



News From The Rock

May 2011

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Capital Campaign Update

A total of \$556,000 was pledged toward the capital campaign. As of March 31, \$421,000 has been received. We are 17 months into a 36-month campaign and 76% of commitments have been submitted! Building funds now total approximately \$600,000. Thank you for your faithfulness!

UMYF Schedule

May 1: Meeting at the church-4:00-5:30
 May 8: No Pizza
 May 13-14: Man Night: Walter Farm: 6:00 p.m. on the 13th-11 a.m. on the 14th
 May 15: Meeting at the church-4:00-5:30

Coming Soon...Ladies' Day at the lake!

Men's Fellowship

The Solid Rock Men's Fellowship met on April 16, 2011, at Heritage Pointe with 16 men in attendance. Randy Hensley opened the meeting with prayer. Breakfast was served by Kim's Katered Affair.

Marion Bell shared devotions based on Proverbs 6:20-

22, "Children in Their Parents' Shoes," and Matthew 13:1-3, "Once Upon a Time."

Steve Holmes reported that approximately 80 persons were served at the East of Chicago fundraiser. About \$375 was raised.

Several Solid Rock men recently assisted in delivering 3,850 pounds of food and supplies from Marsh in Indianapolis to Love, INC in Huntington.

The group voted to make a contribution of \$100 to The Society of St. Andrew, a food-gleaning ministry.



Men's Fellowship

United Methodist Women

The April 2011 meeting of Solid Rock United Methodist Women was a great meeting, held in the Calico Room of Heritage Pointe on April 7 with 11 members and 14 guests in attendance. President



United Methodist Women

Myrna Neff welcomed everyone and shared a brief devotion entitled "Pray" with a petition that "Lord, we let you have your way," as we move through the special season of Lent. The United Methodist Women's Purpose was repeated by members, and two mission areas from the Prayer Calendar were recognized: (1) the birthday of a mission staff member in New York, Lorraine Webster-Sharper, and (2) the U.M. Youth Leadership Development work in Runda, Namibia, Africa. Carolyn Winters, our Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach, led everyone in caring and worshipful prayer, with thanks for God's never-failing love. Ann Brauchla-Slaughter, Mission Coordinator for Social Action, discussed briefly a situation of adoption with which she was familiar, and which presented an all-too-familiar history of slow and difficult years for the child, who was at times abused and neglected. Finally a family was found, where, in time, good relationships were established, and the child thrived.

Formal business was by-passed—roll call, secretary's minutes of the March meeting, and treasurer's report for March—because of the extremely important program. This concerned "Human Trafficking" and was presented by Krissy King, a worker with Trade as One Trading Post in Huntington, and wife of the music minister at a Huntington church. She is very knowledgeable about the above-noted issue.

(Continued on page 3)

Just Leaning on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



When Jesus saw his mother and his favorite disciple with her, he said to his mother, "This man is now your son." Then he said to the disciple, "She is now your

"She has lavished her love on you for all your life. Why not give her a fraction of that in return?"

mother." From then on, that disciple took her into his own home. (John 19:26-27) How fitting that we would talk about Jesus' love for His mother as Mother's

Day is very near. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to love your mother these seven ways.

First, love her verbally. When is the last time you told her you love her? Every one of us needs to hear those words.

Second, love her physically. That is to say, when is the last time you gave your mom a hug or a kiss on the cheek or even just simply put your arm around her?

Third, love her patiently. There is no job like being a mother! It's 24/7/365 whether you're 1 month old or 100 years old. Dr. Dobson read this letter from an 80 year old mother. "To my children, I suppose my upcoming birthday started my thoughts along these lines... This is a good time to tell you that what I truly want are things I can never get enough of, yet they are free. I want the intangibles. I would like for you to come and sit with me, and for you to be relaxed. We can talk, or we can be silent. I would just like for us to be together... Love Mom."

Fourth, love her attentively. Be watchful and responsive to her needs and yes, it's even ok to respond to her wants, heaven knows she's done it for us.

Fifth, love her gratefully. Do you remember that she got up in the middle of the night with you? Do you remember

(Continued on page 3)

A child's perspective

A group of second-graders was quizzed about what ingredients their mothers are made of. One child said, "God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean."



To the question "What does your mom do in her spare time?" one youngster said, "Mothers don't do spare time."

When the children were asked "Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?" one child replied, "God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me."

News From The Rock

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www.solidrockumc.com

Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

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News deadline for the June newsletter:
May 22

Things my daughter told me

Another Easter. Another time when families come together. Another time to count blessings. Another time to share memories. In my family, women outnumber the men. Because of that imbalance, my repertoire of male-generated stories is limited, and I have often been forced to admit that I cannot relate to mother-son experiences as do many of my friends.

At the last family gathering, after being *bombarded by the kernels of wisdom* I had tried to share with my daughters as they were maturing, it seemed only right to remind them of some of their attempts to set my feet on the right path.

A number of those cautions could be categorized as "Whatever you do, don't eat that in public." Ignoring that admonition would, as they assured me, cause them to die of embarrassment instantaneously. One of the foods on the forbidden list is corn flakes. How could corn flakes be the cause of such a horrific result? In the instance of my approach to the dish, it is necessary to explain I do not like big, soggy flakes. Therefore, with the back of the spoon, I crush the flakes into much smaller bits before adding milk. So rest comfortably. If ever we are dining together some morning at Bob Evans, the Belgian waffle with syrup will be my choice. Another food item on this list is fresh grapefruit, but you get the picture.

Choice of attire is also fair game for my daughters when they are enlightening their hopelessly out-of-style maternal parent. That one was always difficult for me to understand. My daughters were in their teens in the very late 60s and early 70s. Their high school wardrobes were dominated by jeans with the same degree of wear as the rags I used to wash my car. One morning, as I was coming down the stairs in a newly-purchased suit, I had obviously mistaken as being appropriate to wear to work, my older offspring asked, "Are you really going to wear that in public?" Confidently, I responded, "Of course." After a very long, "tsk," she quietly said, "O.K., Mrs. Rains." While Mrs. Rains was a very warm and gentle senior citizen, very senior citizen, whom I loved, without hesitation I turned, went back upstairs and changed. Hopefully, some daughterless shopper at a Good Will store was able to enjoy the suit.

It must be genetic, because even my

granddaughter as a preschooler once took me to task because I claimed not to be able to lift the sides of my tongue to produce a long groove down the center of it. "Grandma Cheri, if you really wanted to do it, all you would have to do is practice, practice, practice," she exhorted.

Of course, the message in this is that I never shared with my mother, who died just five years ago, how sorry I am never to have apologized for my own words.

Barbara Kleinhans

A mother's hope

Three years ago, contemporary Christian musician Steven Curtis Chapman and his wife Mary Beth faced the sudden death of their youngest daughter, Maria, in a driveway accident. In the book *Choosing to See: A Journey of Struggle and Hope*, Mary Beth Chapman describes how she wrestled with God when her "whole world" fell apart.

"What I've found is that it's in the most unlikely times and places of hurt and chaos that God gives us a profound sense of his presence and the real light of his hope in the dark places," she writes.

"None of my tears have been wasted," Chapman says, because she's "experienced the kindness, sweetness, faithfulness, and redemptive heart of God."

To honor their daughter, the Chapmans, longtime adoption advocates, established Maria's Big House of Hope. The center in Henan, one of China's poorest provinces, provides life-saving medical care to special-needs orphans.

Trusting the unseen

A gardener planted two peony bulbs side by side. In a few weeks, as expected, the first one poked a single stem through the ground. The other would soon follow, the gardener thought. But it didn't. Many more weeks went by with no sign of life.

Then one day, to his surprise, not one but five leaf points poked through the soil at once. When the peony bloomed, its flowers were more beautiful and numerous than those of the first bulb.

John Piper said, "In every situation God is doing a thousand things that we cannot see and do not know." When God seems to have forgotten you and hope fails, don't despair. God is at work, and someday you will see.

(Continued from page 1)

when she kissed your boo-boos away? Do you remember when she listened while you poured out your broken heart? There are many more so why not show our gratitude?

Sixth, love her generously. She has lavished her love on you for all your life. Why not give her a fraction of that in return?

Lastly love her honorably. We are told to “honor our fathers and mothers.” (Exodus 20:12) Some words that are synonyms of honor are esteem, appreciation, admiration, estimation, favor, regard and respect. Show your Mom you love her today! Happy Mother’s Day to all the moms out there!

Shalom,
Pastor Kathy

(Continued from page 1)

First, a definition: human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for purposes of “employing” people (primarily girls and women) in making cheap items for sale (in so-called “sweat shops”) or/and using people for sexually abusive practices. Often it is children from poor families and homes, and in countries where they have no legal standing, or regard. An estimated 200,000 are in the United States now, engaged in hard labor situations, plus sexual use and abuse. Many are 9-year-old girls; estimation world-wide is 27 million, more slaves than in the U.S. era of slaveholding. Women and children compose 98% of those abused and used individuals.

What can we do about this? Missionaries are working in this area of abuse, but we can help “in the name of Christ”! We can pray! We can be part of a great cultural shift and care where our money is spent! In considering a purchase of an inexpensive or hand-made product, we can “buy local”! We can ask, “Who made this?” about products we purchase. If buying something cheaply means I am contributing to a world where slavery is OK, we can be willing to change our spending habits. We can be willing to start conversations with people around us to start raising awareness. When we buy things cheaply someone, somewhere has paid the price! Coffee, chocolate, bananas, and especially diamonds are often slave industries. We need to know about Fair Trade products.

Our speaker is employed in a “Fair Trade” products business in Huntington. Fair Trade products are all certified to be not slave labor produced. In Huntington the Trade as One Trading Post sells such products. It is located in the Café of Hope, 900

E. State Street. At our meeting, members of our U.M.W. enjoyed examining and purchasing some of the lovely items Mrs. King displayed.

Amaryllis

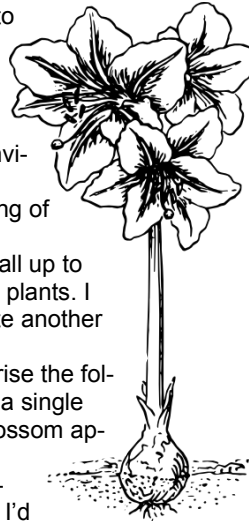
Early one spring, I planted a couple of dozen amaryllis bulbs. With great anticipation, I watched for blooms. But weeks turned into months before the first sign of life appeared. By the end of summer, the bed of pink flowers I’d envisioned was nothing more than a scattering of green leaves.

So I pulled them all up to make room for other plants. I wasn’t about to waste another growing season.

Imagine my surprise the following spring, when a single delicate amaryllis blossom appeared. My delight quickly turned to dismay — for I realized I’d given up too soon. Had I the least bit of patience or a little faith, I might have had a glorious garden.

Then I wondered: Are there other things or people I give up on too soon? What might a little patience and faith do for a difficult relationship or troublesome circumstances?

—Kari Myers (adapted from Homiletics)



Lost and found

Jürgen Moltmann had a secular upbringing in Germany. In 1944, he was drafted into Hitler’s army and sent into battle. After American soldiers captured Moltmann, a chaplain gave him a small Bible containing the New Testament and the Psalms.



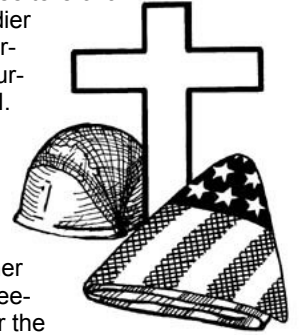
Jesus walked off the pages and into the young man’s heart. “I didn’t find Christ,”

Moltmann said. “He found me.” The gospel was such life-giving good news that when the war ended, Moltmann became a Christian theologian, teaching in both German and American seminaries.

Moltmann calls Easter “God’s protest against death” and “the beginning of laughter for the redeemed.”

The price of freedom

In “What Did He Die For?” Twila Paris reminds us why we observe Memorial Day — and why we worship Jesus as our Savior. The first verse tells of a 21-year-old soldier fighting for America’s freedom during World War II. The second verse recalls another young man, many centuries prior, sent by his Father to win eternal freedom from sin for the entire world.



The chorus offers this challenge: “What did he die for when he died for you and me, Made the sacrifice so that we could all be free?”

I believe we will answer each to heaven For the way we spend a priceless liberty. Look inside and ask the question, What did he die for?”

Memorial Day challenges us to live so as to honor the sacrifices made by members of the military. We value our freedom because of the heavy price people have paid for it. Likewise, every day we’re challenged to live so as to honor Jesus’ supreme sacrifice. He calls us to spend our “priceless liberty” using our blessings to bless others.

Valleys

Valleys symbolize life’s dark or low points; for example, Psalm 23:4 refers to “the valley of the shadow of death” (NIV).



But valleys also symbolize people who find God’s favor because they’re lowly and meek. As a result, valleys can be places of blessing. God lifts his people out of despair

and rewards their faithfulness. He also promises to “level” conditions by raising up valleys and bringing down mountains (see Isaiah 40:4).

- “If you have a mom, there is nowhere you are likely to go where a prayer has not already been.”

—Robert Brault

- “Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”

—Marcel Proust

Are you missing a jacket?

There are several jackets on the coat rack in Fellowship Hall. They have been there for several months. Please check to see if they belong to you. If they are not claimed by May 13, they will be donated to Bargain Basement.

March Offerings

General Offerings\$12,370
Building Fund Contributions\$11,615

God bless you!

Prohibitions against prayer are now common in most public school graduations. But some students at a high school in Washington, Illinois, came up with a way around the ban.

Ryan Brown, a graduate scheduled to give a speech, paused to bow in silent prayer as he approached the podium. Moments later, with all eyes on him, Brown faked a sneeze. In response, a handful of his friends shouted, "God bless you!"

O God, who has made the heaven and the earth and all that is good and lovely therein, and has shown us through Jesus Christ our Lord that the secret of joy is a heart free from selfish desires, help us to find delight in simple things and ever to rejoice in the riches of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.



- From *The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory*



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