



# THE FIRST WORD

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

In the heart of the city since 1831

September 22, 2010

Issue #420

## Old Dog, New Dog, Old Dog

My personal life has shifted and changed a fair amount in this last year; one change I sought was the stability, friendship, and enforced schedule of a new dog.

Murphy and I met in January at the Humane Society (I recommend them to you all! Wonderful place, parvo-virus free, dogs and cats “temperament tested” before being approved for adoption; clean and wonderful, and Vern Casteel is building them their new place!).

Murphy was a friendly mutt, a golden lab/golden retriever mix, and welcome in my home.

What followed is normal; us adjusting to one another, dog hair everywhere, trying to break him of jumping up on people, and get his head out of the toilet and his face out of the trash.

But after only a few months, Murphy became ill, and I had to have him put to sleep.

I hated it; Murphy and I had blended pretty well, and by that time, he had become my “old” dog.

My vet had plans for me; there were eleven small dogs rescued from a hoarder, and no one wanted them because they were all “too old”. She introduced me to Lucy; I have never been in love with smaller dogs, but I fell in love with this little corgi/spitz/who-knows-what mix, who jumps straight up in the air for joy – and does not shed that much, nor get into the trash or toilet, probably because she’s just too short! So, my old dog is gone – but I certainly am in love with my new old dog!

Our God is a God of second chances. Second chances for me, a wanna-be dog owner, second chances for poor Murphy and for too-old Lucy. Ain’t it great that we can be loved when we are discarded by others, seen as “too old” (or “too young”!), or when there’s no place for us. God is good, and loves us, and we always have a place with God.

*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

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### 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

## A GREETING FROM THE CELTIC MUSICIANS



- May your doctor never earn a dollar out of you,
- May your heart never give out,
- May the ten toes of your feet steer you clear of misfortune.
- And before you're much older,
- May you hear much better blessings than this.

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

## UMW BOOK AND BAKE SALE

Sunday, October 3rd  
9:45-10:25 & 11:30-12:00 Noon  
In the Gathering Room



4 SALE



HAVE YOU REMEMBERED  
FIRST CHURCH IN YOUR  
WILL?

## **FALL SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WORSHIP**

**9:00 a.m. - Early Service in the Chapel**

**9:50 to 10:25 a.m. - Coffee Time in Gathering Room (See note on next page)**

**10:30 a.m. - Second Service in the Sanctuary**

### **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The children will have their Sunday School time from **10:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m.** during the second Worship Service.

### **JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH CLASSES**

The junior and senior high youth will meet in the Fireside Room in the basement at **10:30 a.m.**, during the second Worship Service.

### **MERRIMATES**

The Merrimates Class will meet at **9:00 a.m.** on Sunday mornings beginning on September 12. Anyone - singles, couples, younger and older are invited to share in the coffee hour as well as the class time. Kevin Ladd will be leading the first five class sessions. There will be a Bible Study that focuses on the "I Ams" of Jesus. Presenters throughout the year will include Pauline Medhurst, Pitner Traughber, David Kolda, Dave and Pam Stefancic, Beth McLaughlin, Lowell Peterson and Mary Hubbard.

This class also meets occasionally for social functions that supplement the lively fellowship of the weekly class sessions.

### **UPCOMING POTPOURRI CLASSES THIS FALL**

Following is a listing of some of the topics for upcoming Potpourri Classes. Most of the dates have not been confirmed yet.

Remember - beginning September 12, we will be meeting at **9:15 a.m.** in the Parlor.

- Apostle Paul
- Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, & Joseph
- The Life of Buddha (Parts 3 & 4) on 9/19 & 9/26
- Selected Prayers of John & Charles Wesley

### **THIS AND THAT**

This and That is a group of couples and families studying various topics and interpreting our everyday lives in a Christian context. This class will be meeting at **10:30 a.m.** in Room #22 on the second floor.

## 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	Peggy Soderberg - Health concerns
Michael Pershell - In military service	Al & Maxine Jones - Health concerns
Stephen Gramza - In military service	Andrea Wilgus - Health concerns
Jonathan Mayers - In military service	Marilyn Prue - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	Nadine Corse - Health concerns
Barbara Dobson - Health concerns	Maria Dattilo - Health concerns
Wayne Jackson - Health concerns	Dylan Mayers - Health & Family concerns
Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns	Marilyn Biddle & Family - Loss
David Case - Health concerns	Richard Snyder & Family - Loss
Carol Goodhew - Health concerns	Bill Reinke & Family - Loss
Kay Kenney - 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			

**Additionally pray for:**

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

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## KID'S NEWS!

We have "Kicked Off" our new year in the Promised Land with lots of FUN! We are learning about Jacob and Esau, the fighting twins, and we had Tug-of-War, wheelbarrow and 3-legged races, Tug-of-Peace and walked a bridge of forgiveness. We made Lentil stew, but kept our Birthrights, and baked a breadstick "Jacob's Ladder." Yum! Don't you wish you were a kid?

Our Pre-School class is learning "the Way of God" (quote by a 3-year old.) Thanks to Julie Curtis and Kim Reed for leading these little learners.

Our Mission this month is our Soup Kitchen. Join us in supporting this great effort of feeding South Bend's hungry.

## DIANA GREEN'S MOTHER MAKES NEWS

INDIANAPOLIS (CWS) – United Methodist volunteer **Phyllis Newton** of Indianapolis was named to the CROP Honor Roll by the Indiana-Kentucky Church World Service Regional Advisory Board at a meeting earlier this year. She was one of three CROP Hunger Walk leaders elected from people nominated by CROP Hunger event leaders and regional staff.

Newton was honored during the Sunday, Aug. 29, worship service at Broadway by the Rev. Judy Dunson, regional director of Church World Service in Indiana-Kentucky.

CROP is an acronym for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. The CROP Hunger Walks are a public fund raising event sponsored by Church World Service (CWS).



Newton was named the CROP Honor Roll by the members of the Greater Indianapolis CROP Walk Committee. She has served as an exceptional Walk Recruiter for Broadway UMC for more than ten years, and since 2003 has personally raised more than \$10,000 for the CROP Hunger Walk. She involves her neighborhood in her own fund raising and was successful in setting up a healthy rivalry with another neighbor to raise the most money.

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## HEALTH KITS

United Methodist Women are collecting items to make 50 health kits at our Annual Celebration on October 9, 2010. We need the following:

- 50 wash cloths
- 50 hand towels (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27"); no kitchen towels
- 50 bath-size bars of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 50 tooth brushes (single brushes only in original wrappers; no child-size brushes)
- 50 nail files or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 50 combs (large and sturdy; not pocket size)
- 20 boxes of adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages (15-20 per box)
- 5 boxes of one-gallon zip-seal plastic bags (10-15 per box)

All items must be **NEW** items. All kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that **only** the above listed items be included in our kits.

Stop by the Gathering Room to see a sample health kit and to choose items that you would like to donate. **Your donations will be collected in the Gathering Room on Sunday, September 26 and Sunday, October 3.**

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS MISSION PROJECT!!**

## 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.

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## ATTENTION FOCUS

If Jesus and the Apostle Paul are right—if misplaced attention focus is the key problem of human nature - how can we fix that? How do we begin to pay attention to God so God can keep us moving in the right direction?

The answer will be slightly different for each of us, but spiritual growth research gives us a list of five behaviors that help us focus on God - behaviors so simple that we sometimes do not see how powerful they are.

1. Worship is one of those behaviors.
2. Prayer is another of those ways we pay attention to God.
3. Fellowship - working, playing, and meeting with other Christians - is another way to pay attention to God. (Peer relationships exert a powerful life-shaping force among teenagers but are equally powerful among adults.)
4. Bible study is another power-filled way to focus on God.
5. Financial giving is another. Many people report that financial giving is a priority that allows God to remold the other priorities of their lives.

Which of these five is the most important cause of spiritual growth? The answer is yes. All of them are important.

Which one of the five do you most need to add to your life right now?



## PROOF OF MY BAPTISM

Last weekend my sisters and I (and our spouses) were helping Dad clean out some things at his old house. My sister Jill found several very meaningful items which Mother had saved over the years: love letters that Dad sent to her while he was away from her serving in WW II, school papers and achievements from us kids, and other notes Mother took while on various vacations and trips over the years. Some of those items brought tears to our eyes as we read Mother's thoughts, and of course we were touched to know how many of our childhood mementos she had saved and treasured.

In the midst of finding those items, my sister suddenly said to me, "Mike, do you want proof of your baptism?" She had found my baptismal certificate from 1951 when I was two years old. I looked it over, and of course I was touched to think of Mother keeping that document all of these years.

But is that certificate really "proof" that I was baptized? Not really. Even though I was a young child, my parents both told me the story of my baptism over and over again, until it became a part of my own "memory" and experience. My parents also followed up that baptism by teaching me the faith and making sure we were all a part of the church. Later they made it an expectation that I would go to confirmation classes, and they allowed me to make my own decision to have my baptism confirmed. And of course church camp at Epworth Forest was the place where my faith came alive – and I truly accepted my baptism and claimed that faith for myself.

Proof of my baptism? I have my proof from a life-long commitment to Christ, a love for the Church in spite of its weaknesses, and a sense of belonging to a family where the faith of the "baptized" is celebrated and lived. My mother did not keep my baptism certificate so that some day I would know I was baptized, she kept that certificate as a memento of one step along the journey of faith. She took her own vows seriously to raise us kids in the faith, and she provided us with a living example of such faith.

So, I will keep that baptism certificate as a memento of my parents' love and faith. I don't need any other proof.

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**Check out the website:**

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