



# News From The Rock

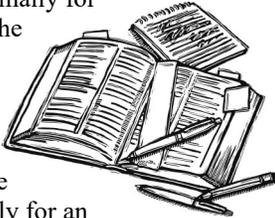
May 2017

**Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana**

*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

## Monday evening Bible studies for May

“Feasting on the Word” with the Lord and his disciples is a Bible study being held in the kitchen of Solid Rock church at 7:00 p.m. each Monday evening. This is a group who gathers informally for fellowship to let the Bible passage for the following Sunday center our thoughts and living. Usually the gatherings last only for an hour. Below are listed the verses of the study for each evening. You are encouraged to bring your Bible and your questions about the selected passage.



- May 1: 2 Samuel 18:28-33 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- May 8: Matthew 20:16-20 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- May 15: Romans 12:9-21 (Joe Haney, leader)
- May 22: Isaiah 6:1-8 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- May 29: Galatians 5:16-26 and Matthew 13:31-33 (Perry Spahr, leader)

We hope you will come and listen to the Lord with us!

## Solid Rock Shirt Order

It has been quite a while since we have ordered shirts, and this time we are offering a variety of styles to choose from. T-shirts will be available in kids and adult sizes for \$10. We are also offering polo shirts in kids or adult sizes for \$15. For the first time ever, tank tops will be available for summer wear in adult sizes only for

\$10. To round out our selection, we have a hooded, zip front sweatshirt in adult sizes for \$30, and a pullover hoodie in youth sizes for \$25. All prices will be slightly higher for extended sizes. The shirts will be printed locally by NickiZ Designs.



Every style will be available in your choice of red or sport grey. All styles will have the Solid Rock cross and flame logo (the same one used on our water bottles) on the chest. The backs of the shirts, with the exception of the polo shirts, will feature a cross design made by our own Sydney Walter.

Please have your selections and payment made by May 21 so that we may get the shirts distributed for use this summer. Checks may be made out to Solid Rock United Methodist Church. Please put “shirts” in the memo line. Orders may be given to Susan Mills or called in to the church office at 375-3873.

## Scholarship News

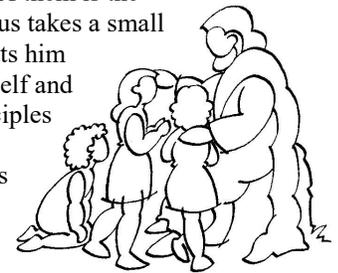
The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that eight scholarships were awarded to the youth of the church. The committee based grants on the number of credit hours being taken, timely submission of the application, student attendance at church, and participation in church service and outreach programs. Recipients of this year’s scholarships were: Olivia Bolinger, Robby Bolinger, Tom Bolinger, Madi Canady, Brooke Kratzer, Betty Osmun, Lily Sabinske, and Walker Spahr.

This is a wonderful nurture program and a way of showing our youth how much we care about them and their future. Please remember that only through your support can this ministry continue.



from  
Pastor Paul

In Luke 9:46-50 the disciples argue over which of them is the greatest. Jesus takes a small child and puts him next to himself and tells the disciples that anyone who receives such a child in his name receives



him. When a person receives Jesus, he is receiving the one who sent him. Jesus then tells his ambitious disciples that the least among them will be greatest.

In the next verse, John is puzzled because an unauthorized person has been casting out demons in the name of Jesus. The disciples forbade the man from doing this. But Jesus says not to forbid him stating, “Whoever is not against you, is for you.”

Sometimes in life we are so busy focusing on our own accomplishments that we fail to recognize that others are quite capable of achieving greatness and doing good things. In this story Jesus reminds us that even the most unassuming people in our midst are part of a much larger plan. Until we are aware that we are all part of the body of Christ we will not be able to be effective in making a difference in the world. It is my prayer that we will all find ways to work together, building one another up in our common mission to reach others for Christ in a world that so desperately needs it.

See You Sunday,  
Pastor Paul

*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.*

## Metz Family April Update

Doors open and close. Mouths speak. Children play. Families grow, shift, mature, hurt and heal. Across the planet humanity lives and breathes. What does God see on our streets?

What causes God's heart to pound?

What events cause Him to lean in and squint with particular concern? When I view the world through my own eyes, I am constrained to something much smaller than all that God

sees. From my perspective, I see His calling on my life, a mission, Africa, dramatic movement of the Spirit in Uganda. And yet God is active elsewhere, too. God is in



Uganda and Peru and Hungary and Russia and North Korea and Syria and Everywhere. Where is He moving? Where is His heart? Everywhere! All places!

When God called my family into missionary work He identified a location:

Uganda. When our first term came to an end we returned to America and found God at work. Oh Lord! Even as I write that sentence I am overwhelmed! I love worshipping my God at work! Our family fell head-over-heels with our God and a partnership with Him in His effort to redeem humanity. We couldn't stop! Missionaries are always missionaries.

At the end of January, I preached a sermon at our home church titled "Here I Am. Send Me to Where I Am." Over the weeks following that sermon God identified six couples and a leader, a team of 13. Jade and I invited them all to the table to talk. Our church fed them. Friends watched their kids. The hour and a half meeting was nothing short of phenomenal!

Our shared vision was toward our city: Marion, Indiana. The team of 13 varies widely in generations, occupation, education, demographic and interest. However, all were unified in the goal. As we gathered around the table the first time I watched the young man sitting across from me. Jeremy was the only person at the table who wasn't a Christian. Jade and I invited him and his wife because they lived in the neighborhood we were focusing on and they had shown an interest in joining our effort. Within the first half of the meeting Jeremy began to speak, "Well, I think the first thing I need to do is get my life together. I need to be a Christian." The room fell silent with awe and energy.

Two weeks later we gathered the team together again for a second meeting. We discussed the leadership model we would be using and developed some action items. At the core of our effort is the understanding that discipleship is a relationship. Therefore, relationship is the first and foremost passion of every ministry. As we discussed ideas for how we might begin developing relationships in the community, Jade said, "We need a porch!" The group discussed the role of a porch in the neighborhood and the benefit of establishing a personal, inviting space to talk and build friendships. In many ways, the porch will be our church. Our new Christian, Jeremy,

chimed in, "I live in this neighborhood and I have all the materials to build a porch on my house. I just don't know how." I laughed and said, "Wow! Anybody know how to build a porch?" A team member at the end of the table leaned in, "Yep! I'll get a few people together and build it." The group cheered and felt a deep thrill at the mobility, energy and possibilities that lay ahead.

Perhaps you are wondering how a porch in Marion, Indiana, relates to your missionaries to Uganda. Here it is: God at work! The Metz family is called to Uganda. On July 19th, we will fly back to Kampala to begin a three-year term. But while here, missionaries are always missionaries. While we're here, the work continues!

Thank you for the way you have supported our family. We sense that we are a part of a strong army of believers in the power of the Spirit to the ends of the Earth.

### News From The Rock

is published each month by

#### Solid Rock United Methodist Church

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Warren, Indiana 46792

[www.solidrockumc.com](http://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 21

### March Financial Update

General Offerings .....\$13,228

General Fund Expenses .....\$13,078

Mortgage Balance.....\$75,771

### A mother's prayer

A.T. Pierson writes that "all true prayer trusts [God] to give his own answer, not in our way or time, or even to our own expressed desire, but rather to his own unutterable groaning within us which he can interpret better than we."



As an example, Pierson points to Monica, the mother of the man who came to be known as Saint Augustine. Although Monica "pleaded with God that her dissolute son might not go to Rome, that sink of iniquity," he went anyway. While there, he met Ambrose, bishop of Milan, who led him to the Christian faith. Saint Augustine is considered one of the most important church fathers.

"God fulfilled the mother's desire while denying her request," Pierson writes. How might God be meeting your desires, even amid what appear to be unanswered prayers?

"Patience with others is love, patience with self if hope, patience with God is faith."

—Adel Bestavros

## Solid Rock Mission Giving

Solid Rock supports a number of local, national, and international missions projects. Over the next few issues, we will highlight these projects.

### Huntington County Free Health Clinic

The Huntington County Free Health Clinic provides free health care services, dental care, and referrals to specialists to high risk, low-income residents of Huntington County who have no health insurance. These are patients that cannot afford high government health care premiums and those who do not meet the criteria for Medicaid. Once a month, there is a special clinic for diabetic patients where their medications are adjusted and teaching is provided. The goal of the clinic is to empower our patients with dignity and respect. We give them a “hand up,” not a “hand out.” It provides a viable service to those who are in need.

### Associated Churches of Huntington County and By the Book Program

In 1944 the Ministerial Association in Huntington arranged for some kind of religious education program that would allow all the county to work together. The program was known as the Huntington County Council of Religious Education and classes were taught inside the elementary school buildings.

On June 20, 1945, the organization was incorporated as “Weekday Religious Education.” In 1948, 12% of children attending the Bible classes were un-churched. A law forbidding religious education classes to be taught inside the school buildings prompted the board to purchase two mobile trailers in 1963. No classes were held in public schools after November, 1965.

On December 30, 1965, the name was changed to Associated Churches of Huntington. In 1967, the association began giving Bibles to graduating high school seniors. In 1989, the two trailers were replaced with new ones. In 1995, with approximately 950 to 1,000 students attending Bible trailer, 55% were un-churched. After 17 years of use, the trailers were again replaced in 2006.

In November 2008, the ACLU filed suit against the school corporation for allowing the trailers to be parked on school property, and on March 20, 2009, we had to remove the trailers from school property.

But God wanted his 65-year-old pro-

gram to continue, and through much prayer, many meetings, financial support and great volunteer help, By the Book classes were being held at all eight elementary schools on March 17, 2010, just three days before the one year date of the day classes were stopped. That could only happen with God being in control.

In 2010, we estimated that almost 70% of our students were un-churched. God has great concern for little children.

## Food Pantry Needs

- Cereal
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Snack Crackers
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Spaghetti
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Pudding Snack Packs
- Ramen Noodles



Also needed: plastic bags, books and magazines (6 months through adult)

Please leave your items in the wooden boxes in the narthex.

## Africa University farm feeds multitudes

Freshman Agatha Muagura whispers to the plump white chicken she is cradling in her arms. The bird is remarkably docile after being chased down, swung around by its feet and shoved on top of a scale for weighing.

Next lesson for Muagura — slaughtering and pulling out the innards. Next step for the chicken — Africa University dining hall.

Even though it is the end of the road for the chicken, really, until today, that chicken had a happy life.

On the more than 80-hectare (nearly 200 acres) Africa University farm, the chickens are content, the pigs and cows are fat and the crops are tall and bountiful.

Muagura, a first-year student from Mozambique, is one of eight students learning about farm work from Larry Kies, a United Methodist missionary with the denomina-

tion's Board of Global Ministries, who has been an adviser and instructor to the farm since 2002.

It is chaos in the corner of the “mature” chicken coop. Giggling students corner cackling chickens. A lot of dust, feathers and other chicken by-products get kicked up. Unflappable Kies asks, “Do these look like happy chickens?” After a pause, he answers, “They should, they are about to go to heaven.”

From day one to day 38, the chickens have a sweet life on the Africa University farm. Then, on day 38, they become part of campus life by way of the dining hall.

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources was established in 1992 as one of the first two faculties at this private, United Methodist-related institution. The farm provides chicken, beef and pork, eggs, dairy products and a wide range of vegetables to feed the students and staff. Leftovers are sold to restaurants and hotels in Mutare.

Trevor Mupofu, the farm manager, said 300 birds go to the university kitchen every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The farm gets 2,000 one-day-old chicks every fortnight. “Two thousand in, 2,000 out,” he says. Each chick is counted and let loose in the first of three tin-roofed sheds where chickens live out their lives.

Naomie Chikosi is the manager of one of the hen houses. She quietly walks between the wire cages dozens of times a day plucking eggs from the 3,000 laying hens. She sweeps and cleans the shed and waters and feeds her feathery brood. She fills crates with 50 eggs, 70 crates a day, 365 days a year.

She loves her job. Gazing at the wire cages, shyly, she says, “They are happy, hear them cooing. I just like them so much.” Across from the chicken houses are three

sheds of pigs. One for the general population, one for breeding and one for a maternity ward where baby pigs run around the feet of their moms. The university also has goats and sheep.

The farm grows everything from onions and leafy vegetables to potatoes and walls of maize.

It's not just the Africa University students who learn farming techniques here. The teaching farm is open to the community and other universities.

Mupofu's office is in the first building constructed on the Africa University campus, a small round hut. He keeps the sparse office neat and clean.

“This is where the university started,” he says with some pride. “We have 38 people on our staff, I am number 38.”

—Kathy L. Gilbert



You are invited to a  
**GRADUATION PARTY**  
 for  
**ROBBY BOLINGER**  
 Saturday, June 4  
 12-4  
 at Solid Rock UMC



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**Dear Jesus,** help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through us and be so in us that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus! Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as you shine; so to share as to be a light to others; the light, O Jesus, will be all from you, none of it will be ours; it will be you shining on others through us.

—John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

