

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church



Pastor: Dr. James E. Tuttle

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Email: office@fumc-saline.org

Website: www.fumc-saline.org

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

February 24, 2008

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 17; No. 4

It seems as though I’m given the never-ending role of saying thank you to the people of First United Methodist Church of Saline, who are forever responding to the call, stepping up to the plate, giving it their best swing and either hitting a home run themselves or else driving their other team members through the bases.

In the first January edition of the *Steeple News* I thanked all of you for grabbing the challenge, going the second mile in your year-end Christmas Offering and underwriting the costs of the steeple repair and investing in the two new furnaces that had literally “bit the dust” this winter. I challenged the congregation to consider doubling your usual offering, and you did. Well over \$19,000 was given to meet that need. All told, nearly \$30,000 was donated toward those costs that had been incurred.

Also, you need to know that even in this national down-time economically, our church ended the year 2007 well, with over a million dollars channeled through the various accounts of our church. All bills were paid in full and all of our mission commitments were met in full, and a significant number of other mission projects locally and around the world were provided because of your faithfulness throughout the year. Also, because of your giving to the “*Reignite the Mission*” Building Fund our mortgage is \$128, 265 lower than it was when we began 2007; and at the last finance meeting it was reported that we lowered it another \$12,000 during January of this year.

With the economy as soft as it is, the “*Estimates of Giving*” for 2008 have been coming in slower than previous years, though people are still returning their cards to the office. For this reason, the Church Council reduced the Operating Budget by about \$50,000 in order to be responsible stewards of the funds that we as members of the congregation anticipate we will be giving throughout this year. Some dreams have been set aside for a while, and your leadership team has tightened their belts, in order to approve an appropriate budget for 2008. Our staff salary raises were reduced, with the hopes that as contributions remain steady or increase, those raises can then be reinstated midyear. But even with those belt-tightening measures, we are off to a great start in this new year.

And one of those “great starts” was experienced on February 10th as we inaugurated our 175th Celebration. What a great event! Thank you Rich Merrill, members of the 175th Committee, artists and musicians, the dignitaries who came, the kitchen crew who served, the Eby family who shared their horse for the circuit rider, and all who dressed up and joined in the spirit of the day. Can you even imagine that we’ve been here in witness for Christ and service to this community for 175 years? We owe such a debt of gratitude for the generations who went before us making it even possible for us to celebrate this terquasquicentennial anniversary. I can’t even pronounce that word, but I sure thank those who went before us and made this 175-year celebration possible.

Down the road, those who will come behind you will be giving God thanks for the steadiness of your faith and the steadfastness of your vision in becoming the community of faith God wants this church to be. – Pastor Jim



New Volunteer Position Established

The Friendship Ministry is excited to announce that a new volunteer position has been established to help serve our church families that have family members with special needs. The new position is a Special Needs Coordinator (SNC). The Special Needs Coordinator's purpose and role is to help provide a unique experience and ministry for those with special needs and their families. It is our desire that people God created with special needs and their families come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; to help encourage and enable them to "stretch beyond their own limitations" and to share their gifts to the church body through service, worship, and leadership. We believe people with special needs should have every opportunity to learn and grow in their Christian faith through a loving, nurturing environment adapted to their unique needs through our Interdenominational Friendship Ministry, our church family, and its community of friends, advocates, and supporters.

Names of possible volunteers can be turned in to the church office. If you have further questions please contact Friendship Ministry Coordinator Roger Heffelbower at 429-7095, or Rev. Laura Speiran in the church office.



Meal of Thanks From the Gulf Coast Mission Team

We would like to invite you to a warm, home cooked meal from our heart to yours. On March 2 at 12:20 p.m., the Gulf Coast Mission Team will be providing a meal to thank the congregation for their support of the January 26–February 3 mission trip. We would love to have you hear our stories and see our pictures as we share a meal together. Come and hear how God is working in the recovery of the Gulf Coast. Come and share in food and fellowship. Come and receive our heartfelt thanks!

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 on Maundy Thursday, March 20, 2008. 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.



Christ Riders 2008 Launch

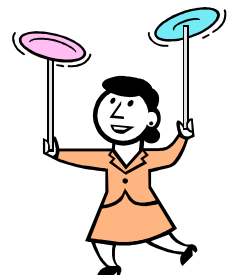
Christ Riders will launch their 4th riding season and the 2008 touring season. on February 29. We will meet from 6:30-10:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with a potluck dinner, slide show, games, super-karaoke, and a tri-cycle jousting tournament. During that time we will have our annual meeting to discuss the up-coming riding season. If you have a motorcycle or desire to own one, please consider joining us for a night of fun and shenanigans. This is the ideal night to come and hang out with the Christ Riders, ask questions, and get to know those already committed to yet another season of fun and fellowship. This is open to all who may be interested in celebrating their summer with a caring, friendly, and safe fellowship of bikers. For more information contact Roger Heffelbower at 429-7095 or call the church office.



TOOLS & BLANKETS

Church World Service (parent organization of C.R.O.P. Walk) runs a Tools & Blankets program, providing blankets, tents and other emergency shelter items in the wake of a disaster. Refugees returning home can be helped with tools to rebuild and seeds to replant fields. Families living in drought-plagued areas are helped to dig wells for clean, safe drinking water, and for water to irrigate crops. After the 2004 tsunami ravaged Indonesia, fishing nets and boats helped devastated people get back on their feet. During Lent, UMW will be filling up a Church World Service fishing net in the Narthex with paper fish, purchased by you for any amount. Please stop by the table to purchase the fish and when Easter comes, we will see how many fish we have caught in our net for Christ.

It's not too early. . . to start honing up your skills . . . the 3rd All-Church Talent Show is coming April 19th, 2008!





S.A.S.S. Easter Baskets

The church has pledged 20 four-person Easter baskets to Saline Area Social Services (S.A.S.S.), to be delivered on Sunday, March 16th. For information on how to donate a basket or to assist in delivering the baskets, please sign up at the Opportunity Wall. Ongoing thanks for the way First United Methodist Church continues to support our community.

C.R.O.P. WALK

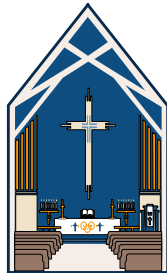
FUMC again topped the area by raising \$2,289 for the 2007 hunger walk. Congratulations! Also, the local C.R.O.P walk treasurer will be stepping down next year and is looking to mentor a willing soul to take over this once a year event. If interested, please contact Christina Koch at 429-4160.

Lay Speaking Classes Offered

The spring 2008 Lay Speaking Ministries classes will be held on April 19th and April 26th at Clinton United Methodist Church. The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with fellowship and refreshments. If you have never taken a lay speaking class, you must take the Basic Class. If you have completed the Basic Class, you may take one of the two advanced classes or the Refresher Course. You must attend class on both Saturdays to receive credit for taking the Basic Class or an Advanced Class. To receive credit for the Refresher Class, you must attend the class on April 26th and do a Gift Inventory that will be mailed to you after you have registered for the class. For more information and to register for a class, please pick up a brochure at the Opportunity Wall.

LENTEN PRAYER CHAPEL

This year throughout the season of Lent, we would like to invite you to take some time to be quiet. Be still. Decompress. Wrestle with God. Listen to what God wants you to hear. Pray. Reflect. There will be a special space set up in Room C this year called the prayer chapel that will be open for you to do just that. There will be some prayer stations that will invite you to sit with God and will give you some direction in your prayer time. There will also be space to just gaze at the cross and be quiet. It's a space for you and God. It will be open any time the church is open. Come before a meeting. Come between worship services. Come during your lunch hour. Just come.



INFUSION YOUTH NEWS

Junior High

Attention all SpringHill Camp Attendees

Pick up your packet of important travel information, including your medical release and liability form to be filled out and returned with your final payment of \$65 by February 24th. Get excited about an awesome weekend retreat together. SpringHill Camp still has room for more junior high students. Talk to Emily right away so you don't miss this awesome chance for the best winter retreat ever!

1st Year Confirmation Students

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, March 3 is our class field trip to Resurrection United Methodist Church in Detroit. Meet at Saline First United Methodist Church on Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

Friday, March 14th is a fun night with the mentors. It will be an exciting game night. Bring a game you love to play and we will have snacks for everyone.

Join us on Sunday Nights for Youth Group at 6:30

Always a great night of fun together with games, discussion, snacks and friends. See you on Sunday Night.

Senior High

Mountain T.O.P. Team – Important Reminders

#1 – Your final payment of \$100 is due February 24. This is an important deadline if you are attending.

#2 – The spring rummage sale will be here soon. The week of March 10th-15th we will need your help. The sale is March 15th. Juniors and parents of juniors – your leadership is expected for this fundraiser. There is a planning meeting on Tuesday, February 26th at 7:00 p.m.



Youth Support Team Meeting – Our next youth, parent, and adult meeting for planning, preparing, and praying is on Tuesday, February 26th at 8:00 p.m. Join us and share your insight about all the Lord is doing and can do in our youth ministry.

Hope Clinic Worship Celebration

You are invited to Hope Clinic's 2008 Worship Celebration on March 7th, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., at New Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, 5055 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor. This year's theme is "To God Be the Glory." Please join us for a time of sharing songs, prayer, Scripture, and testimonies in honor of God's abundant provision in our lives and the lives of others.

PARENTING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We have started studying a new book. It is titled Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, by George Barna. Class members have found the previous book that we studied by this same author to be very appealing. Adults are welcome to join this class anytime. We meet in the parlor during the Sunday School hour. For questions please call Susie Treber at 429-1840.

UMW NEWS

The March Monthly Gathering will be held Monday, March 3rd at 9:30 a.m. (Please note the change of time.) The program will be presented by Amy Whitton and will include information on the Gulf Coast Mission trip. Hannah Circle will be hosting. For further information, please contact Kay Richmond at 944-6234.

Esther Circle will meet at the home of Norma Jean West on Monday, March 3rd. Bring a sandwich and meet for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

PRAYER GARDEN BRICK SALES

Thanks to the hard work of many people we now have a wonderful Prayer Garden on our church grounds, which includes a lovely brick pathway. We are currently selling bricks and will continue to do so through February. The proceeds from the bricks enable us to pay for the landscaping and maintenance of the garden. A *prayer brick* is a wonderful way to memorialize a loved one, honor someone important in your life or have your family name as a permanent part of our church grounds. The cost of a 4" x 8" brick is \$50 and an 8" x 8" brick is \$80. Order forms are available at the Opportunity Wall. Please submit your form and payment by the deadline of February 24. Contact Darlene Heffelbower with any questions at 429-4730.



Special Church Conference

A special Church Conference will be held at the Church Council meeting on Monday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. This special conference will allow an adjustment to be made to the Pastoral salary compensation package that was previously approved for Pastor Tuttle at the Annual Church Conference on November 4, 2007. All members of the church can vote on this item. This vote is needed in order to be consistent with the recommended raises for all staff adjusted from 3% to 2% for 2008.



Thank you to our loving church family for the prayers, cards and calls during Frank's illness and also after his death. We appreciated all of them.
Shirley Riggs and Family

Thank you for your creative expression of concern for my well-being. The "knots of prayer" for my recovery, on the attractive musical quilt you have given me recently, will be remembered for a longer time than I play the violin in the Methodist Symphony Orchestra. Thank all of you for remembering!
Stan Sekerka

Music Together Classes

Music Together classes for children ages birth to 5 years and their parents or caregivers will again be offered at First United Methodist Church this spring. The new session begins at the end of March and features weekly classes of wonderful music activities including singing, movement, and instrument play. Daytime and evening classes are taught by Angela Schmidt and Nicole Lampman, registered Music Together teachers.

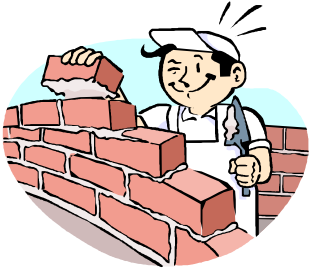


Interested families are invited to attend a free demonstration class in the coming weeks. Please call Angela Schmidt at 429-3385 for available times and to make a reservation.

For more information about Music Together and the spring class schedule, please visit www.HandInHandMT.com

Newsletter Deadline

To those of you who usually count on a Monday newsletter deadline please make note of a change. The next newsletter deadline is **Friday, February 29 at 9:00 a.m.**



Douglas J. Mull Memorial Trade School Scholarship

In memory of Doug Mull, a past church-family member, Christ Riders, with the help

and guidance of the Scholarship Committee and the surviving family members has created a new scholarship fund for graduating high school seniors. A bricklayer in occupation and at heart, Doug was also a humanitarian and champion of people in need. His servant heart touched many people during his life time. From a person stranded on the side of the road, to the elderly, to young people at risk Doug touched many people in a variety of ways.

In honor of Doug's legacy, the members of Christ Riders have helped create a new scholarship fund. The scholarship will be granted to one or more graduating seniors from the Washtenaw County Consortium that meet specific qualifications.

If you would like to donate to this scholarship fund please make the check out to the First United Methodist Church of Saline, *and in the memo please write* Doug Mull Trade School Scholarship, and your tax deductible donation will be on its way to the next deserving high school senior. Thank you in advance for your heartfelt contribution to help carry on Doug's legacy.

A very special thank you goes to Linda Hehnlín for her assistance in setting up this scholarship. For more information please contact Roger Heffelbower, Christ Riders, founder and president at 429-7095.

Please pray for those in special living situations. At EVH we have Alice Tonks and Anna Reese. At Sunrise we have Phyllis West. At Arbor Hospice we have Jim Beal. Genny Singleton and Dallas Milem are at Heartland. John Heggaton is at St. Joe's Hospital.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~ The family of Mary Toth on her passing; Paul Renberg and family on the passing of his mom, Geraldine; the Whitfield family on the passing of Cheryl's mother, Ruth Akans; the Drenning family on the passing of Cheryl's mother, Jeanette Smith.

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; Joseph Miller; Dave Hayes; Nathan Miller, son of Jeff & Susan Miller; Benjamin Cripe; Derek Burge; Justin Burge; Mark Quinn.



PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Jim

& Carolyn Beal, Mary Ruhl, Helen & Wally Seitz, John Heggaton, Thane Stout, Geoff Acree, Pete Armstrong family, Sandy Zemba's uncle, Karen, Wayne & Julia Brown, Kim Morey, Danny, Wayne Haupt, Art Singleton, Becky Eberle & family, Jewel Francis, Patricia Morgan, Dorothy Dillon, Amber Mize, Dave Luttenbacher, Cindi, Joanne Knight, Greg Folta's father, Fran Voyer, Woodie Merchant, Bonnie Bender, JoAnn McDonnell, family of Al Ealy, Dallas Milem, Brandon Baumann, Mrs. Abraham's granddaughter, the family of Shawn Manning, Dorothy, children who are victims of abuse, a friend in the hospital, McKenna Ducca & family, Fran, Marsha, Howard Hespern, Ricky Richmond, Elizabeth Gasparovic, Nancy Scott, Nancy Bryon's daughter-in-law, the family of Kevin Ladd, the Pater family, Helen Stricklen.



But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:6-8

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 8, 2008

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| 24 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 Prayer Chapel | 25 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 6:30p Girl Scout Troop #1309 7:00p Church Council Prayer Chapel | 26 Tuesday 9:15a WISE AM 4:45p Music Together 6:30p Friendship Ministry 6:30p HOMMIES 7:00p WISE PM 7:00p Planned/Rec Giving 8:00p Youth Support Prayer Chapel | 27 Wednesday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Neighborhood Bible Study 10:00a UMW Executive 12:30p Quilting 3:00p ROCK in LOGOS 5:30p Jr. High Dinner and Drama 6:30p Praise Team 6:45p Cub Scouts #9 7:00p First Year Confirmation 7:00p Sanctity w/o Starch 8:00p Sr. High WWW Prayer Chapel | 28 Thursday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 9:30a Saline Ministerial 10:00a Brecon Worship 12:30p Disciple IV 6:15p Orchestra 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Cub Scouts #1 7:00p Cub Scouts #5 7:00p Choir 7:30p Bells Prayer Chapel | 29 Friday 3:00p Destination Imagination 6:30p Christ Riders Prayer Chapel | 1 Saturday 8:45a Girl Scout Cluster 12:00p Blue and Gold Banquet Prayer Chapel |
| 2 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 12:20p Gulf Coast Mission Meal 4:00p LT Group at Emily's 5:00p Disciple I 6:00p Jesus in the Gospels 6:30p Jr. High Youth Group Prayer Chapel | 3 Monday 9:30a Hannah Circle 10:00a Shawl Ministry 12:30p Esther Circle 6:00p Girl Scouts #2019 7:00p Susannah Circle 7:00p Staff Parish Prayer Chapel | 4 Tuesday 7:30a Stephen Ministry 9:15a WISE AM 4:45p Music Together 7:00p WISE PM 7:00p Ruth Circle Prayer Chapel | 5 Wednesday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Neighborhood Bible Study 12:30p Quilting 3:00p ROCK in LOGOS 5:30p Jr. High Dinner and Drama 6:30p Praise Team 7:00p 1 st year Confirmation 7:00p Sanctity w/o Starch 8:00p Sr. High WWW Prayer Chapel | 6 Thursday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:30p Disciple IV 6:15p Brownies #794 6:15p Orchestra 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Cub Scouts #1 7:00p Cub Scouts #5 7:00p Choir 7:30p Bells 7:30p Flying Club Prayer Chapel | 7 Friday 2:00p Scouts Pinewood Derby Jr. High to SpringHill Prayer Chapel | 8 Saturday Bridal Shower Jr. High - SpringHill Prayer Chapel |

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Friday, February 29 at 9:00 a.m.** Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, March 6th** in Room F at 8:30 a.m.

Worship Attendance:

Feb 10 – 721
Feb 17 – 312

Head Ushers:

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

Greeters:

February – Doris Sekerka
Baldus Family
Sr. High Youth
March - Clay and Lori Maranville
Doris Sekerka
Brenner Family

Welcome Center

February– Diane Killebrew
Fillinger Family
March – Pam Heffelbower

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