

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church



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Traditional Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	10:10 a.m.
Contemporary Worship	11:15 a.m.

Summer Worship Hours:

Right Start	8:04 a.m.
Summer Worship	9:30 a.m.

STEEPLE NEWS

June 22, 2008

Vol. 17; No. 12

“You Just Have to Take a Swing at It”

While I write this pastor’s page for the *Steeple News* we are on a whirlwind road trip through Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania, returning to our alma mater, seeing some sites, reconnecting with friends, caring for some family business, officiating at a wedding of our nephew and welcoming a new niece into the extended family. This vacation is not going to be one of those relaxing times any more than the next few weeks are going to resemble those “lazy days of summer.” This summer is going to be a whirlwind trip for our congregation.

For those at the “*Legacy of Faith Cantata*” on June 8th you know what I’m talking about. For those who were unable to be with us that day, let me bring you up to speed. A charitable foundation within the State of Michigan has offered to us an incredible opportunity – a challenge grant. That foundation will match dollar-for-dollar every gift that we make toward the next stage of our long-range building plan, up to a maximum of \$1,000,000.

What a challenge! But do you want to know the greater challenge? The foundation’s fiscal year ends September 30, 2008 which means that to leverage their offer, we have to raise from within our congregation \$1,000,000 in the next 10 weeks. The only way that we can do this is for every one in our church family to consider what he or she might be able to contribute. But the exciting thing is this: every dollar we give will be doubled. All of you who like to get a good return on your investment, it’s like doubling your money in one day. If you give \$1,000 it will be like giving \$2,000. A \$5,000 gift will net \$10,000; a \$20,000 donation will instantly become a \$40,000 contribution toward the next stage of our building master plan, which hopefully can get underway in the spring.

The Building Committee is now meeting and grappling with what to build next and by mid-summer will be rolling out a design-concept for us to consider. Throughout July and August, we will gather in small discussion groups to glean your ideas and gather your input. But before we can ever grab hold of the challenge of building, you and I first must grasp the vision of this challenge grant, step up to the plate and take a swing at giving the most generous gift that you are able to give, maybe the largest single gift that you have ever given in your entire life. So at 9:30 am on **Sunday, September 7th** we will gather in the sanctuary to celebrate “*Miracle Sunday*.”

If this is the first time that you’ve heard about this, your head is probably whirling around as mine was when the challenge grant was first presented. Yet just think about the enormous potential. This gift offered by a foundation coupled with the combined gifts that we will offer on *Miracle Sunday* has the potential of totaling \$2,000,000, which will catapult us in the direction of our long-range goals that we as a congregation set nearly 7 years ago.

When standing at home plate, some balls are pitched toward you that are way outside, and you have to let them go; but there are others which you have to take a swing and give it everything you’ve got, and try your best for a home run. This is one of those times. Look around for the best bat that you have and start to do some warm-ups because our big win is scheduled for September 7th and I want you to know that you’re up to bat. – Pastor Tuttle

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

Teachers Touch Eternity One Heart at a Time

"My dear friends stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort" 1 Corinthians 15:58 (The Message)



Christ who has won victories for us also wins victories through us. The labor of our teachers and volunteers is never in vain because the resurrection is real. The future is secure and magnificent!

The Vacation Bible School theme this year is "Saline Community Sports Camp". It will be held Monday through Wednesday, June 23 – 25 from 9:30 to 11:30 am at Washtenaw Christian Academy. WCA is located at the corner of Moon/State Street and Michigan Avenue. Volunteers are needed to make VBS a success for our children. Please contact Mary Cameron at 944-2904 if you are able and willing to coach our kids toward Christ. Registration forms are available at the Opportunity Wall.

Do you love to foster Christian relationships? Is there a tiny tug at your heart to minister to adults? The R.O.C.K. in LOGOS Ministry is in need of a Table Parent Coordinator for the 2008-2009 ministry year. Please contact Leanne Rimnac if you are interested. A great way to be a part of the big picture... God's picture.

HAPPY SUMMER! KEEP IN TOUCH!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Right Start service is held in the Fellowship Hall with a Continental Style breakfast beginning at 7:50 am and the worship service starting at 8:04 am. A blended service will begin at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. Lemonade in the shade will follow this worship time. We will need families to host the preparation of the Continental Breakfast at the Right Start service and to prepare the lemonade for Lemonade in the Shade following the 9:30 worship service. There are simple step by step instructions for each of these ministries. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex. We also need someone to coordinate the Lemonade in the Shade refreshments for the summer. Please call Margo Perry at 223-4216 if you can help.



Infusion Youth News

Junior High

"Ultimate Night" – Sunday, June 22 – 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Ultimate Fun, Ultimate Games, Ultimate God. Please meet at the church for this activity

Putt-Putt & Ice Cream Night – Sunday, June 29th - 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Please meet at the church and we'll carpool to Putt Putt. Bring \$7 for golf, extra \$\$ for food and a friend.

Senior High

Mountain T.O.P.ers – Mountain T.O.P. training is Wednesday, June 25th at 5 pm at Steve and Pam Heffelbower's home. Training is essential for all team members. Any questions? Make sure you read through the Mountain T.O.P. packet you received in the mail now!

Summer Schedule – We ARE meeting throughout the summer! Mountain T.O.P. training will take the place of W3 on June 25th. Join us for the next W.O.W. (Wild Outta Here/Outreach Wednesday) on July 2. We will meet at Mill Pond Park at 8:00 pm. It's a night of Ultimate Frisbee and frozen treats! Invite a friend to join in the fun!



Habitat for Humanity

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Habitat for Humanity building project. The Ann Arbor District is building one house per year with help from district churches. Currently they have all Saturday work slots filled and they are seeking volunteers who are able to work during the week. If you are interested in helping with mission work on a local level please contact Jeff Cunkle at 944-0145 or by email at jcunkle@comcast.net. Dick Cunkle can also be reached at 429-5737, 845-6254, or by email at ccu4292491@aol.com.

Saline Area Social Service Donations

Many of you have expressed the desire to help Saline families who are in need of assistance throughout the year. Saline Social Service is experiencing a lower than usual food supply. We wanted to inform past donors and the community of Saline of a need for food and monetary donations. Please contact the Saline Area Social Service office for further information. The phone number is 734-429-4570 and the mailing address is 131 E. Michigan Ave., P.O. Box 404, Saline, MI 48176.

FAIR KITCHEN



The Saline Community Fair will begin on September 1, 2008. The First United Methodist Church of Saline runs a full service kitchen beginning September 2, which includes a lunch and dinner menu. It takes many volunteers to fill all of the necessary slots to make things run smoothly. You will be able to sign up for a volunteer job in which you'll join others in a time of hard work and fun. Please mark your calendars for September 2 through September 6. The sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex next month. Also, please keep in mind that August 29th through September 4th we will be accepting donations of tomatoes from your garden.



Tools and Supplies Needed 2008 Youth Mission Trip



The Senior High Youth will be traveling to Tennessee July 12-20 to serve on mission teams through Mountain T.O.P., Tennessee Outreach Project. You have been wonderful supporting our fundraising projects throughout the year including two rummage sales, the pretzel bake, the silent auction, and a bake sale. Along with our financial requirements to participate in this program, we need supplies and tools for the trip. We are asking our church family to sign-up to loan the tools we don't already own and provide other supplies. The loaned tools will be required from July 6 through July 22. The tools are labeled by color for our church, we also ask you to put your name in permanent marker on all of your tools. They are carefully inventoried and cared for, but of course there is always a risk. We will repair or replace anything that is lost or damaged. We ask for tools to be in good working condition, sharpened if appropriate. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall if you can help.

Items such as work gloves, drop cloths, wasp spray, safety glasses, etc. will not be returned. If you have questions please contact Pam Heffelbower, 429-4536. Tools can be dropped off in Room H from June 29-July 6; and picked up July 22-25. Please join us as we serve God by serving His people.

Thank you for your continued support to Mission work and our High School Youth.

Miracle Sunday – September 7, 2008

Have you heard the incredible news? We have the opportunity to receive a \$1,000,000 Challenge Grant to add additional facility space to support the ministry of the First United Methodist Church of Saline. Yes, it's for real, and we have accepted the challenge! The ministry possibilities being made available with this matching funds grant are very exciting. If you would like to be at the epicenter of this miracle-in-motion please consider joining the Miracle Sunday Planning Team and making yourself available for God to utilize your gifts in His amazing plan. We are laying ourselves at His feet in this journey to 9/7/08. Sign up at the Opportunity Wall, or talk to Pam Heffelbower, or come to a Team informational session led by Reverend Denny Buwalda from the United Methodist Foundation on Tuesday, June 24 at 7:00 pm. This session will take place here at the church.



What's Your Vision?

Your building committee would like to hear your ideas about what our next priorities in ministry, program, and facility space should be. You may speak personally with any member of the current committee, or write your ideas down and place them in the Miracle box at the Opportunity Wall. Last time we were preparing to build, God laid the same message on most everyone's heart which was Christian education space and classrooms. Please pray and listen, and share what He is saying to YOU.

Building Committee: Dale Padding, Dana Beil, Brian Hogue, Darlene Heffelbower, Dale Adkins, Tim Griffin, Dave Drenning, Pam Heffelbower, Jim Tuttle.

Many Thanks

Dave and Ann Babcock would like to thank the church family at First United Methodist Church of Saline for the meals and support over the past couple of months after the birth and extended hospital stay of their son Sam.



Volunteers in Mission Teams Forming

The Detroit Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Teams are forming now to build a house in New Orleans as part of Hurricane Katrina recovery, through the UMCOR Northshore Disaster Recovery Center. Volunteers can be scheduled on a team that matches their availability from a time frame of September 13th through December 14th, 2008.

For more information, please visit the website <http://www.getinthecar.org> or contact Eric Miller at emiller629@comcast.net.

Another VIM event is the Third Spirit's Fire Fundraising Event on August 23, 2008. Biking the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail in Midland, Michigan is being hosted by New Hope UMC. All that is needed is a willingness to ride a bike, sponsor a bike rider, or be on a prayer team. To register or for more information call New Hope UMC at 586-781-6577.

J.O.Y. FELLOWSHIP AT JOE BONDIE'S HOME

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 July 17 at



noon. We are invited to the home of Joe Bondie. His address is 340 Pondview, which is just north of the American Legion Hall. If you would like to carpool, please meet at the church at 11:45 am. It is very important that we know how many people are coming so please 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Bethany Walters, Edward & Jewel Francis, Bonnie Bender, Siga Kazlan, Patty, Ruthie, Genny, Dorothy, Alice Tonks, Kathy Christman, Arloa Jennings, Susan Gates' friend Lisa's family, Theresa, Elizabeth Gasparovic, Kat Wood, Clarissa Oliver, the Duty family's friend Crissy, Elizabeth Hespen, Caryn Datson's uncle, Frank, the Treber's sister-in-law, Susan, Stan Sekerka, Lisa Marshall, for earthquake victims, the people in Myanmar, flood victims, Shirley, Dave, Nancy McCune's father Dick Lord, Jennifer Cunkle's mom, Patti Morgan, Todd McGrill, Charlie & Elsie Rambo, Darren Blanchard, Justin Sweet.

Please pray for those in special living situations. At EVH we have Juleen Dodge, Alice Tonks, Anna Reese, and Chuck Heiserman. At Sunrise we have Phyllis West. Genny Singleton and Lois Gray are at Heartland.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~ Doug & Wanda Beard on the passing of his aunt, Sherley Eiseler; Cindy & John Bonczyk on the passing of her father, Robert Siefert; Janet Brennan & family on the passing of her cousin's son.

PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS ~ Our handbell ringers, and subs; purchase of bells from the Memorial Committee; our wonderful Sunday School teachers; family who support us; Sam Babcock's much anticipated arrival home; the new Saline library; for time spent with family; Bonnie Bender's good medical test results; successful surgery for both Dave Luttenbacher and his mom; Martha Gilveli's grandson's Nick's safe return home from Iraq; the birth of Jack Logan to Christopher and Jennifer Wilczynski; birth of Camryn Joy Nadig to Erik and Christi Nadig and grandparents Carroll and Sandy Nadig; Alpha House Mission Team.

MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES ~ J.T. St. Denis; Bennett Phipps; Timothy Frisbee, son of Pam & Gene Frisbee; Nick Gilveli; Kevin Raymond, son of Susan Raymond; Bobby Singh; 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; Nathan Miller, son of Jeff & Susan Miller; Benjamin Cripe; Derek Burge; Justin Burge.



Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

The Message ~ 1 Peter 4:12-13

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 22 – JULY 5, 2008

22 Sunday 8:04a Right Start Service 9:30a Worship Service 6:30p Jr. High Youth Group	23 Monday 7:30a Stephen Ministry – Rm C 9:00a VBS @ WCA 10:00a Shawl Ministry 7:00p Church Council Rm A	24 Tuesday 9:00a VBS @ WCA 9:30a WISE – Rm O/P	25 Wednesday 9:00a VBS @ WCA 10:00a UMW Executive – Rm C 12:30p Quilting – Rm F 5:00p MT TOP Training @ Heffelbowers	26 Thursday 9:30a Prayer Ministry 10:00a Brecon Worship 6:30p HOMMIES - Parlor 7:00p Stephen Ministry	27 Friday Staff Retreat 6:00p Wedding Rehearsal	28 Saturday 3:30p Wedding
29 Sunday MT TOP Tools - Rm H 8:04a Right Start Service 9:30a Worship Service 6:30p Jr. High Youth Group	30 Monday MT TOP Tools - Rm H 10:00a Shawl Ministry 7:00p VBS – Rm F	1 Tuesday MT TOP Tools - Rm H 9:15a WISE – Rm O/P 7:00p POMTF – Rm F	2 Wednesday MT TOP Tools - Rm H 12:30p Quilting – Rm F 8:00p Sr. High WWW	3 Thursday MT TOP Tools - Rm H 9:30a Prayer Ministry Rm C 7:30p Flying Club	4 Friday MT TOP Tools - Rm H 10:30a Wedding Rehearsal	5 Saturday MT TOP Tools - Rm H 5:00p Wedding 8:00p Christ Riders

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is ***Monday, June 30th at 12:00 p.m.*** Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter ***Thursday, July 3rd*** in Room F at 8:30 a.m.

Head Ushers:

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

Worship Attendance:

June 8 - 496
June 15 - 365



Greeters:

June 22 and June 29
Frank & Karen Smole

Welcome Center

June 22 and June 29
Doug & Linda Dillon

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

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