

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

March 9, 2008

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 17; No. 5

“Staff of Life”

One of the greatest joys I’ve experienced over the last twenty-five years in pastoral ministry is the privilege of working side by side with marvelous members of local church staffs. Our District Superintendent was relaying to me, what one of my colleagues on the district recently commented: “It must be great to be appointed to a place like Saline with all that staff.” I can only respond, “It is!” Early in ministry a pastor pretty much has to go it alone. Linda was reminding me a while back about when the Mimeograph machine for duplicating bulletins was in the laundry room of the parsonage. Weekly she would type the masters, we would run them, fold them and hand-deliver the bulletins to each of the three churches on Sunday morning just in time for the worship service. Thank the Lord things have changed a lot. Those whom God has placed here make ministry happen in this place.

At the Saline Church my appreciation for each of our church staff and all that they do is only exceeded by the deep gratitude that I hear expressed by members of our congregation. People are forever telling me about how great our staff is, or about how much they appreciated what that team of leaders was doing in the church. An expression of that was demonstrated this week. It had been announced that due to budget constraints, the original proposed 3% raises in staff salaries had to be reduced to 2% in order to get the budget in proper alignment. One of our newer families e-mailed Brian Hogue, our Stewardship & Finance Chairperson, indicating that they really hoped that would not have to happen, and because of their appreciation of our staff offered to personally increase their giving to assure that all of our church staff would receive the cost of living raises that had been previously planned for 2008. On Monday our Church Council confirmed their affirmation, approving the raises thus making the proposed Church Conference reduction item really a mute issue. Their appreciative response is reflective of what so many of our members and families feel about those who work among us here at First Church.

Another great delight and personal answer to prayer was word I received just minutes before Monday’s Council meeting. Laura Speiran called me aside to update me about her husband Ross’s resignation. It had been accepted by General Motors and he would be re-employed by Visteon on Tuesday, allowing their family to continue to reside in Saline and permit her to be able to be appointed to First United Methodist Church of Saline as the Minister of Congregational Care. When she announced that, members of the Church Council burst into applause. God has blessed our congregation through her ministry and it appears that blessing is going to continue.

In the past we’ve used the idiom of bread as the “staff of life.” But I surmise that, in part, what has brought and continues to bring renewed life to our church has been God’s Enabling Spirit, working in and through the minds and hearts and lives of a talented and committed group of women and men who give so much time, creativity and caring in developing our programs and our people. To the marvelous group of co-workers: staff, along with the leadership team and the hundreds of volunteers that give so unselfishly of your time and life, I want to say, “Thanks...thanks for all that you are and all that you do, making being here such a great joy.” – Pastor Jim

WEEKEND CUSTODIAN NEEDED

First United Methodist Church of Saline is looking for someone to fill a part time position as a weekend custodian. This is an hourly position

and the number of hours could vary weekly, depending on the activities scheduled, but would average out to about 5 hours per week. The pay rate is \$13.11 per hour. If you are interested, please pick up a job description and an application in the church office.

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.

SNACKS FOR FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY

Please consider signing up for snacks for Friendship Ministries on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. There is a sign up sheet at the Opportunity Wall. We ask that at least 2 people sign up for each day as we need several dozen snacks each time we meet.

Friendship Ministries is an outreach program for differently-abled students and adults. This program is extremely important to them and to all of the volunteers. We need your help and support – thank you so much. If you have further questions please contact Peggy Klapper at 734-429-4628.



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.

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



SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAYS

In months that have five Sundays, all the loose monies in the offering plate on that Sunday (those not in envelopes and designated for other uses) are donated to the Upper Class Scholarship, formerly known as the Betty Washburn Scholarship. The money helps grow the endowment of this fund in order for it to become self-sustaining and to support the ever-growing demand for scholarship funds in our congregation. During 2007, a total of \$957.28 was collected on the fifth Sundays. Thank you for your generous contributions and support of this scholarship program. In the fall of 2007, five scholarships were awarded to young people in our congregation for their continuing college education. The next opportunity to contribute to the Upper Class Scholarship fund, by means of the fifth Sunday loose monies offering is Sunday, March 30th. Please help us to continue to build this fund so that we may offer meaningful scholarships to our church college students.

CARR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Carr Memorial Scholarship are available in the church office beginning March 7, 2008. All members of Saline FUMC who are current Saline High School seniors are eligible to apply. You must be planning to enroll in a post high school educational institute in the fall of 2008.

All completed applications must be in the church office by Friday, April 11, 2008 at 4:00 pm. If you have questions, please contact a member of the Scholarship Committee: Betty Charles, 734-429-7482; Ken Jennings, 734-662-8683 or Carole McConnell, 517-423-6373.



SCRAPBOOKS!

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 the time to finish it? Come join us on Saturday, March 29 from 1:00–6:00 p.m. in Room H for a chance to get those pictures organized. Contact Cheryl Schlaff at (734)417-3951 or cheryl@fumc-saline.org to get all the details. Note: We still need old photos for the church scrapbook (to fill in some blank pages). If you have photos, especially from the 1960's or before, we would love to include those.

DEAR JIM, STAFF AND MEMBERS OF FIRST CHURCH,

I write this letter on the morning after your celebration of your first 175 years of ministry in Saline...and around the world. You had 175 years to prepare for yesterday's worship, and it is clear you used your time wisely. I give God thanks for the marvelous spirit that is embodied in that faith community...and for your Christ-like presence as you bear witness to the Gospel.

Saline First is clearly one of the "flagship" congregations of the District, indeed of the Detroit Conference. Your faithful witness over the years has borne much fruit and has helped lead many to see the power of Christ's love to change lives. The cause of Christ surely is strengthened by your outreach and ministry.

Once again, too, I was overwhelmed at the warm welcome that came to me as I visited you again. I know that Bishop Keaton also had a similar reaction to the congregation's welcome of him. Surely, one of the reasons your congregation continues to receive visitors every Sunday, as Laura noted in worship, was because of the genuinely warm welcome that greets people upon their arrival.

Thanks again, Jim, and staff, members of the 175th Committee, and members of the congregation for a wonderful celebration yesterday in which you worshipped God, honored your past, celebrated your present and planned for God's future. May Christ's transforming spirit continue to bless you and yours.

Shalom,
Thomas P. Macaulay
District Superintendent

WISE BIBLE STUDY

For our next WISE Bible Study, we will be reading the book *Captivating: Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul*, by John and Stasi Eldredge. We will begin this study on Tuesday, March 11th. The following is an excerpt from the book's introduction:

"... there is an essence that God has given to every woman. We share something deep and true, down in our hearts. So we venture into this exploration of femininity by way of the heart... God has set within you a femininity that is powerful and tender, fierce and alluring. No doubt it has been misunderstood. Surely it has been assaulted. But it is there, your true heart, and it is worth recovering. God is inviting you to a great Romance with him. 'The eyes of his heart are ever upon you. The King is captivated by your beauty.'" We meet in rooms O and P at 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. Childcare is provided. For further information, please contact Gail Karaman at gail.karaman@comcast.net or 429-0651.

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.



LIL' SAINTS PRESCHOOL

We are now accepting enrollment for the 2008/2009 school year. We will be open Tuesday–Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Lil' SAINTS Preschool; a place where your child belongs, and a place where he/she can become all they were created to be. Contact kathy@lil-saints.org for more information.



INFUSION YOUTH NEWS

Junior High

Join us on Sunday Nights for Youth Group at 6:30 p.m. It's always a great night of fun together with games, discussion, snacks and friends. We will NOT be meeting for youth group on March 9 - we will be returning from SpringHill Camp. We will NOT be meeting on March 23 - enjoy Easter with your family.

Lazer Tag Night - Join us March 30th for a fun time together at Zap Zone. We will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. and head over together for a group time of games and pizza. We will return by 9 p.m. Bring \$15 and a friend!

Easter Sunrise Breakfast - All junior high students and their parents are needed to help serve breakfast on Easter morning, March 23rd. This is a great time together and an awesome opportunity to host the meal for congregation. Plan to be here on Easter morning to share in the fun. Details of how you can help will follow!

1st Year Confirmation Students - Friday, March 14th is fun night with the mentors. It will be an exciting game night. Bring a game you love to play. We will have snacks for everyone!

Senior High

Mountain T.O.P. Team - All students and parents are needed. Get signed up now to work at the **Spring Rummage Sale!** The sale is March 15th and help will be needed March 11-15 to make the sale possible. Talk to Emily with any questions.



Easter Sunrise Worship Service - All Senior High Youth are invited to be a part of leading worship on Easter Morning. Your ideas and gifts are needed! We will have a final prep time and run through on **Saturday, March 22 from 1-4 p.m.** Talk to Emily now if you have ideas or would like to help lead the service.

ADOPTION INFORMATION

Every child deserves to be loved. If you would like to learn more about adoption, we invite you to attend a free information meeting at Adoption Associates, Inc. in Farmington Hills on Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. or on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. This informal presentation offers information on building families through domestic infant adoption and through international programs. To RSVP, please call Adoption Associates, Inc. at 248-474-0990.

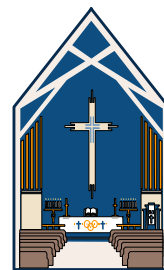


Lay Speaking Classes Offered

The spring 2008 Lay Speaking Ministries classes will be held on April 19 and April 26 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. The two advanced classes being offered are Lay Speakers Lead in Worship and Lay Speakers Teach Adults. 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 26 and do a Gift Inventory that will be mailed to you after you have registered for the class. For more information and to register, please pick up a brochure at the Opportunity Wall.

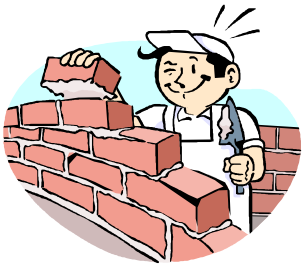
LENTEN PRAYER CHAPEL

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.



MUSIC TOGETHER CLASSES

Music Together classes for children ages birth to 5 years and their parents or caregivers will again be offered at FUMC 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



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 have 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 memory, 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 meets 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.* 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 honor Doug's memory.

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.

Newsletter Deadline

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, March 24th** at noon. Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, March 27th** in Room F at 8:30 a.m.

SMALL GROUP

There is a small group that meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The next get-together is in the home of Dale and Shirley Padding at 3231 Potomac Court in Ann Arbor. Their home is just north of the Michigan Ave and Platt Road intersection. The group is studying Phillip Yancy's "What's So Amazing About Grace." There are plenty of study guides and now is a great time to join. Call Shirley at 477-9223 if you are interested in joining the group or have any questions. All are welcome.

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. 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.

NEW PROCEDURE FOR SCHEDULING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

In the past we have asked people to schedule their events by writing them on the large calendar in the church office. In order for the office staff to process requests more efficiently we will be changing this procedure. What we will be doing is asking people to fill out a "Calendar Request Form" which can be found to the left of the large wall calendar. The office staff will look at the requests and assign the group to an available room. The information will then be added to the wall calendar and electronic calendar by the office staff. Special events will still require a "Room Request Form" (found to the right of the wall calendar) to be filled out. If for any reason your event is cancelled, please contact the office so that we can make the room available to another group. All changes to the wall calendar will be done by the office staff. Thank you for your cooperation.



Thanks

Thank you to the congregation of First United Methodist Church of Saline for donating the 1993 minivan to the Cass Community. We removed the passenger seats to allow us to use the van to deliver warm and nutritious food to our residence and the people at the homeless veteran's shelter. This van replaces one of our two food delivery vans that quit running last year. It was kind and generous of you to have the vehicle inspected and repaired before you donated it to us. We are very grateful. God bless the Saline congregation as you continue to do the Lord's work. With Our Appreciation, Rev. Faith Fowler



The UMW High Tea for all ladies and girls of the church will be held Sunday, April 13th at 2:00 p.m. Come join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship as we continue to

celebrate our heritage and our 175th anniversary. Those in attendance are asked to bring their own teacup and saucer, and are invited to dress in 1830's style if they wish. As always, break out your favorite hat and high tea attire. There will be a presentation on Fanny Crosby and how she came to write some of our most famous and well loved hymns. In keeping with our "fan"tastic theme, we will be exploring the Victorian language of the fan. Please mark your calendars and invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to this fun event! There will be a free will offering taken at the tea that will benefit UMW supported charities. Watch for a sign up sheet at the Opportunity Wall in coming weeks so we can plan on your attendance! If you have any questions, please contact Linda Klepaczyk at 429-0441.

Please remember to spring forward by turning your clocks ahead 1 hour on Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 a.m.



Holy Week Worship

March 20 – Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

March 21 – Good Friday, 12:00 p.m.

March 23 – Easter Sunday, 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.



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; Mary Milem on the passing of her husband, Dallas; Janet Brennan and family on the passing of her dad.

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 is at Heartland. Mary Ruhl is at home with Hospice care.

PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS ~ For Carol Barks amazing response to her treatment; for Chris Macy's recovery; for Harry Gooch's successful procedure; Tom & Bonnie Riggs on the birth of their new grandson, Derek Joseph Fontanilla, Jr.; the Speiran family is not moving; McKenna Ducca's healing.



PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Jim & Carolyn Beal, Mary Ruhl, Helen & Wally Seitz, John Heggaton, Danny, Art Singleton, Bonnie Bender, Dave Luttenbacher, Fran Voyer, Woodie Merchant, Fran, Becky Eberle & family, Thane Stout, JoAnn McDonnell, Mary Milem, Brandon Baumann, Mrs. Abraham's granddaughter, the family of Shawn Manning, Dorothy, children who are victims of abuse, friends in the hospital, Marsha, Howard Hesperen, Ricky Richmond, Elizabeth Gasparovic, Nancy Scott, Nancy Bryon's daughter-in-law, the family of Kevin Ladd, the Pater Family, Helen Stricklen, Janice Voss, Dan Hopkins, Stacy, the family of Arlene Wilburn, Lynn Shaw's friend, Ian Innes, Linda Furbush, Cheryl Schlaff, Janet Brennan & family, Angela Marshall, those with depression, Judy Whitehead, Edna Richardson, Louis Pintarelli, Janice Voss, Angela Marshall, friends who have lost their way, Michael Vincent's mother-in-law, Jim Weller & family,

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.



Youth Missions Rummage Sale
Saturday, March 15th 2008
7:30 AM – 1:00 PM
\$6 per Bag

We Need Your Help!

Donation Drop off Times: TAKE NOTE OF CHANGES PLEASE!!!

Wednesday and Thursday – March 12th & 13th from 9 AM – 8 PM

Friday March 14th from 9 AM – 12 Noon

If you are able, please take a few minutes and help by sorting your items onto the proper tables!

We will gladly accept the following gently used items:

Most household Goods/Tools

Clothing/Shoes/Baby items

Books/CD's/Tapes/Records

Sporting Goods

Toys/Games

Small Furniture

We cannot accept the following items:

Mattresses/Box Springs/Futons/Beds

Console Stereos

Suitcases/Travel Bags/Duffle Bags

Construction Materials

Major Appliances – Sinks/Stoves, Refrigerators, Washers, Dryers

Computers

**WE WOULD LOVE ANY HELP YOU CAN GIVE SORTING
THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. SIGN-UP AT THE OPPORTUNITY
WALL OR JUST STOP IN AND HELP DURING THE DAY!**

**Thanks so much for supporting our youth in missions at Mountain
T.O.P. this July! Please talk to Emily Krach with any questions.**

Easter Flowers

The chancel of the Sanctuary will be adorned with Easter flowers for Easter Morning Worship Celebrations. The 6" potted plants are available at a cost of \$8.00 each for Single Easter Lilies or \$5.00 each for Tulips, Daffodils, or Hyacinths from Hill Top Greenhouse and Farms. They may be designated in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone, or to the glory of God.

Donors may pick up the plant after worship service on March 23. You may mail the form to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Orders must be received no later than **Friday, March 14**. Please submit your payment with your order. Make your checks payable to FUMC and put Easter Flower Fund on the memo line. If you have questions, please contact Darlene Heffelbower in the church office at 429-4730.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ORDERS IS MARCH 14.

Please print your order information

On memo line of check write: Easter Flower Fund

This plant is given in memory of: _____

This plant is given in honor of: _____

This plant is given to the glory of God: _____

Tulip ____ Hyacinth ____ Daffodil ____ Single Lily ____

Plant Given by: _____
(How you would like it to read in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.)

Contact Name: _____

Contact Telephone: _____

Worship Attendance:

Feb 24 - 476

Mar 2 - 555

Head Ushers:

Charlie Bender, Carlos Melendez, Carl Snow

Darlene Heffelbower, Patti Hogue

Greeters:

Clay and Lori Maranville

Doris Sekerka

Brenner Family

Welcome Center

Pam Heffelbower

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

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