



# THE FIRST WORD

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

In the heart of the city since 1831

February 9, 2011

Issue #428

## FIRE DRILL

Back in November, on All Saints Day when we light candles in memory of those we have lost, we had an unplanned Fire Drill.

The alarms went off, it sounded very dramatic (as it is supposed to), and we all looked at each other until the teachers in the crowd took over and got us moving.

Now, I stood up front, half-way through my sermon, being an idiot. All week long we had been hearing the alarms going off – the Upper Room, in its final phase of renovation, had new alarms put in – and they had been going off every whipstitch, so I was not... alarmed. But then I realized, it *is* Sunday morning – and this might be *real!*

We evacuated in just seven minutes.

An interesting problem occurred – and I contributed to it. We all tried to exit the same way we came in! I could have easily gone out the front doors, right near the pulpit – but I patiently waited in line for people to precede me through the exit to the first floor hall. So things were a bit packed there... as that is where most people enter and exit.

This spring (when we have a nice sunny Sunday!) we are going to do it again – on purpose. Next time, let's exit by the door that is actually closest to us – and meet in the back, near the entry to the parking lot. That way, when the "all clear" is given, we will all be together to hear it! It'll be just like heaven. No fire to endanger us.

If we disburse through a variety of exits, we'll get out faster, too, and not jam up the most popular portal.

By the way; the alarm went off because of untended frying potatoes up in the Upper Room. I'm so glad our alarms work!

Mary L. Hubbard

**Worship Schedule**

**Worship, Chapel**  
9:00 a.m.

**Sunday School**  
10:00 a.m.

**Worship, Sanctuary**  
11:00 a.m.

**JANUARY 2011 MISSION TALLIES**

**Food Pantry:** For the month of January, the Food Pantry served 416 families, representing 1,537 individuals. 25.78% of those served were new for the month of January.

**Soup Kitchen:** 1,032 people were served and 806 carry-out bags were given away for a total of 3,865 cups of soup served in January.

**Upper Room:** 19 residents at the end of January (16 men and 3 women).

**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**

**SLAVERY MUST BE SINGULAR**

“Jesus said that you cannot serve God and money. We cannot have God as the Lord of our life and also be a slave to materialism... Jesus did not say, ‘You should not serve both God and money’... Nor did he say, ‘you must not’... He said, ‘You cannot serve both God and money.’ In other words, he is saying, ‘I’m not giving you advice. I’m saying it is impossible. It is impossible for you to become a slave to both.’

*[Poverty or Prosperity - Which Is Biblically Correct?,  
John Maxwell, audio tape]*

**First Staff**

Mary L. Hubbard  
Senior Pastor  
Marsha Dollar  
Administrative Assistant  
Wishart Bell  
Director of Music  
Betty Woodland  
Organist  
Lou Anne Wilson  
Financial Manager  
David Frey  
Coordinator of Youth Ministries  
Ben Noell  
Building Manager  
John Jung-Zimmerman  
Upper Room Director

**ARE YOU HEARING IMPAIRED?**

Do you wear hearing aids or do you struggle to hear the sermons on Sunday mornings?

We have scheduled a demonstration of a FM Transmission System, which uses individual receivers and a single ear bud. On Sunday, February 20, 2011, we would like to have every one with hearing difficulties to attend the 11:00 a.m. service and use this system and give us their feedback.

If we get lots of positive feedback, we will plan to purchase the system. If we don’t, we will return it.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Aaron Johnson at (574) 247-1508.

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

## GOD'S MYSTERY IN GETTING OUR ATTENTION

By Winslow Phillips

It had been 8-10 years since Linda painted our Master Bedroom Closet. She just did it again and; to my surprise, she found all the information I received and information I wrote during and after my Emmaus Walk.

I would like to share what I wrote on my 4<sup>th</sup> day, the Monday after my Emmaus Walk, which was November 12, 1996:

Looking back on my Emmaus Walk - what a wonderful blessing to have the following thought going through your mind each day: "God is good all the time, all the time God is good."

A few other thoughts I had were:

- God loves us all the time, all the time God loves us.
  - God sees us all the time, all the time God sees us.
  - God is with us all the time, all the time God is with us.
  - God waits for our prayers all the time, all the time God waits for our prayers.
  - God is with us for eternity after death, after death God is with us for eternity.
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# VITA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

## Free E-file Tax Preparation Services

The Tri-County Tax Team's VITA Program led by United Way of St. Joseph County is an IRS-certified program which provides free e-filed income tax preparation to individuals and families with an adjusted gross income of less than \$49,000. Call 2-1-1, 8 am-5 pm, to schedule a VITA appointment.

### Did you know?

As much as \$5,666-or more-could be waiting for you!

### Did you work in 2010?

You may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit (EIC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC)-even if you don't owe income tax. (Earned Income limits for married workers are \$5,000 higher)

<u>For the EIC, if you have:</u>	<u>Earned income less than:</u>	<u>Claim an EIC up to:</u>
1 child	\$35,535	\$3,050
2 children	\$40,363	\$5,036
3 or more children	\$43,352	\$5,666
No children	\$13,460	\$ 457

  

<u>For the CTC, if you have:</u>	<u>Earned more than</u>	<u>Claim a CTC up to:</u>
1 or more children	\$ 3,000	\$1,000 per child

### Make sure you get your Making Work Pay Credit

Many workers got the Making Work Pay Credit in 2010 in their paychecks. But if you were self-employed, or didn't earn enough to have income tax withheld, you can claim this credit on your tax return.

**(Our Gathering Room is one of the VITA Sites)**

## 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	
Elijah Jones - In military service	Peggy Soderberg - Health concerns
Michael Pershell - In military service	Marilyn Prue - Health concerns
Stephen Gramza - In military service	Carol Goodhew - Health concerns
Jonathan Mayers - In military service	Bruce Slack - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	David Case - Health concerns
Barbara Dobson - Health concerns	Margaret Wickizer - Health concerns
Ron Florey - Health concerns	Joe Harnish - Health concerns
Wayne Jackson - Health concerns	Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns
Bill Easterbrook (David Easterbrook's father) - Health concerns	Dylan Mayers - Family concerns
Don Perry (Betty Haines Brother) - Health concerns	

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

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

**Additionally pray for:**

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

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## THANK YOU

We greatly appreciate your support and prayers during this difficult time.

Bob Natharius & Family

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Betty Haines wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns for her brother, Don Perry.

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### SINGSPARATION/HYMN SING

" The welcoming Committee is in the planning stages for future activities. A Singspiration/Hymn Sing is being considered, but we need to pull together a mini-hymnal, would you please help us by each submitting a list of five favorite hymns? More is fine. They might be remembered from childhood and don't need to be in the hymnal currently (we will try to look them up). Also add a note if you might be willing to do a special hymn or instrumental, a group is good too, let's share our talents! Thanks!

## A WORK IN PROGRESS

When you made your New Year's resolutions recently, did you think about how you might develop your Christian life this year? May we suggest that you consider becoming a member of a Covenant Group. Members of these groups are Christian disciples who are a "work in progress".

Here's what we do: We meet weekly for an hour only. Time is spent in sharing what is going on in our lives and our church. When difficulties occur for one of our group, we discuss how each of us can help. In addition we talk about how we can further serve God as His disciples. We also read scriptures and share our understanding of the passages as well as how each relates to our lives. From time to time we discuss our role as Christians in local, national and world situations.

We would like to invite you, our church members and church family, to attend some of the sessions. The daytime group meets on Monday at 11:30 a.m. in the Covenant Bible Room on the second floor. Pauline Medhurst is the convener for the group. Sue and Stew Church are the leaders for the Monday evening group, which meets at 7:30 p.m. Please call these leaders if you have questions. Pauline can be reached at (574) 277-2726 and Sue or Stew can be reached at (574) 247-0959.

As you acquaint yourself with the two groups, you may wish to join one of them. We would also like to develop other groups that may meet at more convenient times. This is a wonderful way to grow and share the love of God.

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## LEADERSHIP RETREAT

**Saturday, February 12, at 9:00 a.m. in our Parlor, our own District Superintendent Cindy Reynolds, will be leading us in a four-hour retreat – to talk about the future of our church.**

**All are welcome, and each of us has a vested interest!  
Come and dream, come and plan; together we build the  
Realm of Heaven!**

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## UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

<b>Saturday, February 12</b>	<b>Sunday, February 13</b>	<b>Sunday, February 20</b>	<b>Sunday, February 27</b>
9:00-11:00 p.m. Bowling, Chippewa Bowl, Parents vs. Youth	<b>NO YOUTH GROUP</b>	Jeopardy Night	Guest Speaker

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY 20, 2011 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Aaron Johnson, Chair of the Trustees, stated the trustees propose to establish an Operation Upgrade 2011 to start in March of this year with three year pledges. Since the first three projects are urgently needed to be completed by the fall of this year, a line of credit is needed to pay these items. This is a list of the projects in order of their priority:

1. Roof drains on the back of the church including heat tapes.
2. Education building roof needs replacing.
3. Minimum tuck pointing to stop major damage.
4. Social Hall Kitchen ceiling upgrade with drop ceiling and new lighting.
5. Upgrade men's bathrooms in the Upper Room.
6. Upgrade old kitchen in the Upper Room.
7. Replace exterior doors into the Community Room.

Aaron stated we are also looking into the changing insurance companies on our building. The conference is allowing us to choose our own insurance company coverage. We are hoping this change may save us \$5,000.00 in 2011. We are comparing "apples to apples" to make sure we have the same coverage or better for less money. A price is to be given to the Trustees next Monday.

Rev. Hubbard stated on behalf of Rich Fox, Chair of the Upper Room Board, we currently have 19 residents, 16 men and 3 women. Our goal is to have 25 residents. John is working with local agencies. According to Rev. Hubbard, "It looks much more positive this year than at this time last year".

Staff Parish: Tom Byers, Chair, reported they will be meeting next Tuesday. Diana Green resigned her position, effective at the end of the month. Everyone expressed sorrow that she was leaving. She has done a tremendous job with the children for the past 12 years. She has shared her time and talents with all of us. She will be missed. Diana Green thanked the congregation for 12 wonderful years. She has resigned her position as of the end of January 2011. She asked everyone to please keep the children foremost, take care of them and educate them, stating "they are worth the time and effort". Sue Wright, Chair of the Council, gave a "HUGE THANK YOU" on behalf of the congregation. Council members responded with applause and "AMEN".

The Visitation Committee, Jean Hugus, Chair, stated the committee is shrinking and in need of visitors. There are an increasing number of shut-ins. The committee is in the member recruiting mode.

Larry Thompson stated the Stewardship Committee will meet in a month or two to discuss changes in stewardship, where to go, and an overall look at the way we are currently working as a committee. He invited any persons with thoughts regarding stewardship campaigns, wanting to share ideas---to contact him.

Laurel Thomas, Chair of the Worship Committee, stated she is stymied as to where to go with worship. Attendance has gone up with the time changes. On the survey Pauline Medhurst and Marty Casteel completed, there were conflicting feelings about worship. Laurel has asked for input regarding our worship services, E-mails, calls, etc. stating she is very open to suggestions. The committee will be meeting to plan for Lent/Easter.

Pauline Medhurst, Chair of the Education Committee, pointed out she and Marty Casteel received 70+ surveys. A lot of people shared their feelings and made comments. The committee has not met this year. They will be meeting at 7:00 this coming Tuesday. They too will be working on Lent/Easter. The Lenten devotional booklet will be produced. A new addition to the booklet will be weekly activities that each of us individually can do.

**(continued on page 7)**

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Karen Peterson reported the Mission Commission met. The Food Pantry is doing well financially and continues to feed more and more people. In 2010, it cost approximately \$12,000.00 to run the Food Pantry. It takes 14 people to run the Pantry each Tuesday. Help is always appreciated. The Pantry is open every Tuesday between 10:00 and 2:00. The committee has set the rail offerings for the year, and Karen explained these change based on financial need. Diana Green explained the collection of box top labels and aluminum can tabs. The box tops are worth 10 cents each and money received goes to Bashor Home. The money from the aluminum can tabs goes to McDonald House. The plastic lids that are found on products such as milk need to be saved for Kennedy School. Rev. Hubbard encouraged everyone to put used items in the Goodwill boxes in the office. She explained that for each filled box we receive a \$5.00 coupon to be used at Goodwill. These coupons are given to UR residents as they graduate from the UR program. Rev. Hubbard also stated we are working on digging a well in the village in Africa where Pearl Rogers' family members live. It will cost between \$5,000 and \$17,000 to dig the well. We are working with UMCOR.

Helen Banas, UMW President, stated the UMW met today with a luncheon to kick-off 2011. She stated the WSCS/UMW was chartered in 1940. The new yearbooks for 2011 are now done and were passed out. There are 36 members in the UMW. A new Saturday morning breakfast circle for people interested in belonging to UMW but not able to come on Thursdays, is being started.

Under new business, we discussed the 2011 proposed budget. Jerry Langley, Finance Committee Chair, walked us through the key points stating we should not accept a deficit budget for 2011. All salaries for the year have been frozen for the second year. The music budget has been cut. After many comparisons with other churches music budget, it was noted all of the churches compared have a music budget of between 4-6% of their total revenue received, and we are at 15.5% of our total revenue being spent on our music program. The budget has been balanced at a surplus of \$2,145.59. THANK YOU to Jerry Langley and his committee for a job well done.

The district superintendent, Rev. Dr. Cindy Reynolds, is looking at the SB area. There are many small churches in our community with attendance of less than 50 people and are struggling to keep their doors open. New congregations, mergers, how to reach more people, are being looked into. Rev. Dr. Cindy Reynolds will be at our church on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 9-1 p.m. to facilitate discussion on strategic planning for our community.

Larry Thompson is forming a committee of interested persons to look at intentionally becoming a reconciling congregation, a congregation open to all persons regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. If interested in becoming part of this committee or simply making comments, contact Larry Thompson.

On Feb. 5, 2011 there will be Leadership Training for people on our committees at 9:00 a.m. at Mishawaka First UMC. There will also be training held in Valpo on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> if people cannot go to Mishawaka.

Rev. Hubbard stated the South Bend Civic Theater continues to practice in our Social Hall and in turn has invited residents of the UR to the final dress rehearsals for all of this year's productions.

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor.

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### **THE BIBLE: A FAIRYTALE?**

Although our daughter Beverly went to nursery school, she felt a little jealous that her older sister could read. One day Beverly asked Grandpa if he would like to hear her read. Picking up her Bible she began, "And Jesus said, 'Little pig, little pig, let me come in.'"

- Lena Braun, Norfolk, Nebraska *Christian Reader*

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**Check out the website:**

**[www.firstumcsb.org](http://www.firstumcsb.org)**

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## **A GREETING FROM THE CELTIC MUSICIANS**



**'Tis glad I am and glad I'll be  
That you like knowin' the likes of me!**

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

## **The People of The United Methodist Church**

- Help people in their community
- Accept you for who you are
- Offer a place to belong
- Care for and support each other
- Show respect for other religions
- Support people facing difficulty
- Welcome diverse opinions and beliefs
- Guide others to find deeper meaning

