

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

January 25, 2009

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 18; No.2

“A Miracle in the Making”

On Tuesday, January 20th, the day that Barak Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States, 76 people gathered in Christler Hall to officially inaugurate the next phase of our Master Building Plan. The Church Conference overwhelmingly approved the architectural design and plan to construct a two-level addition to the Fellowship Hall end of our building. This approval enables the Building Committee to move forward in selecting a general contractor and in seeking bids for building the addition.

The intent is to construct a 3,500 sq ft multi-purpose activities center on the main level that will contain portable basketball hoops and other recreational equipment. With the addition of movable walls on the Woodland Street end of Christler Hall, we will gain nearly twice the current seating capacity of the Fellowship Hall. A new lobby, a perimeter corridor and additional bathrooms will permit simultaneous multi-use of all the different room spaces.

The lower, Garden Level is designated as a youth center; self-contained with bathrooms and a kitchenette. The 3,000 sq ft space can be used as one large activity area or with the movable-wall it can be separated into two separate areas for both Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School classes. With the youth using this space on Sunday mornings, we will have two additional classroom areas for either children or adult Sunday School classes.

At the Church Conference there was very intentional discussion regarding costs for the new addition. While the Church Conference did approve securing up to a \$600,000 mortgage if needed to complete the project, the commitment is that every means will be used to contain costs. As we did five years ago when building the Christian Education addition, friends and members of the congregation will be encouraged to get involved in many areas of this construction project. It is our hope that we can trim the total cost by dozens of us investing our energy and expertise in getting this building in use hopefully by the end of this calendar year. Be thinking about ways that you personally might be very “hands on” during the building of this Youth/Activity Center. The investment and contribution of your time is so vital to completing this project as economically as possible.

In these economic down times, we want to be good stewards of the resources that God, through your generosity and the matching foundation gift, has provided to the church. We don't want to borrow more than necessary to get the job done well. I urge you to keep the entire building process and the Building Committee in your prayers, and also to share with committee members any ideas that will make this addition as well-built, usable, practical and cost-efficient as possible. I truly believe that God has, is and will be providing for us in this entire process. Will you join me throughout the next 11 months in praying and in participating in building our Youth/Activity Center? If you will, I do believe God will be honored and the miracle that began will be brought to fruition.

– Pastor Jim

FOUNDATIONS SUNDAY SCHOOL

CLASS ENCORE!

The Foundations Sunday School Class is being repeated this semester in Room F. This class covers basic Christian beliefs, with discussion. We will use a book called, *Beliefs of a United Methodist Christian*, written by United Methodist Bishop Emerson Colaw; however, reading outside of class is not required. If you are new to Christianity, or even if you have been around a long time and have questions, this is the class for you. If you do not have a Bible and would like one, you will be given a Bible. This is a very easy-going class with refreshments and opportunities to get to know one another. If you are interested in just one topic, feel free to sit in for just that class. Fliers with the topic assigned to each week are available at the Opportunity Wall. Questions? Please contact Rev. Laura Speiran in the church office.



UMW LADIES/GIRLS TEA

The UMW High Tea for all ladies and girls of the church will be held Sunday, February 8th at 2:00 pm. Come join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship as we join together for a spot of tea!

Those in attendance are asked to bring their own teacup and saucer (we have extras if needed). As always, break out your favorite hat and high tea attire. This year some ladies are wearing the favorite "tea"ara (tiara). There will be a presentation on one of the UMW's many missions and entertainment will be provided by a local flute choir. Please mark your calendars and invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to this fun event. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be taken at the tea to benefit UMW supported charities. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall so we can plan on your attendance! If you have any questions, please contact Linda Klepaczyk at 429-0441.

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 February 19 at 12:00 noon. Our chef, Joe Luben, will be serving penne with fresh spinach, tomatoes, and olives. 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 the church office. Contact Rev. Laura Speiran if you have questions, or if you have any dietary concerns.

UMW NEWS

The United Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28 at 10:00 am in Room C. Also, UMW Datebooks for 2009 are now available for pick up in the Parlor. There is one copy for each UMW member. Many thanks to Sue Herrick for all of her hard work in preparing these booklets.

The Susanna Circle will be meeting February 2 in the church parlor at 7:00 pm. Linda Jefferies will present a program on prayer and we hope to write a Susanna Circle prayer. Please join us.

HURON VALLEY AMBULANCE ACADEMY

You are invited to take part in a FREE 8 week program that will give you an opportunity to see how the local EMS service works. You will view demonstrations of skills performed in the field, receive first aid and CPR certifications, listen to guest speakers from the police department, fire department, special operations and more. Please pick up a registration form at the Opportunity Wall and return it to the address listed on the form. Registrations fill up fast so if you are interested sign up today. If you have questions please contact Jason Trojan at (734)477-6781 or email at jtrojan@hva.org.

UPCOMING NEW MEMBER CLASS

Our next New Member Class will be held on Saturday, January 24 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Any adults who are not currently members of this congregation are invited and encouraged to attend. There is no cost and lunch will be served. Church membership can be an important step in one's faith journey. The class will cover what it means to be a Christian, church history, United Methodism, and this church in particular. Those who take the class and choose to join will be received on Sunday, January 25 at the 11:15 am service. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall or by calling the church office. Childcare is available, if needed. Questions? Please contact Deacon Laura Speiran in the church office.

MISSION TRIP

The Missions team is looking for 2-3 people who would be interested in going on a medical mission trip to Honduras, March 21-29, 2009. In September, B Melendez and Dale Adkins met with a missionary physician who works in Honduras with his wife. We hope to establish a yearly medical mission. They run a medical clinic in rural Honduras, with an Operating Room and a Lab. If you have a medical background and are interested, please contact either B 668-6350 or Dale 429-5990.

IT'S PRETZEL TIME!

JUST IN TIME FOR THE SUPER BOWL...

Support the Youth Mission Trip to Mountain T.O.P. this summer by ordering your soft homemade pretzels. They are only \$6 a dozen. The signup sheet is at the Opportunity Wall. Order now, pay and pick up on February 1; just in time for the big game.

We could also use your help by donating ingredients to make the pretzels. If you would like to donate an ingredient, please sign up at the Opportunity Wall. Donated items should be at the church before Friday, January 30. Please talk to Emily Krach if you have any questions.

CHURCH CALENDAR

There are a few adjustments in viewing the church calendar. The church calendar is now located in the mail room. The mail room is directly across the hall from the main office. We will post 3 months of calendars at that location. If you would like to view past the posted wall calendar, please visit our church website at www.fumc-saline.org. Click on the Calendar of Events link. Use the arrows at the top of the calendar to navigate between months and to enable you to view different months.



FUMC SQUIGGLE PENS ARE COMING

What are they? Fine quality red glitter writing pens with FUMC address embossed on them.

Who is selling them and why? Susanna Circle will be selling these pens for \$1.00 each with 100% of the profits going to the Shawl Ministry.

What is the Shawl Ministry? This group knits or crochets blankets and shawls. These hand made items can be taken by anyone to give for any reason -- a birth, death, illness, or wedding. One simply chooses a blanket or shawl from the rack in the Ladies' Lounge. You are asked to record in the nearby book who is taking the shawl, and to whom it is being given. Using the information, the Shawl Ministry members pray for the recipients. Members also pray for those who will receive shawls as they make them. The cost of the quality yarns used in making these items is expensive. As a means of helping defray the knitters' costs, Susanna Circle will be selling pens. Look for pen sales in February---wouldn't a red pen make a nice Valentine gift?

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

FOR 2008

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2008 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Statements will be mailed by January 30.

PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE

The City of Saline assessor's office is responsible for setting annual assessments on property within the City of Saline. We realize that the past few years have been challenging for some of our residents that may have had health or career setbacks. We are asking for your help in reaching those property owners that may be having difficulties in paying their bills. There are packets available at the Opportunity Wall entitled the City of Saline Hardship Exemption Guidelines and Application Form. Please pick one up if you or someone you know is a Saline resident that is having financial difficulties. The Tax Board of Review will be meeting the week of March 16th and again in July and December, to review any applications for relief. This program is meant to help those property owners that are seriously having difficulties. Any interested applicants should visit the assessor's office at City Hall or call the number listed below. Thank you for your assistance. Questions can be directed to Catherine Scull at 734-429-4907, x2208.

THERE'S A CHAIR FOR YOU IN ROOM G

Come and join us during the Sunday School hour in room G for the Ray Vander Laan series. We watch a 20 minute video of the Holy Land every week. Pastor Vander Laan, an ordained minister and teacher/historian is our tour guide to this ancient world of Jesus. He will open your eyes to the land and culture of Bible times and will show us how it still matters today. Ray Vander Laan brings the Bible to life with his fascinating insight and knowledge of Bible times. We follow the video with discussion and prayer. You will leave the class every week with more understanding and awe of our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you haven't gone to the Holy Land, this is certainly the next best thing. Our class is a very relaxed setting. Come when you can, even sneak in late. We'll meet weekly for the rest of the school year. Keith and Patsy Held welcome you!



DUMMIES ON THE RUN

The American Red Cross program entitled Dummies on the Run will be offered here on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

This class teaches first aid and CPR for infants, children, and adults. Anyone over the age of 15 may attend. The fee is \$15 for students, and \$30 or \$35 for adults (depending on attendance). Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall or contact Kathy Kirkland for more information at 429-3414.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY

The Ann Arbor District Council on Ministries is offering a special training day for leaders in the United Methodist Church on Saturday, February 7 from 9:00 am to noon at Brighton United Methodist Church. The Leadership Training Day includes seven workshops designed to better serve Christ's church. Included are workshops on Finance, Worship & Music, Trustees, Staff Parish Relations, Running a Church Meeting, Christian Education, and Church Marketing. The keynote speaker for the day is Rev. Melanie Carey of Ypsilanti First. She will be sharing stories about her church's participation in "The Kingdom Assignment." If you are interested, pick up a brochure at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex.

ADULT MINISTRY CLASSES 2009

Sundays at 10:10 am

Managing Your Money – Room A/B

Financial stewardship from a Christian point of view with Bob Comfort as facilitator.

Ray Vander Laan Video Series – Room G

A 20 minute video of the Holy Land, followed by discussion led by Patsy & Keith Held.

Social Principles – Fellowship Hall

Learn about the United Methodist Social Principles as facilitated by Rob Robbins.

Parenting Class – Parlor

Facilitator Susie Treber will be continuing with the book, *The Culture-Wise Family*.

Book of John – Room C

This is an in-depth Bible study with discussion led by Bruce Moss and Dave Drenning.

Foundations – Room F

Deacon Laura Speiran will facilitate this class explaining & discussing basic Christian beliefs.

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Short Term New Testament Class – Room H

Books are available in the church office to be used with this class led by Kay Edmonds.

INFUSION YOUTH UPDATE

Senior High

Camp Barakel Winter Retreat February 13–15

It's a weekend devoted to playing in the snow, connecting to God and people, and drinking hot chocolate. Cross country skiing, tubing in Snow Valley, ice fishing, snow football, hockey, ice skating, good music, and challenging messages from God's Word are all part of the weekend too. Pick up a registration flyer today. Registration and deposit of \$40 is past due. Space is limited. The total cost is \$90. The final \$50 is due before February 4. All forms and money can be given to Emily, with checks made out to FUMC. Financial assistance is available. Parents/Adults who are Safe Sanctuary trained are also needed to join us as loving support for our group. Contact Emily if you have any questions.

Junior High

SpringHill Winter Retreat March 6–8

It's time to think about the best Junior High Winter Retreat ever. Snow tubing, broomball, activities in the gym and game room, swimming in the giant pool, snowboarding, fun worship, awesome dramas, and a powerful speaker are all part of a SpringHill Retreat. The remaining balance for this \$125 event is due before February 22. Financial Assistance is available. Parents/Adults who are Safe Sanctuary trained are also needed to join us as loving support for our group! Talk to Emily if you have any questions.

Mountain T.O.P. Update—Coming July 11–19 2009

Students Registered 35

Adults Required 14

Adults Registered 5

Adults Needed 9

Talk to Emily Krach if you would be willing to give a week of your summer to be a part of making Mountain T.O.P. possible. All participants must be registered by March 1st for us to take part in Mountain T.O.P.

Thank You

A huge thank you to my church family for praying me through this past year. It has been one year since my breast cancer diagnosis and now I am cancer free! With our families being as far away as Virginia and upstate New York, you all have truly been our family, showing us God's love and care this past year.
-Bonnie Bender

We would like to thank our church family for the many prayers, thoughts, and expressions of sympathy we received during Charlene's sister's extended illness and her passing.

-Dale and Charlene Adkins

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

For no word from God will ever fail.....Luke 1:37

Be sure to check out the "Raising Spiritual Champions" insert. A tool for parents to use at home and to aide in raising children to be spiritual champs!

January 24th Safe Sanctuary Training 9:00 am

February 3rd CPR/First Aide Training 7:00 pm

February 28th Vision Forward Team dinner

At Pizza House at 6:00 pm

Are we **PURPOSEFUL**, **PRACTICAL**, and **IMPACTFUL**? What can we be doing better? Take a look at our Children's Ministry Effectiveness Model, give your input and return it to Leanne Rimmac. Be a part of the Children's Ministry Visioning. You can pick your copy up in the Narthex at the Opportunity Wall anytime. Please contact Leanne if you have any questions Leanne@fumc-saline.org or 429-4730, ext. 409.

Safe Sanctuary Training Dates:

Saturday, January 24: 9:00–11:30 am

Saturday, February 28: 9:00–11:30 am

Thursday, March 19: 6:30–9:00 pm

Saturday, April 18: 9:00–11:30 am

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD CORNER

First of all, thank you to all of you who participated in Operation Christmas Child this past fall. Our congregation packed over 250 shoeboxes. Over 8 million boxes were shipped worldwide to children.

In an effort to be better prepared next year, we are going to start **RIGHT NOW!** Each month, there will be an Operation Christmas Child Corner in the newsletter. You'll see information on our focus for the month. If you feel you're unable to pack an entire box, this is a way you can still impact the life of a needy child. There will now be a permanent collection box in the narthex at the Opportunity Wall.

This month we are focusing on coloring books and small toys or beanie babies. Many of you have expressed that you have beanie babies in good shape that you would like to donate. Pick the best ones and place them in the donation box. Many holiday coloring books, small toys, etc. are on sale as this year's leftovers. If you see a good deal, pick some up! Or if your kids got to many of those little treasures, pass them on. Items need to be clean and new or very gently used. If you have any questions, call or email Linda Klepaczyk at 429-0441 or klepac@verizon.net.

A special thank you to our church friends that gave us the much needed gifts recently.

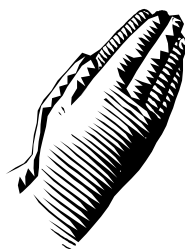
-Howard and Rosemary Desbrough

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL LIVING SITUATIONS

~ Alice Tonks, Anna Reese, Juleen Dodge, & Linnie Mae Scott who are at EVH. Lois Gray who is at Bortz Health Care. Phyllis West who is at Sunrise.

PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS

~ Kathleen Klepaczyk's return home following pneumonia; the teens who survived the 30 hour famine; Rich Oberfoell is cancer free; Jackie Maxey's good test results; Sandy Nadig's miraculous recovery; David & Shiela Blough on the birth of their grandson, Emmett James Blough; for those who helped to build the P.E.T.s.



OUR SYMPATHIES TO

~ David and Shiela Blough on the passing of her aunt, Ruth Foster; Carl & Sue Snow and family on the passing of his mother; Charlene and Dale Adkins on the passing of her sister, Doris Hyser; Marsha Gilbert &

family on the loss of her cousin, Joey Bryant; Darlene Wetzel and family on the loss of her father; Tom & Diane Voss on the loss of their daughter, Nanette; Bob Perry on the loss of his wife, Lucille.

PRAYER CONCERNS

~ Elizabeth Gasparovic, Marge Stoddard, Wanda Beard, the Brenner family, Carolyn Cunkle, Dorothy Heath, Mabel Smith, June Burnban, Dee, Danny Jarbo, Bill Smith, a friend's grandmother, Susan Miller, Virgil, Matthew, Paul Steiskal, Ken Schmanske, Amaya, Jack Leonard, the Grossman family, Kathy Richmond, Dorothy, Mary Lee, EVH residents, Megan Emory, Nathan Miller, Debby Bryan, Lynn Couglin, our military troops, those who have suffered losses, the people of Israel.

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 Coppennoll; 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; Tom Carter.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 25, 2009 – FEBRUARY 7, 2009

25 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 4:00p Offsite LT Group 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p GS Troop 1309 6:30p Jr. High	26 Monday 7:30a Stephen Ministry 10:00a Shawl Ministry 3:00p GS Troop 824 7:00p Church Council	27 Tuesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:30a WISE 4:45p Music Together 6:30p Friendship Ministries 6:30p HOMMIES	28 Wednesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:15a Music Together 10:00a UMW Exec 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 Yr Confirmation 7:00p Pack 461 Leaders 7:00p WISE PM 7:00p Building Comm. 8:00p Sr. High WWW	29 Thursday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:30a Prayer Ministry 6:15p Orchestra 7:00p Choir 7:00p Cubs Den 1 7:00p Cubs Den 2 7:00p Cubs Den 3 7:00p Cubs Den 5 7:30p Hand Bells	30 Friday 5:00p Pretzel Prep 5:30p Piano Recital	31 Saturday 9:00a Pretzel Bake
1 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 3:00p EVH Worship 3:00p Down Syndrome Support Group 4:00p Offsite LT Group 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p Jr. High Pretzel Pick Up	2 Monday 7:30a Stephen Ministry 9:30a Hannah Circle 10:00a Shawl Ministry 12:30p Esther Circle Offsite 3:00p GS Troop 824 7:00p Staff Parish 7:00p Susanna Circle	3 Tuesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:30a WISE 12:30p Ruth Circle 4:45p Music Together 7:00p Print/Online Media Task Force 7:00p CPR/First Aid	4 Wednesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:15a Music Together 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 Yr Confirmation 7:00p Pack 461 Leaders 7:00p WISE PM 7:00p Building Comm. 8:00p Sr. High WWW	5 Thursday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:30a Prayer Ministry 6:00p Brownie 792 6:15p Orchestra 7:00p Choir 7:00p Cubs Den 1 7:00p Cubs Den 2 7:00p Cubs Den 5 7:30p Hand Bells 7:30p Flying Club	6 Friday 6:00p Pinewood Derby Set-up	7 Saturday 9:00a Confirmation Field Trip 10:00a Pinewood Derby 1:00p High Tea Set-up

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

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, February 2 at 12:00 pm.** Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, February 5** in Room F at 8:30 am. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

Worship Attendance:

Jan.11 - 397
 Jan.18 - 407

Head Ushers:

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

Greeters:

Jan. 25 – Jane & Matt Brehmer and Matt Barnes & Jr. High Youth
 Feb. 1 – John, Neil and Philip Zemba

Welcome Center:

Jan. 25 – Larry & Francie Woods

First United Methodist Church
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 Saline, MI 48176

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