

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church

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.



December 11, 2005

“Ringin’ Forth the Good News”

December’s Decisions

Maybe it’s just my imagination, but each year it seems to me that December demands more decision making than some other months of the year.

- How much house decorating do we do, and how much special foods do we prepare and when?
- This year are we going to send to our friends Christmas cards, a lengthy, newsy letter or a collage of scanned digital pictures of all the family? When can we get that job done?
- What gifts should we buy? For whom? How much should we spend this year? At what store should we make the purchase in order to get the best deal? Should we pay extra for the extended warranty? Do we wrap the gifts or put them in the decorated gift bags and stuff tissue paper on top of them? And besides, when are we going to have time to get out and do this shopping?
- Which parties or social gatherings do we “have to attend” or are expected to attend? What get-togethers do we want to attend?
- Who are we going to make a special effort to visit during the week before and after Christmas? Are there people who have really touched our lives with whom we would enjoy spending an evening?
- With all the special mission appeals that fill the Steeple News, pack the church narthex and take in the ministry moments? This year, which ones will our family support this year – Angel Tree... Saline Christmas Food Baskets... Whitehall Nursing Home Gift Bags... Methodist Children’s Home... Cass Ave. Christmas Dinner or one of the Gift of Hope appeals?
- With all plethora of appeal letters arriving in the mail daily, which local and national charities are we able to support? And besides, what are we going to do with the Pastor’s Christmas letter and Christmas Offering appeal that we just received from the church this week?
- What about all the year-end financial matters that we have to bring up to date before December 31st?
- Which special holiday musical events can we squeeze in the schedule between now and Christmas? On Christmas Eve, are we going to attend the children and family service at 5:00 p.m., the Communion Service at 7:00 p.m., or the Candlelight Service at 11:00 p.m.?
- Are we going to worship on Sunday morning – Christmas Day, since we were just there the night before? And what about Sunday, January 1st -- New Year’s Day, getting home late New Year’s Eve?

With all the wonderful options that we have this time of year, however, the real decision we have to make this December is: “What are we going to do with Jesus?” As the children reminded us on Sunday, “Do we hear the Christmas bells, and does the sound resonate in our ears and the story ring true in our hearts?” If it does, we are confronted with *the* decision of life: What are we going to do with the God who chose to be embedded in human history in a tiny baby named Jesus?” Consider that decision carefully and choose wisely, because your decision makes a life-long, indeed an eternity of difference. May the God who came, come to you this season – Pastor Jim

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

INTERNATIONAL MISSION TEAM

It's that time of year again - Mark your calendars!



Our holiday bake sale will be: Sunday, December 18th. As we did last year in celebration of the holidays, we will be offering whole homemade pies, cakes, and breads in addition to the individual goodies. We will be in the kitchen before and after both services. Thank you all for your support!

J.O.Y. FELLOWSHIP

Our fellowship group for those 55 and older wants you! Come join us for lunch, devotions, and Christian fellowship. 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 for December 15th—ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, and Christmas cookies for dessert. We will be serenaded with Christmas carols while we eat. Questions? Contact Laura Speiran in the office. Please note we will not be meeting in January.



LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THE YEAR!

This is your last Steeple News until the second week of January. The next deadline is **Monday, January 2nd** at noon. Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, January 5th** in Room F at 9:00 a.m. You may still submit articles for inclusion in the Sunday bulletins. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

STEEPLE NEWS VIA EMAIL



Get your Steeple News on time by receiving it via email. We often receive comments that the Steeple News does not get to all of our congregation in a timely manner because of the Post Office, this is especially true for those who live outside the Saline area. In addition, the more people who sign up to receive the newsletter via email, the less money we have to spend on postage. If you would like to start receiving your newsletter via email contact Lisa Marshall at 429-4730 or lisa@fumc-saline.org.

WHAT GOES UP, MUST COME DOWN!

Don't forget! What goes up, must come down on Tuesday, January, 3rd at 5:00 p.m. If you were not able to help put the decorations up, please spend some time to take them down.

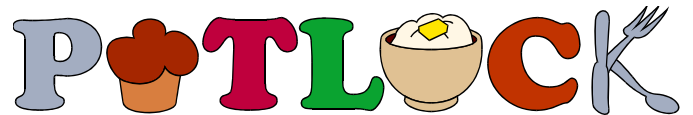


It is a very big job getting this all back in storage. We need **lots** of hands. Please, please take time to help and have a pizza dinner with us.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

To those friends who helped decorate the church for Christmas, we thank you! Without your help getting things out of storage or hanging wreaths, putting up the trees, stringing lights, etc., we could never get so much done in so little time. Jim and Annella Aurand, Milt and Dorothy Sackett, Gene and Oneta Bull, Shirley Padding, Doris Sekerka, Peg Gunnesch, Carolyn Comfort were all here decorating all 3 days! To you all, we are forever grateful. To Doug Beard for braving the cold to hang lights outside on trees, I thank you. To David Hares and Mike Suchy, thank you for hanging the wreaths outside. They were hung perfectly. Thank you to Bobbie Hinsman and family for cooking our food. It was great! To Barb and Jack Leonard, thank you for your gift of the beautiful fresh green wreath hanging outside the entrance. If possible, I think it's even prettier this year—what a special gift to the church. Thank you to all who helped for a few minutes or for many hours. We appreciate your help. Merry Christmas to all!

LuAnn Chriscinske, Shiela Blough,
Carolyn Comfort, Jean Campbell



CHRISTMAS DAY POTLUCK

Christmas Day can be a long, lonely time if you are not able to spend it with others for whatever reason. This year we are trying a "Christmas Day Potluck" for anyone who would like to participate. We will be eating a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall about 12:30 p.m., after the one morning worship service at 11:15 a.m. Roast turkey will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert, if you are able. **PLEASE R.S.V.P. on the opportunity wall in the Narthex by December 18th**. Questions? Please contact Laura Speiran, Director of Congregational Care, 429-4730.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION FOR DECEMBER



There are approximately 70 boys at the Methodist Children's Home who are in need of Christmas gifts. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to help these children experience the joy that so many of us take for granted. Place *unwrapped* gifts in the box in the Narthex. The deadline is December 11. A list of suggested gifts is on a table in the Narthex including: clothing items, personal items, educational items, sporting items, entertainment/games, as well as gift certificates to various stores.

CHRISTMAS CAROLERS NEEDED

For Holiday Sing-A-Long programs in Saline at:

Evangelical Home – Friday, Dec. 16, 7:00 p.m.

Brecon Village – Friday Dec. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

This is great fun and rewarding! See Doug Cogger (944-0103) if you would like to participate.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

The Christmas Season is thought to be a joyful time, but not all of us are feeling joyful. If you have lost a loved one, are experiencing ill health or are suffering from financial difficulty or severe disappointment, you may not feel like celebrating. On **Tuesday, December 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.**, we will be holding a “**Longest Night Service**” in order to provide a time and space to allow those with burdens on their hearts to rest in God. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one or as a symbol of hope. It will be a quiet, reflective service with music, scripture, and a short meditation. There will be no offering taken. This service is open to the community. If you know someone outside of our church family who might be in need of this kind of worship service, please consider offering to accompany them to help make them feel welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Speiran, Director of Congregational Care.



LAURA SPEIRAN AT SCHOOL IN JANUARY

Just a reminder that Laura will be gone from Jan. 8-20, 2006 for another seminary class in Chicago. If you know of someone needing a visit during that time, please call the office. They will arrange for a volunteer visitor to go out.

NURSERY HELP NEEDED

We are in the beginning stages of revitalizing our nursery staff! If you would like to be a part of the Nursery team, please contact Leanne Rimmac at the church 429-4730. On the job training available, and all ages from 14 years old and older are welcome to help. Let your story, your faith walk with Christ shine through to the young children of our nursery. Simply setting an example is all they need!



“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14~16

ADD/ADHD PARENT/CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The ADD/ADHD Parent/Caregiver Support Group will meet again on Thursday, December 15 in the Parlor at 7:00 p.m. This group shares information, ideas and offers support to one another. If you would like more information, contact Janet Kohler at 429-5172 or Lisa Marshall 429-4730.

UPDATE ON VOLUNTEER USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thanks to all that have signed up to help usher and we are pleased to announce that the 7:00 p.m. Communion service is fully staffed. However, we will still need help for the Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. (Children & Family) and 11:00 p.m. (Candlelight) services. In addition, we are desperate for help on Christmas Day during the one service at 11:15 a.m. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the vacancies that exist on the sign up sheet in the Narthex. As a reminder, no experience is necessary and we will be happy to help show you the ropes. We would ask that you arrive 30-45 minutes prior to the service to help with setup and coordinate the details of the service. If you do sign up and cannot make it, please remove your name or call Wayne Cody (429-5048). Also, please let us know if you have any concerns.



PRAYER MINISTRY FORMING



A new group has formed to pray on Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. We pray over the prayer concerns turned in on Sunday morning, as well as for our church. If you would like to be a part of this new ministry, please contact Laura Speiran in the office.

WEE WORSHIP

NEEDS SUBSTITUTE LEADERS

Wee Worship (ages 4 through kindergarten) is in need of substitute leaders for the 11:15 service. You would lead on an as-needed basis – not more than once every other month. No experience is necessary, all the materials are provided, the curriculum is easy and fun to teach and there is no prep work required. If you feel that you could help out Wee Worship in the 2nd service, please contact Joy Burns at joy@burnskids.com or 944-4003.



"A CHRISTMAS SERVICE " FOR THE FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY!



The students and staff will share in their very first Christmas Service on Dec. 13th from 6:30-8:00 pm in the sanctuary. It is our hope to bring the very Spirit of God's presence to the life of our students with this special holiday gathering. The Friendship Team is currently planning "something just a little different" than the standard program for this one special night! We will share in singing Christmas Carol's and Hymns on the "big screen" with the sanctuary all aglow in the festive spirit of Christmas. The students will share in worship, a special twist on Bible Study, our ever famous Friendship Puppet Ministry, and Fellowship. On behalf of the Friendship Students and Staff, we would like to cordially invite you to join us on this very special night of celebration of this "brand new" ministry in the spirit of a "brand new" Christmas Season of 2005 together. We invite you to come and experience "something uniquely beautiful" as we celebrate together the birth of our Savior and His "light and life" in us for the world! Please contact Roger Heffelbower or any of the Friendship Staff if you'd like to know more about this very exciting night of worship and celebration.



Hannah Circle will meet on Monday, January 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Janet Moss will present the program and Sylvia Korte will provide refreshments. Childcare is provided. Please call Sylvia with questions at 517-423-7881. All other circles will resume meeting in February.

SAFE SANCTUARIES

The Safe Sanctuaries Task Force is excited to be moving into the stage of developing the training module for church employees and volunteers who are involved in ministries for children, youth, and vulnerable persons. Training is a vital component in the implementation of the Safe Sanctuaries ministry. We will share information about the nature of child abuse and its consequences, ways to prevent abuse, and ways to respond to abuse. Education will be provided regarding our church's new abuse prevention policies and the plan for implementation of said policies. Much prayer, thought, and discussion has gone into developing guidelines for behavior that are tailored for our church and its particular ministries.

It is with enthusiasm that First United Methodist Church of Saline should enter the training phase of the Safe Sanctuaries ministry, knowing that we are fulfilling Jesus' request to "Let the children come unto me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Please direct all questions and concerns regarding this ministry to Melissa Zimmerman at 913-6911.



MEXICO MISSION TEAM

We have had an individual drop out since our airline tickets have been purchased. So, we have an opening to fill. If you have wanted to go – but missed the deadline – this may be your opportunity! For the details see David Coxtan. 997-9646 soldador@sbcglobal.net.

HOMELESS SHELTER COLLECTION

We are collecting **razors and shaving cream** during **December** for the Homeless Shelter. These items can be placed in the "blue house" in the Narthex.



WISE CHRISTMAS POTLUCK



The WISE Bible Study group (Women in Study and Encouragement) will hold a Christmas Potluck at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13th at the home of Christie Patteri. Please bring a dish to pass *and* your Christmas spirit for a jolly good time! Current and past participants welcome, as well as anyone interested in joining. If you need directions, please call Christie at 485-2522.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF THE KIDS CHURCH MINISTRY

Be sure to sign up for your **one hour, one Sunday, once a quarter** to help out in the KIDS Church Classes. No experience necessary and the curriculum is already in place. Not a parent of a KIDS Church participant? Have a passion for working with children? We've got a place for you too! Call Julie Evans at 623-7428 or Shannon Peitz at 975-1949.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEW YEARS EVENT FOR SINGLES

Single adults of all ages are invited to Lake Huron Retreat Center (located on the shores of Lake Huron, 15 minutes north of Port Huron) for a weekend retreat that rings in the New Year! Our weekend begins on Friday, Dec. 30th, at 7:00 p.m. and concludes with a special New Year's Day Brunch on Sunday, Jan. 1st. The weekend includes lots of time for fellowship and conversation, with an emphasis on group interaction and relaxation. There will be a special worship service at midnight on New Year's Eve. Rev. Ann Emerson, director of the Center, will provide leadership for this event. Rev. Carl Gladstone will be our featured guest, and will provide the music on Saturday evening. Event cost is \$100 per person and includes two overnights, 4 meals, snacks, and retreat leadership. All guests will stay 2-3 per room. Registration deadline is Dec. 15, 2005. You may register online at www.camping.umc-detconf.org (look for winter events, then click on New Year's), or ask Laura Speiran for a registration form.

"HIGH TEA"

FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS OF ALL AGES!

Mark your calendars for "High Tea" on Sunday, January 29th, from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. Unlike Alice in Wonderland's unfortunate "Mad Tea Party", *ours* will be a lovely occasion. There will be fancy finger foods and delectable desserts to accompany our tea. All women and girls will be our guests and are encouraged to "dress for tea" including hats and gloves. Perhaps the adventurous will even don a boa! But of course, such fashion accessories are entirely optional! Rumor has it we may even have a visit from "The Third Peasant from the Right." Watch your bulletin and newsletter for updates. Your hosts for the afternoon will be the United Methodist Women. Plan to join us on this celebratory UMW Sunday – *just for fun!*



YEAR-END FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As we approach the end of 2005 (it seems hard to imagine that another year is coming to a close) there are some items that need to be called to our attention:

1. The last day for posting contributions for 2005 is December 31.
2. Gifts may be dropped off at the church office no later than December 30 by 12 noon; or they may be postmarked as of December 31 in order to be credited to 2005 giving statements.
3. Please do not put 2005 giving in the church offering plate on Sunday, January 1, as we will not be able to credit 2005 giving as of that date.

If you have any questions regarding this year-end procedure, please contact Paulette Suchy, Financial Secretary, in the church office 429-4730.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET

The following items are available from our medical equipment loan closet at no cost: adult crutches, small child crutches, raised toilet seat, commode, standard walker, cane, wheelchair cushion. Please speak with Laura Speiran in the office if you are in need of any of these items, or if you have anything you would like to donate.



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the overwhelming support we received from church members during our daughter, Sydney's recent hospitalization. Your visits, cards, gifts and kind words meant the world to us. We especially appreciated all of the prayers said for Sydney. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

In Christ,
Clay, Lori, Alex & Sydney Maranville

Dear Sunday School Children,
Thank you for the donation of food and paper products. Saline Area Social Service is a locally run social service agency. Our food pantry is stocked entirely by community donations such as yours. The food is then distributed to families and individuals in need in the Saline School District. Our ability to assist this community is made possible because of your help and we thank you very much. Sincerely,
Susan M. Brown, Director of Service

Children's Christmas Program Thank You



Thank you to the 130 children and youth who made the "Ring for Jesus" Christmas Service such a special worship event on December 4th. Your enthusiasm and commitment for sharing the true meaning of Christmas is inspirational! Thank you, also, to the many adult volunteers who helped to plan and coordinate the service. You all have tremendous gifts and I am so thankful that you are willing to share them in the children's music ministry of our church. This special service could never have been possible without the efforts of the entire team. Finally, we would like to thank the Memorial committee for helping us purchase the jingle bells that were an instrumental part of our service. We will put them to good use for many years to come.

Thank you all and Merry Christmas!
Angela Schmidt

VETERANS DEVOTIONS

I wish on behalf of the Chaplains' Department at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center to thank you for your generosity over the past several years. You have provided us with devotional materials through one of your congregants and we are very thankful for that. On behalf of the Veteran population to whom the devotionals are given let me express thanks to you for them. As you know, some are with us for a short while yet others are with us for some time. The devotionals provide inspiration for them when read or read to and they enjoy them very much. May God continue to bless you in all of your endeavors.

*Michael L. Carr, Ph.D., CAC, BCC
Chief of Chaplains: Detroit/Ann Arbor*

Our church has provided "Our Daily Bread" devotionals to hundreds of our nation's Veterans over the last couple of years. This has been done through the generosity of a small group of people. Please Pray, and if you believe God would like to see this mission continue and you believe He is asking you to be a part of this mission work, please contact Art Angaran at 734-944-6234 or drop an offering in the offering basket labeled evangelism literature. Thank You and God Bless You

GIFT OF HOPE

Would you like to give hope to someone this Christmas? Would you like to have the gifts you give make a difference? Hannah Circle's Gift of Hope Ministry can do just that!

Make a donation on someone's behalf to any of three organizations: Heifer International, Hurricane Katrina Relief through UMCOR, and the Friendship Ministry.



Donations on someone's behalf are wonderful gifts and can be made in any amount. In appreciation, you will receive an ornament to give as a gift and a greeting card with a description of the organization receiving your Gift of Hope. It's a gift in mission that gives twice—once to the person you give it to and again to those receiving your donation. Donations can be made between services at the Gift of Hope table in the Narthex each Sunday through December 18th. Please consider a Gift of Hope and help **make a difference** this year. Contact Nicole Lampman (429-7547) or Amy Whitton (429-1210) with questions.

Youth News
UP AND COMING EVENTS
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

The Time Has Come To



SENIOR HIGH

Mountain T.O.P. 2006 Summer Mission Trip



All Senior High Youth are invited to join us as we serve families in Tennessee through a variety of service projects this summer from **July 15-23** (Tentative but most likely dates). Cost for each youth is \$175 pending their hours of participation in fundraisers and meeting financial deadlines. Pick up a packet of information from Emily's Office or the Youth Basement. Registration and \$75 Deposit was due December 7. We are **EXCITED** about serving and hope **YOU** will join us!

Camp Barakel Winter Retreat

Tubing, Snow Football, Cross Country Skiing, Amazing Worship, A Powerful Speaker, Broomball, Ice Skating, Hockey, Bonding time with Friends ... A retreat you don't want to miss **February 3-5, 2006.** Deposit of \$35 and Registration are due December 14. The final \$55 and Medical Release Form are due January 25.



BattleCry Stadium Event

Join Tens of Thousands of young people gathering together to take a stand April 7-9, 2006 at Ford Field in Detroit. Dynamic Speakers, Worship and Training for the Battle. Let Emily know you are interested by signing up. More information on how you can be a part of the BattleCry for this generation coming in January.

JUNIOR HIGH

Springhill Winter Retreat

All 7th & 8th graders need to get ready for fun, friends, food, fabulous speakers, and fantastic music and worship at Springhill Camp **March 10-12, 2006!** Deposit of \$50 and Registration are due December 11. The final \$60 and Medical Release Form are due February 26. Don't miss this chance to play and worship with your friends! Pick up a registration form in the Junior High Room or Emily's office.



Assuming it takes you two minutes to read this insert, forty children under the age of five will have died by the time you have finished. **FORTY CHILDREN.** And those deaths are from hunger and hunger-related diseases, which is completely preventable. It's a problem, but on **December 28th and 29th** your youth group has decided to **ACT. FAST.** They're doing it through **World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.** While the problem is huge, the solution is not. It only takes about \$30 a month, roughly \$1 a day, to feed and care for a child in most developing countries. A mere \$360 will provide for those life-saving needs for an entire year. As the students go 30 hours without food, they'll get a taste of what it's like to be hungry, all the while reaching out to others in need. And as they do that, their compassion will grow: for people around the world, and right here at home.

Please help your youth group by:

1. Praying for the Famine participants, and for those they're working to save, and
2. Supporting Famine participants with a donation. It's through the gifts of caring people like you that the lives of hurting families are changed forever.

God bless you as you support this worldwide movement to save kids' lives.

World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. For more information about World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, call 1-800-7FAMINE (1-800732-6463), or visit www.30hourfamine.org.

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; Dan Erlwein, friend of Dave & Susan Hares; Sam Spicer, grandson of Lois Royal; Erik Maddock, son of Don & Andrea Maddock; Doug W. Beard, son of Doug & Wanda Beard.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

December 11 – Christmas Cantata
9:00 & 11:15 a.m.

December 20 – Longest Night Service
7:00 p.m.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services
5:00 p.m. – Children & Family Service
7:00 p.m. – Holy Communion Service
11:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service

December 25 – Christmas Day Service
11:15 a.m. (only one service, No Sunday School)
12:30 p.m. Christmas Day Potluck

January 1 – New Year's Day Service
11:15 a.m. (only one service, Communion will be served, No Sunday School)

Church office will be closed on December 26 and January 2. Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on December 27 through December 30.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CORNERSTONE

PRAISE GOD FOR THE CHILDREN OF THIS CONGREGATION, AND THE LEADERS THAT HELP THEM IN WORSHIP!

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him”
Matthew 2:2

A special THANK YOU to those who led our children in worship on December 4th. It is incredible to see God's power working within so many of us to bring the children of this congregation to Christ.

Thank you Angela Schmidt who did a fantastic job of spearheading the entire Children's Christmas Worship. To Linda Klepaczyk, who accompanied many pieces and is extremely supportive in making

sure the music flows the way God would have it. To Lin Nichols who sees to it that Son Shine Kids and Kids of the Kingdom experience music in ways they can relate and learn about God. To Elise Low our Senior High Student, and a junior at Pioneer High, who God is working thru to bring together the Junior and Senior High in a most meaningful worship experience. To Nancy McCune who's gift is drama, who helped organize the kids into dramatic skits that spread the message of Christ to all who are willing to receive it. And to Carolyn Minnette who's gift is to know and understand the intricate movements of liturgical dance. She teaches our children to worship thru dance and movement. All fine examples of disciples serving our Lord using their God given gifts and talents.
THANK YOU !

Lil' SAINTS PRESCHOOL

On November 29th the Washtenaw County Health Inspection took place. We passed with flying colors and are on our way to having our State of Michigan Licensing consultant visit shortly. Please continue to pray for this ministry as we would like to open God's Doors to the children of the community in January. If you hear of anyone that would like to enroll their child in this ministry, please call Rachel Wislocki at 429-4528 for details.

SEVERE PEANUT ALLERGIES

Peanut allergies are on the rise. In fact we have a child right here in our own church family that is severely allergic to peanuts and any byproducts of peanuts. Therefore we will be enforcing a PEANUT FREE ZONE in the education wing. Within our safe sanctuaries policy we will be establishing the peanut free zone where all food will be monitored within the education wing. This includes potlucks, Sunday school treats, treats that the preschool will serve as well as any adult gatherings in the future. We are asking that everyone be mindful when bringing in treats for children. Please watch for more details on how you can help in the fight against peanut allergies, you may be saving the life of a child.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Please make note that there will be no Sunday School on December 25th and January 1st. Child care ages birth to 3 years old will be offered for the 5, 7 and 11 worship services on December 24th in rooms J and K. Sunday School will resume on the 8th of January.

ENROLL NOW!

Lil' SAINTS Preschool is now taking registrations for the January–June term as well as for 2006-2007 school year. Pick up your registration forms under the Ministry Opportunity Wall in the Narthex! If you have any questions please contact the Center Director, Rachel Wislocki at 340-3245 or our Director of Children's Ministries, Leanne Rinnac, at 429-4730.

R.O.C.K. in LOGOS SCOOP

- Register now for the winter session by picking up a form in the Narthex.
- Winter session starts up on January 11.
- Our next leadership team meeting will be on December 13 if anyone wants to join us for planning.

NEW MEMBER CLASS IN JANUARY

If you are interested in becoming a member of the First United Methodist Church of Saline, our next new member class will be held on **ONE DAY**, Saturday, January 28, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will include lunch. There is no cost. The class will cover what it means to be a Christian, the United Methodist Church in general, and this specific United Methodist Church. We strongly encourage everyone to take the class, even those transferring from another United Methodist Church. It helps to get to know a small group of people, as well as learn about the variety of programs and service opportunities available here.

If class members choose to join, they will be received into membership the next day, Sunday, January 29th at the 11:15 a.m. service. Please sign up on by the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex, if interested, or speak with Laura Speiran in the church office. If you are unavailable that weekend, the next class will be held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour from April 23-May 21, 2006. That class will be joining on June 4, 2006 during the 11:15 a.m. worship service. Church membership can be an important step in one's faith walk. We encourage all who are not currently members to prayerfully consider it!

SALINE CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET MISSION PROJECT
Saline Area Social Services has asked the church to provide FOUR PERSON and ONE PERSON Christmas food baskets. You can use a sturdy cardboard box, or a plastic laundry basket. Please decorate the cardboard boxes by gift-wrapping, painting, or use your

imagination. Do not use a lid. Each box needs to be packed with the food for one person or 4 people, and needs to be clearly marked for ONE PERSON or FOUR PEOPLE. The menu for the boxes is on the list in the Narthex. Drop off your filled and decorated box at the church kitchen on Sunday, December 18 by 12:30 p.m. Remove any perishable items and place them in the church's refrigerator. The Missions Committee will deliver all boxes to SASS by 1:30 p.m. Contact Clarke Macy or Margo Perry with questions.

2005 CHRISTMAS AT CASS AVENUE For this, our 17th year, we will again serve Christmas dinner at Cass Shelter. We will serve about 200 homeless people as well as residents of the Woodrow Wilson Shelter. So we will need a lot of help and donations. Their need is great and we have always more than exceeded their expectations. We will give out 200 sweatshirts ranging in size from M-XXL. Please wrap and label with size and drop off between December 18 & 24 in the large plastic containers labeled Cass Ave. Also, we will need 200 dozen cookies, fruit, pies, candy canes, cash donations and small Bingo prizes for the mentally challenged adults, i.e. jewelry, lotion, soap, gum, etc. We also need cooks who will assemble and cook the meat early Christmas morning before we go. Please see the sign-up sheets. Bring donated items to the church by Christmas Eve. Place on the designated tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you can go with us on Christmas, we meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Narthex and return by 2:00 p.m. We will caravan together. Remember to bring a snack as we don't eat at Cass Ave. Please consider coming with us on Christmas Day. If you have questions, see the Melendez family.



PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Dustan Colyer; Carole Smith; Melanie Cook & family; Don Rapp; Bill Heffelbower & family; Kami Twinning; Addie Calvitt; the family of Teresa Cowhy; Todd Jager; Bob & Helene Brouger; Drew Brodie; Earl Laughrey; Rachel Wislocki's grandfather; Marguerite Culliton; Don; the Weaver family's grandmother; Helen Law; Lynda Colovas; Liz Jacobs' mother; Jolaine Rolston; Jeanne Maidment's son; Cappy Kasperian; Marsha Gilbert; the Wood family's grandfather; Sandra Hespen; Lisa & Phil Roberts; Paul Lederman; for those suffering from alcoholism; for those suffering from depression. **PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS** ~ Ronda Hawkins return home from the hospital; Sydney Maranville's return home from the hospital; for receiving a new position as a first grade teacher, Tim Komarmy's return home following surgery; for God's protection of the Brehmer family in a car accident; Vicki Salemi's grandmother's recovery.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO: Jean & Lance Rowe on the passing of her mother, Margaret Mouraviev; Jane Russell and family on the passing of her brother; Bobbe & Fred Hinsman on the passing of her grandmother; Bob Schulz and Kim Hipchen and family on the passing of Judy Schulz.