



THE FIRST WORD

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

In the heart of the city since 1831

October 5, 2011

Issue #444

UPPER ROOM GOOD NEWS

Our Upper Room is doing better than it has for a long time.

We have been averaging about 23 residents lately, both men and women. Most of them are employed – although a few are employed through a temporary service, which is not at all the same stability (or benefits) afforded by a permanent job. Lives are changing.

This is great!

Rent is being paid, people are attending church (here or at their own home church), people are going to AA or NA meetings, lives are changing.

Chores are being done around the church, with more than 400 hours put in each month by our residents. They clean our restrooms, mop our floors, make sure there is soap, toilet paper, paper towels for us. They vacuum, dust, and clean every classroom. They care for Stone Soup, for the Soup Kitchen, for the offices, the Community Room, the Sanctuary. They police the parking lot, mow the lawn, shovel snow, trim bushes. They patrol our property every time there is an event here – every Sunday morning, every funeral, every wedding, every meeting, every Choir Practice.

If someone works full time, they do five hours of work in the church a week. If someone is a full time student, they do five hours of chores each week. If someone is looking for a job, they do 20 hours of chores each week. With this responsibility and work, lives are changing.

Our success is known in the community. A number of agencies refer to us regularly, others as they have someone who is strongly motivated to stay clean and sober. Lives are changing.

Here's a small and temporary hitch. We need more *stuff*!

We have the room; our huge renovation made more room and kept us within the code of the city, so we could take more residents.

But we have only furnishings for 24 people, so that if we have a few more we could take in, we have to say no.

If you would like to help lives change through the Upper Room, here is a wish list; with just a few more furnishings, we can change more lives.

They need **3 twin beds**; the mattress, box springs, and metal frame.

They need **7 wardrobes** (four residents now are using old metal coat racks for their hanging clothes)

They need **7 small desks**.

They need **4 hanging wall cabinets** (we have 21 from the old St. Joe Hospital).

They need **15 small night stands**.

They need **small 3 shelf book cases**.

I am told that a couple of spare beds and wardrobes would also be helpful, as some of what we use is really unusable.

Don't miss the **Upper Room Chili Cook Off** coming up this October as well. You can help change lives!

Worship Schedule

Worship, Chapel
9:00 a.m.

Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 2011 MISSION TALLIES

Food Pantry: For the month of September, the Food Pantry served 433 families, representing 1,584 individuals. 23% of those served were new for the month of September.

Soup Kitchen: 1,148 people were served and 875 carry-out bags were given away for a total of 4,160 cups of soup and 2,898 meals given out in September.

Upper Room: 20 residents at the end of September (17 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

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

UPPER ROOM NEWS

There has been a lot of activity in the Upper Room lately. The Peace and Justice Team of the UMC Indiana Conference has awarded us a \$3,000 grant. Their vote of confidence in this ministry is most welcome and appreciated, given our difficult economy. We have been full or nearly full for the past month and are blessed with residents who are really working hard on their recovery and on making new residents feel welcome and involved. Plan to join us at our **Chili Supper and Silent Auction** Fundraiser on Thursday, October 13 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

John Jung-Zimmerman

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

**The Food Pantry
is in need of
plastic grocery bags.
Please bring your extra bags
to the Church Office.
Thank you!**

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - September 15, 2011

Aaron Johnson, Trustee Chair, reported the roof work is progressing nicely. The material was paid for upfront. \$60,000 is to be borrowed from the Central Church fund at 4% interest to complete the project.

On John Jung-Zimmerman's behalf, Pastor Mary reported there were 24 residents in the Upper Room, 19 of them paying. There are 20 men and 4 women currently living in the Upper Room. A chili-cook off will be held Oct. 13th along with a silent auction to benefit the UR. Tickets are \$12.00 and a family of 4 can purchase a family ticket for \$40.00. The event will be held from 5:30-8:30.

Jerry Langley, Finance Chair, stated we are \$30,000 behind in our needed income. We are running \$70,000 less income than we need to meet our projected budget. Our expenses are \$42,000 less than our projected budget due to savings in salaries and insurance; however, we have recently hired an organist and an Associate Pastor. Upper Room has improved their rent collecting, changing from collecting each month to collecting each week; they had been running a deficit of \$2,000 per month before this. We have paid only District apportionments, but little Conference apportionments. An option to help is to use a line of credit, borrowing from Wills and Legacies, and use of money from the Trinity Trust. Jerry said he will personally approach First Source Bank about managing Trinity Trust and doing our banking business.

Bill Welsheimer, Chair of Wills and Legacies, stated Dave Loughlin and Jerry Langley are working on challenging the Trinity Trust. The trust was established in 1981 when Trinity merged with our church. The original amount of the trust was \$40,000. Bill Welsheimer stated we may borrow money from the Central Church fund to help with the loss for the first 7 months of 2011 from the operation of the Upper Room. It was moved to draw up to \$60,000.00. Wills and Legacies Committee will distribute \$14,000 to the church to offset the Upper Room loss, with monies from the Central Missions and Evangelism Fund.

Flowers Jenkins, President of the UMM, stated the steak/corn roast held at Casteel's was successful.

Pauline Medhurst, Chair of Education Committee, stated they have been busy staffing Sunday School. There is still one person needed in the nursery. Pauline and her committee have been talking about partnering with Madison School to serve students there. Pauline thanked the Upper Room residents for cleaning the Sunday school rooms. She expressed thank you for all the signage in the building, which was done by Jan Seabaugh.

Linda Phillips, Chair of the Welcoming Committee, stated we are averaging 134 people a week over the last 8 weeks. The Sunday of Kids Praise we had 248 in attendance. There will be an 180th celebration on October 9th following the second service. We have 48 Jubilee members, and 40 have agreed to come. Don Green's barbershop quartet will entertain. Craig Tornquist will emcee. There will be a hymn sing.

Helen Banas, United Methodist Women President, stated there will be a tea sponsored by Church Women United at Zion UCC on Saturday, Sept. 14th, from 2-4 p.m. The North District UMW will hold its' annual fall meeting at Rolling Prairie UMC Sept. 24th at 9:30 a.m. The UMW will hold its' Indiana Conference annual fall meeting at Old Bethel UMC in Indianapolis Oct. 14th and 15th.

Karen Anderson reported there is approximately \$2600 in the General Mission account. The Food Pantry is doing well financially. The Food Pantry just received \$500.00 from Memorial Hospital Retirees. The Food Pantry is also a recipient of Crop Walk money. She explained that 25% of the total money collected stays in St. Joseph County and is split this year between 9 food pantries, ours being one of them. The Crop Walk will be held Oct.2, 2011.

Church Council Minutes continued from Page 3

Sue Wright explained the design of the Church Council to take effect January 1, 2012. Discussion followed. All meetings are open to everyone. Sue also asked that any questions or comments be addressed to her, to avoid misunderstandings. It is hoped that fewer members on the Council will be able to get more accomplished and move our church forward into 2012. We want to change direction, and everyone needs to get on board.

As Chair of Nominations, Pastor Mary has sent a letter to all Committee Chairs asking them to let her know of inactive members and suggestions for any new committee members.

Pastor Mary stated that charge conference is scheduled for Nov. 30th at 6:30 pm. She also stated Southlawn UMC has been added to our cluster.

There will be a jazz concert sponsored by the cluster churches to be held at Clay to benefit Children of Abraham. More details will follow.

Someone is needed to do our web site.

GED classes are being held by Doc Rushing and are free. Currently there are 10 in attendance.

There will be a scrolling sign to be put on the corner of our education building. This will be controlled through a computer in the office. This should help increase our visibility. The cost is being paid through the Memorial Fund.

As an Eagle Scout project, the yard used by the Upper Room residents is being landscaped.

The screens used in the sanctuary for worship are being looked at and revised.

Lay training for all members of church committees will be held January 28, 2012. More details will follow.

The next Church Council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., November 17, 2011.



180th CELEBRATION

October 9, 2011

12:00 Noon

Social Hall

Bring a dish to pass and a friend or two.

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
Elijah Jones - 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
Jonathan Mayers - In military service	Mary Jo Beemer - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	Christyne Woolridge - Health concerns
Pearl Rogers and family - Loss	Jim Pickens - Health concerns
Dan Berger and family - Loss	Willa Pickens - Health concerns
Betty J. Byers - Health concerns	David Easterbrook - Eye Problems
Maria Dattilo - 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	Betty Byers	Mary Jo Beemer	Mary Etta Rees
Ruth Garen	Virginia O'Hair	Rich Daniels	JoAnn Ballard
Clem Gramza	Hannah Messersmith	Jo Perkey	Betty Barnes
Hugh & Lois Warren	Marian Wilson	Jim Borden	Thair Best
Melvena Stenger	Betty Fisk	Jeanette Koehler	Margaret Wickizer
Margaret Grant			

Additionally pray for:

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

THANK YOU

I wish to express my thanks to our church family for your cards, thoughts, and prayers at the time of Phil's death. Your words were a great comfort to me and my family.

Mary Lou Gordon

**"Don't tell me what you believe.
Show me what you do 24 hours a day
and I'll tell you what you believe."
- Jerry Rubin**

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Once again the Education Commission is planning to publish a devotional booklet that our church members can use this fall. We are encouraging members of all ages to contribute their ideas to inspire each of us to improve our lives. This booklet will have two focuses.

The first portion of the booklet will be related to the holiday "All Saints Day", November 1, 2011. On this day we honor those who have passed away during the past year. We remember an event or time spent with the person that impressed us or changed the lives of people in our world, our church, or our families.

A second section of the booklet will be easier to write about. Every one can share what we are thankful for and how each thing has changed our life in some way. This will lead us to devotional thoughts about the great gifts of God to us individually, to our community and to our world.

We would love to have individuals write a devotional. If your family could take the time that would be great too.

We want to distribute these booklets for your use by Sunday, October 23. The Committee needs to have your written material by October 16, so that it can be typed and collated. If you would like to have extra copies to share with other family members or friends, please call Pauline Medhurst (277-2726) by October 16. There will be a \$2.00 charge per copy. This is one way we can share our church with other groups of people.

You may contact any Education Commission Member if you have a question or need help. These members are Sue Chesnut, Jim Stebbins, Jan Seabaugh, Marty Casteel, Pam Stefancic, David Frey, David Easterbrook, Bob Lewis, or Pauline Medhurst.

COVENANT GROUPS

Is your life busy? Do you wish you could have more time for prayer? Do you wonder how you can do more for the justice that people deserve? This is a part of the work of the Covenant Groups.

Our church has had two Covenant Groups that meet weekly or bi-weekly. The members have several challenges or covenants they practice as they try to become more Christ-like in their lives. At the meetings time is spent sharing ideas and practices each member does and how this improves their daily life.

You are encouraged to visit these groups. Both groups meet on Monday. The first group meets on Monday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. Please call Noel Yarger (272-5599) who can share the work of this group. The second group meets at 7:30 p.m. with Stew and Sue Church as leaders. Come see what is done. You can talk with the group as they share ideas with each other, encourage each other for the progress they are making, and much more.

We would like to expand this program by adding to the existing groups and developing new groups. Come join us and grow in your spiritual lives.

Please call Pauline Medhurst (277-2726) if you would be interested in being part of a new group that would meet on a different day. Let Pauline know if you would be willing to lead one of our Covenant Groups. It would be great if we ended up with five or six different groups instead of just the two. To learn more about Covenant Groups, give Pauline a call.

COME JOIN US

For the next 8 weeks the Potpourri Class will be studying a video, “Christianity - The First 2000 Years”. We will also have discussion about many of the issues presented. This is very thorough and will last from October 2, 2011 through the end of November. To be part of this group, just come to the Parlor on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

On October 2, 2011, Pastor Bob Lewis will be leading a Bible Study that is a survey of the Old Testament. Join him and other students at 10:00 a.m. Sundays in the video room on the second floor Promised Land (Room 26b). This class will be 8 sessions long.

The Merrimates begin their Sunday School Class at 9:45 a.m. with a social time and instruction begins at 10:00 a.m. The announcement board outside the door will have the topic for the day listed on it.

You would be welcome at any of the above classes!



VESPER CHORALE

This fall we open the season with a Musical Arts Indiana sampler entitled "*Fall in Love with the Arts,*" featuring Vesper Chorale, Consortia, the solo talents of our members, and a cameo appearance by the Children's Choir of Michiana. The event will take place **Friday, October 21, at 7:15 and 8:30 pm** at the Center for History, 808 W. Washington St. in South Bend.

Due to limited capacity, we will offer two seatings of the same program, with a reception interlude in between. Be sure to specify 7:15 or 8:30 seating when reserving your tickets.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for Center for History/Studebaker Campus members, and \$8 for students. To purchase tickets, call 574-291-0924.

Come join Vesper Chorale and Fall in Love with the Arts!

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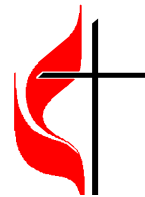
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A GREETING FROM THE CELTIC MUSICIANS



*Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.*

**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