



THE FIRST WORD

News from the First United Methodist Church
of South Bend, Indiana

In the heart of the city since 1831

October 13, 2010

Issue #421

FREE SPEECH

The Bible tells us that we are to not abuse our liberties – that Christ has set us free for a purpose.

But some people use free speech as an excuse for hate speech – and I am so tired of the unending negative ads, where people seem to be running for or against the President, the Speaker of the House, or a Fox commentator. Innuendo, direct accusations which are too often simply untrue – these things fall under the category of freedom of expression, free speech.

I am not endorsing a particular party or candidate; I agree with much of Jim Wallis' book, God and Politics – I love the subtitle, which is something like “How the Republicans get it wrong and the Democrats don't get it”. And, by the way, Jim Wallis himself, the founder of the very righteous Sojourner's community, has come under fire from candidates! It simply does not pay to be a theologian, nowadays.

There is a wonderful scripture, and here's The Message translation; “Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious – the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.” (Philippians 4:8).

If we focus on the good and true, we need to check out the accusations one makes against another. If we fill our minds with the positive, we will not buy into the falseness flying through the air, one person trying to dirty another.

Paul also tells us to pray for those in authority over us (and in another place, especially reminds us to pray for our pastors!); but he writes about respecting our political leadership (the Romans, in Paul's case – the opposite party with whom we may disagree, in our case!), about submitting to good governance, about honoring others.

This political season, let's keep a distance from the slime, and not besmirch ourselves. Let's check out the real stances and voting records of those running, so that we are able to make educated, informed decisions.

If we look for the best, the beautiful, things to praise – we will find it.

Let us vote. Let us vote wisely. And then, let us work with our elected officials to help them represent us – and pray, pray for the voting, pray for “those in authority over us”, the President, the Bishop, our Senators and Representatives, our District Superintendent, even our City Council and County Commissioners – and School Board. They need our prayers, they need our support, and they need our input.

Free speech! But with truth and love.

Mary L. Hubbard

Worship Schedule

Worship, Chapel
9:00 a.m.

Worship, Sanctuary
10:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:00 a.m. - Noon

12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:00 a.m. - Noon

Phone: (574) 233-9463

Fax: (574) 233-9478

First Staff

Mary L. Hubbard
Senior Pastor

Marsha Dollar
Administrative Assistant

Wishart Bell
Director of Music

Betty Woodland
Organist

LouAnne Wilson
Financial Manager

Diana Green
Coord. of Children's Ministries

David Frey
Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Ben Noell
Building Manager

John Jung-Zimmerman
Upper Room Director

Cathy Johnson
Church Growth Coordinator

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
FIRST CHURCH IN YOUR
WILL?**

A GREETING FROM THE CELTIC MUSICIANS



*May your right hand always
Be stretched out in friendship
And never in want.*

Please join us for Worship in the Chapel Sundays
at 9:00 a.m. and hear the Celtic Musicians play.

BUILD ME A SANCTUARY

After the story of Moses leading the Hebrew people out of captivity in Egypt and giving them the Ten Commandments, several chapters of the book of Exodus detail the construction of a portable worship center that will accompany them on their trip through the wilderness. "The Lord said to Moses: Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me... And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them" (Exodus: 25; 2; 8).

That is still the way God comes to live among us. We give with a willing heart to build God's house, and God repays us with God's presence in our lives. God's Spirit never inhabits the minds and hearts of "grasping getters," only generous givers.

Herb Miller

UPPER ROOM RENOVATION COMPLETED!

Construction started in late July after receiving State approval of the project. We have had some delays due to late plumbing work, unexpected structural interference and the need to remove asbestos before continuing ceiling work. However, we completed all work by the end of September and added 2 new washers and dryers, 20 small refrigerators and an upright freezer last week. The total cost of the renovation was set at \$171,934 with the General Contractor, Van Overberghe at \$95,935, heating and cooling contract with Herman & Goetz at \$54,150 and in-house purchases of 2 washers and dryers, 20 small refrigerators, 1 freezer, kitchen cabinets and window blinds at \$17,244 and environmental protection and paint at \$4,605.

Change orders needed to meet unexpected problems increased the general contract by \$3,896, however careful buying of kitchen cabinets saved \$2,036 and interior paint cost savings amounted to \$1,397. Small item purchases saved \$959. With new heat exchangers on the roof, it was necessary to add 3 new roof drains to prevent pooling of rain water on the exchangers. This added \$4,700 to the heating and cooling expense. So as of this writing we are \$4,137 over the original cost estimation. This is an overage of 2.4% which is not bad for such a complex program.

The only major expense we have not addressed is a need to incorporate improved smoke detection and fire alarm units in each room, with both sound and light signals. This project has been bid at \$5,377 by our current security supplier. This new system will be connected to our current building alarm system with automatic alarms to both police and fire departments. We have agreements to underwrite this expense, however the \$4,137 overage noted above still needs financial support. Please mark any gifts you may wish to make: Attention - Upper Room Renovation. Thank you in advance for your help.

Crews Perkey, President, Board of Trustees

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

The Beginning Experience Weekend Retreat for Widowed, Divorced, and Separated Persons will be held at Lindenwood Retreat Center, Donaldson, IN, from 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 22 until 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 24, 2010. This Christian-based Retreat helps grieving single-again persons to emerge from the darkness of grief, depression, anger and loss in order to move into the future with renewed hope and new beginnings. Register by calling Teresa at (574) 261-0123 (night) or you can e-mail her at greenlight7113@sbcglobal.net. If you prefer you can call Marilyn at (269) 684-0882 (daytime) or e-mail her at Mercymeme@aol.com. A third alternative is to call Becky at (260) 768-7350. The next Beginning Experience Weekend will be held March 4-6, 2011.



The Music Department announces an evening of food and fun:



WHAT: Spaghetti Dinner

WHEN: Saturday, November 6, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

WHERE: First United Methodist Church Social Hall (Basement)

TICKETS: \$7.00 Adults
\$5.00 Children over two
\$20.00 Maximum for family (parents & children)

PRAYER LIST

Following is a prayer list. Please remember to include these people in your regular prayers:

Chris Dooley (Dolly Slack's Grandson) - Deployed to Afghanistan	
Michael Pershell - In military service	Peggy Soderberg - Health concerns
Stephen Gramza - In military service	Al & Maxine Jones - Health concerns
Jonathan Mayers - In military service	Andrea Wilgus - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	Marilyn Prue - Health concerns
Barbara Dobson - Health concerns	Nadine Corse - Health concerns
Wayne Jackson - Health concerns	Carol Goodhew - Health concerns
Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns	Kay Kenney - Health concerns
David Case - Health concerns	Dylan Mayers - Health & Family concerns
Liz Reinke - Health concerns	Ron Florey - Health concerns

Also remember to pray for our members in long-term care, assisted living, and independent living:

Martha Abernethy	Betty Byers	Jack Fassnacht	Mary Etta Rees
Ruth Garen	Virginia O'Hair	Rich Daniels	JoAnn Ballard
Clem Gramza	Clarence Dickey	Betty Fisk	Jo Perkey
Hugh & Lois Warren	Marian Wilson	Jim Borden	Betty Barnes
LaVergne Hagenbuch	Freda Mossman	Melvena Stenger	Bud Haber
Hannah Messersmith	Al Aguirre	Thair Best	Mary Jo Beemer
Al & Maxine Jones			

Additionally pray for:

Our Bishop Mike	Our Church	Our Pastor Mary
Our District Superintendent, Cindy Reynolds	Our Church Staff	

KID'S NEWS!

By Diana Green

The children have learned a lot about Jacob and Esau. We even learned that God uses IMPERFECT people! What a relief! Even when we do bad things or make bad choices, God still loves us and still has work for us to do!

This month we will learn about Jacob's favorite son, Joseph! Jacob shouldn't play favorites, but he does and poor Joseph gets sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. It all happened because of the dreams! Dreams! Dreams! Dreams! As we learn about how God spoke to Joseph through his dreams, we will make Dream Catchers. You see, Joseph's dreams got him into trouble, but eventually dreams also got him out of trouble.

Our Mission this month is to support our First Church Crop Walkers! You should pick a walker and support them, too! Will the adults or the youth raise more money? The challenge is on!

SEPTEMBER MISSION TALLIES

Food Pantry: For the month of September, the Food Pantry served 427 families, representing 1,579 individuals. 29% of those served were new for the month of September.

Soup Kitchen: 1,029 people were served and 875 carry-out bags were given away for a total of 4,072 cups of soup served in September.

Upper Room: 14 residents at the end of September (12 men and 2 women)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE PLANNING ADVENT FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

The response to the Lenten Devotional was so fine that the Education Committee is planning one for Advent. We hope that persons of all ages will write their ideas. We are also anxious to include art work from various persons, including the artists in our church family.

You may write about your favorite Christmas Carol, a verse of Christmas scripture upon which you like to meditate, a special time for you or your family during Advent or some other idea you may have. People reported that they liked the variety of ideas in the Lenten Devotional. Don't be bashful. Please call Helen Banas (277-2139) if you are willing to share your thoughts.

The devotional will be ready for your use on November 28, the first day of Advent, and conclude on Christmas day. We would like to know if you will share your thoughts with the congregation by October 10. We would also like to have the articles by November 1, so we have time to prepare the devotional. Let's share in the excitement of Jesus' birth with others in our congregation.

REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

I wanted to report to you that while our pledged income received has improved slightly since my last update, we are still approximately \$30,000 behind in what we had projected. Our expenses that it takes to run our church continues and we have been forced to borrow money to pay our bills. Therefore, I once again request that everyone pay their pledges up to date and if possible, please pay ahead on your pledges.

Thank you again for your support of our church and we will continue to work towards achieving our goal of a "balanced budget" for the 2010 calendar year. Also, you might consider signing up for "on-line giving" for your future contributions. If you are interested in doing this, contact Lou Anne Wilson or see the instructions below.

Respectfully submitted,

J "Spike" Abernethy, Finance Chair

DO YOU KNOW HOW EASY IT IS TO SIGN UP FOR ON-LINE GIVING?

Just go to the First UMC website and you will see the link for registration for on-line giving. The link will take you directly to a site to register for on-line giving. You must have e-mail to sign up and you will need to send me an e-mail at fumcfinance2@sbcglobal.net letting me know you would like to sign up. I will send you an e-mail back giving you a temporary password. Then you will be able to login and start. Please make sure to change your password at your first login. Below are the next steps for making a donation:

1. Click "Manage My Giving"
2. Check the fund you are applying your donation to. Ex: Current Budget
Note: We are asking for a 5% increase to defray costs.
3. A box appears to put in amount of donation. Click next.
4. The amount of donation is in red and below you will begin adding your bank, debit, or credit card information. Then click next.
5. Here you can check to have this be a one time donation or a recurring donation that will come out of your bank or credit card as often as you like. Once you have made your selection here, click process transaction.
6. Verify your transaction and make sure it is correct. Then scroll down to the bottom of the paragraph to read and click "Authorize".
7. Your payment will then be processed and on this page you can print a copy for your records.
8. Make sure you log out of on-line giving when you are done.

It is very simple and safe!! If you have questions, please contact Lou Anne Wilson at 233-9463.

OLD DOG NEEDS HOME

After a surprisingly strong response to my last Newsletter article about my new old dog, I wanted to pass on to you this piece of information.

If you are thinking of a new dog for yourself, my Vet still has one dog left from the group she rescued from the hoarder.

Dusty is a neutered male, up to date on shots, house trained, sits and shakes hands on command, a wonderfully friendly fellow. He does bark at people he does not think belong, so would be a useful watch dog, Dusty is about 50 pounds, and seems to be a Chow/something mix, but with very short hair. Dusty is the youngest of this bunch of old dogs, at only 7 years old! He is a sweetheart.

If you are interested in Dusty, give Tender Care Veterinary Clinic a call at 291-3251.



SECOND SUNDAY AWARD RECIPIENT

Darlene Wiley presented Aaron Johnson with the Second Sunday Award, during the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on October 10, 2010. This award is presented to a different church member on the second Sunday of each month. The recipients are selected based on their volunteer services and involvement in activities at First Church. The person who receives the award is then required to pick the next recipient and present the award to them, and inform the congregation of all the great things the individual does for the church.

Congratulations Aaron!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Submitted by Winslow Phillips

The Lord's Prayer itself reveals Jesus Christ. Someone has said He is in every word of it, that it is the "condensed substance of all previous prayers".

We know that Christ is in the Psalms, the great prayer book of the Bible, but He is there in prediction. He was the one longed for, hoped for, and seen in the distance.

In the Lord's Prayers, He is Immanuel, God with us, the very loving heart of God speaking. Let us notice the main parts of the Lord's Prayer: **(This will be done in increments over the next several newsletters.)**

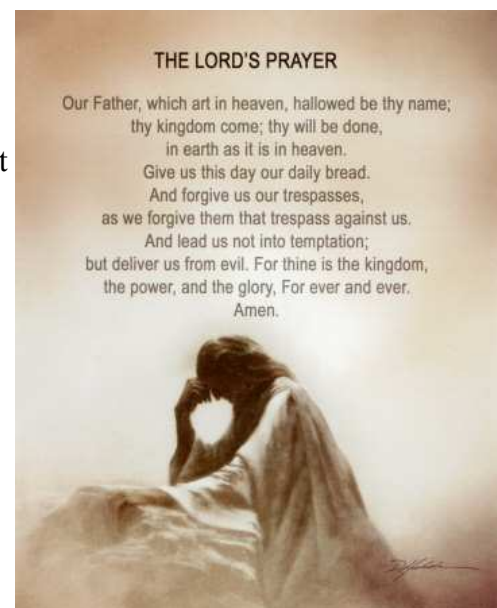
"Our Father which art in Heaven": The cross made this prayer possible. Jesus said "I ascend unto my Father and your Father; and to my God and your God."

In John 20:17, the Apostle Paul speaks of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:17) "Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father." Romans 8:15.

The word Abba of course means "Father". It is only through Christ and the redemption of the Cross that we really call God our Father.

Jesus has died for us. He took our place, and we take His place as sons and daughters of God. Now we have also become the sons and daughters of God through faith.

More to follow on October 27



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First United Methodist Church

333 North Main Street

South Bend, IN 46601

Phone: 574-233-9463

Fax: 574-233-9478

Check out the website:

www.firstumcsb.org

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