

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church



Pastor: Dr. James E. Tuttle
Deacon: Rev. Laura Speiran

Phone: (734) 429-4730
Fax: (734) 429-3500
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

September 28, 2008

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 17; No. 19

Miracle Sunday Offering Tops \$870,000

Tuesday afternoon we compiled the final tally for *Miracle Sunday*, and I faxed the foundation offering us the matching grant with this total of our cash gifts on hand and the 113 pledges that many of you made:

Gifts received (as of noon on September 23 rd)	-	\$555,928.19
113 Pledges (payable over the next 36 months)	-	<u>\$314,485.48</u>
Total Contributions to be matched	-	\$870,413.67

What an outpouring of generous support! Wow! During a summer when we've been so inundated with one depressing national financial report after another and during a week of one failed Wall Street firm after another, we were able to report that the people of First United Methodist Church of Saline have chosen to walk the path of faith rather than crawl into the tunnel of fear. Even with pessimistic prospects looming on the horizon, this congregation made the clear choice to make a statement of faith and then to step and act on that faith. There were over 350 families who worked and gave and/or pledged, bringing our total to well over \$870,000.

In addition to the wonderfully generous cash gifts and pledges, many of you were so creative in ways of earning additional money toward the matching gift offer. Some of these that come to mind include Kristi Cundiff's gold party, Leanne Rimnac's golf lessons for children, the senior high youth car wash and can & bottle drive, Arloa Jennings' jewelry and jewelry repair, Dawn Ducca's "Tastefully Simple" food party, Daile and Dorothy Held's lemonade stand, Saralyn and Kaylee Klepaczyk's beaded bookmarks, Millie Shedd's 500+ candy suckers, and all the people who took Shirley Padding's S.O.S. ("Sell Our Services") challenge and offered such things as homemade bread, soup, bread and dessert, knitted dishcloths, piano lessons, T-shirt quilts, speech therapy, computer repair, party balloon animals, *Music Together* classes, personal photo book, and an offer of time spent with senior adults. In addition to these was the antique auction led by Earl and Edna Laughrey and sponsored by Lloyd and Judy Whitehead, with Christi Patteri selling remaining auction items on eBay during this past week.

Various church groups, such as our Quilters, Shawl Ministry and Endowment Committee made donations. Their gifts added to the profit from three bake sales hosted by the Missions Team, the Fair Kitchen, Friday Night Dinner Fund and the Antique Auction totaled nearly \$25,000 toward our Miracle Sunday Offering.

I know that I've forgotten to include others, who so generously gave of their money as well as their time to this twelve-week project. However, I particularly was overwhelmed by the nearly twenty children who gave from their weekly allowances this summer toward our building project. What happened in our lives, in our families, and in our church truly was a miracle. We praise God for these gifts, but more importantly, for the gift of God's people of Saline First United Methodist Church. Thanks for making *Miracle Sunday* happen. -- Pastor Jim

FOUNDATIONS CLASS

You are invited and encouraged to come to the *Foundations Class*, from 10:10–11:10 am in Room F, beginning TODAY. We will be using a book entitled, *Beliefs of a United Methodist Christian*. Copies will be available in class, if you wish to do outside reading. If you do not have a Bible and would like one, please come to this class and we will give you one! Please direct any question to Rev. Laura Speiran, who will be the facilitator.

BIBLE STUDY OF THE LETTERS OF JOHN

The Adult Bible Study Group facilitated by Bruce Moss and Dave Drenning, will be starting a study based on the three letters of the apostle John which are 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. This in depth study and discussion will follow the conclusion of our earlier study of the Gospel of John. We will meet in Room C on Sunday morning from 10:10–11:00 am. All adults are welcome to attend.

PARENTING CLASS

Are you worried about the mass media and surrounding culture winning your child's soul? Join the Parenting Class as they study the book "The Culture-Wise Family" by Ted Beahr. Work your way through learning what it means to equip yourself to help your child to be the best he/she can be while standing on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ in a secular world. Understand the influence of culture and the mass media of entertainment. Learn the susceptibility of children at each stage of development, who the major players in the entertainment industry are and what messages they are sending; and learn how to protect your family from toxic media messages. This group meets in the Parlor. If you have questions, please contact facilitator Susie Treber at 429-1840.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

We are looking for 25 different Christmas memories that will be used to create a devotional booklet for advent. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please put your story in the box on the table at the Opportunity Wall before October 15. If you would like to help with this project or if you have additional questions, please contact Blair West at 429-4217 or at ark8lar@peoplepc.com.

SPANISH CD'S NEEDED ~ If you have Spanish language CD's the Missions Team would like to borrow them. They are looking for the Rosetta Stone series but will take any. Please contact Dale Adkins or B Melendez.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our church conference this year will be on Sunday, October 26. The potluck dinner will begin at 6:30 pm followed by the meeting at 7:30 pm. Please bring a main dish and a side dish to pass.

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 October 16, 2008 at 12 noon. If you have never been to J.O.Y., but have thought about coming, this is the month to try us out! Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall or call the church office.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

The next new member class will be held on Saturday, October 18 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. This class will cover topics such as: what it means to be a Christian, church history, Wesley theology, vows of membership, stewardship, and what goes on at Saline First United Methodist Church. If you are thinking about making this church your home church, or have questions about what that would mean, you are encouraged to attend. There is no cost and lunch is provided. Free childcare is available, if needed (please give one week's notice). Participants of the class who choose to join will be received as members on Sunday, October 19 at the 9:00 am service. Church membership can be a significant step on your faith journey. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rev. Laura Speiran, who will be facilitating the class. Please call the church to register (429-4730) or sign up at the Opportunity Wall.

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN

There will be a four-week therapeutic support group for women experiencing divorce. This group will meet beginning Wednesday, October 1 for four consecutive Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm and will be facilitated by Sally Schmall, MSW. There is a limit of 6 women in the group. Please contact Rev. Laura Speiran, Minister of Congregational Care to register for this group.

SCRAPBOOKS!

Have you been meaning to get those pictures into albums but just haven't had time? Come join us on Saturday, September 27th from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in Room H to work on your scrapbooks. Contact Cheryl Schlaff at (734)417-3951 or cheryl@fumc-saline.org to get all the details.

UMW NEWS

The October monthly gathering will be held on October 7 at 7:00 pm in Room C. Wayne Banks will present an interesting and relevant program on "Globalization." The evening is being hosted by the Ruth and Esther Circles. Please join us. If you have any questions about the UMW, please contact Kay Richmond at 944-6234.

Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle will meet on Monday, October 6 at 9:30 am in Room H. We will be planning the Gift of Hope project and making Christmas ornaments. Sylvia Korte is responsible for refreshments. For further information, please contact Sylvia Korte at 517-423-7881.

Esther Circle

Esther Circle will meet on Monday, October 6 at 12:30 pm at the home of Millie Webster 583 Sycamore Circle). Doris Sekerka will be co-hostess. Please contact Mary Lirones at 429-7332 for further information.

Susanna Circle

Susanna Circle will meet on Monday, October 6 at 7:00 pm. in the church parlor. Lil Vaughan will present the devotions. Should you have questions, please call Linda Glaspie at 429-2918.

GRIEF SUPPORT

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Keystone Community Church is sponsoring an 8-week grief workshop, "From Grief to New Hope," beginning on Thursday, October 2 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. New Hope Center for Grief Support, a Christian-based bereavement outreach center located in Northville, Michigan, will be presenting this free workshop. Each week's session will begin with a lecture about a particular aspect of grief followed by small groups led by trained facilitators. The intention is to have groups with a similar loss in common; for example, those who have gone through the loss of a spouse, or parent, etc. Combining education about the grief process, normalizing the symptoms and walking alongside others who are experiencing a similar loss has proven to be the very best way to help people who are facing the death of a loved one. If you know someone who is dealing with the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, or another significant person in their lives, please let them know this program is available. For more information please contact Keystone's Care Ministry Director, Dee Dee Rhoades, at 944-5397.

FUTURE DRIVERS WORKSHOP

Is your teen anticipating drivers' education in the next 1-2 years? Come to "Dare to Prepare," a free workshop by AAA Michigan and sponsored by our church. It will be held on Tuesday, October 7, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at SUMC. The graduated driver's license will be explained, as well as state requirements for obtaining one, what to look for in a driving school, practical tips on teaching teens to drive, parent resources and more! Refreshments will be served, and there will be a drawing for a \$50 gas card. The director of the drivers' education program for Saline Community Ed will be in attendance and available for questions. Please call the church office, 429-4730, to RSVP. This is open to the community, so please tell your friends.

"GIMME SHELTER"

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (INH) keeps families together when hardship lands them without a roof over their heads. Without the temporary shelter and support services INH provides, children would be placed elsewhere by the state, separated from their parents. On Saturday, October 11, IHN will hold their annual fundraiser, an evening at the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College, with the theme of "Gimme Shelter." The event runs from 6:30 to 9:30 pm (silent auction preview at 6:00) and will feature a fabulous strolling dinner; silent auction, and live music by MannaFest. Tickets are \$40 in advance/\$45 at the door (children under 6 years old are free). Go to the website www.alphahouse-ihn.org for more information.

C.R.O.P. WALK

On Sunday, October 12, we are the starting and ending point for the Saline Area C.R.O.P. Walk.

C.R.O.P. stands for "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty" and is an arm

of Church World Service. For over 50 years, C.R.O.P. has worked to help the hungry become self-sustaining. You can support C.R.O.P. by walking, sponsoring another walker, or serving food after the walk. Registration for the walk is at 1:30 pm, and the walk begins at 2:00 pm. The route is a 3-mile loop to downtown Saline (or an optional 1-mile shortcut), with hot food served at the end of the walk. The website www.cropwalkonline.org makes a one-touch appeal very easy! Fundraising packets are available from Margo Perry (429-7471) or in the church office.



PARISH NURSE NEWS

FREE flu shots will be given at the church on Sunday, October 12 from 8:45 to 11:15 am to anyone 12 years of age or older. The Evangelical Home received a grant to fund free flu shots and they are offering us this wonderful opportunity. There is a sign up sheet at the Opportunity Wall. Please sign up and include the number of people in your family who will be getting the vaccine.

St. Joseph's Hospital is now offering FREE fitness classes for seniors age 55 and older. The dates are: November 3–December 19 and January 5–February 20. Classes will be held at the Senior Health Building on the campus of the hospital on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10:15 to 11:00 am. Call 800-231-2211 for more information or to register.

FUNERAL PLANNING SEMINAR

There is a community-wide informational seminar on what is involved in planning a funeral for yourself or a loved one on Thursday, October 16 at 2:00 pm at Saline First UMC in the Fellowship Hall. This seminar is being presented by Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home. This is a sensitive topic that people do not like to discuss, but what better way to handle things than to plan ahead and also let family know what your wishes are. Also, if you are a caregiver for an elderly parent, come and get your questions answered, so you can plan effectively and compassionately for the future. Different options, costs, and concerns (such as Advance Health Directives, Medicaid) will be discussed. Please note that this is an informational seminar only—nothing is being sold. Rev. Laura Speiran will be there to offer a planning worksheet on a funeral service that can be used for any church. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served. If you have questions please contact Deacon Laura in the church office.

EVENING ADULT COURSE OFFERED

An 8-week class entitled, "Love Your God With All Your Mind: The Role of Religion in the Life of the Soul" will be offered beginning October 1 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in Room F. The class will be taught by Al Powell, former Director of Adult Education at First Presbyterian Church of Flint. Please sign up for this class at the Opportunity Wall.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Quilt Auction and Mini Bazaar

Saturday, November 1, 2008

Watch for details in upcoming Steeple News and bulletin.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

"Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives – especially the ability to prophesy."

1 Corinthians 14:1 NLT

October 11 and November 8 – Safe Sanctuaries Training, 9:00 to 11:30 am. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex if you have not been trained.

November 3 – Detroit Annual Conference-level child protection policy training, 6:00 to 9:00 pm. This is a Safe Sanctuaries Training at the United Methodist Conference level. In order to volunteer in taking our children, youth, or vulnerable adults to conference level events you must have this training. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex.

INFUSION YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Junior High Youth Group

Join us Sunday nights 6:30 to 8:00 pm for youth group which includes games, snacks, discussion, friends, and fun! Please join us.

Dinner & Drama – All 7th and 8th graders are invited to Dinner and Drama on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. It's a chance to eat together, followed by a time of preparing and practicing skits and dramas for worship. Come every week if you can, but the dinner table is always open whenever you can make it. No registration or payment is required but a freewill donation to help cover the cost of the meals will be accepted.

Confirmation Class – Confirmation class for second-year students begins this on October 8. Students will meet once a month on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm through May, 2009.

First-year confirmation class, for young people in 7th grade or older, has already begun; if you still wish to sign your child up for this class, contact Emily Krach at 429-4730 (ext. 32) or at krachem@hotmail.com

Senior High Youth Group

Wild Worship Wednesdays, i.e., W3 – It's a night of connecting with friends and connecting with God made just for high school students. Join us on Wednesdays, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm for W3. Make worship a part of your Wednesday night!

SPECIAL THANKS

Dear Friends-

We have been so deeply touched, blessed, and comforted by your love and prayers. Seven years seems so short for a life, but our son Luke made much of those years and we miss him terribly. But, it has also been a joy to see how many lives he has touched and to know that we do not mourn alone. We look forward to seeing him again one day. The words of scripture tell us, "Do not mourn as those who have no hope... We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him." (I Thes. 4:14). Please continue to pray for our family now and throughout this year.

Love, Jonathon, Jeanette, Max, Aaron, and Joel

Well over 300 children in Mexico, Washtenaw County and the city of Saline have back packs and school supplies this year because of your generosity. We wish that each of you could hear the appreciation from the teams that serve these children directly and who know how important this is to their future. Thanks very much for your support of this program.

- SUMC Missions Team

"My parents (grandparents) will not be angry that I am selling these items, because the money goes to the church." Edna and I heard this many times as the generous members of SUMC donated items for the Miracle Sunday Auction. A great big thank you to those who donated items, to those who spent time and energy moving items, to those who helped organize and run the auction, and to those who came and bid on the items. Your efforts raised a total of \$6,174, which will be doubled by our matching grant. Again, thank you all!

- Earl and Edna Laughrey

CASS MISSION TRIP

Carlos and B Melendez enjoyed another summer mission trip with the people of the Cass Avenue United Methodist Church of Detroit. "Our project was to rehab a one-bedroom apartment in a 58-unit apartment building that Cass Social Services has purchased, with plans to provide housing there for homeless women," explained B Melendez. Thanks to the team they finished that apartment and worked on five other apartments. It was truly wonderful to see how everyone worked together. Thank you to all who have supported us at SUMC through bake sales, donations and prayers. There is so much good work being done at Cass, and Carlos and I are pleased to be involved. I would also like to report that two of the youth from our mission team have graduated from high school and are attending Wayne State this year. In the Cass corridor this is truly a miracle.

PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS ~ The Kohler family's successful move to Clarkston; Carol Barks' good medical news; Kathy Richmond's new job; Stan Sekerka's recovery; for God's love; for all the work Edna & Earl Laughrey put into the auction; that the night watchman moved into the apartment prepared for him by the Cass Mission Team; those who participated in the 1 day mission project; the successful Youth Missions Rummage Sale.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL LIVING SITUATIONS ~ Alice Tonks, Anna Reese, Juleen Dodge, and Linnie Mae Scott at EVH. Phyllis West is at Sunrise.



OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~ Pam & Steve Bebber and family on the loss of her brother Kirk Johnson; LuAnn & Gary Chriscinske and family on the passing of her mother, JoAnn Ryon.

PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Kathy Kirkland, Geoff Acree, Jacquelyn Macy, Patricia Morgan, Carter Beil, Rich Oberfill, Lisa Marshall, George & Nola Irelan, Gail Karaman, Rose Everhart, Darren Blanchard, Justin Sweet, the family of Ben Rodgers, Kathy & Jay Gill, the family of Joe Barton, David Luttenbacher, Art Miller, Lois Jaeger, Bill & Dawn Meyer, Jeff Turner, Robin's sister, Ethan Callen-Weaver, Lois & Bud Gray, Anna Reese, Chuck, Nick Turosky, Marsha Knight, Julie Kessler, Samantha Shearson, the Crossey family, Bud & Lois Wisley, Dick Nelson, the family of Laurie Fry, Paul Bunten, Chuck Zander, Autumn, Steve Stricklen, Dorothy, Bonnie's Buddies, those who have lost loved ones, those who do not believe in Jesus, safe travels, those affected by hurricanes, for marriages in trouble.

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.



CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 11, 2008

28 Sunday BAKE SALE 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p Jr. High Youth 6:30p Girl Scouts	29 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 3:00p Girl Scouts	30 Tuesday 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:00a WISE 4:45p Music Together 7:00p Old Testament Study	1 Wednesday 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Bible Study 12:30p Quilting 3:00p R.O.C.K. in LOGOS 5:00p Divorce Support Grp 5:30p Jr. High Dinner/Drama 6:30p Praise Team 7:00p Confirmation Class 7:00p Adult Education: "Love God..." 7:00p Building Committee 8:00p Sr. High WWW	2 Thursday 9:00a Lil. SAINTS 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 6:00p Brownie Troop 792 6:15p Orchestra 6:30p Cubs Den 3 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Choir 7:00p Cubs Den 2 7:00p Cubs Den 5 7:00p Cubs Den 1 7:30p Hand Bells 7:30p Flying Club	3 Friday 6:00p Wedding Rehearsal	4 Saturday 11:00a Christ Riders - Chelsea 1:00p Private Party 3:30p Wedding
5 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 3:00p EVH Worship Svc 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p GS Troop 1309 6:30p Jr. High Youth	6 Monday 9:30a Hannah Circle 10:00a Shawl Ministry 12:30 Ester Circle (offsite) 3:00p GS Troop 824 7:00p Staff Parish 7:00p Susanna Circle	7 Tuesday 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:00a WISE 12:30p Ruth Circle 4:45p Music Together 6:30p AAA Driver Info 7:00p Cubs Pack 461 Leader Meeting 7:00p Old Testament Study 7:00p Print/Online Media Task Force	8 Wednesday 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Bible Study 12:30p Quilting 3:00p R.O.C.K. in LOGOS 5:00p Divorce Support Grp 5:30p Jr.High Dinner/Drama 6:30p Praise Team 7:00p 1 st & 2 nd Year Confirmation Class 7:00p Adult Education: "Love God..." 7:00p Building Committee 8:00p Sr. High WWW	9 Thursday 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 6:15p Orchestra 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Choir 7:00p Cubs Den 2 7:00p Cubs Den 5 7:00p Cubs Den 1 7:30p Hand Bells	10 Friday 6:30p Wedding Rehearsal	11 Saturday 3:30p Wedding

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, October 6 at 12:00 pm.** Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, October 9** in Room F at 8:30 am. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

Worship Attendance:

Sept 14 - 501
 Sept 21 - 518



Head Ushers:

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

Greeters:

Sept 28 9:00a Hovde Family
 11:15a Fillinger Family
 Oct 5 9:00a Bill and Sigrid Hermon
 11:15a Evans Family

Welcome Center:

Mary Hess

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 1200 North Ann Arbor Street
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