



# News From The Rock

September 2011

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

## Directory being updated

The Solid Rock church directory is being updated. If you have not already done so, please complete a data sheet (available at church) and have your picture taken as you leave the building after worship. You may also submit photos to Gary Walter or e-mail digital photos to gary@solidrockumc.com.



## Love in the Name of Christ sponsoring dinner

Love, INC will be serving dinner at the Knight-Bergman Center on Sunday, September 11, from 11:00 to 1:00. The menu includes roast pork or stuffed chicken breast, two vegetables, salad, a drink, and homemade dessert. Carry-outs will be available.



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

## Bear Ministry

I would like to start a Bear Ministry. We would set teddy bears throughout the church, and if you know someone (any denomination, any place, any age) who is sick, and you feel like you would like to take or send a bear to them, do so. That is what they are in the pews for. Please, try to keep children from playing with them in church.



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## Book Club announces fall study

The Solid Rock Book Club will begin its fall session on September 27, reading and discussing the book *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream* by David Platt. The author is currently the head pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Alabama.

In *Radical*, Dr. Platt challenges the reader to consider with an open heart how we have manipulated the gospel to fit our cultural preferences. He shows what Jesus actually said about being his disciple—then invites you to *believe* and *obey* what you have heard. And he tells the dramatic story of what is happening as a “successful” suburban church decides to get serious about the gospel according to Jesus.

*“Radical will cause you to bounce on a spectrum between two words: ouch and amen. Tough truths do that. They challenge us to examine our lives and then choose the lasting over the temporary. Read Radical if you’re ready to live differently.”*

—Gregg Matte, senior pastor, First Baptist Church of Houston

*“The church of the Lord Jesus has been seduced by a skilled seductress: the American dream. David Platt exposes this enemy of authentic Christianity and provides a way of escape through a radical faith that leads to a radical obedience. I am not the same after reading it. I trust that will also be true for you.”*

—Daniel L. Akin, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Meetings are scheduled for September 27, October 4, and October 11, all at the church beginning at 6:30 p.m. If you wish to order a book through the church, contact Rochelle DeHaven (375-2773) no later than September 4.

## Just Leaning on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



**“The servant prayed:** You, LORD, are the God my master Abraham worships. Please keep your promise to him and let me find a wife for Isaac today. The young

women of the city will soon come to this well for water, and I’ll ask one of them for a drink. If she gives me a drink and then offers to get some water for my camels, I’ll know she is the one you have chosen and that you have kept your promise to my master.”  
(Gen 24:12-14)

We’ve all heard about the faith of Abraham, but do we really know how Abraham’s faith touched the lives of those around him? The above Scripture tells of a prayer offered by Eliezer, a servant of Abraham’s, while looking for a wife for Isaac.

Eliezer starts by identifying Abraham as his master and God as the One Abraham worships. He then reminds God of the promise He (God) has made to Abraham for Eliezer to find Isaac a wife. Eliezer sets up circumstances to be met to identify the woman for Isaac.

I’m not supportive of depending solely on circumstances because I feel this is a dangerous way to discern God’s will. We have a tendency to ignore circumstances we don’t want to see, while focusing on the ones we do want.

I digress. This woman is to give Eliezer a drink and to offer to water his camels. This is no small task as one camel can drink up to 20 gallons of water. That would mean several trips back and forth to the well to haul enough water for Eliezer’s camels. So is Eliezer looking for a woman

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## The Big Money

Another story from the Sunshine State. David, the brother-in-law of my granddaughter, Jessica, was taken by Rhabdomyosarcoma shortly before his 29th birthday. This is an incredibly rare form of cancer, usually found only in children. They account for more than 70% of the approximately one hundred cases identified each year.

Jessica and her husband, Marc, who was David's brother, have decided to train and ride in the 100-mile bike ride on October 22 to raise money for leukemia and lymphoma. Jessica's Facebook accounts of the training have provided family and friends with some very entertaining moments, as we all know that athletics have never been a particular passion of either of them. In addition, they are still in the midst of trying to

finish the remodeling of the house assumed by an elderly driver to be a temporary parking space last spring. The upside for Jessica is the shopping this training has necessitated as she has lost five dress sizes. Marc is less enthusiastic about that fact.

You have heard anecdotes about Nicole, the world's most special great-granddaughter, but his one is not about her. It is about Emma, some other great-grandmother's joy. Emma is a four-year-old in Nicole's playgroup. Emma asked her mother to dial Jessica's mother so that she could talk to her.

Emma told Jessica she wanted to "get money for David" but she could not ride her bike in the street. She wanted to know if she could just give some money so nobody else would have to die. After Jessica assured her it was possible and thanked her, Emma's mom got on the phone. She explained that Emma is asking *everyone* she encounters for "money for David."

("Everyone" includes total strangers ... in restaurants, on the street, in stores, etc.) She explains that David was Nicole's uncle and he got so sick he died, and she doesn't want anyone else to die. Then she clarifies the request. She really wants the "Big Money" with the birds on it (quarters) and not the "little money" (pennies and dimes). Furthermore, she has decided that she and Nicole should set up a lemonade stand and sell to the big kids who get hot while they are playing outside.

If this is not a perfect example of modeling behaviors you want your children to emulate, I do not know what else could be. And starting them off as early as possible sets them on the path for the rest of their lives. Yea, Emma!

Barbara Kleinhans

## Missions Update

Thank you for your giving to the *New Beginnings Ministry* in Arizona in honor of Pastor Joe Gonzales. A check for \$788.97 was sent in July.

*A Friend's House* in Bluffton had a matching fund opportunity and the Mission Committee decided to send \$300 from the 2010 birthday and anniversary offerings to *A Friend's House* and the remaining \$175 from the collection in the "little church" to *LOVE, INC* for their back to school drive.

## May Offerings

General Offerings ..... \$14,750  
Building Fund Contributions ..... \$9,498

## Men's Fellowship

The Solid Rock Men's Fellowship met on August 13, 2011, at Heritage Pointe with 14 men in attendance. David Spahr opened the meeting with prayer. Breakfast was served by Kim's Katered Affair.

Marion Bell shared devotions, "Construction and Creation," based on Genesis 1:27, and "When You Love to Tell the Story," from Matthew 13:34.

Closing prayer was offered by Gary Walter. The next meeting will be September 10, 2011.

## Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee has awarded church scholarships to Emma Sabinske, Manchester College; Kailey Neff, Indiana University; Liz Bolinger, Purdue University; Colin McIntire, Ball State University; and Rachel Decker, Manchester College for the fall semester. Please pray for these students as they follow the Lord's leading through their college careers.

## Upcoming UMYF Events

- August 28: Pizza after church
- September 4: No Meeting/Labor Day
- September 11: Pizza after church
- September 18: Meeting, 4:00-5:30
- September 25: Bible Study
- September 28: Volunteer Night, 6:00-8:00 at the Food Pantry
- October 2: CROP Walk, 1:30
- October 9: Pizza after church
- October 16: Meeting, 4:00-5:30
- October 23: Bible Study

## In a nutshell

A Sunday school teacher gave her second-graders a month to memorize Psalm 23. One little boy was excited about the task but just couldn't remember the whole chapter.

When the day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation, the nervous boy stepped up to the microphone and said, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know!"

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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  
Church Phone: 375-3871

#### Church Office

427 N. Matilda  
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News deadline for the October newsletter: September 18

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who's not afraid of work? No, he's looking for the woman God has selected for Isaac. In short, he (Eliezer) has faith that God will deliver the right woman to him.

What I notice most is that Abraham had a contagious faith. So what does this have to do with me? I wonder is my faith contagious? Would someone who works with or for me learn to trust God as Eliezer did from Abraham? What about your faith walk? Does it encourage others to have faith in God? I pray that we ALL might have a contagious faith from this day forward.

Shalom,  
Pastor Kathy

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A note on each bear will read:

*Love bears all things,  
believes all things,  
endures all things.*

*This bear sat in the pew at the Solid Rock United Methodist Church. It has been blessed as it has heard Scriptures read, the Word preached, hymns sung and prayers prayed. It comes to you as a special reminder of God's healing and wonderful love.*

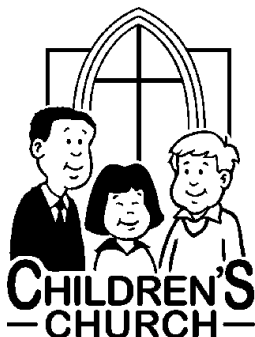
Anyone interested in helping with this ministry is asked to bring a bear, about 12 to 15 inches tall (so it can sit in the pew), or donate money to purchase one. As one disappears, we will replace it.

Please leave the bears in the box marked "Bear Ministry" in the fellowship hall or front entry. If you have questions, please contact Pat Boxell (375-6139), Deb. Shaw (375-6299), or Linda Cloud (375-2704).

Pat Boxell

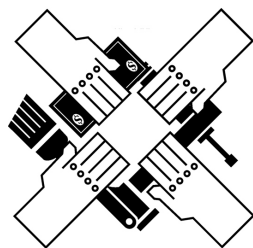
## Children's Church

Thank you to Michelle Woody for leading Children's Church throughout the summer. Our regular fall session will begin September 11 for grades K-4. We will first be discussing the importance of candle lighting for worship and what it means to be an acolyte. Then we will tackle some Bible Basics and discuss worshipping God.



## Missions Opportunity

Mike Tribolet, Huntington, is planning to spend next summer building a home at the Henderson Settlement in the Appala-



chian region of southeastern Kentucky. Henderson Settlement is a mighty ministry meeting the needs of many in that area. Our covenant missionaries, Gary

and Vicki Stephenson serve at this ministry. Our church is planning to send work crews and help is needed, even if you are not a talented dry-waller or painter. Be in prayer about the Lord using you to reach out in this area. Watch for more information and contact Rosalie Walter if you are interested in going or have questions.

## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women of Solid Rock met for their monthly meeting on August 4 in the Calico Room of Heritage Pointe. Twelve members assembled at 9:30 a.m. and were greeted by President Myrna Neff with a devotion from a previous Reading Program book, *Breakfast with Billy Graham*. The selection chosen was a timely one—"The Watermelons Told the Truth."—based on Numbers 32:23.



United  
Methodist  
Women

Several missionary birthdays in August were noted, along with a Methodist center for drug abuse treatment in Mexico. Our prayers go for the persons and the work of all.

Several joys and concerns were shared from our own members, their families, and our church friends. A Mission Moment was presented by Mary Emma Holmes—hand-done crafts, and sewn, some crocheted, some quilted and knotted, some painted items, all contributing to missions.

Business minutes reported on the July meeting, and the treasurer's report of a July 31 balance of \$269.38 was given by Barbara Hart. The group agreed to a Gift to Mission to be made to honor and remember our dear member, June Shideler, who was a regular attendee at our group for years.

Business to be completed at the September 1 meeting will include election of next year's officers. The program will be presented by Myrna Neff, and is entitled "Reconciliation: Journey of Jacob."

The August lesson was presented by Freddie Couch, and dealt with having a better understanding of the gifts of the Spirit and celebrating the birth of the church. Pentecost was the Greek word for the Jewish "Feast of Weeks." It means 50th day, and its celebration took place every year exactly 50 days after the Jewish Passover. Although the people present at that gathering described in the Book of Acts spoke different languages, they could understand each other because the Spirit of the Lord made it possible. Notable was the sound from heaven "like the rush of a mighty wind." (Acts 2:2) Peter preached a very special sermon.

Freddie concluded our meeting with prayer: "Fill us with your love and power so that we can be the sign of the Kingdom in our community, that by our actions and love, people will know that we are Christians. Spirit of the Living God, fall upon us again. Amen."

## Thank you!

I would like to thank the church for the scholarship money. I'm looking forward to my sophomore year at IU and the money will be used towards all of the expensive books they make us buy. I would also like to thank you all for your prayers and support throughout the year. GO HOOSIERS!

Kailey Neff

## Practicing the ABCs

As school resumes, Christians of all ages can practice their faith ABCs. Connie Willems, editor of *Discipleship Journal Online*, suggests praying through the alphabet to describe God.

What would you list? Ideas include Almighty, Blessed, Christ, Divine, Elohim, Faithful, Gracious, Holy and so on. If Q and X stump you, relax the rules a bit: Quitting? Never! and Xcellent! surely describe our Lord.

Try a similar approach to think of people and things to thank God for: Apples, Books, Cats, Daddy, Elephants, Friends ... and on and on!

**Dear Lord**, Unimaginable One, Giver of Everything That Is, Thank You. There are no small things, are there, Father? Only eyes too closed to see.

- Brian Doyle

## Let go!

Much attention is being paid to the heavy backpacks kids now lug to school. My fifth-grader's backpack weighs nearly 20 pounds — more than one-quarter of her body weight!

This year I bought my kids backpacks with wheels to ease the muscle strain. Problem solved? Wrong. They continue lugging the packs on their backs, and I keep reminding them to put the packs down and roll them.



I don't understand it — or do I? We adults carry heavy burdens, too. They pile up and weigh us down. The cumulative weight can be crushing. But we don't have to carry our troubles. Jesus tells us to let him shoulder the load (see Matthew 11:28). Jesus already took away our biggest burden by dying on the cross. So we can truly "Let go ... and let God."

—Kari Myers

## Labor Day Prayer

**Lord on this Labor Day,  
we celebrate the work we do,  
and we thank You for the blessing  
of our jobs.**

**We ask for those seeking  
employment that  
You guide them in their  
search for work.**

**We ask for guidance when we  
are confused.**

**We ask for patience when working through conflicts.**

**We ask for strength to complete each day.**

**We ask for rest when we are weary.**

**We ask that You be with those whose faces  
we might never see but who work tirelessly  
each day for the good of us all.**



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SEPTEMBER

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