

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

February 8, 2009

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 18; No.3

In Greek mythology Janus, from which we get January, was the god of gateways and doorways...the god of endings and beginnings. He's depicted with two heads, one looking back to the past, the other looking forward. Each January our administrative staff spends an inordinate number of hours data-gathering and compiling the annual report. It was due and e-mailed on Saturday, January 31st. The report from our church, along with all the other churches, will be published in the Detroit Conference Journal this summer and then in the General Minutes of the United Methodist Church. I want to share with you just a few highlights of that report.

- We began the year with 949 members and ended with 974 (48 people became part of our church and 14 transferred to churches around the country, and 9 of our church members have died during the past year).
- On an average Sunday, half of us (493) are in one or the other of our two Sunday worship services.
- At First UMC, Sunday School continues to grow, averaging 280 people from nursery to adult classes, with well over 500 persons participating in various mid-week groups. There are 828 people involved in some type of Christian growth experience throughout the year.
- There are 65 women of our church actively participating in United Methodist Women.
- Including both our junior high and senior high, 104 youth take part in our youth group activities.

A large part of the report has to do with how dollars were dispersed throughout the year. The church requires that we be good stewards of your tithes and offerings and very careful that those gifts are dispersed as you designate and as the church council authorizes. Again, just a few summary points:

- Again this year, we paid all of our conference apportionments and mission asking for 2008. Well over \$97,000 was given as our share of the operating and missional budgets within the United Methodist Church. In addition, about \$43,000 was given in special offerings and projects to support the work of other mission projects. This doesn't include your good Christmas offering for mission projects, or the hard work of our youth and your strong support of them that makes the Mt. TOP mission trip possible.
- The amount spent for staff salaries, church programs and operating expenses, utilities, maintenance, insurance, and building improvements totaled nearly \$600,000.
- Throughout the year we paid \$292,578 on our mortgage, paying off the balance (\$152,245) in October from Miracle Sunday gifts. The loan balance would have had to be paid from the new mortgage for the new Youth and Children Activity Center. Paying it early saved the church nearly \$3000 in interest.
- Even in tough economic times, you have given and we've dispersed well over \$1 million. God has blessed this church with people who respond and give generously. Thank you for being faithful people.

Like the mythological figure Janus, we are also looking ahead. Because of the economic crunch, the Church Council has set a “hold the line” budget for 2009. Staff salaries and program budgets remain at the 2008 level, with only minor adjustments where necessary. There is a slight increase in apportionments and an increase in utilities. “Estimate of Giving” cards continue to arrive, but we set the budget reflecting what the congregation felt they were able to give during 2009. When the economy stabilizes, we'll again move forward. We go into 2009 trusting God and trusting that all of us will listen to God's promptings regarding our support of Christ's Church here in Saline. May God continue to bless us with such wonderfully supportive people. Thanks for making ministry happen in this place.

– Pastor Jim



UMW LADIES/GIRLS TEA

The UMW High Tea for all ladies and girls of the church will be held Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 pm. Come join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship as we meet 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. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Klepaczyk at 429-0441.

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 me on February 7 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. No experience necessary! I will help you organize, put pictures in albums or make creative works of art with your scrapbook. The choice is yours! Contact Cheryl Schlaff at 417-3951 or cheryl@fumc-saline.org to get all the details.

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 next UMW Executive Board Meeting will be held on February 25 at 10:00 am in Room C.

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Don't miss this annual treat and a chance to not have to cook dinner! Join us on February 24 for a meal of pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and applesauce. A free-will offering will be taken to support local missions. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to help cook or serve, or if you could loan a griddle or electric frying pan, please sign up at the Opportunity Wall.

LENTEN STUDY: THE JESUS CREED

When asked for the most important commandment, Jesus replied that we should love God with every fiber of our being – with all our heart, soul, and mind. This was a quote from Deuteronomy that all Jews of the time were familiar with and recited daily, called the *Shema*. And then, without being asked, Jesus threw in a twist by quoting Leviticus and said that the second commandment was to “love your neighbor as yourself.” These two statements taken together are called the *Jesus Creed* by Scot McNight in his book of the same name, and in that book he explores why it is significant that Jesus joined these two quotes together.

During the 40 days of Lent, we will be exploring the Jesus Creed together. The Sunday morning sermons will be drawn from that week's readings, and we will have Sunday morning and evening classes to help you understand the Jesus Creed and how it applies to your daily life. Books will be for sale in the narthex after worship services and sign-up sheets are at the Opportunity Wall. Join us in a study of the Jesus Creed! If you are interested in hosting or leading a class meeting on another day of the week, please contact Tom Burns at 944-4003.

INTERVIEWING FOR SUCCESS!

Are you out of work? Are you concerned you may soon be out of work? Would you like to polish up those interviewing skills? Come to the workshop, “Interviewing for Success!,” on Monday, March 2 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the church. Topics discussed will include what to say, how to prepare for putting your best foot forward, and more. This will be taught by our own Sally Schmall, an experienced career guidance counselor. Please R.S.V.P. to Rev. Laura Speiran in the church office. Everyone is welcome (you may invite a friend); however, the class size will be limited to 20 people.

ADULT MINISTRY CLASSES 2009

Sundays at 10:10 am

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.

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 are using a book called *Beliefs of a United Methodist Christian*, by United Methodist Bishop Emerson Colaw; however, reading outside of class is not required. If you are new to Christianity, or 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 one. 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 ask Rev. Laura Speiran in the church office.

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. Ray 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!

INFUSION YOUTH UPDATE

Senior High

Mountain T.O.P. Update—Coming July 11–19 2009			
<u>Students Registered</u>	35	<u>Adults Required</u>	14
<u>Adults Registered</u>	9	<u>Adults Needed</u>	5

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 1 for us to take part in Mountain T.O.P.

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.

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 to aide in raising children to be spiritual champs!

February 28: 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 Rimnac. 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, February 28: 9:00–11:30 am
Thursday, March 19: 6:30–9:00 pm
Saturday, April 18: 9:00–11:30 am

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

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. They run a medical clinic in rural Honduras, with an operating room and a lab. We hope to establish a yearly medical mission. If you have a medical background and are interested, please contact either B (668-6350) or Dale (429-5990).

HELP US WELCOME NEW VISITORS

We all have a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and share about our church! On the first Sunday of every month, for 20-30 minutes after each of the services, we hold a New Visitors' Welcome in the Fellowship Hall. Visitors are invited to come down, have coffee, juice and a little snack and chat with the people who go to church here...(that would be you ☺). Please sign up on the opportunity wall or just come down to the Fellowship Hall to say hello. All you need is a welcoming smile!



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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

4th Annual All-Church Talent Show
Saturday, April 25 at 6:00 pm
Start Practicing Now!

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 is selling the 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?

HOPE CLINIC

Please join Hope Clinic at the 2009 Worship Celebration on Friday, March 6 at 7:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church located at 1500 Scio Church Road in Ann Arbor. This will be a time of sharing songs, prayer, scripture and testimonies in honor of the marvelous things God has done for Hope Clinic.

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 12:00 noon at Brighton United Methodist Church. The Leadership Training Day includes seven workshops designed to help the participant's 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 Methodist Church. She will be sharing stories about her church's participation in "The Kingdom Assignment." If you are interested, please pick up a brochure at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The beginning of Lent will be on Wednesday, February 25. The Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 pm on that day. Please mark this time of reflective worship on your calendars.

PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE

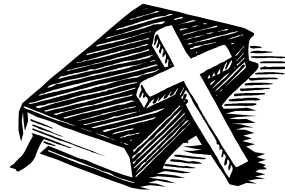
The City of Saline assessor's office is responsible for setting annual assessments on property within the City of Saline. We realize that the past few years have been challenging for some of our residents that may have had health or career setbacks. We are asking for your help in reaching those property 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 16 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. Questions can be directed to Catherine Scull at 734-429-4907, x2208.

INTERESTED IN ADOPTION?

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, February 17 or Tuesday, March 17, both at 7:00 pm. This information presentation offers information on building families through domestic infant and international programs in China, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Russia, and Ukraine. To R.S.V.P., please call Adoption Associates, Inc. at 248-474-0990.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL LIVING SITUATIONS ~ Alice Tonks, Anna Reese, Juleen Dodge, and Linnie Mae Scott who are at the EVH. Lois Gray who is at Bortz Health Care. Phyllis West who is at Sunrise, and Don Rapp who is at Herrick Manor.

PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS ~ For those who helped to build the P.E.T.s.; for God's love; for our church family who support us in times of need; for Kathy Richmond's recovery; for the support from the congregation to Doug and Wanda Beard.

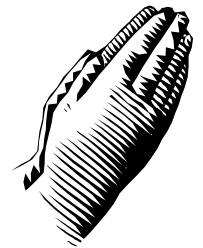


OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~

Darlene Wetzal 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; Doug & Wanda Beard on the loss of his mother, Nadine Beard; Doug & Wanda Beard on the passing of her niece, Sherri; Tim & Donna Miller & family on the loss of his father; Earl & Cindy Austin and family on the loss of her mother, Louise Rioux; the Wetzal family of the loss Luke and Amy's father, Mike; The Crawford family on the passing of their Gran, Jean Lowe.

PRAYER CONCERNS ~

Elizabeth Gasparovic, Marge Stoddard, Wanda Beard, the Brenner family, Carolyn Cunkle, Dorothy Heath, the Grossman family, Dorothy, Mary Lee, EVH residents, Megan Emory, Nathan Miller, Debby Bryan, Lynne Coughlin, Peggy Hintz, the Garner family's cousin/nephew, Matt (friend of Aidan & Siga), Jack Porter, King Hanna, the Hespen family, Angela Biofille & family, Don Rapp, Sebastian Moustirats, Joyce Noble, Rachel Smith, Teresa Clark, Kenny Bowen, the Donofrio family, Susan Webster, those struggling after the ice storms, seniors who live alone, teens trying to make good choices, those suffering from depression, those who have been abused.



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; Tom Carter; Rachel Smith, wife of Jeff and mother of Keegan, Faith and Gideon.



CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2009 – FEBRUARY 21, 2009

8 Sunday Boy Scout Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 10:10a Stephen Ministry 10:15a Parish Nurses 11:15a Contemporary Service 2:00p UMW High Tea 3:00p Down Syndrome Support Group 4:00p Offsite LT Group 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p GS Troop 1309 6:30p Jr. High	9 Monday 7:30a Stephen Ministry 10:00a Shawl Ministry 3:00p GS Troop 824 7:00p Trustees	10 Tuesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:30a WISE 4:45p Music Together 6:30p Friendship Ministries	11 Wednesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:00a Stephen Ministry Training 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 2 nd Yr Confirmation 7:00p WISE PM 7:00p Building Comm. 8:00p Sr. High WWW	12 Thursday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:15a Music Together 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	13 Friday Sr. High: Camp Barakel	14 Saturday Sr. High: Camp Barakel 8:00a Chrysalis 3:00p Cub Scout Pack 420, Den 4
15 Sunday Mission Bake Sale Sr. High: Camp Barakel 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 12:30p Friendship Ministry Scrapbooking 4:00p Offsite LT Group 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p Jr. High	16 Monday 7:30a Stephen Ministry 10:00a Shawl Ministry 3:00p GS Troop 824 6:00p Adult Ministry 7:00p Community Care 7:00p Finance	17 Tuesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:30a WISE 4:45p Music Together	18 Wednesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:00a Stephen Ministry Training 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 WISE PM 7:00p Building Comm. 8:00p Sr. High WWW	19 Thursday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:00p J.O.Y. Fellowship 6:00p Brownie #792 6:00p Chrysalis Set Up 6:15p Orchestra 7:00p Choir 7:00p Cub Scout Pack 461 7:30p Hand Bells	20 Friday Chrysalis Weekend	21 Saturday Chrysalis Weekend

****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 16 at 12:00 pm.** Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, February 19** in Room F at 8:30 am. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

Worship Attendance:

Jan.25 - 444
 Feb.1 - 509

Head Ushers:

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

Greeters:

Glen and Nancy Jedele
 John, Neil and Philip Zemba

Welcome Center:

Karen & Dave Landis

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