

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church



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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.

STEEPLE NEWS

*We are a Safe Sanctuary Church protecting and caring
for all God's children.*

January 14, 2007

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 16; No. 1

Change seems to be the operative word in our language today. Everything seems to be always in flux, so much so that at times it feels that our head is spinning. That's the way I've felt the past couple of months. Just when I thought that the church staff was well knit together, many threads began to unravel. However, I must say that some of the tenuous threads did not come undone, and the other pieces are beginning to come together.

- After months of designing and organizing the launch of our Lil' SAINTS Preschool, Brian Wislocki, the husband of our director Rachel Wislocki needed to transition to California for a teaching position. Rachel is there now looking for employment and they will permanently move west upon selling their home and hopefully completing the spring term. The board of Lil' SAINTS is currently working on securing a new director.
- After many years of faithful service to this congregation in various capacities, Paulette Suchy went through arduous months last summer following her brain aneurism. In August, Paulette requested to job share the Financial Secretary position. Pam Heffelbower was trained and began assuming one half the scheduled hours. Later when Paulette felt it necessary to step aside from the church staff, Pam and Lisa Marshall worked together to complete the financial work for 2006. After careful consideration, Pam has officially agreed to serve as our Financial Secretary. However, because of these extensive administrative duties, Pam knew that she would be unable to also continue as our church custodian.
- On Monday, Matt Fillinger assumed the responsibilities of custodian. As one our trustees, over the past couple of years on numerous occasions, Matt has graciously repaired and refurbished many items around here needing attention. Also during the busy days surrounding Christmas, he, along with his family, helped to maintain the building. Because Matt currently is between positions in his personal career track, he is available perhaps for several months to fill a much needed staff position.
- The other significant staff change taking place is with my Administrative Assistant, Lisa Marshall. As a career advancement, her husband Carlos accepted a position out of state, and is currently working in the Chicago area. That position may be permanent, or the Marshalls may be re-locating in Louisville, KY. Over the past four years, Lisa has endeared herself to all of us in the thorough and superb way she has administered our day to day operations as well as her willing involvement in many of our renovating and expansion projects. Lisa's cheerful presence will be greatly missed around here.
- To make the transition as efficient and smooth as possible, the Staff-Parish Committee has accepted my recommendation that we hire Darlene Heffelbower as the new Administrative Assistant. Darlene has submitted a request for an early buy-out from Ford Motor Company and likely will be available in mid-February to work alongside of Lisa for several weeks to learn the specifics of the position. The intent is for her to assume the role of Administrative Assistant at the beginning of May.

A lot of changes are in the making and new persons giving leadership to our congregation. Yet as hard as change is for me, somehow I sense God guiding the transition. Let's watch to observe God as He works with us. – Pastor Jim

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Our next New Member Class will be offered on Saturday, January 27, 2007. This will be a "one-day format" class, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 2:30 p.m. Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided. This is a time to learn about Christianity, the United Methodist Church and this church in particular. Everyone who is new or not currently a member of this congregation is invited and encouraged to attend, including United Methodists who are transferring from another church family. Participants who so choose will be accepted into membership the following day, Sunday, January 28, 2007 at the 11:15 a.m. service. Church membership can be a meaningful step in one's faith walk with God. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Tuttle or Laura Speiran. You may sign up at the Opportunity Wall.



HOMELESS SHELTER COLLECTION

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- January 18th: JOY Fellowship Lunch
- January 19th: Sewing Mexico Shopping Bags – 7:00pm
- January 20th: Pretzel Bake 9:00am to 5:00pm
- January 20th: Play Cards at Church 1:00pm – 5:00pm
- January 21st: "Shepherding a Child's Heart" – 10:10am
- January 21st: Great Commission Air Missionaries Visit
- January 22nd: Steeple News Deadline at Noon
- January 26th: Stephen Ministry Training
- January 27th: New Member Class 8:30am – 2:30pm
- January 28th: High Tea 2:00pm – 3:30pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

- II Corinthians – Room G led by Bruce Moss and Dave Drenning
- Ray Vanderlaan's "Walk as Jesus Walked" – Room C led by Will and Carolyn Minnette.
- "Shepherding a Child's Heart" – A Parenting Class starts January 21st in Room F. Insightful information is available. If you are a parent seeking help and support in raising your child/children in a Christian environment, please sign up at the Opportunity Wall. Please contact Lois Royal (429-5316) or Charlene Adkins (429-5990) for more information and to order a book for you.

Everyone is welcome in any class.



HIGH TEA For Women and Girls

It's "Tea Time" again! All women and girls are invited to take tea and enjoy fancy finger foods and delectable desserts from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 28th in the Fellowship Hall. Entertainment will be provided by our very own musically-gifted Klepaczyk family. *To add to the festive atmosphere, you are encouraged to "dress for tea" with hat, gloves, and boas and also to bring your favorite teacup and saucer!* Such fashion accessories and personal teacups are totally optional, however. Your hosts for the afternoon will be the United Methodist Women. **We will take a freewill offering to benefit SAFEHOUSE in Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti's Hope Clinic Laundry Ministry, and Red Bird Women's Mission in Kentucky.** New this year will be the awarding of several door prizes! So, please plan to join us for "High Tea" on this celebratory UMW Sunday. **For planning purposes, please sign up at the Opportunity Wall.** For questions, contact Kay Richmond at 944-6234.

LET'S PLAY CARDS!



The time is almost here to get out of the house and chase away the winter blues! On **Saturday, January 20th**, come to FUMC for an afternoon of playing cards, fellowship and sharing munchies from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided, if needed.

UMW NEWS

Susanna Circle will resume on Monday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. The program will be a video and discussion from the Nooma series.

Esther and Ruth Circles will resume their meetings in February.

Great Commission Air Missionaries Coming to FUMC

Please take time to come to the Fellowship Hall between services on January 21, for food and fellowship with Rob and Jennifer Rice missionaries of Great Commission Air, a mission that provides aviation support to missionaries and humanitarian relief to people in undeveloped areas. Most recently they have come back from the remote mountainous regions of Guatemala. Come meet them, hear their stories and see how they are changing lives both in the field and at home.

HOPE MEDICAL CLINIC

OPENING NEW SATELLITE CLINIC

Hope Medical Clinic has been operating in Ypsilanti for 25 years. New for 2007 Hope will be opening a satellite clinic in Wayne, Michigan at Lighthouse Ministry, 5403 S. Wayne Road. Hope and Lighthouse Ministry will be holding an Open House on Thursday, January 18 from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. to receive input and to provide information about the new clinic. They are inviting all those interested to come to the event or contact Jean Horak at 734-485-5595 or jhorak@thehopeclinic.org with contact information of others who should be invited. If you are not able to attend, but are interested in becoming involved in beginning the Wayne Satellite Clinic, please contact Jean Horak.

2007 MEDICAL MISSION TEAM -

TO PANAMA AND THE SAN BLAS ISLANDS

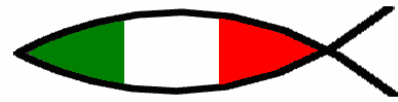
We are pleased to bring an opportunity for medical or dental professionals, retired-medical or dental professionals, and non-medical people to serve the native people of the Kuna tribe. We will be serving within the leadership of Dr. and Gloria Lei from Community Wesleyan Church, in Washington, Michigan. As part of our mission we will be collecting new, sealed over the counter medicines. We will only be accepting these in pill form – no liquids please, except for infant medicines. A list of medicines needed is available at the Opportunity Wall. If you are interested in this mission, please contact Joan Coxtton after church or call 997-9646.

J.O.Y. Fellowship

This is a group for those 55 and older. Come for lunch, fun and fellowship! You are invited to make a \$5.00 donation for the lunch, but it is not required. We would love to have you join us! Our next get-together is January 18, 2007. Please sign up on the R.S.V.P. at the Opportunity Wall or call the church office. Our menu will be Cream of Broccoli soup, Chicken Noodle soup, biscuits, and apple and cheese slices! Come warm up with us! Contact Laura Speiran if you have questions, or dietary concerns.


Stephen Ministry

Our first class of Stephen Ministers will begin training on Friday, January 26, 2007. A total of 50 hours of training will be completed by the end of April. This is an exciting time in our church family's life as we grow in the Spirit together and learn new ways to care for each other with the love of Christ. We would ask our church family to be praying for this group of people and for the growth of this new ministry!



MEXICO MISSION TEAM MERCY MINISTRY DAY OFFERING

On Sunday, January 28th there will be in the worship bulletin a special offering envelope for the Mercy Ministry Day. We will only be able to collect funds for this offering on this Sunday and on Sunday, February 4th. This offering will be used to buy staple food items for the impoverished Mexican families in the *Ciudad Juárez* area. This year our Mercy Ministry Day mission work will be on February 21st. You can go to TAPESTRIES OF LIFE MINISTRIES' website to see what the Mercy Ministry Day is all about. Go to www.tapestriesoflife.com. Click on English. Then click on Mercy Ministry.

 Please write: **Mercy Ministry Day** on the memo line of your check.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." Matthew 5:7

SEWING SESSION MEXICO SHOPPING BAGS

In the past several years we have made shopping bags to give with groceries in Anapra, Mexico. Last year we made over 100. This year we will meet on Friday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Rooms F and G to make more. If you can come to pin, sew or press, we can use you!

We also need donations of heavy fabric to make the bags. Decorator, denim, corduroy or upholstery fabrics are great. You can donate them any time before the 19th by putting them in the tub at the Opportunity Wall.

Thank You!

S.A.S.S. has written a thank you to FUMC for our contributions to the Holiday Food Basket Program. We provided 53 baskets, which was a huge chunk of the goal to embrace our whole community during the holidays.

Community Outreach

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Angel Tree Prison Ministry. We delivered 103 presents to 16 families. Take it from those who delivered the presents and witnessed how important it is to keep a connection open between the incarcerated parents and their children. This is one of the most meaningful Christmas presents that we can give.

Community Outreach

Cass Ave Christmas Thank-You

We wish to thank our Church for another wonderful Christmas at Cass Ave. We served 315 meals, this included 85 meals for the homeless Veterans. We also prepared 1200 sandwiches for the Wayne County jails and the Cass Ave night rescue program. Our Church provided over 200 sweatshirts, 200 dozen cookies, 40 pies and 30 cakes. The bingo prizes were very welcome as they had resorted to giving cans of vegetables as prizes!! Thank you to everyone that donated to this very worthy cause. Again this year Rev. Fowler was able to give her staff the day off. Rev. Fowler feels that the group from SFUMC has enough experience to run the kitchen and dining room without help from her staff. I was so impressed and proud of the beautiful job that was done. To my family and friends I know that you are blessed for your service to the people of Cass Corridor. Making the trip to Cass Ave this Christmas: Charlene and Dale Adkins, the Bachman family, Beil family, Brehmer family, Abigail Bronon, LuAnn Chriscinske, Griebel family, Goeman family, Joe Luben, Minnette family, Pearson family, Lee VanDerWende, and Walline family. For those friends that have made this trip with my family a Christmas tradition a special thank you. We look forward to seeing you all for Christmas 2007. We hope to feed even more in 2007. God Bless You.

Bug, Frisco, B and Carlos Melendez



WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

Please continue to bring your returnable pop CANS and Bottles to the church through January 21st. You CAN place them in the CAN trailer in the church parking lot! If you have any questions about my trip or Compassion International, I would love to share more with you!!

Thank You, Emily Krach

INFUSION YOUTH NEWS

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

LT GROUPS FOR 2007 -- Looking for a way to connect to Christ and other Christians as you share life together? Ever wondered how other religions compare to Christianity? Join us as we start meeting again for Life Together Groups on **SUNDAYS from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and begin the study "Searching for the Truth: How Christianity Compares to World Religions."**

Mountain T.O.P. Pretzel Bake -- It's almost time to start making pretzels again!! Sign up now at the Opportunity Wall for a time to help out on **JANUARY 20TH**. Parents and Youth are needed to make it a successful fundraiser for Mountain T.O.P.

ORGANIZATIONAL PRETZEL BAKE MTG. - - **Mountain T.O.P. FRESHMEN PARENTS (& OTHER PARENTS WHO ARE ABLE TO HELP LEAD)** - Please join Bonnie Bender on Tuesday, January 16th at 7:30 p.m. to help prepare details to make our Pretzel Bake successful.

Camp Barakel Winter Retreat - -

February 16th - 18th -- We have an awesome group of students signed up to enjoy the winter fun -- are you one of them? Right now Camp Barakel has a few spots left if you want to join us, get registered now! Final Payment of \$55 and Medical Release Forms are **due February 11th**. Pick up your Important Camp Barakel Information with the Medical Release Form Now!



BATTLECRY STADIUM EVENT -- Culture Warriors Rise Up! We will be joining tens of thousands of youth and adults at Ford Field to worship God, gain momentum with a purpose and gain strength as we unite. Sign up to join us April 13-15 in Detroit for this amazing event! Pick up a flyer and registration form with details now! Registration and a \$50 payment is due Feb. 21st.

JUNIOR HIGH & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Before you make your **Superbowl Party Plans** you should know....We are going to be a part of the **BEST PARTY** in town on Superbowl Sunday (February 4th)!! Area Junior & Senior High Youth Groups are gathering together for a party not to be missed...stay tuned!!



GIVE GOD THE GLORY!

The Senior High Youth led the congregation in worship on December 31st with a powerful message titled Pieces: Making The Body Whole. Give God praise for working in and thru our youth to deliver His very important message! THANK YOU Senior Highers who were able to participate in many different ways! Thank you for letting God use you in a powerful way to deliver His message of how important it is to glorify Him in being a part of the Body of Christ! **GREAT JOB!**

Children's Ministry Cornerstone

What is a "Safe Sanctuary Church"?

- ⇒ It's upholding a Child Protection Policy under God's Guidance.
- ⇒ It's training **ALL** staff and volunteers working with Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adult ministries in what is right and what is wrong when working with these parts of the Body of Christ.
- ⇒ It's conducting background checks on all who serve as well as check references.
- ⇒ It's learning what to do when a child, youth or vulnerable adult is abused in any way, shape or form.
- ⇒ It's safely bringing these individuals to Christ in the way He calls us all to do.
- ⇒ It's not allowing anyone who has not been trained to work in these ministries.

SIGN UP NOW for the next Safe Sanctuaries Training taking place on **February 10th, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon.** Don't miss out in serving our God, by missing out on getting trained. See the Opportunity Wall to sign up.

SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART

This Adult Sunday School class will be taking place **beginning Sunday, January 21st**, with or without a facilitator. **COME....join us in Room F at 10:10 a.m.** and be a part of a group who wants to learn how to raise their children up in Christ. Any questions, please call Susie Loughner at 429-2202.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! Coming soon on March 24th from 8 AM – 4 PM the LOGOS training event of the year. Watch for more details.

NO R.O.C.K. in LOGOS ON JANUARY 24TH due to the half day at Saline Schools. RNL will resume on January 31st.

IF WE ARE THE BODY.....1 Corinthians 12.....GOOD FOOD! Take 5 and get nourished!

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, January 22nd** at noon. Volunteers are needed to assemble the

newsletter **Thursday, January 25th** in Room F at 9:00am. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.



PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Kerry Vitick and family; Myrtle Lindeman and family; Mary Roberts; Carole & John McConnell's daughter-in-law; Zachary Kelly; the family and friends of Len Riccinto; Elaine Lauerman; Regina Smith; Amy Wetzel's friend, Jami; Mikey Pesco and his family; John Lockwood; Kristin Goodwin & family; Lauren White; Tommy Popp; Charles Nolan; Peg Chizmar; Jennifer Wilczynski; those struggling through the pain of divorce; those who have recently lost their jobs; for families of children with special needs. **PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS** ~ the birth of Nathan into the Fletcher family; Marc Barbret's return home from the hospital; Heather & Justin Moser's new baby, Miley McKeena; Mandi & Mike Oberski's new baby, Grace Renae; Don & Andrea Maddock's twin granddaughters – home from the hospital and doing fine.

Military personnel and families to keep in our prayers ~ 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; Timothy Frisbee, grandson of Florence & Ernie Busch; Nick Gilveli, grandson of Martha Gilveli; Kevin Raymond, son of Susan Raymond; Abby & Bobby Singh, daughter & son-in-law 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 & Brad Nadig, sons of Carroll & Sandy Nadig; Nathaniel Held, son of Keith & Patsy Held; Jeff & Ryan Housner, nephews of Deb & Pete Belaire; Aaron Friese, friend of Scott & Peggy Klapper; Sergeant Eric Coppennoll; John Lockwood; John & Ryan Engel cousins of Patti Hogue; Russ Bodine, son-in-law of Martha and Robert Seward; Erik Anderson.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~ The Austin family on the passing of Cindy's cousin; the Merrill family on the passing of Rich's father, Howard Merrill.

