

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.

STEEPLE NEWS

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

February 11, 2007

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 16; No. 3

“Journeying with Jesus”

It's hard to imagine that Lent is almost here. It seems like we've barely got through the Christmas Season and now Lent will begin in ten days. Wednesday, February 21st is Ash Wednesday. We will start our journey through Lent in a service of reflection with the imposition of ashes at 7:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday.

Similar to the past several years, we've selected a book focusing on a central theme for Lent. This year we will be reading together John Indermark's "**Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus.**" This six-week study designed particularly for the Lenten Season follows the life of Christ, focusing on his teaching and practice of prayer. The first week explores a variety of settings where Jesus prays and how different settings impact our prayers. The following week looks at individual times when Jesus prayed where he was. The next four weeks delve more deeply into Jesus' extended teaching on prayer, namely "*The Lord's Prayer,*" "*The High Priestly Prayer*" recorded in John 17, "*The Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane*" and "*The Prayers from the Cross.*"

The weekly themes for this year's Lenten study are:

Week One: Feb. 19 - Feb.25	<i>Out of Solitude</i>	Week Four: Mar. 12- Mar.18	<i>In the Upper Room</i>
Week Two: Feb. 26 - Mar. 4	<i>By the Roadside</i>	Week Five: Mar. 19- Mar.25	<i>At the Garden</i>
Week Three: Mar. 05 - Mar.11	<i>On the Mountainside</i>	Week Six: Mar. 26- April 1	<i>Upon the Cross</i>

- The book, "Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus" provides a short (2-3 pages) reading for each day followed by a spiritual exercise for you to consider in helping us grow in our understanding and practice of prayer.
- My sermons during the Sunday mornings from February 25 through Palm Sunday, April 1st will be based on the scripture texts that we have been reading together throughout the previous week.
- On each Sunday evening during Lent we will gather together in discussion groups to share our thoughts, search deeper into the theme of the week and pray together. In addition, we are tentatively trying to put a class together during the Sunday School hour for those who cannot attend Sunday evenings. The appendix of the book is a study guide that the group leaders can use to help us further explore the material that we've been reading throughout the week. A box of fifty of our Lenten books has arrived from the Upper Room. They will be available in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or in the church office during the week. A suggested donation of \$8.00 would be appreciated to help to defray the cost of ordering these study books. We will order more books as needed.
- For the past several Lenten Seasons, we have begun and wrapped up our special Lenten emphasis with a pot-luck dinner in the Fellowship Hall prior to breaking into our small group settings. Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 25th and Palm Sunday, April 1st to join with your church family for dinner, and all the Sundays in between to join a small discussion group as we "*Journey with Jesus*" this Lent. – Pastor Jim

BISHOP'S DAY ON EVANGELISM & STEWARDSHIP

Our church will be hosting an Ann Arbor District event on **Saturday, March 3, 2007**, from 8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., called the **Bishop's Day on Evangelism and Stewardship**. All 65 churches from our district have been invited. We are expecting 300 guests for a day filled with two worship services, two speakers, and a catered lunch. Bishop Jonathan Keaton of the Michigan Area and Rev. Tom Macaulay, our district superintendent, are asking us to be *models of hospitality*. It will take a lot of people to make that happen! You are invited and encouraged to **volunteer** that day in a number of capacities: parking lot greeter, door greeter, hospitality table host/hostess, coffee server (during lunch), etc. There is a sign-up sheet at the Opportunity Wall! You are also invited and encouraged to **attend** the following:

- 9:00 a.m. Opening Worship with our Praise Team and the R.O.C.K. in LOGOS Choir
- 10:15 a.m. Linda Rhodes, Speaker—"Making Your Congregation a Welcoming Place"
- 11:30 a.m. Rev. Michael Slaughter, Pastor of Ginghamburg UMC in Ohio, Speaker—"Money Matters"
- 12:45 p.m. Rev. Michael Slaughter AGAIN (same speech as 11:30 a.m.)
- 2:00 p.m. Closing Worship with our Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Orchestra, Rev. Tom Macaulay preaching, and Holy Communion

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Speiran in the church office.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- February 17th: Mexico Mission Team leaves for Mexico
- February 20th: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
- March 3rd: Bishop's Day at SUMC
- March 24th: LOGOS training event
- May 5th: Safe Sanctuaries Training

HOMELESS SHELTER COLLECTION

During the month of **February** we will be collecting the following items for the Homeless Shelter: **diapers, powdered laundry soap, dental floss, toothpaste, toothbrushes** and **cans of tuna**. These items can be placed in the "*blue house*" in the Narthex.

RESPIRE CAREGIVERS NEEDED

Our Friendship Ministry Respite Care is in need of volunteers to help out on Sunday mornings for the 9:00 a.m. service. If you have had Safe Sanctuary training and have a special place in your heart for special needs kids, then please email Peggy Warner at tpwsaline@msn.com to sign up for one Sunday a month. We will pair you with experienced Respite Caregivers. This is an important ministry for the families of our church that have special needs children. Thank you for volunteering!

WEST SIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

West Side United Methodist church of Ann Arbor located at 900 South Seventh Street, Ann Arbor, would like to invite members of our congregation to join them for their monthly contemporary evening service on Sunday, February 11, at 7:00 pm.

This service will feature Rev. Faith Fowler, Executive Director of Cass Community Social Services and Senior Pastor of Cass Community United Methodist Church, in downtown Detroit. Their gospel choir, The Ambassadors, directed by Gladys Ferguson will conduct the service. This well known choir is composed of men and women who are current residents or "graduates" of the Scott Building in the Cass Corridor of Detroit. The Scott Building houses programs and provides shelter for the homeless who have substance abuse or mental illness. This is a very special ministry of the Cass United Methodist Church. If you have any questions please call WSUMC office at (734) 663-4164.

FURNITURE HELP NEEDED

Did you know there are many people in our community who do not have a bed, couch, dining table or other basic furniture? The good news is YOU can help! Friends In Deed's Furniture Program is seeking volunteers to help answer calls from donors and those seeking furniture. Help is needed weekday mornings. FID's office is located in downtown Ypsilanti and free parking is available. Call Kirstin at (734) 485-7658 if interested. See www.friendsindeed.info for more information.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper



Come join your church family on Tuesday, February 20, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. for fun and fellowship at our Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and applesauce will be served. There will be a free will offering taken to benefit local missions.

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.

UMW Monthly Gathering

The United Methodist Women will hold its February Monthly Gathering on Tuesday, Feb. 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor following the Pancake Supper. Sylvia Korte is in charge of the program and will share with us her experiences on the 2006 3-day Breast Cancer Walk. Esther Circle will be hosting the meeting. This meeting is open to all women of FUMC, so please join us. For more information, please contact Kay Richmond at 944-6234.

HIGH TEA THANK YOU

The UMW would like to thank all the women and girls who attended our recent High Tea. The love offering brought in \$942 for SafeHouse of Washtenaw County, Hope Clinic's Laundry Mission and Red Bird Mission in KY. Thank you also to all who provided delectable tasty treats and especially the popular chocolate fountains! A huge round of applause goes to the very talented Klepaczyk family for the superb entertainment. It truly was a fun and festive afternoon!

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 February 15, 2007. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall or call the church office. Our menu will include: baked spaghetti and meatballs, Caesar salad, bread sticks and cherry cobbler! We would love to have you join us! Please contact Laura Speiran if you have questions, or if you have any dietary concerns.

LIBERIA PARTNER CHURCH

The following is a note from the Bishop of the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church regarding the latest check our congregation sent to our partner church:

Many thanks to the Saline First United Methodist Church for the good news for Teegbeh UMC. This is a joyful thing to do in Jesus Christ.

May God bless our Sisters and Brothers of the Saline First United Methodist Church for the gift of \$2,075 and also for the pulpit soon to come.

*Yours in Christ,
Bishop John Innis*

GET YOUR VALENTINE'S GOODIES!!



The monthly International Missions Bake Sale is Sunday, February 11th in the kitchen before and after both services. We'll have lots of Valentine goodies, as well as cinnamon rolls hot out of the oven. Thanks for your support!

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER!

Start practicing now for the All-Church Talent Show on March 24th. No act too silly! No professionalism required! Sign-up mid-February at the Opportunity Wall.

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, February 19th** at noon. Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, February 22nd** in Room F at 9:00 a.m. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

2007 MEDICAL MISSION TEAM -

TO PANAMA AND THE SAN BLAS ISLANDS

The Medical Mission Team to Panama has been blessed by having a Dentist join our team. Dr. Robert Lei and Gloria are very excited to be able to offer medical services to the natives of Panama. We are now making a plea to recruit a dental assistant or hygienist. We leave for Panama April 6th and return April 16th. Cost is about \$1,350.00 including transportation, supplies, food, and lodging. Contact Joan Coxton to sign up or if you have questions 734-997-9646.

R.O.C.K. in LOGOS

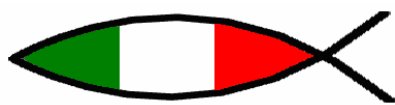
The R.O.C.K. in LOGOS Choir has been invited to assist in leading a very special **Bishop's service** at our church on Saturday, March 3rd.

We hope that as many children as possible will be able to join us from 8:30-10:00 a.m. on March 3. The children have been asked to sing "Go Light Your World" from the Christmas service. In fact, it has been chosen as the theme of the service! What an honor this will be for the R.O.C.K. in LOGOS Choirs!!

Please mark you calendars. Thank you in advance for supporting your children in their participation.

Newsletters E-mail Style

"You can add or remove your family to any of the church e-news by visiting <http://www.fumc-saline.org/>, select "Join a Mailing list" on the left hand side and follow the directions."



DRIVERS NEEDED

The Mexico Mission Team is in need of airport shuttle drivers. One airport run is outbound Saturday morning on February 17th. The other run is returning Saturday evening on February 24th. If you would like to help, contact David Coxton at 997-9646 or soldador@sbcglobal.net.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A new adult Sunday School class will begin Sunday, March 4th. It will be a survey of the history of the church beginning with the Book of Acts up to modern times. Special emphasis will be placed on the Wesleyan/Methodist movement. David Coxton will be the facilitator.

VISIT THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE!

Support the mission of Habitat for Humanity Huron Valley by shopping, donating, or volunteering at the new Habitat ReStore located at 170 Aprill Drive, Ann Arbor (south off Jackson Road, just west of Wagner). Open to the public on Tuesdays – Saturdays 9 am until 4 pm. The ReStore sells new and gently used home improvement materials including building supplies, appliances and furniture for 50-75% off retail prices. All dollars raised go toward building

affordable homes for working families in our community. Questions? Call (734) 822-1530.

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian ministry that works to eliminate poverty housing, and to make simple, decent, affordable housing a matter of conscience and action. Lonni Vitale – Community Relations Director (734-677-1558 ext. 105)

UMW THANK YOU

Many thanks to Steve Sclater of Nature's Garden Center for the beautiful poinsettias he gave for our shut-ins. They mean so much to them. United Methodist Women

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."

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 YOUTH

SPRINGHILL – We will have 10 spots open for Saline UM Youth and friends to join us March 9th – 11th; get signed up now for all the tubing, playing, worshipping, and hanging out allowed in one weekend!!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

"Lord, we show our trust in you by obeying your laws; our heart's desire is to glorify your name."
Isaiah 26:8 NLT

HELP US, Body of Christ, to deliver God's love to the elderly in the EVH THIS Sunday, February 11th. Pizza and pop will be served after 2nd service in the fellowship hall and then off to EVH we go!

ATTENTION ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

You're invited to a **Teacher Appreciation Dinner!** We love what you do and your dedication to the children/youth every Sunday morning is GREATLY appreciated! Please join us on **Friday, February 23rd at 6:30** for dinner and fellowship.

Shepherding your child's heart! It's never too late to drop in to room F at 10:10 a.m. Sunday mornings and see what's happening with the group who shares and supports Christian parenting. Drop in! Check them out! All parents welcome!

PARENTS MEMORY VERSE: "I will teach all your children, and they will enjoy great peace."
Isaiah 54:13 NLT

POWERING UP!

*And we don't mean our computers!
We mean our spirits and our souls!*

The LOGOS Ministry will be providing us with an excellent training experience that will strengthen our R.O.C.K. in LOGOS ministry! But only if you are willing to be a part of it!

MARCH 24TH FROM 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, A Saturday full of learning with 2 ½ hour sessions providing in-depth training on topics like: Bible Study, Family Time, Recreation Play, Worship Skills, and Discipline and much, much more. Lunch will be provided! If you are interested, please contact Joni Coxton at 997-9646.

Lil' SAINTS Preschool

Has a new "called" face leading the ministry! Kathy Kirkland will now be directing the Lil' SAINTS Preschool! We are very sad to see Rachel go as she and her husband, Bryan have moved out to California after much thought and prayer. Since there were no secondary education teaching jobs here for her husband, God lead them to California where the chances of finding employment are much greater in the fields of early childhood education and secondary ed. As of February 8th, Rachel has accepted a full-time job teaching preschool in the Garden Grove Unified School District. Praise God for them and His great plans. Although we will miss Rachel, we are looking forward to Kathy's leadership and prayerfully growing the ministry to reach capacity so that we may reach the

hearts and minds of children at a very young age! We continue to give God the Glory as Rachel moves to California and as Kathy steps in to serve God and to serve His children.

SAFE SANCUTUARIES TRAINING:

2007 Safe Sanctuary Dates:

Saturday, February 10th: 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon
Saturday, May 5th: 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon



PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Mikey Pesco; John Lockwood; Jennifer Wilczynski; Jackie Tull; Leslie Nelson's friend, Kirk; Karla Whitten; Gail McKay; Doug Beard's mother, Nadine; Helen Stricklen; Madeline; Brian Setzer; Doris & Stan Sekerka; Russ Gunningham; the family of Todd Jager; the family of Shirley Kaplan; Naomi Anest; Joynce & Jackie Fancher; Tommy Popp; Melissa Zimmerman; Matt Fillinger; Lauren & Kodi White; Ruth & Bob Akans; Robin Heiber; Emily Krach; Dorothy Barnes; the family of Chris Andrews; the family of Casey Arnett; Nancy Hague; Richard Gunn; Jim & Janet O'Kunze; Ihla Donaldson; Sally; Nancy; Jim Datson's cousin, Stan; Dave Stucky; George Irelan; Ernie Busch; John & Chris Edmonds; the employees of Pfizer; the victims of the Florida tornado; those suffering from depression.

PRaise/CELEBRATIONS ~ the birth of Josee Lee to Jaimie & Paul Ledeman (a Suchy grandchild); the birth of Gideon David to Jeff & Rachel Smith; for Nate Lampman's leadership of the Wind Symphony; the wonderful Ladies Tea.

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; 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 Coppernoll; 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 Busch family on the passing of Florence; Bonnie Milkey-Riggs and family on the passing of her brother-in-law, Larry Pierce; Ann & Dave Babcock on the loss of their unborn baby; the family of Harold West on his passing.

