

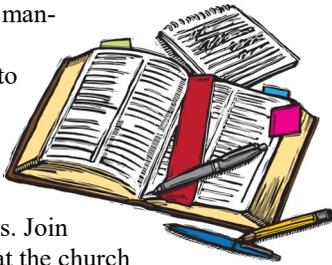
News From The Rock

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

May 2016

Feasting on the Word Bible Study

In 1902, Adelaide Pollard wrote the words of the hymn “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” after reading Jeremiah 18:1-11. In a like manner, we are encouraged to be formed as God’s people by reading the scriptures. Join with others at the church building on Monday evenings at 7:00 to let God speak to us and form us as His people.



- May 2: John 3:1-17; Joe Haney, Leader
- May 9: Luke 9:1-6; Aletta Heath, Leader
- May 16: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; Mike Heath, Leader
- May 23: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Joe Haney, Leader
- May 30: Mark 1:29-39; Aletta Heath, Leader

Bring a friend, bring your Bible, and let us listen together to what God has to say to us.

Solid Rock Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that four scholarship grants were awarded to the youth of the church. This year the Scholarship Committee based grants on the number of credit hours being taken, student attendance at church and participation in church service and outreach programs, and on timely submission of the application. The recipients of those scholarships are Tom Bolinger, Walker Spahr, Olivia Bolinger,



and Madison Canady.

This is a wonderful nurture program and a way of showing our youth how much we care about them and their future. Thank you for your support.

Linda Howell,
Committee Chair

Fruitful Congregations Journey Transitioning from Vision to Ministry

Those attending the Fruitful Congregation Journey workshop on April 24 learned about the next step in the process: Transitioning the Vision to Ministry.

In the previous step, a vision statement for Solid Rock was crafted and adopted: “Sharing and experiencing the life-giving message of Jesus, to restore wholeness and



build an intentional community of hope, relationship, and purpose for everyone.” This statement, in conjunction with the United Methodist Mission, “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” will be the driving forces in evaluating current ministries and planning new ministries.

FCJ Coach Rev. Heather Olson-Bunnell encouraged participants to remember that the church’s vision is not from within ourselves but from God. Relying on our own vision, we may be simply copying the efforts of others, our vision may be limited, and our vision may be out of alignment with God’s purposes.

“When we focus on God’s calling and seek God’s vision, we learn that God is faithful to provide what we need for the service we are asked to render. We discover that God is expansive, leading us to things that are often far beyond what we think is possible. We find that God knows exactly what will bring us the greatest joy, the greatest significance, and that God

Who Are We A letter From Bishop Mike Coyner

Language is important. The way we describe reality is important. It is important to be clear what we mean by “we” and what we mean by “them.” I remember as a kid whenever any

of us would say, “I wish they could fix that” (or do some other thing); oftentimes my parents would reply by saying, “We are they.” They were calling us to be responsible and to accept our role in the family and our role in society. Rather than blaming others, we were being taught to claim our responsibility and our power to make a difference.



I notice that much of the language (some of it angry language) about the Annual Conference, General Conference, and the whole UMC divides into language about “us and them” or “we and they.” Our actual structure is that the Indiana Conference is ALL OF US – it is both a structure for ministry in the state of Indiana and an annual gathering of clergy and lay members from all of the UM congregations of the state of Indiana. So when “the conference” makes a decision, it is a representative democracy, it is all of us making a decision for all of us. We are the ones making that decision, not “they” are making those decisions.

In the same way, the General Conference is not “them” – it is composed of elected representative delegates from all of the Conferences of the UMC around the world. It is easy to sit back and to blame “them” for their decisions, but they are also “we” at least in terms of being our elected representatives.

Now, like any other representative

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Ladies Spring Fling

Sponsored by Solid Rock SOS



Friday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m.

☼ Salad and dessert carry-in
☼ Drinks, bread,
and table service provided



RSVP by Wednesday, May 11,
to 375-3873



Ladies at Heritage Pointe needing
transportation should call the church
office at 375-3873

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Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

at 485 Bennett Drive, Warren

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Church Office

Office Phone: 375-3873

Hours: 9 a.m. to Noon

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News deadline for the June newsletter:
May 22

Brochures, Podcasts now available

The Communications Task Force, part of the ongoing Fruitful Congregations Journey process, has completed work on a new church brochure, which will be available soon. Feel free to take brochures to invite friends and neighbors to join us at Solid Rock.

Also, audio recordings of Pastor Paul's weekly sermons are being posted on the church website. Go to solidrockumc.com and click on Sermon Podcasts in the menu on the left.

Upcoming Youth Events

- May 1: Meeting, 5:00-6:30
- May 15: The WAY—Warren Area Youth Service, 5:00-6:30, Knight-Bergman Center
- June 26-July 1: Epworth Forest Camp Week

Golden State Warrior star Stephen Curry proclaims 'I Can Do All Things...'

There may be angels hovering above the rim at Golden State Warriors' games laser-guiding Stephen Curry's long-range 3-point bombs. Literally! Well, not really.

Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry proclaims his faith on a signature sneaker by Under Armour that says, "I Can Do All Things..." from Philippians 4:13 in the bible.

But the inscription on Curry's shoes provides some indication of where this story is going. It reads, "I can do all things..." the first five words from an oft-quoted bible scripture.

"It represents a Bible verse I wear on my shoe — Philippians 4:13. It says 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,'" said Curry. "It's also my mantra, how I get up for games and why I play the way I do."



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Whether one believes Curry is playing with designated help from "On High," or not, his game is absolutely of the highest order on a par with the greatest NBA players of all time.

Curry is a devout Christian who infuses his faith into his game. And the biblical in-



scription on his shoes — "I can do all things..." emphatically makes the point. Curry initially used a Sharpie ink pen to scrawl the message on his Nike sneakers.

Nike wasn't thrilled with the idea of the Bible verse publicizing their brand. Curry wasn't dismayed. Nothing was going to prevent him from proclaiming his faith, even if it was inaudible as a message on his sneakers. He broke his deal with Nike to sign with Under Armour and UA responded with a trademark shoe — the SC 30 Collection.

Curry's on a mission and he keeps it all in perspective with humility, a rare trait in the egocentric star-laden NBA.

"Obviously, there's a lot of hoopla and fanfare that follows you wherever you go, but I know where my talent comes from," said Curry. "I know why I play the game, and it's not to score 30 points a night, but it's to use the stage I'm on. I've been put here for a specific purpose: to be a witness and to share my testimony as I go through it."

Now, every time Curry steps onto the court, he incorporates his faith into his footwear to promote a powerful message, that with the empowerment of Jesus Christ, there are no limits to what he can accomplish.

—Jarrette Fellows, Jr.
The Compton Herald

Procrastinators

A pastor waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but many cars were ahead of the pastor at the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Sorry about the delay," said the young man. "Everyone seems to wait until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The pastor chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

"Nothing is too great and nothing is too small to commit into the hands of the Lord."

—A.W. Pink

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gathering, some of those decisions may not be ones with which I personally agree. But part of belonging to a representative democracy is to trust my representatives to choose wisely on my behalf.

I guess what I am saying is this: we must focus upon the "we" that is all of us, rather than taking the easy way out and blaming "them" for things with which we disagree.

We are all in this together. We are in covenant together. We belong to one another. The Apostle Paul reminds us (in I Corinthians 12) that we are like a body of many parts, but all parts are important, and all parts must work together. It is not "us" and "them" – it is "we." Sometimes we have to admit, as in the words of the comic strip Pogo that "we have met the enemy and it is us." Sometimes we are our own worst enemy. But it is still "we" and it is all of us.

I invite us – all of us and each of us – to remember that we are the ones who are responsible. That's who "we" are.

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knows our limitations."

During this next phase of the FCJ process, Solid Rock will be evaluating the alignment of current programs and ministries with the newly-identified vision. Programming that does support this vision may be modified or dropped. Likewise, newly proposed ministries must be in alignment with this vision. All ministries need to be evaluated for their "fruitfulness."

"What does fruitfulness look like?

Fruitfulness is *not* expanding programs and activities. Don't ask, 'Should we do more?' Rather ask, 'Are we accomplishing more?' Focus on what the vision/mission direction is for fruitfulness. 'Are we bearing fruit?' is the predominant question for leaders and also, 'is it good fruit?' Don't value and measure work by the *amount of time* consumed or the *number of tasks accomplished*."

Please pray for those involved in the FCJ process. It's not too late to get involved yourself! Contact Pastor Paul to learn ways in which you can use your gifts in the process.

March Financial Update

General Offerings	\$16,153
General Fund Expenses	\$14,061
Mortgage Balance	\$203,077

Help this family kick cancer!

Logan Campbell (age 30), son of Kent Campbell and Jenni (Howell) Conn, was recently diagnosed with colon cancer and is undergoing very aggressive treatment. One hundred percent of the proceeds from these two events will go directly to his family!

Golf Scramble

- Saturday, June 4
- 7:00 a.m. Registration, 8:00 a.m. Tee Time
- 4 person teams, \$100 per person includes cart, green fees, lunch, drinks, and snacks
- Prizes for top 3 teams
- Putting tournament
- Prize for longest drive and closest to pin
- Dogwood Glen Golf Course
- Call Cole Campbell, (260) 917-0037, to sign up.



Community Hog Roast

- Saturday, June 4, Noon to 3:00
- Free for Golf Scramble participants
- Open to all with a free-will donation
- Pulled pork dinner, sides, dessert, and drink
- Dessert auction
- 50/50 Raffle
- Warren United Church of Christ

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on April 7, 2016, in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe.

Barbara Hart, president, led a litany on the Purpose of the United Methodist Women. She also read a letter from Grace Musulea, UMW regional missionary for Central Africa. The birthday for the month was Mariellyn Dunlap Grace with the General Board of Global Ministries assigned as a church and community worker in Columbus, Ohio.

Roll call was taken and the minutes



United Methodist Women

were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program was given by Carolyn Winters, who also closed in prayer.

The next meeting will be held May 5, 2016.

Praying for General Conference 2016

The United Methodist General Conference, our top legislative body, is gathering for its quadrennial meeting May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon. Let's surround our delegates, bishops, and other church leaders with prayer as they prepare to listen to one another, discern God's will for the United Methodist Church, and to make decisions that will guide United Methodists around the world in fulfilling our purpose. Not all of us will be in Portland, but we all can engage in prayer for God's will to be done, in God's way, and in God's time.

A shepherd's role

While traveling in Iran, writer Eric Bishop asked a villager about an earthen enclosure topped with dry thorns. The man said sheep stayed in the round space at night for safety. "What are the thorns for?" Bishop asked. "If a wolf tries to break in and attack the sheep," the man replied, "he'll knock against the thorns, and they'll make a noise, and the shepherd will wake up and drive off the wolf."



Pointing out the enclosure's doorless entrance, Bishop asked why a wolf wouldn't just enter there. Because, replied the villager, "that's where the shepherd sleeps; the shepherd is the door."

Suddenly Bishop understood why in John 10 Jesus calls himself first the door, or gate, for the sheep and then the Good Shepherd. Because Jesus is the shepherd, he's also the door that keeps us, his sheep, safe within his care.

The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect One. While he looks at Christ, the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him.

—A.W. Tozer

Our Mission:

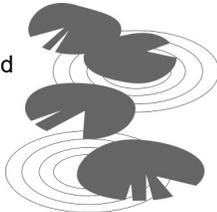
The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision:

Sharing and experiencing the life-giving message of Jesus, to restore wholeness and build an intentional community of hope, relationship, and purpose for everyone.

Leaps of faith

My coming to faith did not start with a leap but rather a series of staggers from what seemed like one safe place to another. Like lily pads, round and green, these places summoned and then held me up while I grew. Each prepared me for the next leaf on which I would land, and in this way I moved across the swamp of doubt and fear ... to the verdant pad of faith on which I somehow stay afloat today.



—Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies*

Dear God,

It's sometimes thankless, always exhausting. Being part of a family has responsibilities. Every now and again, when we pause in prayer, we remember: In caring for each other we follow in Your way. It is a divine calling. We're holding the circle of life together. Bless us as we deal with the routines of life. Honor our efforts with perfect peace and abundant joy. Keep us well. Grant us healthy prosperity. Hold us tight in Your everlasting care.



Amen

—beliefnet.com

May 2016

