

News From The Rock

February 2012

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Once again this year, the youth will be selling Super Bowl pizzas. See a UMYF member to place your order.

Upcoming events:

- February 5: Making Super Bowl pizzas after church
- February 12: Pizza after church
- February 19: UMYF Meeting
- February 26: Bible Study after church



Book Club Winter Session

The Winter Session of the Solid Rock Book Club is underway. The group is reading and discussing *So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore* by Wayne Jacobson and Dave Coleman. Remaining sessions will be held January 31 (chapters 5-9) and February 7 (chapters 10-13) at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Lenten studies begin February 26

Solid Rock will once again sponsor seven weeks of Lenten studies, providing an opportunity for spiritual enrichment during the weeks leading up to Easter. Two video-based series will be presented:

The True Easter Story: The Promise Kept

“Travel with Ray Vander Laan to the land of Israel and discover fascinating truths about the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus. See 2,000-year-old tombs, much like the one that so

temporarily held Jesus. Experience a dramatic plunge into the vibrant history and culture of Israel.



“The True Easter Story is not a superficial Holy Land travelogue. It’s a total cultural immersion directed by teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan. Using his knowledge of ancient Jewish holidays and little-known customs, Vander Laan probes the true depth of the Easter story as it begins 2,000 years earlier with a simple promise between a man called Abraham and Almighty God.

“God’s keeping of that promise reveals a beautifully intricate masterpiece of love for humankind, love fully realized centuries later in Jesus’ resurrection and his gift of eternal life.”

The Resurrected Life: Understanding the Meaning of Easter

“Filled with artistic images of the Holy Land, soul-stirring music, and the wisdom of prominent spiritual teachers from various Christian traditions, *The Resurrected Life* is a feast for the mind, heart, and eyes. This program is designed for viewers of all walks of life who hunger for encounter with God, who seek paths of personal transformation and renewal, or who yearn for deeper insight into the core mystery of Christianity.”

Sessions will be held February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1 and 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. (There will be no session on Easter Sunday.)

S.O.S.

The January 12 meeting of S.O.S. was at the home of Pastor Kathy. Business discussed included fireworks, the U.M.W. jewelry and bake sale on February 2, the youth group Super Bowl pizzas on February 5, and the Women’s Retreat at Lake

Just Leaning on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



February. The month of cold weather and love, of course! Valentine’s Day and the week previous is “National Marriage Week.” How appropriate that we should

“How appropriate that we should celebrate ‘love’ in the same month we start our Lenten Journey.”

celebrate “love” in the same month we start our Lenten Journey. Is there anyone who can love us like God? I think not! God

looks past our faults and right into our hearts, knowing full well what our motives are, whether pure or soiled. Yet in spite of our unworthiness, God still chose to send God’s own Son to earth, who walked like you and I walk, who suffered as you and I suffer, and who ultimately sacrificed His life for the likeness of sinners such as myself. Therefore I say to you my friends, pray: “Dear LORD, let us your worshipers rejoice and be glad. We love you for saving us, so let us always say, ‘The LORD is wonderful!’” (based on Psalm 40:16)

Love & Shalom,
Pastor Kathy

Placid in Hartford City on January 20 and 21. There were 12 members and two guests present.

St. Valentine's sacrifice

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine’s Day has another meaning that’s been lost.

First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February

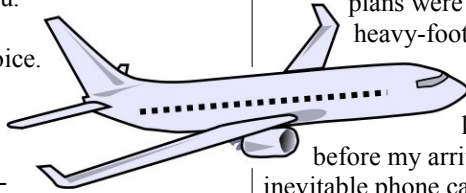
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Is it just me?

The holiday season is behind us. The outlook for the coming year depends upon your expectations. Whether you see it as a challenge to be met or as overwhelmingly worrisome is up to you.

You pay your money and you take your choice.

For me, I try to keep positive and live each day to the fullest while acknowledging that nothing I do is going to change the world substantially. I can shine some small light in the darkness, and that may last as long as my usual New Year's resolutions. It is not a formal resolution because we all



know what happens with typical resolutions, but we keep trying to get it right.

Admittedly, patience is not my most endearing character trait. However, recently I was thrown into frenzy while trying to reschedule a postponed flight to Florida.

You may remember last spring my travel plans were put on hold when a heavy-footed senior citizen decided to park her car in my granddaughter's living room two days

before my arrival. It started with the inevitable phone call to an automated voice, which eventually resulted in a transfer to a young man for whom English was obviously not his native language. Ultimately, I found myself repeatedly demanding to speak to a supervisor, which was an unfortunate decision. Once the change in personnel was accomplished, I could not even discern whether the next person was actually speaking any real language or just mouthing barely audible but unrelated and unintelligible syllables. This admission is difficult for a speech pathologist to make.

Forty-seven minutes after initiating the call, I hung up totally defeated. Either the new ticket was a reality, OR, I had somehow inadvertently disclosed the launch code for a nuclear attack on North Korea. There may have been a promise that confirmation would arrive via my computer, but I am not sure. It has been two weeks, and the confirmation has not appeared. The question is, do I start all over again and lose whatever little measure of composure I have remaining? What do you think? Am I in trouble here or does this happen to everyone?

Barbara Kleinhaus

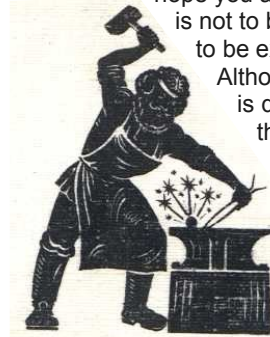
It can be caused by a death, a breakup, going broke, going prayerless. The light switch is flipped off and the room darkens. "All the thoughtful words of help and hope have all been nicely said. But I'm still hurting, wondering...."

On the anvil.

Brought face to face with God out of the utter realization that we have nowhere else to go. Jesus, in the garden. Peter, with a tear-streamed face. David, after Bathsheba. Elijah and the "still, small voice." Paul, blind in Damascus.

Pound, pound, pound.

I hope you're not on the anvil. (Unless you need to be and, if so, I hope you are.) Anvil time is not to be avoided; it's to be experienced.



Although the tunnel is dark, it does go through the mountain.

Anvil time reminds us of who we are and who God is. We shouldn't try to escape it.

To escape it could be to escape God.

God sees our life from beginning to end. He may lead us through a storm at age thirty so we can endure a hurricane at age sixty. An instrument is useful only if it's in the right shape. A dull ax or a bent screwdriver needs attention, and so do we. A good blacksmith keeps his tools in shape. So does God.

Should God place you on his anvil, be thankful. It means he thinks you're still worth reshaping.

- Max Lucado

On The Anvil: Thoughts of Being Shaped into God's Image

News From The Rock

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www.solidrockumc.com

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News deadline for the March newsletter: February 19

Anvil Time

On God's anvil. Perhaps you've been there.

Melted down. Formless. Undone. Placed on the anvil for ... reshaping? (A few rough edges too many.) Discipline? ("A good father disciplines.") Testing? (But why so hard?)

I know. I've been on it. It's rough. It's a spiritual slump, a famine. The fire goes out. Although the fire may flame for a moment, it soon disappears. We drift downward. Downward into the foggy valley of question, the misty lowland of discouragement. Motivation wanes. Desire is distant. Responsibilities are depressing.

Passion? It slips out the door.
Enthusiasm? Are you kidding?
Anvil time.

40

This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).



(Continued from page 1)

14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.

Caroline Hanley

Rev. Keith and Caroline Hanley served the Jefferson Center Church from 1943 through 1950. This update from Caroline's son, Larry, was received by Barbara Hart.

Because of declining health issues, Mother did not send Christmas cards. She appreciated receiving a card and hearing from you. I am helping her respond and give you an update. She lost most of the vision in her remaining good eye. She uses a magnifying glass to read what little she can read. It is difficult if not impossible for her to read the newspaper, etc. and to write. She has a painful arthritic knee/leg.

Because of the pain and weakness, it is difficult for her to walk. She requires a higher level of assistance so we moved her to a Level II Assisted Living facility in Fayetteville, Arkansas on December 29. She will also be closer to me. Borgny and I moved into a lifecare retirement community in Fayetteville in October. She is living in Apartment 103 at Culpepper Place of Fayetteville, 4461 N. Crossover Road, Fayetteville, AR 72703. You can also reach her by sending her mail to me at 3589 N. Brodie Station, Fayetteville, AR 72903.

To my Solid Rock Church family ...

Words seem so inadequate to express what's in the heart for all the special ways of showing me God's love. Thank you for all your prayers.

Thanks to the wonderful ladies who cooked and served the funeral dinner for the family.

Joenita turned on all the beautiful Christmas lights in the sanctuary after the dinner. When they wheeled me in to see such beauty it simply took my breath away. How comforting! It was in that place of worship I have longed to be. Jesus was there for me.

Thank you for all my cards, hospital visits and comforting words. I'm trusting

God to lead me through these uncharted waters I'm experiencing. He is enough to meet my needs.

I praise Him! May God shower all of you with His rich blessings.

I love you,
Carolyn Winters

Men's Fellowship

The Solid Rock Men's Fellowship met on January 14, 2012, at Heritage Pointe with 12 men in attendance. Gary Walter opened the meeting with prayer. Breakfast was served by Kim's Katered Affair.



Marion Bell shared devotions, "Just Imagine," "God Loves the Little People" (Luke 18:15-17) and "Serendipity Trip" (Matthew 6:31-33).

Closing prayer was offered by Bill Couch. The next meeting will be February 11, 2012.

Henderson Trip Update

Those planning on going to work at Henderson Settlement July 29 – August 4, 2012 need to submit their down payment of \$100 as soon as possible. Make checks payable to Solid Rock UMC and mark the memo line "Henderson Trip." Checks can be put in the offering, mailed to the church office or given to trip coordinator, Rosalie Walter.

Transfiguration

All over this magnificent world, God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom-peace and wholeness — of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no opposition that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned into love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

—Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream*

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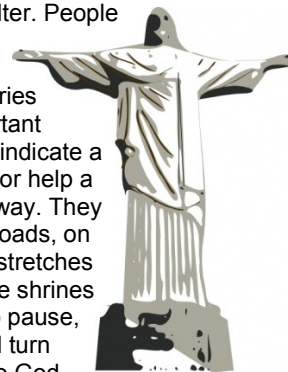
December Offerings

General Offerings \$15,599
Building Fund Contributions \$29,191

Wayside shrines

Along European and Latin American roads, especially in Catholic countries, it's common to encounter sculptures of Jesus, Mary or another religious image often set within a little shelter. People

have erected these wayside shrines for centuries to mark an important event's location, indicate a parish boundary or help a traveler find the way. They may be at crossroads, on hilltops or along stretches of open road. The shrines allow travelers to pause, offer prayers and turn heart and mind to God.

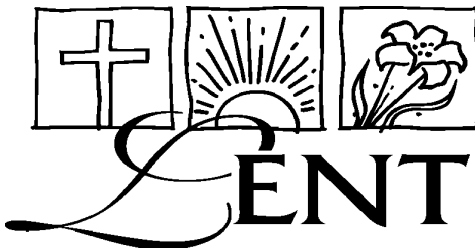


What places in your life serve as wayside shrines, encouraging you to turn to God? For many Christians, weekly worship is such a place. Daily devotional reading might be a wayside shrine for you. Could the "empty" time, not of your choosing, between jobs or other life experiences be a wayside shrine, inviting you to step off the road and rest, pray and listen to God? When you take up your journey again, heart refreshed, remember that God always walks with you.

Refocus for Lent

- Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry — trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred — return good for evil.
- Give up anger — be more patient.
- Give up pettiness — become mature.
- Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
- Give up sin — turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up — persevere.

—Author unknown



Help me, O God, to be a good and a true friend: to be always loyal and never to let my friends down: Never to talk about them behind their backs in a way which I would not do before their faces; never to betray a confidence or talk about the things about which I ought to be silent; always to be ready to share everything I have; to be as true to my friends as I would wish them to be to me. This I ask for the sake of him who is the greatest and truest of all friends, for Jesus' sake.



- William Barclay



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