

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

January 13, 2008

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 17; No. 1

“Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!”

I confess that often I’m much better at promoting upcoming projects and needs and appealing for the financial resources to accomplish that task than I am at reporting back later on how well the project went and thanking everyone for their involvement. So eager to move on to the next thing on the calendar, I don’t take the needed time to look back in appreciation. But the beginning of the year is a good time to do that kind of reflecting.

Though we don’t have the year-end financial statements prepared, it clearly appears that we have met all of our expenses for 2007. Although income lagged behind a bit from what we had anticipated, our day-to-day expenses were not as high as we had budgeted. This is because our church leaders were careful stewards of the monies that you’ve entrusted to them. They truly work well at making the most out of the money available.

Thanks so much for your faithful, week-by-week support of the work of Christ that is being done in this church.

In addition to your generous giving to the General Fund and to the Christmas mission offerings, I want to thank you for your support of the year-end special appeal. A month ago in my Steeple News column entitled “*Gathering Together to Stay Warm,*” I shared with you about the unplanned building repairs that hit us hard in the past couple of months, with needed repairs on the church steeple and the replacement of two of our exterior furnaces. The cost of those three projects totaled \$28,400, none of which was anticipated in last year’s budget.

People immediately began responding when they heard about this need, including one family who underwrote the cost of replacing one of the furnaces. Then I wrote to you, asking you to make a special effort in your Christmas Offering to finish the job; and friends, you did.

Late in the afternoon on New Year’s Eve, our Financial Secretary, Pam Heffelbower, gave me the final year-end update of our Christmas Offering that was designated for these repairs. We were within \$944 of fully paying for these additional expenses. I left the church to visit with Jackie Tull at the EVH, as the family gathered around her in her last moments with us. It was for me a very humbling yet precious time to be with that family.

On my way back to the church, I stopped by the mailbox as I pulled into the parking lot and carried in the mail. Quickly scanning the bundle, I picked up a card addressed to me. It was from one of our church families. Enclosed was a check. The note explained that one of their family members had worked his entire life in the heating and cooling business, and that this gift toward the church’s furnace repair was in his memory. The note ended, “Hopefully this will help to keep our church warm and inviting.” After reading the note, I unfolded the check. We still had a \$944 shortfall in covering our repair costs; the check enclosed was for \$1,000.

Thank...thanks...thanks to all of you for pulling so well together and meeting this financial need, for giving so generously to mission outreach and for ending the year 2007 so well. – Pastor Jim



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Give God the glory for our amazing volunteers who keep the Children's Ministries thriving. Thank you all for letting God work in and through you as you minister to the young children of this congregation and community. As you impact the lives of these children, you also build the Kingdom of God. **THANK YOU!**

There will be Safe Sanctuary training on Saturday, January 12 at 9:00 a.m.

R.O.C.K. in LOGOS will kick off its winter semester on Wednesday, January 16. **SPECIAL NOTE: WE WILL BE HAVING A FULL R.O.C.K. IN LOGOS PROGRAM ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23.**

Please keep the following items in your prayers for the Children's Ministries:

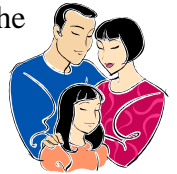
- that God leads and guides ministry leaders and volunteers, empowering them with new ideas and a fresh awareness of the needs of our children.
- that God opens the hearts and minds of every little child that comes to our church.
- for continued direction for the Safe Sanctuaries Task Force who trains our volunteers within the youth, children's and vulnerable adult ministries.
- for a peaceful and joyous new year as we strive to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Seeker Class to begin January 20th

Do you know someone who is NOT currently going to church, but seems to have questions about God and Jesus Christ? Do you know someone who IS going to church (and maybe has for a long time), but still has questions about what faith is all about? There will be a "Seeker Class" for those who have basic faith questions. The session will run for 7 weeks from Sunday, January 20 through Sunday, March 9. The class will not meet February 17. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and will include a light supper. All are welcome. Childcare is available. There is no cost, but please sign up at the Opportunity Wall. If you have questions, please contact Deacon Laura in the office.

PARENTING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We have decided to continue studying the book *Revolutionary Parenting* by George Barna in this class. We will resume meeting in the Parlor on January 13 during the Sunday School hour (starting at 10:10 am). This class is open to any adult interested in Christian parenting ideas. Newcomers are welcome to join this group at anytime and will benefit from the casual group discussion. Call Susie Treber if you have any questions at 429-1840.



TRAINING LEADERS FOR A STRONGER CHURCH

Ann Arbor District Leadership
Training Day
January 26, 2008
9:00 a.m. – Noon
Marble Memorial UMC, Milan



Who needs steroids when you've got the Holy Spirit?

Leadership Training Day will include six "workouts" to help you better serve Christ's church. There will also be a special keynote presentation by Rev. Terry Gladstone.

- Workout #1: Volunteers in Mission
- Workout #2: How to Start a Young Adult Ministry
- Workout #3: Trustees
- Workout #4: Staff Parish Relations
- Workout #5: Strategically Planning Your Church's Future
- Workout #6: Roadmap for a Healthy Congregation

For further information, please pick up at brochure at the Opportunity Wall.



I would like to thank all of my church friends who sent cards and made phone calls when I was ill. Also for the beautiful Poinsettia plant that the UMW gave me and for Laura Speiran for taking time to deliver the plant and spending some time visiting with me. It's a blessing to have such wonderful friends. God's Blessings to All. Eula Escott

A HUGE THANK-YOU FOR

ANOTHER WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AT CASS

For everyone who made this year such a success I wanted you to know that we served 300 full dinners, including pie for dessert. We also fed 80 homeless veterans and made around 2000 sandwiches. We were able to leave some food for the dinner meal that Cass UMC provides on Christmas Day. For the first time ever we had enough sweatshirts to give each guest a sweatshirt and goody bag, with enough left over for the shut-ins that Rev. Fowler was to visit later in the day. Everything went so smoothly that two Cass volunteers were seen sitting on the stairs talking and enjoying the day. Our group is like a well polished machine. We were able to enjoy a worship service in the sanctuary with the Cass community before we served lunch. Thank you to Darlene Heffelbower and Joe Luben, who were our early morning cooks here in Saline. Joe also came in on the 24th to do additional food prep. Joe made our greens this year at Saline and the guests said it was the best they had ever had. Special thanks to LuAnn Chriscinske who has been coming with us for many years, I don't think I could do this without her. We had lots of people who have been making the trip for many years help out and had some newer families who have decided that it will become their Christmas tradition. We missed some families due to illness and hope they are able to be with us next year. Those who traveled to Cass on Christmas Day were: The Brehmer family, Ginny Sparrow, Lee VanDerWende, Bredernitz family, Fuller family, McConnell family, Gehrke family, Dinah Wakeford, Boerema family, Ford family, Thorpe family, Evans family, Minnette family, Kim Setzer, Goeman family, LuAnn Chriscinske, Dorothy Bredernitz, Adkins family, Walline family, Zimmerman family, Rust family, Rob Rasor, and the Bachman family. I hope I haven't missed anyone. I shall close with a quote from a Cass resident named Gladys. She is the lady that directs the men's homeless choir, The Ambassadors. I asked her what she would be doing for Christmas after the choir sang and she said she was celebrating with family. This confused me because her two grown sons do not live in the area. But then she clarified, "Y'all from Saline, coming every Christmas, it's like having Christmas with family." God Bless everyone who made Cass Christmas such a lovely day.

The Melendez Family

CHRISTMAS PARADE THANK YOU



On December 1 the First United Methodist Church of Saline participated in the annual Saline Christmas parade. Now that things have settled down a little, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made it possible. It was a wonderful night and what a special way to start our 175th Celebration. In particular, on behalf of the 175th Anniversary Committee, I would like to thank the following people and organizations:

- Charles and JoAnn McDonnel and Ken and Lois Baldus who supplied the wagons for this event.
- The FUMC singers who braved the cold and "snowy" weather to sing Christmas carols. A special thanks to Tammy Schoenfeldt and Linda Klepaczyk who organized and coordinated all of that effort.
- Dave Hares for the use of his generator.
- To the UMW who provided hot beverages and cookies for all, after the parade.
- Last, but not least, the Senior High Youth members who designed and worked hard on the float during the weeks leading up to the parade. With a special thank you to Leah Kelly, Phil Goeman and Brian Bennyhoff who led that effort.

Thank you again for helping to kick off the church's celebration of our 175th Anniversary.

Richard Merrill

175th Anniversary Committee Chairperson

WHITEHALL NURSING HOME THANK YOU

On, December 17th, I took twelve gigantic shopping bags of presents to Whitehall. As I handed them over to Kim, the Activities Director, she repeatedly thanked all of you so very much! She explained that, in the past, Pfizer had contributed to them at Christmas, but of course, not this year. She said our gifts would make their Christmas party tomorrow night really festive! (Good thing I took them today, huh!) You've helped Merry-up Christmas for a lot of special folks. Thanks!

Kay Richmond

DEAR LAURA & NEWSLETTER GIRLS & DARLENE,

Thank you so much for the birthday wishes! It was so good to hear from you all. We have had awesome weather—lots of sunshine! I see why they call this the sunshine state. I am adjusting to life without Mom but think of her often, especially this time of year when I made her favorite cookies. Miss you all and hope you all have a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Love, Earl and Shirley Culliton

INFUSION YOUTH NEWS

Junior High

Bowling Night – Sunday, January 27 we are going to hit the alleys for some bowling together. Join us from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Bring \$8 and a friend!

SpringHill Camp – Just a reminder that all Junior High Youth are invited to attend SpringHill Camp March 7 – 9 for some fun in the snow and a chance to grow in your faith . If you are not signed up and are still interested in going, contact Emily Krach right away. A waiting list will be established.

Senior High

Mountain T.O.P. Team – It's Pretzel Bake time. All youth and parents are needed to sign up to help with the Pretzel Bake on Saturday, January 19. The sign up sheet is at the Opportunity Wall and will be available at Sr. High W3 on Wednesday night. There are opportunities to help on both Friday, January 18 and Saturday, January 19. Please sign up now!!

Camp Barakel – Just a reminder that all Senior High Youth are invited to attend Camp Barakel February 15 – 17 for some fun in the snow and a chance to grow in your faith. If you are not signed up and are still interested in going, contact Emily Krach right away. A waiting list will be established.

Youth Support Team Meeting – Our next meeting time together is February 5th at 8 p.m..

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. Our next get-together is January 17, at 12:00 pm. Our menu will include: Chicken Enchiladas, Mexicorn and Chocolate Pudding Cake. Sign up at the Opportunity Wall or call the church office. Please contact Rev. Laura Speiran if you have questions, or if you have any dietary concerns.

BLUE HOUSE COLLECTION

All items placed in the Blue House will be donated to Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. The following is a list of suggested items to donate: large and small diapers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, peanut butter, jelly, canned meat, cereal , shampoo, toilet paper, and bar soap. If you have any questions contact Jan Turosky at 944-1429.

EVANGELICAL HOMES OFFERS HOME CARE

Evangelical Homes of Michigan is pleased to announce the establishment of two home health care programs to meet the needs of the residents of Washtenaw County and the surrounding areas. The purpose of home health care is to promote independence and maximize strengths and abilities, while improving overall well-being and offering support for family caregivers.

Shared Care Services, Inc. provides private duty services that are paid for privately or through an individual's long-term care insurance. Shared Care Services can provide companions or homemaker assistants to assist with meal preparation, light housekeeping, running errands and companionship. Home health aides and certified nursing assistants provide personal care and assistance with activities of daily living. Professional nursing services are also available. All prospective clients receive a free assessment by a registered nurse.

Shared Services Home Health Care is a *Medicare-certified* home health agency which provides not only nursing services, but also therapy services (physical, occupational, and speech), social work, as well as home health services. Evangelical has an extensive network of service providers to supply these services, as well as many others, that will support individuals in their return to optimum health.

For more information about these services, please call their office at 734-222-4000.

Laura Speiran
Church Ambassador
First United Methodist Church



Preserving the Memories

Do you have envelopes, drawers or even boxes filled with pictures and keepsakes waiting to be organized? Have you been meaning to get those pictures into albums but just haven't had time? Or have you started a scrapbook but never found time to finish it? Come join us on Saturday, January 12 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Room F for a fun afternoon getting pictures organized or actually putting them in albums! Contact Cheryl Schlaff at (734)417-3951 or cheryl@fumc-saline.org to get all the details.

UMW Sunday

UMW Sunday is February 3, during both worship services. Later that day, we will be leading the worship service at the EVH. Since many circles and the unit are not meeting in January, please look for sign-up sheets at the Opportunity Wall to participate in these events

To Ladies of all Ages ~ The Ladies High Tea, which was previously held in January, is scheduled for April 13 in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and we'll see you then in your spring finery!

New Member Class in January

Our winter New Member Class will be held on Saturday, January 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be included. Those class participants who choose to join will do so on Sunday, January 27 at the 11:15 worship service. All adults who are not currently members are invited and encouraged to attend, even long-time United Methodists! This is a large congregation, and we want you to be a part of a small group in order to meet people and learn about what goes on here. Topics to be included are: what it means to be a Christian, church history, Wesley theology, and ministries of Saline First United Methodist. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall, or speak with Deacon Laura Speiran. Childcare is available, if needed. If you are interested in joining the church, but are unavailable in January, a spring class will be held in a one-day format on Saturday, April 12, 2008.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON ADOPTION

Do you dream of becoming a parent for the first time, or again? If you're considering growing your family through adoption, we invite you to attend a free information meeting on Tuesday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Adoption Associates, Inc. in Farmington Hills. This informal presentation offers information on building families through domestic infant or international adoption programs in China, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Russia, and Ukraine. For more information, or to RSVP, please call Adoption Associates, Inc. at 248-474-0990.

Our Sympathies to ~ The family of Peg Chizmar on her passing; Dale Brown and Lisa and Carlos Marshall and family on the passing of Doris Brown; Clarke and Jacquie Macy and family on the passing of his dad, John; Paul Tull and family on the passing of Jackie Tull.

Please pray for those in special living situations.

At EVH we have Alice Tonks and Anna Reese. Mary Toth is currently in Hospice Care at EVH. At Sunrise we have Phyllis West. At St. Joe-Hospice we have Ruth Akans. Genny Singleton and John Heggeton are at Heartland. Frank Riggs is also in Hospice Care at home.



Prayer Concerns ~ Frank & Shirley Riggs, Jim & Carolyn Beal, Mary Ruhl, Ruth Akans, Chuck Heiserman, Dallas Milem,

Bud Gray, Doug Schlaff, Pat Koch, Lois Perrault, Brian Setzer, Stephanie, Jean Ann McNutt, Linda Furbush, John Heggeton, Cheryl, Betty Gustafson, Howard Desbrough, Stan Sekerka, Wayne Haupt, Kathy, Lisa Marshall, Betty Sellers, Mary Carol, Samantha Sherson, Eric Firavich, Charles Edmonds, Sandy Zemba, Paul Adamkowski, the Richmond family, Jim Weller and family, Joan Barbret's friends, friends having a hard time, those with job/career challenges.

Praise/Celebrations ~ For the birth of Sydney Ann, granddaughter of Shirley and Dale Padding; the Bonczyk family's return home from China; Megan Shaw's graduation from the Police Academy; for the birth of our Lord; for all of our military; for all at our church who have worked hard to help us celebrate Christmas in such a beautiful way; for Jan Williams' recovery; Mary Ruhl's return home from the hospital for the holidays; for a wonderful Christmas Day at Cass Avenue; to the youth for a great worship experience; for Nathan Miller's visit; for the birth of Noah Scott, grandson of Peggy & Scott Klapper; the Richmond family's blessings; Judy Mayo's recovery.

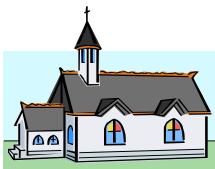
Military Personnel and Families ~ J.T. St. Denis; Bennett Phipps, brother of Rachel Wislocki; Timothy Frisbee, son of Pam & Gene Frisbee; Nick Gilveli; Kevin Raymond, son of Susan Raymond; Bobby Singh, son-in-law of Paulette & Mike Suchy; Dan Erlwein; Sam Spicer; Erik Maddock, son of Don & Andrea Maddock; Doug W. Beard, son of Doug & Wanda Beard; Mark & Brad Nadig, sons of Carroll & Sandy Nadig; Nathaniel Held, son of Keith & Patsy Held; Aaron Friese; Sergeant Eric Coppernoll; John & Ryan Engel; Russ Bodine, son-in-law of Martha and Robert Seward; Edgar Groom, son-in-law of Beulah Morton; Joseph Miller; Dave Hayes; Nathan Miller, son of Jeff & Susan Miller; Benjamin Cripe, Derek Burge, Justin Burge.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 13 – JANUARY 26, 2008

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|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 13 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 4:00p LT Group at Emily's 5:00p Disciple I 6:00p Jesus in the Gospels 6:30p Jr. High Youth Group | 14 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 1:00p Election Set Up 6:30p Girl Scout Troop #1309 7:00p Trustees | 15 Tuesday 7:30a Stephen Ministry 9:15a WISE AM 4:45p Music Together 7:00p Community Care 7:00p Gulf Coast Mission Team 7:00p WISE PM Saline Primary Election | 16 Wednesday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Neighborhood Bible Study 12:30p Quilting 3:00p ROCK in LOGOS 5:30p Dinner and Drama 6:30p Praise Team 6:45p Cub Scouts #9 7:00p 1 st year Confirmation 7:00p Sanctity w/o Starch 8:00p Sr. High WWW | 17 Thursday 8:00a Saline Library Lunch 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:00p JOY Lunch 12:30p Disciple IV 6:15p Brownies 794 6:15p Orchestra 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Cub Scouts #5 7:00p Cub Scouts #1 7:00p Choir 7:30p Bells | 18 Friday 12:30p RNL Coordinator's 3:00p Pretzel Bake Prep | 19 Saturday 7:00a Pretzel Bake 5:00p Private Party |
| 20 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 5:00p Disciple I 5:30p Seeker Class 6:00p Jesus in the Gospels 6:30p Jr. High Youth Group MISSIONS BAKE SALE | 21 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 6:00p Adult Ministries 6:30p Girl Scout Troop #2019 7:00p Finance | 22 Tuesday 9:15a WISE AM 4:45p Music Together 6:30p Friendship Ministry 6:30p HOMMIES 7:00p WISE PM | 23 Wednesday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Neighborhood Bible Study 10:00a UMW Executive Board 12:30p Quilting 3:00p ROCK in LOGOS 5:30p Dinner and Drama 6:30p Praise Team 6:45p Cub Scouts #9 7:00p 1 st year Confirmation 7:00p Sanctity w/o Starch 8:00p Sr. High WWW | 24 Thursday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:30p Disciple IV 6:15p Orchestra 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Cub Scouts #5 7:00p Choir 7:30p Bells | 25 Friday 5:30p Piano Recital | 26 Saturday 6:00a Gulf Coast Mission Team Leaves 9:00a New Member Class |

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, January 21st** at noon. Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, January 24th** in Room F at 8:30 a.m.



Head Ushers:

Charlie Bender, Carlos Melendez, Carl Snow
 Darlene Heffelbower, Patti Hogue

Greeters:

Larry and Carol Osterling

Worship Attendance:

Dec 16 - 415
 Dec 23 - 504
 Dec 24 - 1,016
 Dec 30 - 315
 Jan 6 - 520

Welcome Center

Doris Sekerka

First United Methodist Church
 1200 North Ann Arbor Street
 Saline, MI 48176

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