

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church



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

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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

November 16, 2008

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 17; No. 22

Deciding & Declaring

President-elect Barack Obama is working closely with his transition team setting priorities, selecting presidential appointments, strengthening policy decisions and projecting plans as he moves toward his inauguration in the first month of 2009. Particularly this year for our country, but in reality the beginning of every fiscal year for any group or any institution is a time to start writing the next chapter of that group's life-history, its living biography. Unmistakably this fall's stewardship campaign, wrapping-up our 175th anniversary year, is about moving us forward toward a bi-centennial celebration in which some of us will participate 25 years from now. We've had a marvelous year of looking back in appreciation of God's leading in bringing us to this point in time. The overwhelming support for our Miracle Sunday was a clear mandate, challenging us to be about moving forward in anticipation of God's continual leading, as we move into the next chapter in our congregation's life together.

Because our fellowship hall is a polling place for one precinct in Saline, on Tuesday, November 4th hundreds of people from our community came here and voted; and in doing so, indicated the direction they wanted to see our country go in the immediate years ahead. On Sunday, November 23rd, Consecration Sunday, we will again be a polling place, and once more several hundred people will gather here to vote. This time the electorate will come from our church community, and with their vote they will determine the direction our church will take for the coming year. On this occasion, our ballot will be cast with the “*Beyond the Miracle*” estimate of giving card.

Some might think that comparing our church's future with a national election is a bit of a stretch. However, by the time we celebrate our 200th Anniversary, potentially there will be between 3 to 6 different administrations in Washington; yet, as God continues to bless and lead us, we will still be serving Christ here in this community. Oh, there'll be different leaders in our congregation also; yet we will be utilizing the facilities and enhancing the ministries we are now developing, for we're not in this work for the short term; we're in it for the long-run.

What excited me about Miracle Sunday and what so excites me about expanding the ministries of First UMC of Saline in the coming years is that what we're about is investing our lives in something that will outlast our lives. Yes, like in our personal lives, we have to spend time, energy and money just to meet our day to day needs. But I want to invest some of my time and energy and financial resources...some of my life into something that is far greater than just meeting today's needs today. I want to be about something that has eternal significance.

That's why I'm going to be voting with my commitment card on November 23rd. Our present decisions will determine our future directions. So gather with us here on Sunday, November 23rd and cast your vote stating the direction in which you want your church to go in 2009. Come...make a difference – a difference in our congregation for the coming year and a difference in people's lives for years to come; in fact, come and make an eternal difference.

-- Pastor Jim



Thanksgiving Bake Sale

November 23rd

Donations for this bake sale will support:
The Upper Class Scholarship Fund

EVERYONE'S JOB, EVERYONE'S JOY

When was the last time you heard someone say, "That is the pastor's job," when referring to some aspect of ministry? Ministry is *not* just the job (or, better yet, the opportunity) of the clergy. The opportunity and responsibility for doing ministry *has been given to all Christians*. The upcoming Stephen Ministry training class is a chance to be trained and equipped for doing ministry. Talk to any of our Stephen Ministers; they will tell you that it is a joyous privilege to share Christ's love with others. Is this chance for ministry the one for you? Please give it some prayerful consideration. Class will begin in January, 2009. For questions or an application, please see or call either Bobbe Hinsman, Training Coordinator at (734) 429-0716, or Rev. Laura Speiran at (734) 429-4730.

J.O.Y. FELLOWSHIP

J.O.Y. stands for "Just Older Youth!" (This is a group for those 55 and older.) Come for lunch, fun, and fellowship. Our next get-together is on November 20 at 12:00 noon. Don't miss it. Our new chef, Joe Luben, doesn't want you to get tired of eating turkey this month, so he is preparing *meatloaf*, and *neatloaf* – *neatloaf* is meatloaf made from tofu. Come to lunch and have a chance to taste this new dish. You are invited to make a \$5.00 donation for the lunch, but it is not required. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall, or call Rev. Laura Speiran in the church office if you have any questions or dietary concerns.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD The Journey of an "Operation Christmas Child" Shoe Box

Please turn in your filled shoe box on November 16. If you miss the November 16 deadline, you may drop your shoe box off at Keystone Church on Waters Road.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

The Children's Christmas program will be on December 7 during the 11:15 am worship service. The chancel choir cantata, *Child of Wonder*, will be during both the 9:00 am and the 11:15 am worship services on December 14. Christmas Eve worship services will be at 5:00 pm (Family Worship), 7:00 pm (Communion Worship), and 11:00 pm (Candlelight Worship).

MUSIC TOGETHER CLASSES

Music Together classes for children ages birth to 5 years and their parents or caregivers, will again be offered at the church this winter. The new session begins in January 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 winter class schedule, please visit our website at www.HandInHandMT.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

*"For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble.
You surround me with songs of victory." Psalm 32:7*

The Children's Christmas Program will be on December 7th during the 11:15 am worship service.

The R.O.C.K. in LOGOS ministry is looking for hearts and minds that enjoy serving our 2 1/2 - 5 year old class. We bring the Word of God into the hearts and minds of 11-15 little ones each Wednesday that R.O.C.K. in Logos meets. We need help between the hours of 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm. If you are able to serve at some point within this time frame please call Patsy Held at 487-3158 or Leanne Rinnac at 429-4730, ext. 409.

Register Now for Session II of R.O.C.K. in LOGOS

We are now accepting registrations for the Winter/Spring session (Session II), January 14 to May 13 (Carnival Day). A drop box, along with registration forms for new families, is available at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex. There is no fee for Pre-K thru Kindergarten, but a registration form must be on file. Returning families do not need to fill out a registration form, but please let us know if any of your information has changed. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Herrick at 429-4235.

INFUSION UPDATE

Junior High

Dinner and Drama – All 7th and 8th graders are invited to Dinner and Drama on Wednesday, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. We will eat dinner together as a group and then prepare and practice as a drama team. Join us every Wednesday in room F.

Senior High

Life Together Groups (LT Groups) – Pick up an info/sign up sheet now to be a part of an LT group on Sunday's at Emily's place from 4:00 to 6:00 pm with dinner included. This is a chance for you to be in a small group of guys or girls and share your lives together through prayer, discussion, and Bible Study every Sunday. Groups are made of the same students of the same gender throughout the year. Meals shared are made by participating families, and YOU will have a chance to grow deeper in your faith in your LT group. Pick up the info sheet now and turn in your form to Emily.

Wild Worship Wednesday (W3)—It's a night of connecting with friends and connecting with God made for senior high youth. Join us every Wednesday from 8:00 to 9:30 pm.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday November 23rd after the 11:15 worship service the Christmas decorations will be taken out of storage. We'll need many hands and young legs to take the items from the "bowling alley" to the Fellowship Hall. This job is not time consuming but it does include some lifting and walking. In the past, many teens have stayed to help with this task but all ages are needed and welcome. Monday, November 24th beginning at 10:00 am the fluffing/sorting of greens will begin in the Fellowship Hall and the tree will be assembled in the Narthex. This is a time for putting things together. Tuesday, November 25th beginning at 3:30 pm the final decorating will take place in the sanctuary and around the church. Dinner will be available in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30 pm. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. All help is greatly appreciated!

Yes, we do know it's Thanksgiving week bring your family to enjoy fellowship with the church family.

THANK YOU

Thank you very much to everyone who brought us meals following the birth of our daughter Claire. We are thankful to be a part of such a wonderful church family!

Sincerely,

Mike, Mandy, Grace and Claire Oberski

THANK YOU

Thank you to Dale Adkins, Dan Campbell and Bob Gaspie for spreading 10 yards of mulch in the play area.

Dick Cunkle, Trustee

UMW NEWS

UMW Christmas Potluck

Ladies, join us for the annual UMW Potluck on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will share a delicious holiday meal and fellowship, followed by joyful singing of Christmas carols and the installation of officers for the upcoming year. Bring your favorite dish to share and your own table service. Also, please bring a Christmas gift for residents of Whitehall Nursing Home. Please attach an easily removable label to the wrapped gift to assist the staff in selecting gifts for residents. A list of suggested gift items may be found in the Narthex. For further information, contact Kay Richmond at 944-6234.

Hannah Circle will have a Christmas Brunch at the home of Linda Klepaczkyk on Monday, December 1 at 9:30 am. Please bring a Christmas ornament for the ornament exchange. Child care will be provided at the church. You may drop off your children at the church beginning at 9:15 am. Please bring a friend and join us for a wonderful time of food, fellowship and fun. Please RSVP to Linda at 734-429-0441 if you plan to join us.

PARADE CAROLING & POPCORN HANDOUT

Thanks to Linda Jeffries, we have bags of popcorn to pass out at the December 6 Holiday Parade. Anyone who would like to do some caroling, or to just hand out popcorn, may come to the area in front of the Accent Jewelers from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. before the parade. Please sign up on the sheet in narthex so we have an idea of how many carolers to expect. If you have questions, please contact Margo Perry by calling 429-7471.

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, December 6 from 11:00–5:00 pm in Room H for a chance to get those pictures organized. Contact Cheryl Schlaff at (734)417-3951 or cheryl@fumc-saline.org if you plan on coming.

GOING GREEN FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR?

The beautiful items ordered from Evergreen Christmas Decorations in Riga, Michigan can be picked up at the church on Sunday, November 23, from 5-7 pm, or on Monday, November 24, from 6-7 pm. For questions please contact Nate or Nicole Lampman at 429-7547.

SAVE SEBBY

NATIONAL BONE MARROW REGISTRY

We are requesting prayers for the grandson of friends in California.

Sebastian Moustirats (<http://savesebby.com/>) is 18 months old and was born with a rare immune deficiency syndrome known as Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome (WAS). WAS is characterized by the increased tendency to bleed caused by a reduced number of platelets. Those afflicted with WAS also suffer recurrent bacterial, viral and fungal infections as well as eczema of the skin. He can only survive if he receives a marrow transplant. There are two ways you can help.

- 1) Register to save a life by joining the National Marrow Registry. The procedure is a simple cheek swab. More information is available by calling 800-471-3020 or by visiting the following website: <http://www.marrow.org/HELP/>.
- 2) If you know anyone in the San Francisco Bay Area who would be interested in becoming a platelet donor for Sebastian, they can contact Carlene Vasquez at the Stanford Blood Bank, (650) 723-6667, to schedule a pre-screening.

The more individuals registered in the National Marrow Registry, the greater the chances for a match for Sebbby. Although, you may not be a match for Sebbby, there are a lot of people for whom you may be a match. As you look at the National Marrow Registry website, you can see the need to increase the number of potential donors. Please think about taking steps to register or to encourage family, friends, and neighbors to register. Your prayers are greatly appreciated. Thank you, Katherine Baisden, Rob Robbins, and Maggie Robbins

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL

LIVING SITUATIONS ~ Alice Tonks, Anna Reese, Juleen Dodge, and Linnie Mae Scott who are at the Evangelical Home; Phyllis West who is at Sunrise; Emily Bailey who is at the University of Michigan Hospital; Paul Applegate who is at Heartland; Dorothy Heath who is at Glacier Hills; and Rob Fowler at St. Joe's.

PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS ~ Earl Laughrey out of the hospital; Norman Cole's return home from the hospital; friends who come to visit; Don Maddock's retirement; Lisa Marshall done with her chemo; Bobbe Hinsman's new grandson, Mitchell Levi Gosselin, Robin Lammers new grandson, Blake Arnold Lanners; Jane & Mark Giffin's new granddaughter, Dakota Rory Prokopy; the anticipated arrival of Ana & Matt Barnes' baby girl.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~ Chuck Heiserman on the death of his sister-in-law Elaine Heiserman; the Sauter/Smith family on the death of Walt's sister-in-law.



PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Bonnie Bender, Elizabeth Gasparovic, Marge Stoddard, Wanda & Doug Beard, Nadine Beard, Millie Shedd, Aurelia, Emily Bailey, Julia Waits, Cathy Stockton's father, Mark Martin, Arleen

Hart, family of Chris Yonkers, William and Doris Minnette, Rose Escott, Paul Applegate, Fran Voyer, Sharon Butcko, Douglas King, Karey Colyer, Sharon Abel, family of Wayne Brown, Doris, Dorothy Johnson, Crystal, Barbara Gasche, the Grossman family, Elizabeth, William Marsh, Edna Richardson, Marie Pilbean, Brian Gares, Mary Tooke, Jeanne Hess' great grandson, Lillian, Susan Matzinger, Art Miller, Dorothy Heath, Sam Babcock, Tim Klepaczyk, President Elect Obama, Honduras & Panama Mission teams, those facing medical tests, those facing health concerns, those facing stressful job situations, Red Bird Missionary Conference, Thousandsticks UMC, people in troubled marriages.

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; Nick Turosky; Tom Carter.



CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 16 – NOVEMBER 29, 2008

16 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 12:30p RNL/VFT 4:00p Offsite LT Group 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p Jr. High Youth 6:30p Girl Scouts #1309	17 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 3:00p Girl Scouts 824 6:00p Adult Ministry 7:00p Community Care 7:00p Finance	18 Tuesday 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:00a WISE 4:45p Music Together 7:00p Old Testament Study 7:00p UMW Mtg.	19 Wednesday National Youth Workers Convention 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Bible Study 10:00a UMW Exec Bd 12:30p Quilting 3:00p R.O.C.K. in LOGOS 5:30p Jr. High Dinner/Drama 6:30p Praise Team 7:00p 1 st Year Confirmation Class 7:00p WISE PM 7:00p Building Committee 8:00p Sr. High WWW	20 Thursday National Youth Workers Convention 7:30a Stephen Min. 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:00p JOY Fellowship 6:00p Brownie #792 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Choir 7:00p Cubs Den 2 7:00p Cubs Den 3 7:00p Cubs Den 5 7:30p Hand Bells	21 Friday National Youth Workers Convention	22 Saturday National Youth Workers Convention
23 Sunday Bake Sale National Youth Workers Convention 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 12:15p Hanging of the Greens 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p Jr. High Youth	24 Monday National Youth Workers Convention 10:00a Hanging of the Greens 10:00a Shawl Ministry 3:00p GS Troop 824 7:00p Church Council	25 Tuesday 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:00a WISE 3:30p Hanging of the Greens 5:30p Hanging of the Greens Dinner 4:45p Music Together 6:30p Friendship Ministries 7:00p 175 th Anniv. Committee 7:00p Old Testament Study	26 Wednesday 9:30a Bible Study 12:30p Quilting 6:30p Praise Team/Choir Rehearsal 7:00p Cub Leaders 7:00p WISE PM 8:00p Sr. High WWW	27 Thursday Thanksgiving Office Closed 10:00a Brecon Worship	28 Friday Office Closed	29 Saturday

****A current church calendar can be viewed on our web site at www.fumc-saline.org**

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, December 1st at 12:00 pm.**
 Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, December 4th** in Room F at 8:30 am. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

Worship Attendance:
 Nov 2 - 496
 Nov 9 - 567



Head Ushers:

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

Greeters:

Carl and Miriam Weaver

Welcome Center:

Linda Jeffries

First United Methodist Church
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