



THE FIRST WORD

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

In the heart of the city since 1831

November 23, 2011

Issue #447

HOSPITAL AND HOSPICE

When we belong to a church, we assume they will know, or be magically informed if we are in the hospital, or if we are ill enough to worry about dying, or even if Hospice is involved.

It just ain't so.

Laws about privacy and health care are here to protect us from invasive curiosity or just plain malice when we are weak.

Those same laws protect us from the *church* automatically being notified.

This week, I was just told by a (justifiably) angry family member that when his mother – a member of our church for all her life – was dying, no one at all came from the church. Not the pastor, not a representative, not a friend. No one came. And it was clear that it felt awful, like being abandoned or betrayed by the church that has been so beloved.

No one in the office knew. I had not known. There were no calls, and neither Hospice nor the hospital are allowed to call without specific permission – and even with permission, they do not always follow through with the actual call to the church.

Let's make happier endings; so that no family is so hurt, that no one feels abandoned, that no implicit trust is betrayed.

The moral of the story is this.

When you, or another church member, are in the hospital – or newly in a nursing home, or being cared for by Hospice – please, *please* don't assume the church knows. Call, tell us – and if three or four call, that is all the better!

The very sad truth is, this wonderful person died without the care of the church she loved; the family was so upset, they did not contact the church even for the funeral. And who can blame them? They believed that we had either maliciously ignored their mother's plight, or simply didn't care enough to be bothered.

Help us in the office create happier endings and better ministry. None of us want it to happen to another person, another family.

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?**

MUTUAL CELEBRATION



As you know, First Church is a pretty special place! However, a lot of people in South Bend do not know that because they haven't seen any evidence of it.

From now on, we need people to bring their cameras and take plenty of photos at all of our exciting events and activities (Christmas Services, the Soup Kitchen Easter and Thanksgiving Feasts, Blessing of the Animals, the Steak and Corn Roast, guest performers or speakers, special services, etc.). We need lots of close-ups of the people involved and action shots.

Submit your pictures to the church office, for mutual celebration. We can display them in the Gathering Room; put some of them in *The First Word*; and show some on the screens in the Sanctuary, for all of us to enjoy. But more importantly, we can post some of them on our new sign for the whole community to see. Hopefully that will get others excited enough to want to visit us and experience the joy first hand.

We are hoping for two or three volunteers for 2012 who would commit to take photos at church events, and maybe even film some for us. Please let the Church Office know if you would be willing to do that.

UPPER ROOM CHRISTMAS TREE

Beginning this Sunday (November 27) we will once again have a Christmas Tree in the Gathering Room for our Upper Room residents. Each of the current residents will have their name and wish list information hanging on the tree. Just remove a name and purchase the gift for them. All gifts should be wrapped and brought to the church by December 18.

Thank you for making their Christmas a little merrier!

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
Christyne Woolridge - Health concerns	Will Johnston - Health concerns
Jim Pickens - Health concerns	Betty J. Byers - Health concerns
Willa Pickens - Health concerns	Al Levy - Health concerns
Beverly Torres (Stone Soup) - Health concerns	David Easterbrook - Eye Problems
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	Jim Borden	Thair Best	Margaret Grant
Melvena Stenger	Jeanette Koehler	Margaret Wickizer	

Additionally pray for:

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

FIRST SUNDAY OFFERING



On Sunday, December 4, we will be taking a special offering for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

This is to help the members of our church in crisis.

NEWS FROM CHURCH WOMEN UNITED (CWU)

Church Women United would like to congratulate First UMC on their recent 180th Birthday. Karen Anderson was elected to serve as the new CWU President and Carol Hawley was elected to be Secretary of Correspondence for Church Women United. Congratulations to both Karen and Carol!

SEASONS OF LIGHT

Vesper Chorale, the Children's Choir of Michiana, and Vesper Chamber Orchestra join forces this holiday season to sing the cold winter away. The two choirs will perform seasonal selections in a program featuring J.S. Bach's time-honored jewel, *Magnificat*. The concert will take place on **Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 7:30 pm** at Kern Road Mennonite Church, 18211 Kern Road in South Bend.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$12 for students, and are available at www.musicalartsindiana.org or by calling 574-291-0924 or 574-255-7889.

Let the warmth of fine choral music take the chill out of your December!

SERVICE ESTIMATE OF GIVING COMMITMENT CARDS

Several people have not yet indicated their service and estimate of giving commitment for the coming year. Returning the card is essential for planning and budget. Please do so soon to save the expense of individual follow-up.

Thank you,

Larry Thompson
Stewardship Chair

SETTING YOUR COMPASS

An airplane compass is tiny compared to the rest of the plane, but it is an essential piece of equipment. It determines the direction of the rest of the plane. This is why Jesus told a rich young man who came asking how to find a rich full life, “Go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me” (Matthew 19:21).

Jesus, able to see into the man’s deepest motivations and secret idolatries, was telling him to get his compass right if he wanted to get his life right.

- Herb Miller



**Tis the season for “A Christmas Carol:
Scrooge and Marley”**

**On Tuesday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.,
some of the proceeds from
South Bend Civic Theatre’s production of
“A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley”
will benefit our Upper Room.**

**If you would like to see the show, plan to watch it that
night - Tickets are \$16 each. Call South Bend Civic
Theatre at 234-1112 or stop at the box office.**

***A Christmas Carol: Scrooge & Marley* is a delightful twist
on the holiday favorite; told by the spectral Jacob Marley,
guiding the audience through the trials and redemption of
Ebenezer Scrooge.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Next Sunday (11/27) we will be taking a special offering for United Methodist Student Day. Please give generously.
- November 30th at 6:30 p.m. is the Charge Conference for our cluster. It will be held at Clay Church.
- December 4th at 12:30 p.m. is our next New Members Class. It will be held in the Parlor. Contact Linda Phillips (291-1074) if you are interested in being part of it. Lunch provided.
- December 9th from 7:00-8:00 p.m., Brenda Smith will be performing a Choral Conducting Recital in the Sanctuary. They will be doing an Advent repertoire. The choir is made up on both graduate and under-graduate students from Notre Dame. They have invited us to attend this recital.
- December 11th at 5:00 p.m. we will be having a party here at First Church for the parents children, and youth. We will be making Christmas decorations, playing games and doing other fun activities. Please mark it on your calendar and be sure to join us.
- December 18th at 4:00 p.m. the Michiana Male Chorus will be performing in the Sanctuary. The chorus is comprised of men with a common interest in and love of singing and is directed by our own Bill Soderberg. You won't want to miss that show!
- December 20th at 7:00 p.m. is the Service of Remembrance for all of our cluster churches. It will be here in the Sanctuary. This service is for people who have had losses in the last year or who have trouble dealing well at holiday time. Mary Hubbard calls it the Blue Christmas Service. Communion will be served at this service.
- Don't forget our Christmas Eve Services. You can choose between the 7:00 p.m. Family Service and the 11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols. Of course, you could attend both!
- January 8th at 12:30 p.m. we will have a potluck in the Social Hall. Then everyone is invited to the Sanctuary for an organ recital by Leora Nauta (our Organist). It will be spectacular!

CHRISTMAS JUBILEE

Broadway Christian Parish is having their annual Christmas Jubilee on Saturday, December 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They are looking for volunteers, as well as new toys, books, and funds. At least \$3,000 is needed for Christmas dinner supplies for 110 families, as well as purchasing additional toys to supplement those donated for the 350+ children.

To volunteer or if you have any questions, call Pat Sipes at (574) 277-2629 or Roberta at Broadway's Church Office (574) 289-033.



It's the time of year we are all thinking about giving and doing for others; but we also need to remember our own ministries:

Our **Food Pantry** still needs plastic shopping bags, food donations, paper products, financial gifts, and willing able-bodied volunteers.

Our **Soup Kitchen** is always ready to accept financial donations to help cover the cost of preparing meals for our hungry guests.

Our **Upper Room** is struggling and could really use your financial support. Also remember to continue donating your Goodwill items to the church, so we can continue rewarding our successful residents with coupons for free purchases.

Our newest ministry is the **Weather Amnesty Program**, which is funded through our cluster churches. However, if you are moved to give financial support to this ministry, it would be greatly appreciated and accepted. We will be accepting donations of men's socks as well.

WEALTH

Do not keep many things for yourself on earth. Insects and rust will spoil them. People will get in and steal them. But keep things for yourself in heaven. Insects and rust will not spoil them there. People will not get in and steal them.

- *Matthew 6:19-20* BWE



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



Please fill out this form, if you're interested in ordering poinsettias for the altar. The DEADLINE for ordering is: December 5th.

The cost for each poinsettia is \$11.00

Each order form MUST BE accompanied with payment.

***PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE
OR PUT IN THE OFFERING PLATE.***

FLOWERS FROM: _____

OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED: _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

_____ **To the Glory of God**



**Be sure to include your loved one's name in the space provided next to "In Memory of" or "In Honor of".
If you wish your Poinsettia to be for the "Glory of God",
just place a check in the space provided.**



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Check out the website:

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*May your heart be warm and happy,
with the lilt of Irish laughter,
every day in every way,
and forever and ever after.*

**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