



# THE FIRST WORD

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

In the heart of the city since 1831

January 25, 2012

Issue #451

## ABUNDANCE

The preacher was hacking away at the congregation about the annual budget, but was able to reassure them that there was plenty of money. Afterward, the Chair of Finance asked, “What do you mean, we have plenty of money?! All you did in your sermon was ask for more, because we NEED more!” The pastor said, “You’re right; we have all the money we need – the problem is, it’s still in their pockets.”

The economy seems to be pulling around, the stock markets all over the world zig and zag, but seem to be on an upward trend, this last year was good for retail, but we are still scared – of scarcity.

Our church has been affected by that frightened and worried spirit as well.

For several years we have been cutting every budget; several staff salaries were cut (all others have received no raise for three years), workloads readjusted. At this point, further cuts mean losing programs entirely. From maintenance to music, mission to education, anything that is not a fixed cost is under scrutiny.

We are like the anorexic person, who even though they are skeletally thin, looks in the mirror and sees a fat person. We can’t afford to lose more.

We ask for a second round of examining your pledge. Could you give more? Many people did increase their pledge for 2012; more people decreased.

Larry Thompson will be sending you a letter, explaining our need in more detail. The biggest question is – what does God want us to do?

Abundance or scarcity...

*Mary L. Hubbard*

**Worship Schedule**

Worship, Chapel  
9:00 a.m.

Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.

Worship, Sanctuary  
11:00 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

Robert Lewis  
Associate Pastor

Marsha Dollar  
Administrative Assistant

Wishart Bell  
Director of Music

Leora Nauta  
Organist

Lou Anne Wilson  
Financial Manager

David Frey  
Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Ben Noell  
Building Manager

John Jung-Zimmerman  
Upper Room Director

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

**SAVE THE DATE**

**COMING  
UP**

**WHOLE  
CHURCH  
EVENT**

**Sunday, February 12, 2012**

**4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

**Social Hall**

*(Bring yourself, bring some friends)*

**How do we combine great food and fellow-  
ship with Valentine's Day and the near  
approach of Lent?**

**Share some SUMMER LOVE in the Winter**



See a picture and read about one of our members who aren't able to make it to church. Then write a note/card that will be sent to them that night!



Skit by our Youth



Crafts



Enjoy some summer lovin' foods (like pulled pork)



## MITTENS FOR MADISON

**Bring mittens, gloves, hats, or scarves and place  
inside the box in Gathering Room**



Help us collect winter accessories for over 100 (kindergarten – 4<sup>th</sup> graders) who are in need of some additional warmth! This is part of our new ministry in Partnership with Madison Primary Center (school is less than ½ mile from the church)! Other opportunities include assisting small groups of kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> graders (who have lost their teacher-aids), reading once a week to a child, mentoring, and perhaps more opportunities will be announced as the need arises.

If interested, please let Pauline Medhurst know at 277-2726.

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### **GOOD LUCK AND BEST WISHES**

Eunice Miller wants everyone to know her son, Richard Miller, retired from the military last week. He served 36 years in the military!

We want to congratulate Richard on his accomplishment and wish him all the best with his future endeavors.



## PRAYER LIST



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

Brandon Berger - Deployed to Afghanistan	Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns
Jonathan Mayers - In military service	Ron Florey - Health concerns
Michael Pershell - In military service	Marilyn Prue - Health concerns
Stephen Gramza - In military service	Carol Goodhew - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	Mary Jo Beemer - Health concerns
Betty Barnes - Health concerns	David Easterbrook - Eye Problems
Willa Pickens - Health concerns	Jim Pickens - Health concerns
Eunice Miller - Health concerns	
Thorin Grey Yeager (Deb Mayers' Grandson) - Health concerns	

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

Martha Abernethy	Mary Jo Beemer	Margaret Grant	Ruth Garen
Virginia O'Hair	Rich Daniels	JoAnn Ballard	Clem Gramza
Hannah Messersmith	Jo Perkey	Betty Barnes	Thair Best
Hugh Warren	Jim Borden	Margaret Wickizer	Jeanette Koehler
Melvena Stenger			

**Additionally pray for:**

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

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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 \$50,000. Call **2-1-1**, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday to schedule a VITA appointment. Daytime and evening appointments are available Monday through Saturday.

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

The First Word is published bi-monthly by:

**First United Methodist Church**

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**South Bend, IN 46601**

**Phone: 574-233-9463**

**Fax: 574-233-9478**

**Check out the website:**

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

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



*May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light. May good luck pursue you each morning and night.*

**Join us for Worship 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