



# News From The Rock

July 2009

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

## Closing Jefferson Center service celebrated 82 years of ministry

Tears and smiles were the order of the day as the last service as a United Methodist congregation was held at the Jefferson Center site on May 31. A service of celebration and remembrance closed with the decommissioning by District Superintendent Rev. Chip Gast. Joining 155 worshippers were at least two individuals, Maurice Holmes and Mary Phyllis (Smith) Watson, who were in attendance at the first service in 1927.

Memories were shared by Pauline Adsit, Barbara Hart, Gary Walter, and Norm Wolfe, during a time of "Sharing Our Joys of Ministry." Special music for the morning was provided by John Mills and Becky Arnett. Jeff Walter recognized many present who celebrated various life events at Jefferson Center.

Sermon reflections were presented by Rev. Kathie Jones, who served as pastor of the Jefferson Center Church for ten years, and current pastor Rev. Kathy Newton. Liturgist duties were performed by Harold Jones. In his remarks, Rev. Gast recalled memories of his time as pastor at Jefferson Center.

Following the service, a carry-in lunch was shared in a tent which had been erected for the occasion on the church lawn.

The Jefferson Center facility has been purchased by New Hope Church and will continue to serve as a church.

## Administrative Council

The Solid Rock Administrative Council met on June 23. Treasurer Myrna Neff reported a checking account balance of \$28,698.52 at the end of May. Income for May totaled \$17,659.34, with expenditures of \$14,285.46. May offerings totaled \$11,439. Building Fund receipts were \$1,276.

The trustees reported that the sale of the Jefferson Center parsonage should be finalized on June 24. Council directed that proceeds of the sales of the Jefferson Center church and parsonage be invested with the Indiana United Methodist Loan Foundation for a period not to exceed one year.

Tamara Spahr reported that S.O.S. will need assistance with the food booth during the Salamonie Summer Festival. Those interested in helping should contact her.

Council learned that, after much effort to make it functional, the church phone tree is still not operational. The hardware will be sent for evaluation and repaired or possibly replaced if necessary.

The next meeting of Administrative Council will be August 18.

## Capital funds report: "Green light with a speed bump"

Reporting findings from Vision Sunday input, telephone interviews, and a congregational survey, Bill Walter of Church Growth Services recommended that Solid Rock proceed with a capital funds campaign, and that by addressing a few issues he predicted an optimum outcome.

Walter's study found that 77.3% of survey respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" that they "are willing to financially support the proposed project." It has been CGS's experience that churches with 60% support or greater have successful campaigns.

The study also found, however, that concerns with the building plan need to be addressed. Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents agree that "the architect and Building Committee should update the design before we launch a capital campaign." Further, the study found that 42.4% of respondents are not sure that they have sufficient understanding of the project to make a financial commitment.

Design concerns that emerged from the study include parking accessibility, con-

Just Leaning  
on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



**Gal 5:1-4 "Christ has set us free!"**

This means we are really free. Now hold on to your freedom and don't ever become slaves of the Law again. (2) I, Paul,

**"I wonder if those who don't know Christ really understand the concept of freedom"**

promise you that Christ won't do you any good if you get circumcised. (3) If you do, you must obey the whole Law. (4) And if you try to

please God by obeying the Law, you have cut yourself off from Christ and his wonderful kindness."

This time of year we always talk about freedom and liberty. I wonder if those who don't know Christ really understand the concept of freedom. Do we understand? It is Christ and His sacrifices for our sins that sets us free. Paul in the above Scripture is emphasizing that it is not circumcision or the law that sets us free. No, it is the forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior that sets us free. So don't try to please God by obeying the law, because in so doing you are saying Jesus' sacrifice was not sufficient for my salvation. There is nothing more sufficient. So enjoy your freedom, not just this July 4<sup>th</sup> but for eternity, courtesy of Jesus Christ!

gested transition hallway, extensive use of glass and exterior light, program capacities, use and function of the lower level (basement), exterior appearance, and sanctuary seating arrangement. The Building/Site Committee has met with the architect and these concerns are being addressed.

New information gained as a result of the study has necessitated a revision of the initial campaign goal. CGS's first projection was based on household income data derived from the U.S. census for this com-

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🔗 **A heartfelt thanks** to everyone in the church for their support. Thank you for the scholarship and constant prayers you have given me throughout the years. Without the love and support I have received from the church, I may not be the person I am today. I appreciate everyone's prayers and am looking forward to the support I will receive during my senior year. Thank you.

Lauren Keller

🔗 **Dear Church Family,**

Thank you all for continuing to keep me in your thoughts and prayers. It has been comforting knowing that I am being lifted up, as I go through all the medical testing and evaluations and try to get through each day recuperating

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

#### Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00  
Worship at 10:00  
at 227 N. Main Street, Warren

Office: 375-3873  
Church: 375-3871 or 375-3872  
Parsonage: 375-3686

Pastor: Rev. Kathy Newton  
[pastorkathy@solidrockumc.com](mailto:pastorkathy@solidrockumc.com)

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News deadline for the August newsletter: July 19

from pain. Thank you S.O.S. ladies for all your cards, prayers, flowers and gifts during the last several months while going through the migraine headaches, and more recently when I had my wisdom teeth removed, and the emergency appendix surgery. I will be continuing with new tests and trials this summer to resolve the migraine headaches. Thank you again.

Love, Rachel

🔗 **Matt Walter**, trumpet, and Lois Walter, keyboard, have produced a CD of hymns, entitled "Near to the Heart of God." It includes many of the titles that they have performed on Sunday mornings. The CD may be purchased for \$10 with all proceeds going to the Solid Rock Building Fund.

🔗 **On June 3**, Randy Neff took Shelly, Ron and Myrna, and Chuck and Ardith Shideler to the Tin Caps game in Fort Wayne. The new Parkview Field and stadium are sensational! The Tin Caps are an affiliate of the Padres. They played the Lansing Lugnuts, who are an affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. All three women were "fortunate" to get our pictures taken with the Tin Cap kid. (I'm not sure what his name is.) We had good seats right behind home plate, we ate in the park, the food was brought to us, the weather was good, and we won. What more could we ask for?

🔗 **Ron and Myrna Neff** spent a couple days with Rick, Kris, Natalie, and Ashlyn Neff in Louisville, Kentucky. Then they and Steve and Shirley (Neff) Oyer, attended the graduation of Aaron Pettit, son of John and Rhonda (Neff) Pettit in Cary, North Carolina. Aaron graduated from Cary Christian School. His plans are to attend Eastern North Carolina College and get a degree in Business Administration.

🔗 **Scott and Lori Neff and Korbin Rhamy** hosted a Father's Day dinner for Ron, Myrna, and Mary Neff, Steve, Shirley, Tyler, and Laura Oyer, Rick, Kris, Natalie, and Ashlyn Neff, their neighbor James Thomas, and his parents, Denny and Pam Thomas from Ohio. In the afternoon the guys hit a few golf balls on the course, some played croquet in the back yard. Of course, pictures were taken and Dad received gifts.

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🔗 **Alert:** Keep September 19 open for fun, fellowship, and great football! More details to follow.

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🔗 **What a beautiful "closing ceremony"** we had for Jefferson Center church. Thank you Jeff and Pastor Kathy for the hard work you put into the planning, and thanks also to all who participated. A special thank you to all of our "Warren" brothers and sisters for their compassion and support shown to us on this joyful but difficult day.

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🔗 **Todd Meyers** graduated with a joint-Ph.D. in anthropology and population, family, and reproductive health sciences from the Johns Hopkins University on May 22. Todd will begin a professorship at Wayne State University in Detroit this fall, in the departments of anthropology and psychiatry. Todd is the son of David and Bonnie (Brauchla) Meyers, formerly of Warren, now living in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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🔗 **Barbara Hart, Carolyn Winters, and Myrna Neff** attended the Huntington District United Methodist Women Officers planning session Saturday at Huntington Evangelical UMC. Items on the calendar are the UMW Dinner at Annual Conference at Ball State, July 8 Drive-In Day School of Christian Missions at Manchester College, July 8-11 is the full School of Christian Mission. They helped plan a Mini-School of Christian Mission which will be held on August 22 for all Huntington District United Methodist Woman at Mt. Etna United Methodist Church. Then on September 19 will be the Fall District Meeting at which time we will be celebrating our memories of being Huntington District UMW. This will be held at Huntington Evangelical United Methodist Church and Huntington Trinity will be the hostesses. Plans are being made to have pictures of past UMW's activities, etc. Beginning in January 2010 we will be part of the North East District UMW.

"When we are troubled with temptation and evil thoughts, then we see clearly the great need we have of God, since without him we can do nothing good. No one is so good that he is immune to temptation; we will never be entirely free of it."

—Thomas à Kempis

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munity. The recent congregational survey revealed the actual figure to be significantly less. The original goal of a three-year campaign yielding \$400,000 to \$800,000 has been reduced to \$300,000 to \$600,000, with \$400,000 considered a realistic goal. With all factors considered, CGS believes that Solid Rock will have between \$1,030,000 and \$1,330,000 in resources to commit to this building project, depending on the success of our capital campaign.

The Capital Funds Committee will report the findings of this study to the congregation in the near future. In the meantime, the Building/Site Committee will continue to work with the architect to refine the design, and will report to the congregation when new information becomes available.

One concern emerging from the report was that momentum toward completing the project not be lost. If no significant obstacles intervene, a capital campaign will take place this fall, with the hope that construction on a new facility might begin as early as June 2010.

## Ministry Fair to highlight service opportunities

Solid Rock will hold a Ministry Fair on Sunday, August 16. The purpose of a Ministry Fair is to feature current and proposed ministry ideas and to help church members identify areas in which they may use their gifts in service to the congregation and community. In preparation for the Fair, a committee will be listing current ministries, seeking new ministry ideas, and revisiting previous ministries of the two congregations which may be revived.

An organizational meeting is slated for July 16. Current committee chairs are urged to attend, as well as anyone involved in a current ministry, anyone with an idea for a new ministry, or anyone willing to help wherever needed with the Ministry Fair. Questions regarding the Ministry Fair should be directed to Tamara Spahr.

## Men's Fellowship

The Solid Rock Men's Fellowship met on June 13, 2009, in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe, with 13 men in attendance. Bruce Preston opened the meeting with prayer. Breakfast was served by Kim's Katered Affair.

Devotions were provided by Marion

Bell. The first, entitled "The Lost and Found Syndrome," was based on Luke 15:5-6. A second devotional, "Don't Let the Good Life Pass You By," used John 10:10. Marion closed his reflection by having the men recite Psalm 23.

Closing prayer was offered by Gary Walter. The next meeting will be July 11.

## United Methodist Women

The Solid Rock United Methodist Women met on June 4, 2009. Myrna Neff gave a devotion on "clutter," based on a scripture from Romans 8.

The Purpose was repeated by 15 members and one guest. (Another member joined the group at lunch.) Carolyn Winters led the joys and concerns, closing with prayer.

Secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved. The Secretary of Education and Interpretation passed out registration blanks to Barbara Hart and Carolyn Winters, both of whom plan to attend School of Christian Missions Drive-In Day. If you wish to go on that day, Mary Emma Holmes has the registration sheets, and you may ride with Barbara and Carolyn.

Social Action Secretary Ann Brauchla Slaughter announced that the Salamonie Summer Festival will be honoring war veterans. S.O.S. will be in charge of the Solid Rock Church float.

It was made mention of the wonderful closing service at Jefferson Center on May 31. Appreciation was also expressed for all the moving help the next day.

Margaret Bell presented the lesson, "Who am I at the Table?" It was a thought-provoking lesson. Those assisting with the program were Martha Glass, Martha Robinson, Freddie Couch, and Ann Brauchla

## I'm angry ...

One of the most necessary lessons for those of us who have reached a venerable age is learning when it is critical to practice the habit of biting our tongues. It happens most often when the opportunities arise for an "I remember when..." or "You should..." comment occurs during a conversational exchange or knowing the "arguments" you never indulge in, such as the merits of Bobby Knight's style of coaching, your mother's secret recipe for

spaghetti sauce, religion or politics.

However, recently there was an event causing me to choke on ideas I would typically avoid because it involved both religion and politics. Knowing this is not the type of chat usually shared with you, and having thought and prayed about it for several days, I can no longer keep quiet.

Throughout most of 2007 and all of 2008, the American public was inundated with the speech making and harangues of countless numbers of politicians. There's an old joke; it's easy to tell when someone is lying. All you have to do is look to see if their lips are moving; if their lips are moving, they are lying. For the most part, everyone seems to understand these are political speeches, necessary to get the candidate elected to office. Once that end is achieved, most of the rhetoric is forgotten.

Thus, not putting a lot of faith in most political blather of anyone seeking an office is my usual response. However, at a press conference in Turkey prior to a major international address within the last month, the President of the United States repeated a claim he made twice during his pre-election campaigning. In 2007, he stated, "Whatever we once were, we're no longer a Christian nation." During the 2009 press conference, he said, "One of the great strengths of the United States, although we have a very large Christian population, we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation."

Yes, we are considered the world's melting pot, welcoming people from all over the world to our country, but that does not change the fact that our country was founded on Christian principles. Our founding fathers were adamant in their intention that Christian principles were critical in the development of the American Constitution. In a July 4, 1821 speech, John Quincy Adams, as Secretary of State, said, "From the day of the Declaration... the American people were bound by the laws of God, which they all, and by the laws of the gospel, which they nearly all acknowledged as the rules of their conduct."

I resent being presented to the rest of the world as being from a "no longer Christian nation". While this may be just more "political-speak" to make a point, I doubt it is the view of a vast majority of Americans, and I think we have a responsibility to say so.

Barbara Kleinhans

*You are invited to a  
reception honoring Pastor  
Kathy Newton and  
celebrating her ordination*



*Sunday, July 19*

*2:00-4:00 p.m.*

*Solid Rock United  
Methodist Church*

**Greatness**

It's great that we humans  
Have knowledge and skill  
To fly to the moon  
And through space;  
But greater than that  
Is the God you can trust  
To keep outer space  
In its place!

—Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers and Poems*

O God, I am glad that I need not pretend during prayer:  
I am tired now and my words do not come easily;  
I have not kept all my bright promises of the morning;  
I have smudged the clear truth of  
some of my words;  
I have been a little short in some of  
my replies;  
I have overlooked others' needs,  
absorbed in my own;  
I have failed in cheerfulness at  
times.



You know, O God my Father,  
what troubles me now, on  
recollection, as I come to my rest. I seek your forgiveness.  
Without your forgiving, sustaining, renewing love I cannot fully  
rest. I commit myself to you anew—in the name of Jesus my  
Master. **Amen.**

- Rita Snowden



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