

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church
October 30, 2005

Pastor: Dr. James E. Tuttle

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Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:10 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 11:15 a.m.

Summer Worship Hours:
Right Start 8:04 a.m.
Summer Worship 9:30 a.m.



“Ringing Forth the Good News”

A Giving Way of Life”

“We’ve got to stop the flow of water,” Seventh-day Adventist disaster services director Charlene Sargent told *The Los Angeles Times* two weeks after Hurricane Katrina struck land. She wasn’t talking about broken levees, but about the truckloads of donated drinking water. She commented, “If you took everything we got this weekend and put it in New Orleans,” she said, “it would raise the elevation so it wouldn't flood again.”

In the first week after Katrina, U.S. charities raised over \$500 million – more than 2.5 times the cost of the Louisiana Purchase, adjusted for inflation. Within 3 weeks, American giving surpassed \$1 billion. In less than 4 weeks, giving surpassed the gifts for victims of last year’s Asian tsunami. That was just what got on the books.

However, *Washington Post* columnist Michelle Singletary wonders if today donors are being conditioned to respond only to news crises rather than to develop a life-long spirit of giving. She commented, “While it’s commendable that so many people are helping Katrina victims, it’s better if that generosity becomes ingrained.”

But I suspect that it is ingrained. Actually, Katrina showed the value of the much-disparaged “organized religion,” said Ray Waddle in *The Tennessean*. “Organized religion is showing America what it means to believe.” The outpouring inspired the *New York Times* headline: “*A New Meaning for Organized Religion.*”

[The above quotes are from a Web Log by Ted Olsen. *Christianity Today*, Nov. '05, Vol. 49, No. 11, Pg. 94]

Churches became generous first responders because they were there, they were organized, and because they were already conditioned by a mindset of giving. Christians are accustomed to giving, not because we have to, or even because there’s a need to. Christians give because of who we are. We Christians give because we are Christians. We are people created in the image of a giving God and reflect that image in and through our giving. Also, we are people who identify ourselves as followers of the one called the Christ, whose life began as a gift and who lived a giving way of life. That’s God’s nature, and that’s the way we were created to be. That’s Christ’s model, and as followers of Jesus, that’s the way we choose to live.

The outpouring of love this year through the various mission appeals and outreach efforts, in purchasing a power saw and portable wood milling equipment for rebuilding churches in Liberia, and through our response to the hurricane victims reflect a giving way of life. Even last’s Sunday’s response of over \$1,200 toward purchasing a rough-terrain vehicle for the district superintendent in our sister district in Liberia is yet another evidence of that.

And I’m thoroughly convinced that our individual responses to the upcoming fall stewardship campaign, our concerted effort to bring our planned giving up to date, in order to end the year meeting all of our obligations, as well as our giving to the numerous special year-end Christmas appeals will again this year as in the past evidence that the people of First UMC of Saline have adopted and continue to live out a giving way of life. – Pastor Jim



OPPORTUNITY WALL

Awesome Church Family: We have a wonderful problem. We have so many ministries going on, that there is not enough room on the Narthex tables for all of the sign-ups! In the effort to reduce clutter, including the number of easels in the Narthex, we are implementing an opportunity wall. Your cooperation is vital to this process. The goal is to put the posters for upcoming events on the tack strip located on the wall near the offices. If sign up sheets for the event are needed, they can be placed on the clipboard on the table beneath the sign. Multiple sign up sheets can be spread out if there is room, or preferably stacked on top of each other on the same clipboard. Bins have been provided under the tables if a collection of items is needed. Clear letter holders are on the tables if it is necessary to have a place for people to return forms. This wall is for "short-term" service or enrichment opportunities. Information for continuous group opportunities (for example: UMW, UMM); and brochures, are on a table near the women's lounge.

1. **Please limit sign to no larger than a standard poster board, 22 x 28, vertical orientation preferred.**
2. Labeling pockets are provided on the letter holders and bins.
3. Bins are provided under the table for larger items. Put an identifying sheet in the plastic sleeve in the front of the bin.
4. It is recommended that if you have multiple pieces, that each one is labeled the same and of the same color. For example: pink poster, pink sign up sheet, pink label on the bin.
5. Generic sign up sheets are available.
6. Please include organization name (ex. Missions) and a contact person on each poster/signup.
7. Please remove promptly when event is over.

Thank you for your cooperation, we understand it is hard to adjust to change, but please give this new concept a try. There may be some adjustments before it is in final form. Contact Lisa Marshall or Pam Heffelbower with any questions/suggestions.

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, November 7th** at noon. Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, November 10th** in Room F at 9:00 a.m. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

LIBERIA MISSION DAY

Our Liberia Mission Day was a resounding success!!!! Thank you to all who contributed toward a vehicle for Rev. Nelly Wright, our partner District Superintendent. Over \$1200 was collected! God is good! And our church is generous! It is not too late, if you wish to donate. Envelopes are in the office. This money will be sent to the district to await funds from the other churches partnered with St. John River District in Liberia. Thank you to all the folks who helped stick labels on envelopes and stuff the bulletins!

We just received word that on October 2nd, St. John River District held a special worship service to celebrate our donation of the power saw to them. There was much singing and dancing and "crying for joy!" An extra note: please be praying for Rev. Wright. She emailed Monday, October 24th that she is ill with typhoid. If you are interested in getting involved with the Liberia Partner Church project, or have any question, please contact Laura Speiran, Liberia Contact Person, or Dale Adkins, Chair of Missions.



MEXICO MISSION TEAM

The application process for our mission trip (February 18-25, 2006) is now in process. It looks like we may be working on the individual rooms in the orphanage. Airfare will be \$380.00 and that needs to be turned in by November 9th. The fee to Tapestries of Life is \$550.00 and will need to be turned in by December 4th. These are the same costs as last year. Please see David Coxton for your application or additional information. Phone: 997-9646 or soldador@sbcglobal.net.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

November 13th

Potluck Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Conference at 7:30 p.m.

Bring a main dish
and side dish or dessert

J.O.Y. FELLOWSHIP

Our fellowship group for those 55 and older wants you! Come join us for lunch, devotions, and Christian fellowship. We are collecting donations for Saline Area Social Services in November. If you wish, please bring personal hygiene or paper products (toilet paper, diapers or pull-ups, Kleenex, dish soap, toothpaste, etc.). ***R.S.V.P. with your name on the sign up sheet in the narthex, or by calling the church office.*** Pay \$5.00 on the third Thursday at 12 noon when we meet. Here is the menu: November—build your own salad with rolls and dessert; December—ham, scalloped potatoes and green beans with Christmas cookies for dessert. Questions? Contact Laura Speiran in the office.

DONATIONS FOR MEXICO MISSION

While on the Mexico Mission trip last year, our family had a part in handing out 250 toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes donated by our dentist to the Mexican families served on Mercy Ministry Day. After seeing how excited the kids were to receive a toothbrush and toothpaste and realizing that a family of 6 or more would have to share a single toothbrush, we decided to undertake the challenge of collecting items to fill 1,000 goodie bags so that all the kids at Mercy Ministry Day can receive a bag of both useful and fun items. Throughout the summer we collected items from garage sales and are more than halfway there, but we realize we are going to need help reaching our goal of 1,000 bags. If you would like to help us out, here is a list of things we are collecting:



McDonald toys or other small toys/games
Teeny Beanie Babies or similar tiny stuffed animals
Unsharpened pencils
Small pencil sharpeners
Small, solid 'bouncy balls', spinning tops, or whistles
Hot Wheels, Matchbox, or similar cars
5-piece packs of gum or lollipops
Quart-size ziplock bags, used to package the above items

So if your toy box is over-flowing or you get more Halloween candy (hard only – no chocolate) than you care to eat, then drop your items off at the church and we will deliver them to a grateful child in Mexico. There will be a box in the Narthex until

the end of the year for you to drop off your donations. We will also be asking local dentists for donations so that each child can receive their own toothbrush and toothpaste!

If you would prefer to make a cash donation, you can drop off cash or a check to the church office (make out all checks to FUMC with a memo line of "Mexico Mission – Burns"), and we will use the money to purchase any items we are short on and to ship the filled bags to Tapestries of Life Ministries to be handed out by the FUMC mission team next February. Any remaining monies will be donated to the Mercy Ministry Day fund for the Mexico Mission Team. Thank you for your support!

The Burns Family

"CHRISTMAS IS JESUS"



"Christmas is Jesus" is the name of this year's Christmas cantata which will be presented at both services on December 11. The choir and praise team along with the orchestra have begun rehearsals. The choirs will specifically work on the cantata during the following times: Wednesdays 7:30-8:15 and Thursdays 8:15-9:00 p.m. This is a great time to join the music team especially if you can only make a short term commitment. Any questions, call Tammy Schoenfeldt at 429-7269.



CANCER SUPPORT GROUP TO BEGIN

Are you currently being treated, just diagnosed, or recently gone through cancer? A cancer support group will begin on Sunday, November 6, 2005 during the Sunday school hour from 10:10 to 11:10 a.m. in the Parlor. This will be a 6 week series, meeting the first three Sundays in November (6th, 13th, and 20th) and the first three Sundays in December (4th, 11th, 18th). If the group chooses, it may continue. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Schmall, MSW, facilitator, at sschmall@umich.edu, or Laura Speiran, Director of Congregational Care, in the office.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CORNERSTONE



The Kids Church (KC) team is working hard to see to it that KC takes place every Sunday morning for both services. There have been just a handful of people that have made that happen and we are so very thankful for those people. However, when it falls on the same people every week or even every other week, **burn out** can happen very quickly. This is not fair to the leaders, nor is it fair to the children. To keep Kids Church alive, please sign up on the sign-up sheets located outside the KC room to be a part of keeping this ministry going. The 1st quarter is wide open with dates that you can choose to meet your Sunday morning schedule. We have at least 35 sets of parents (whose children attend KC) that can help to keep KC an age appropriate ministry giving our children the quality curriculum they deserve. First quarter consisting of Jan, Feb, and Mar, with 35 sets of parents, means you only have to **give one hour, one Sunday, one quarter**. All parents of KC are required to teach or assist in KC 1 or KC 2 at least once. If you have not signed up we will be assigning a date for you and you will be expected to help in serving our children so they can all benefit from God's Word every Sunday morning.

A quick and simple training will take place for all parents on January 11th at 6:15 pm. This will take no longer than 15 minutes to share with you the "ready to use" curriculum. THAT is how easy, and how little time it will take you to provide a good quality ministry on any given Sunday morning. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, together we can all ease the load and serve God AND our children at once.

A reminder to sign in and out your child if they are going to Sunday school, and be sure to sign out your child from KC and WEE WORSHIP. The system is working very well. Thank you all!

R.O.C.K. in LOGOS SCOOP

Praise God for all of His blessings upon us! Each week our mid-week ministry for youth and children continues to grow – we've got 88 registered for the fall session. And it's not too late to get in on the fun, whether you're a child or a child-at-heart. Since this ministry can touch the lives of our entire church congregation, we lovingly invite you to consider being a part of it. For instance, if you're reading this article, perhaps you'd like to help write the next one? R.O.C.K. in LOGOS still has a need for someone who can serve as our "Publicity Director". There are also opportunities to interact with the kids through recreation, Bible skills and in the nursery. And if you're looking for a free meal in a not-so-intimate, but highly stimulating environment, the rewards of becoming a Table Parent for our Family Time are immeasurable. Please contact Bonnie Bennyhoff at 429-5800 for more information.



ADD/ADHD PARENT AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

If you are a Parent or Caregiver of a child with ADD/ADHD and would like to form an informal support group at our church, please contact Janet Kohler at 429-5172 or Lisa Marshall in the office. The purpose of this group is to have informal meetings to share information, ideas and offer support to one another.

ANGEL TREE

It's that time of year to begin planning and coordinating our efforts for the Angel Tree Christmas ministry. Through this ministry, we have an opportunity to reach out to families in our community by providing support for children who have a parent in prison. At Christmas time, we purchase gifts for these children, on behalf of their parent. If you are interested in helping with the behind-the-scenes planning for this ministry, please contact Yvonne Goddard at 944-2189 or ygoddard@umich.edu.





Many of our church family have asked me about how the new ministry is going so here is the latest. We currently have 18 wonderful young adults and students now registered with the Friendship Ministry. We are now in our fourth week of active ministry and we are finding in these new beginnings that we grow about 2-3 new students with each session simply because of the energy and enthusiasm of the students in this very communicative family network. And may I say that there is a viable spiritual thirst in these students in having a very special place to "be" and to "belong" and this has created a perpetual vacuum of new students heading this way with each new session along the way. We already have students as far as the Belleville area coming to enjoy their very own special night of worship, Bible study, fellowship, and new found friends. God has completely orchestrated and blessed our new beginnings as well as He has blessed our future for Friendship with what lies ahead. God has instilled such a genuine and authentic passion in our wonderful Friendship Staff that you can't help but to sense the intrinsic aroma of God's saturate love lingering in the education wing of our church during these very special evenings!

Our local Friendship Ministry will gain national acclaim as we don the front cover of Friendship Ministries Worldwide National Newsletter this week. I will post the newsletter on the Friendship bulletin board for those who want to read the article. A picture of our own Lisa Marshall and Friendship student Tina Compton will embrace the front cover with their beautiful peace-filled smiles! All praise, gratitude and honor be to God on high for His mighty orchestrations of life and love!

As part of our ministry we provide an opportunity for parents and caregivers to mingle, discuss and be supported by our staff and one another on the 4th Tuesday of every month. On the 2nd Tuesday of each month we provide speakers followed by small group discussions. In addition we provide coffee and yummy desserts! On November 9th our speaker will be discussing "transitions and resources for different points along the way". Our small group discussion afterward will explore the hopes, losses and adjustment of going through the various transitions of parenting a child with special needs.

If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Roger Heffelbower @ 429-7095 or any of our gracious and humble Friendship Ministry staff.

Hannah

Hannah Circle will meet on Monday, November 7th at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Our program will be a video of Bible translator, Marilyn Laszlo's, work in the jungles of Papua New Guinea. Twenty years ago, she began her work of bringing the Sepik Iwam people God's Word in their own language. This is a fascinating story of God's grace and a people's transformation. Melinda Yaklin will provide refreshments. For further information, please contact Sylvia Korte at 517-423-7881.

Esther

Esther Circle will meet on Monday, November 7th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of hostess Carolyn Comfort. You are encouraged to bring a sandwich and arrive at 12:30 p.m. for fellowship and a light lunch. Eula Escott will be co-hostess. The devotions will be presented by Shirley Padding. Please contact Kay Richmond at 944-6234 for more information.

Ruth

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 1st at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor. You are encouraged to bring a sandwich and arrive at 12:30 p.m. for fellowship and a light lunch. Annella Aurand is the hostess. The program will be presented by Mary Domeier. Please call Florence Busch at 547-9377 for further information.

Susanna

Susanna Circle will meet again on Monday, November 14th in the Parlor. Refreshments will be provided by Jenny Barrett. For further information, please contact Linda Glaspie at 429-2918.

HOMELESS SHELTER COLLECTION

We are collecting **socks** during **November** for the Homeless Shelter. These items can be placed in the "blue house" in the Narthex.

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the Lord. (Leviticus 19:30)

If you have been wondering what is causing that backup in the hallway on your way to Sunday School...it's parent's picking up their children from Kid's Church. FUMC of Saline has instituted a sign-in/sign-out policy for all ministries involving children and other vulnerable persons. Our goal is to ensure that our Holy Place of Worship is also a safe sanctuary for our children. If a child is participating in nursery, Sunday School, R.O.C.K. in LOGOS, or Friendship Ministry, they are signed or checked in at each session. If your child participates in Wee Worship or Kid's Church, they are led from the sanctuary by two volunteers and checked in by those volunteers. Parents, guardians, adults authorized by parents, or siblings in seventh grade or older are responsible for signing their children out at the end of each ministry session. If the ministry volunteer is unfamiliar with parents, they have been instructed to ask for a photo ID that can be compared to the child's registration form. Children will not be permitted to leave that ministry area without being signed out. We appreciate parents talking with their children about the importance of this procedure.

By using the sign-in/sign-out procedure, parents should feel confident that they know exactly where their children are in the church and who is supervising them. Ministry volunteers will know that each child entrusted to their care is participating with parent permission and will be secured back to their parent's care at the end of the ministry session.

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding the development of this policy to Melissa Zimmerman at 913-6911.



LEAF RAKING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Saline Girl Scouts are looking to serve the community by raking leaves for Senior Citizens or others who are unable to rake their own. If you or someone you know needs this service, please contact Dana Beil at 944-3320.

UMW MINI-BAZAAR

On Saturday, November 12, UMW and our quilters present an opportunity for Christmas shopping with the proceeds going to church programs and missions. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. Items for sale include cookbooks (library), note cards of the church (altar guild), cutlery, bread mixes (crisis center), Fair Trade coffees, teas, and chocolate (grower co-ops) and miscellaneous crafts. This is a great place to pick up gifts for \$5 for teachers, friends, and co-workers and still support missions!

SOUP-SALAD AND CHOCOLATE DESSERT BAR (YUM!)

UMW will serve a meal at 6:00 p.m. before the quilt auction on November 12. There will be a free will offering with support for Methodist Children's Home, Saline Area Social Services, NOMADS, Heritage Foundation, Cass Avenue, and others. There will be at least 12 great desserts! The quilt auction begins at 7:00 p.m.



3RD ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for Mini-Bazaar in Narthex and quilt previewing in Fellowship Hall. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Quilt Auction at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

- 12 Large Quilts
- 6 Lap or Baby Quilts
- 1 Christmas Tree Skirt
- 2 Table Runners
- 1 Silk Ribbon Vest

Five special quilts will benefit:

1. Our sister church in Liberia
2. UM-AIDS advance special giving
3. UMW-Afghanistan aid
4. Our International Mission Team
5. Tapestries of Life Orphanage

Other quilts support the FUMC quilting ministries.

HARVEST FOR HOPE GALA

Hope Clinic's annual Harvest For Hope Gala will be held at the Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Building from 6:30 – 10:00 PM on Friday, November 18. The evening will feature both live and silent auctions, a strolling buffet, entertainment and wonderful fellowship. Tickets are \$80 per person and can be obtained by contacting Judy Tice at Hope Center, 734-484-2989 ext 209 or jtice@thehopeclinic.org. Hundreds of items will be available at auction. All proceeds will help insure Hope's ability to continue its efforts in the community to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters.



SHOPPED AT MEIJER LATELY ?

If so, you may have passed up a great opportunity to help our church and ministries!

Meijer, through their Community Rewards program, allows you to contribute a portion of your monthly purchases to your church. With the holidays before us, your participation in the program could provide important support for our *R.O.C.K. in Logos* and *Missions* programs.

Please give strong consideration to joining this program, especially if you are already a Meijer customer. You may enroll in the Community Rewards program online at www.meijer.com/rewards, pick up an application at church or at your nearby Meijer store. You will need our organization code which is 476603.

If you desire more information or have any questions about the program, please call Dale Adkins at 429-5990.

ANNOUNCING THE LOUD LECTURE

This lecture series is held at First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor. On Thursday, November 10, at 8:00 p.m. the lecture will be "SHAPING THE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER," presented by Dr. Brian Walsh, Chaplain of the University of Toronto. It will be held in the Wesley Lounge at First United Methodist Church, Ann Arbor. If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact the Ann Arbor Church office at 662-4536.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Through the past few years, I have received many cards from members of the congregation. With gratitude we received the beautiful Prayer Quilt on Friday, 10/14/05. The effects of your prayers have sped my healing process.

This letter is LONG overdue in recognition of God's grace given through the FUMC congregation. This is my attempt to let you know that we know where our healing victories are from—the power of prayer. Many times I have been on your Prayer List and the success made me aware of the power of the Lord, Jesus Christ, so firmly rooted in our congregation.

With gratitude, I say, "Thank you," and "Amen!"

Fred Sundling



PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Ilene and Bill Heffelbower and family; Earl Laughrey; Matt Fillinger; James Olsen; Chris Gilbert; Wally Seitz; Charles Nolan; Bob and Jo Kupbens; Brian Thompson; Travis Owens; Zella Polley's daughter, Virginia; Karen Wenk;

Carlos Melendez; Fred Castle; Liz Jacobs' mother; Karen Cooper; Addie Calvitt; the family of Mike Chadwell; Amy Nelson; Sara; Charles Moore; Adam Edwards; Doris and Dale Brown; Russell Bebbler; those with cancer; hurricane victims; parents of children with special needs. **PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS** ~ for Pastor Tuttle and church staff for their leadership and service to the ministries of this congregation; the awesome job done by the Men's Group on our church yard cleanup; all who made the Revolution concert possible for our youth; the marriage of Adam and Chelsea Ford.

Military personnel and families to keep in our prayers

~ Jon Komarmy, son of Linda & Mitch Komarmy; Billy Kirkland, son of Kathy & Bill Kirkland; J.T. St. Denis, nephew of Kathy & Bill Kirkland; Robert Rodriguez, grandson of Florence Belt; Bennett Phipps, brother of Rachel Wislocki; Bill Paul, nephew of Bonnie & Tom Riggs; Roman Kisz, grandson of Lil Vaughan & nephew of Karen Sipos; Timothy & Jeffrey Frisbee, grandsons of Florence & Ernie Busch; Nick Gilveli, grandson of Martha Gilveli; Kevin Raymond, son of Susan Raymond; Bret Harbison, nephew of Maxine & Jim Bowker; Abby Suchy, daughter of Paulette & Mike Suchy; Tim Jones, son of Penny & Doug Jones; Kenita Bauerle, friend of Linda Ressler; Dan Erlwein, friend of Dave & Susan Hares; Sam Spicer, grandson of Lois Royal; Erik Maddock, son of Don & Andrea Maddock.