid Rock for prayers and support and to the veterans of our great country, Thank you, Thank you!

SOS

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

- A devotion on 2 Peter 1:2-3 was given by Cindy Boxell. God gives us abundant life!
- Joys and Concerns were shared.
- A lesson on Psalm 139:1-18 was given by Marie DeWeese. God made you like you are intentionally and made us for a purpose. God wants us to discover that purpose. The great I Am created us and is making us more like himself. Accept yourself as God's wonderful creation.
- A love offering was collected to be given to a community member in need.
- Old Business
 - Scarecrow festival: Provided 200 packets and 8 gallons of hot chocolate.
 - SOS will provide entertainment for

the Mother's Day program at Liberty Center.

- New Business
 - New officers elected for 2016:
 - President: Susan Mills
 - Vice President: Linda Mc Howell
 - Secretary: Allison Voght
 - Treasurer: Jessica Barry
 - Corresponding Secretary: Lana Myers
 - Seasonal committee, booth, and monthly meeting sign-up were passed around for signups.
- Committee report: Discussed going to 1/16/16 basketball game and 12/6 Peter Pan, Jr. performance.
- 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: 19
- Next meeting: 12/10/15 at Tamara Spahr's house with Mariah Pfister as co-hostess and the Fall Committee giving the lesson.

Christmas to-do list

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among brothers,
to make music in the heart.

—Howard Thurman

Angels among us

“When God wants to speak and deal with us,” said Martin Luther, “he does not avail himself of an angel but of parents, or the pastor, or of our neighbor.” Never underestimate how powerfully God can use you in the life of a child, a church member, a friend or a stranger.



The Hebrew word for angel also means “messenger.” You may be specially chosen to deliver to someone the message of God's love or guidance. Listen intently for what God would have you share with others, then do so faithfully and caringly.

(Continued from page 1)

of searching for it. We find God's dream for us when we follow the Way of hope, peace, joy and love.

What if we take that path, a path less traveled this season? Let's search for the manger using God's Way of hope, peace, joy and love as if they are points on a compass and we are seeking ways to live authentic and faithful lives to a story that has transformed us and wants to do so again. What might we see in an otherwise routine and annual story? What unexpected turns will we take? What stops will we make along the way?

I'm looking forward to our journey together and what God will reveal to us along the way and on Christmas Day. I'm looking forward to searching for God's Way this Advent and the ways God will make us living examples of God's presence in the world.

Traveling Mercies,
See You Sunday,
Pastor Paul

(Continued from page 1)

for all youth from middle school through college. If you have any questions about the college age ministry, please see Tom Bolinger.

Upcoming UMYF Events

- **December 6:** Meeting at 6:45
- **December 24:** Christmas Eve Service at 10:30
- **December 29:** Lock-in at the church
- **January 3:** Meeting at 6:45
- **January 17:** Meeting at 6:45
- **January 31:** Fifth Sunday Sing, 5:30

at Heritage Pointe

- **February 7:** Super Bowl Pizzas after church

United Methodist Women

The women of Solid Rock United Methodist Church met Thursday, November 5, 2015, in the Calico Room of Heritage Pointe. Barbara Hart, President, welcomed each one present and gave a devotional entitled "United Methodist Women give to meet the physical and social needs of women, children and youth around the world."

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

The prayer calendar listed the mission focus as South Korea, Taejon Christian Social Welfare Center. Birthdays on November 5 included Carol Geblatt (Deacon), Huntsville, Alabama, and Mary Ellen Kilmer (Deacon), Harrison, Nebraska.

The joys and concerns were taken by Carolyn Winters and the Mission Moment was given by Mick McNany. Roll call was taken and the secretary's report was read by Doris Souers. There were eight members present.

The treasurer's report, given by Barbara Hart, showed a balance of \$461.44. Barbara Hart recorded information in the absence of the secretary.

Under new business, Carolyn Winters made a motion to purchase \$75 worth of



United
Methodist
Women

gloves for the Food Pantry. The motion passed.

The group was happy to receive a new member, Eva Mae Minnick.

The lesson, a Pledge to Mission service entitled "Welcoming through Giving," was given by Barbara Hart.

Each member received a pledge card to make a personal pledge to missions for the coming year. This supports mission projects in more than 100 countries to help people who are hurting, marginalized and oppressed.

A skit, "What Really Is World Thank Offering?", was given by Doris Souers and Bernice Garrett.

Members gave a thank offering as a way to say thanks to God for the many blessings received throughout the year. The meeting closed with a litany, Psalm 139:1-18.

Respectfully submitted

Now that's news

In 1809, with Napoleon sweeping through Austria, the world was in such upheaval that nobody paid much attention to baby news. Yet during that year, Abraham Lincoln, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Charles Darwin, Alfred Tennyson, Edgar Allen Poe and William Gladstone were born.

Although the attention was on an Austrian battlefield, "history was actually being shaped in the cradles of England and America," writes Charles Swindoll. "Similarly, everyone thought taxation was the big news when Jesus was born. But a young Jewish woman cradled the biggest news of all: the birth of the Savior."

—Adapted from
Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life



Solid Rock honored these veterans with a dinner and program on November 15.

Solid Rock Youth Fellowship

Book Drive

Collecting new and gently used children's books during the month of December to be donated to Bread of Life Food Pantry



Senior Saints Gathering

December 3 at 1:00 p.m.

Calico Room at Heritage Pointe

Pastor Paul will invite you to share your memories of Christmases past!



A Christmas Prayer of Thankfulness

Dear Jesus,

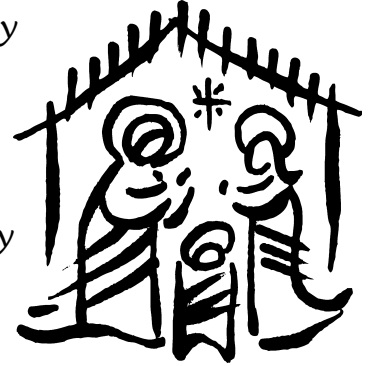
Thank You for leaving the halls of Heaven to be born on earth, then to live and die amongst us and thereby to change the world—and my life.

Though You came as a little child, Your warmth, love, and peace soon spread throughout the whole earth. Your love is ready to enter into every heart that welcomes You.

Thank You for what Christmas means—that whether or not I have family and friends, good times or bad, I will always have You. I will always have Your love—love that has stood the test of time, love that saved me and so many others like me.

Jesus, the stars and angels welcomed Your birth, as I welcome You into my heart with praise and thankfulness.

—Alex Peterson



Address Service Requested

Warren, IN 46792

P.O. Box 322

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

