



# News From The Rock

January 2016

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

## Teddy Bear Ministry

Please help us replace our bears for the Teddy Bear Ministry. We donated several bears to the Food Pantry for parents to take for their children for Christmas. We feel this is a great way to spread our ministry.



Now we need more bears for our ministry to continue. We can use new or very

lightly used, clean bears (12 to 18 inches). The bears are there for anyone to take for a newborn, sick child, teenager, or adult that might need a little cheering up!

Thank you!

Teddy Bear Ministry Committee

## Southwest Indian Ministries Center

This note was recently received from the Southwest Indian Ministries Center:

Dear Project Participants,

Thank you for your most recent donation of Labels for Education and postage stamps. When you contribute through these programs our students and campers benefit from the equipment and supplies we receive. We appreciate your continued support.



You, too, can help by saving labels and stamps! They can use all postage stamps (not just commemorative).

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## November Financial Update

General Offerings .....	\$18,977
General Fund Expenses .....	\$11,362
Mortgage Balance.....	\$223,530

## Fall Bazaar proceeds disbursed

Our Fall Bazaar was a great success this year. There wasn't much left in the Bake Shop at the end of the day. We also had very little left from the lunch counter. This was all good as we had a great turnout on a beautiful day. We took in \$2530.20 and thank everyone for their participation and contributions.

Our proceeds were divided up and disbursed as follows:

- \$400 to the Bread of Life Food Pantry
- \$300 to the Warren Area Ministerial Association
- \$200 to United Methodist Women
- \$600 to Christmas (December through April)
- \$1000 to the parsonage kitchen remodeling project

## Church Camp 2016

It may seem early to begin thinking about summer camp, but plans for Indiana Conference camps are well underway! The last several years, Solid Rock has applied for an iCash code. With an iCash code, applicants pay nothing at the time of camp registration. After you attend camp, the church will receive a bill, and the camper will be billed for half of the fee. Solid Rock pays one-half of each camper's registration.

The Early Bird Deadline is April 18. Camp fees are reduced for those who register by this date. Anyone interested in summer camps should contact the church office. You will be provided with an iCash code as soon as they are issued.



from  
Pastor Paul

George Buttrick tells a story about a time when he met a farmer who had just rescued a lost sheep. When Buttrick asked the farmer how the sheep got lost, the farmer replied, "They just nibble themselves lost." They go, he explained, from one tuft of grass to another, until at last they've lost their way.

We can lose our way pretty easily and pretty quickly by moving from one little thing, one little tuft of grass, to another. After days, hours, weeks, months, or years we look up and we realize we are lost, nothing looks familiar. We lose our way when we focus on the little things and lose track of our main thing. We seek first the things that are not really important.

Think about the image: our lives as a sheep and Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd. When we listen to His voice and follow His leadership, life has a sense of peace about it. When we listen to our own voice and follow a different path and just nibble ourselves from one little tuft of grass to another, we find ourselves lost.

As we enter into the New Year it is important to remember that the Good Shepherd is calling our name and looking for us. It doesn't matter what we have done or how lost we have become, He wants to welcome us back to the family of faith. He wants us to be able to share these words like his servant David did.

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me besides quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies. You*

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## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on December 3 in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe. Barbara Hart, President, welcomed everyone present and gave a devotional entitled "Mary."

The United Methodist Women's Purpose was recited by the group.

The mission focus for the month was the United Methodist Appalachian Ministry on Poverty and Hunger, and the birthday for the month was Mridula Biswas, a missionary worker in Cambodia.

Joys and concerns were taken by Carolyn Winters, and she offered prayer for



each one named.

Carolyn also gave the mission report. She gave an interesting report on her grandson Conner's missionary work in China.

A thank you was received from the Food Pantry for gloves the group had donated.

The group was happy to receive a new member, Pat Boxell. There were eight present at the meeting.

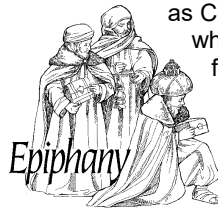
We were honored to have Pastor Paul share with us about his life. This included telling us about his family, the fact that he received his call to ministry in 1991, and started serving as pastor in 1992. He shared where he had lived at different times in his life and missionary trips he had taken. We found his talk very interesting and informative and appreciate his taking the time to share with us.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Plummer

## The meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word epiphaneia, means "an appearance" or "a revealing." Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus' first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save



the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

## What is UMCOR?

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. UMCOR's work includes programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.

UMCOR is a ministry of The United Methodist Church through



the General Board of Global Ministries, and our goal is to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. We believe all people have God-given worth and dignity. UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. We provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend our reach, our most important partners are the people we serve. We are confident that successful solutions to emergency or chronic conditions begin with the affected population. UMCOR provides these survivors not only temporary relief but long-term education, training, and support.

UMCOR spends 100 percent of designated donations on the projects our donors specify. When UMCOR donors give their time, money, and supplies, they join UMCOR as the hands and feet of Christ.

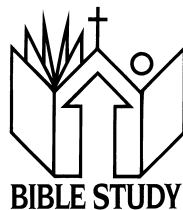
## Youth Fellowship

### Upcoming Events:

- **January 3:** Meeting at 6:45
- **January 17:** Meeting at 6:45
- **January 31:** Fifth Sunday Sing at 5:30 at Heritage Pointe
- **February 7:** Super Bowl Pizzas after church

## Feasting on the Word Bible Study

Feasting on the Word Bible Study takes place every Monday evening at 7:00 in the church kitchen. In Acts 6:4 "...while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." At the beginning of this first month of the New Year, you are encouraged to bring your Bible and look with sisters and brothers at what God is speaking to us in this part of Indiana. The passages we study will also be the next Sunday's text used by Pastor Paul in his preaching.



**January 4:** James 2:1 & Romans 2:11

**January 11:** Luke 4: 21-30

**January 18:** Luke 5: 1-11

**January 25:** Luke 19: 1-10

Feed on the Word of God by faith with thanksgiving.

### News From The Rock

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

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Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

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News deadline for the February newsletter: January 24

*(Continued from page 1)*  
anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and love will follow me all  
the days of my life, and I will dwell in the  
house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23)

Have a Blessed New Year,  
Pastor Paul

*(Continued from page 1)*

It is necessary to leave a bit of the envelope so the stamps can be steamed off. Carolyn Winters or Barbara Hart can provide more information. Mary Emma Holmes will sort and mail them.

### Detailed Instructions:

At no cost to you, help the Southwest Indian children. Collect postage stamps and labels. Give them to Barbara Hart. She has volunteered to get them to Mary Emma Holmes who mails them to Peoria, Arizona, to Joan Smothermon (Dale Parker's sister). Dale and Becky can tell you all about the mission as they worked there.

Preferably, stamps should be left on the envelope with at least 1/4 to 1/8 inch around the border of the stamp. They can't have any tears or missing parts. They must be whole.

Foreign and commemorative stamps are the most valuable, but all whole stamps are being collected and are appreciated by the school.

The school also collects Box Tops for Education labels and Campbell's Soup labels, including soups, beans, Franco-American, gravies, Spaghetti's, Pepperidge Farm products, Prego, and Market Day.

Box Top for Education labels are found on Generals Mills products (over 40 kinds of cereal, 20 refrigerated and dairy products, and 20 baking products), Pillsbury frozen products, snacks and meals, and sides such as Hamburger Helper.

Hey, kids! The whole family can be involved. Help Mom and Dad help all of God's children!

## SOS

The Solid Rock SOS met on December 10. Meeting highlights:

- A devotion on Luke 2:7-14 was given by Cindy Boxell.
- Joys and Concerns were shared.
- Fellowship, fun, and a great meal were shared. Thanks to the Fall Committee for the fun evening!

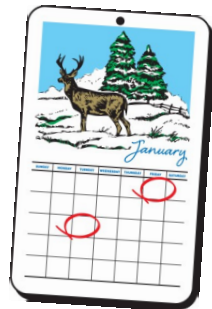
- A love offering was collected to be given to the December to April ministry.
- A collection was taken to purchase feminine products for the food pantry.
- Old Business
  - SOS will provide entertainment for the Mother's Day program at Liberty Center.
- New Business
  - Seasonal committee, booth, and monthly meeting information handout was distributed.
- 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: January 14, 2016, at the church, with Cindy Boxell as hostess and Brenda Conner as co-hostess and Sherry Gifford giving the lesson.

## Volunteers needed for newsletter delivery

Now that Solid Rock newsletters are hand delivered, the office is looking for one or more persons who would volunteer to deliver newsletters to our residents at Heritage Pointe. Please contact the office if you would be willing to help provide this service.

## This is the day

On your new calendar, be sure to mark important dates such as National Drinking Straw Day (January 3), National Artichoke Hearts Day (March 16) and National Crouton Day (May 13). Those pseudo-holidays are now catalogued as part of the National Day Calendar, a venture by a North Dakota businessman.



For a fee starting at \$1,500, anyone can register a national day or even give one as a gift. Special-interest groups are discovering that national days are great for marketing.

Throughout the Bible, God instructs people to set aside special days for rest and remembrance. Yet to him, every day is holy — even if it lacks a holiday, pseudo or otherwise. "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

## Always doing a new thing

In 2015, scientists discovered more than 18,000 new species — some ancient and extinct, others contemporary. They include a cartwheeling spider; fossils of a "feathered dinosaur"; a beautiful sea slug that photographs in brilliant blues, reds and golds; a Christmas-colored plant that grows in near isolation in Mexico; and a pufferfish whose males make intricate seafloor "crop circles" as spawning nests.

Such discoveries — regardless of how old or new the species are — demonstrate the ongoing creativity of God, who both does new things and gives people new abilities to discover them.

Recently, we began a new church year with Advent. At Christmas, God did a new thing by becoming human. Now we launch into a new calendar year, in which scientists will surely discover more new creatures. The newness all around us reminds us that God is always doing a new thing in our lives, too!

## "The Name Above Every Name"

O what is Jehovah El Shaddai to me?  
My Lord, God and Savior, Immanuel, He;  
My Prophet, Priest, Sacrifice, Altar and Lamb:

Judge, Advocate, Surety and Witness, I AM;

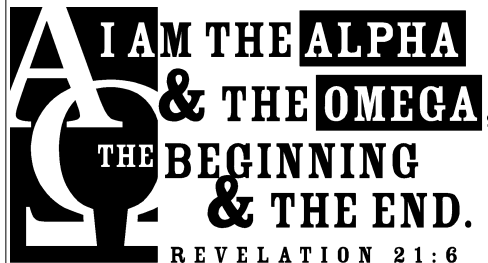
My Peace and my Life, my Truth and my Way;

My Leader, my Teacher, my Hope and my Stay;

Redeemer and Ransom, Atonement and Friend;

He's Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End.

—Rev. John H. Sammis



After her husband was out late for a few nights, Eve was upset. "Are you out with other women?" she asked.

"Don't be unreasonable," replied Adam. "You're the only woman on earth."

The quarrel ended when Adam fell asleep.

When he awakened with pokes to the chest, he asked, "What are you doing?"

"Counting your ribs!" Eve said.

## Before all else fails ...

In *Too Busy Not to Pray* (InterVarsity Press), Bill Hybels cites reasons that prayers may seem to go unanswered (unconfessed sin, selfishness and so on). The most common cause, though, is prayerlessness:

"People often tell me how they have attempted to address a pressing need," Hybels writes. "They have gone to counselors, read self-help books, claimed biblical promises, practiced self-discipline, confided in Christian friends, practiced assertiveness or submission or self-denial or positive thinking, even read books about prayer — and their need is still not met." But when asked if they've prayed "ferently and regularly" about the matter, the answer is usually no. James 4:2 says, "You do not have because you do not ask God." So instead of thinking "When all else fails, pray," try this: "Pray before all else fails."



**O God of new beginnings** and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus. May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully.

Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You.

**Amen**

—Saint Gertrude's Guardian Angel Prayer

January 2016

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

